Oct. 19, 1937. G. D. ROBERTS 2,096,687

TABLE TENNIS NET SUPPORT

Filed Aug. 30, 1935

Fig. 1.

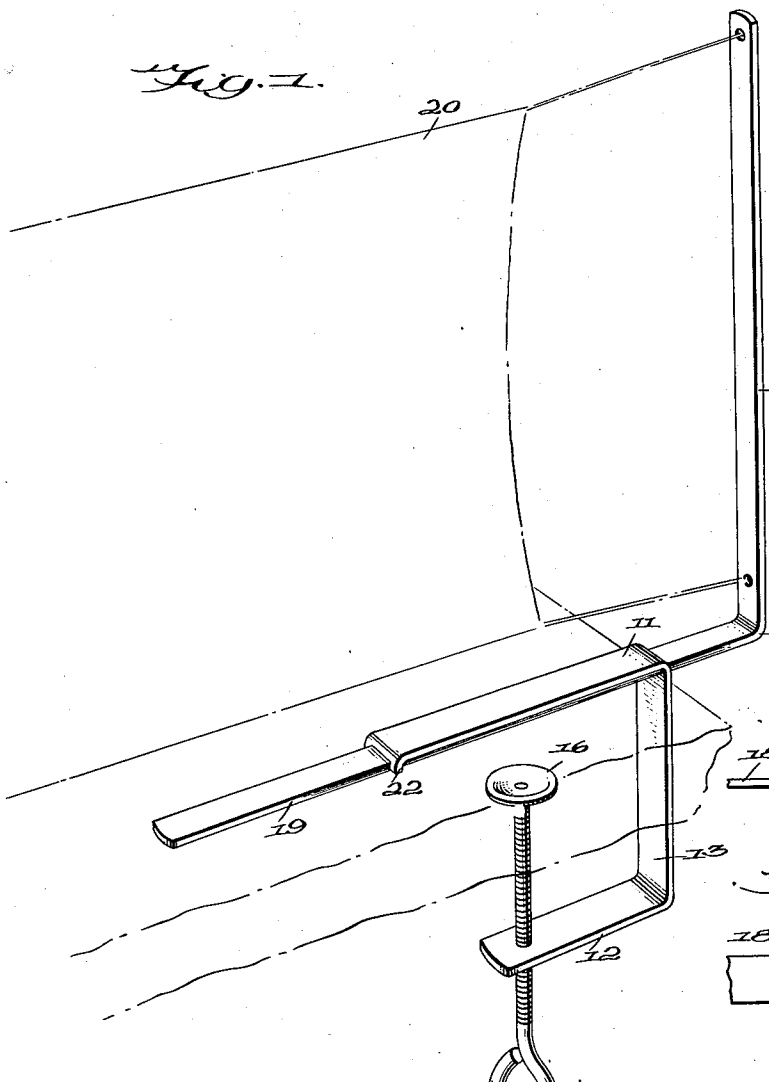


Fig. 4.

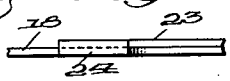


Fig. 5.

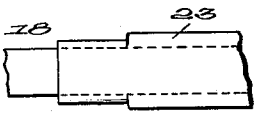


Fig. 2.

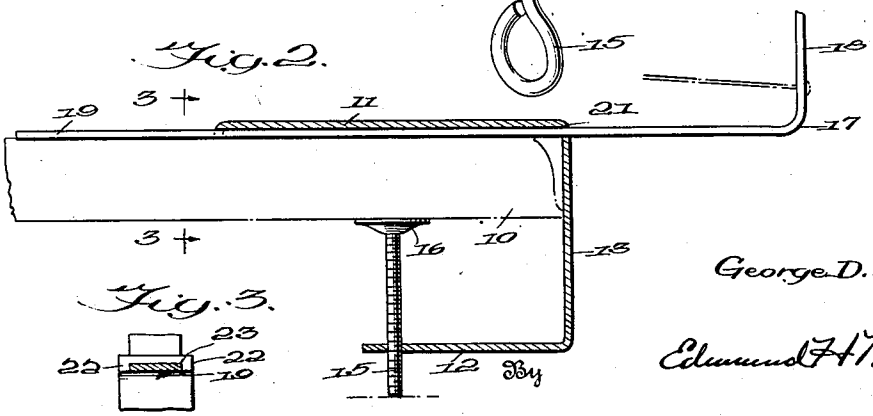


Fig. 3.

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TABLE TENNIS NET SUPPORT

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Application August 30, 1935, Serial No. 38,641

11 Claims. (Cl. 273—30)

This invention relates to a net holder for table tennis and more specifically to a clamp for securing the net in its proper relation to a table or other supporting surface upon which a game is to be played.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a net holder which is made up of fewer parts than those at present on the market and which is inexpensive to manufacture.

Another object of my invention is to provide a net holder which is capable of ready adjustment and in which the adjusting element functions also to secure the net holder to a support.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a net holder which is so constructed that its movable parts will not damage the table or supporting surface.

Referring to the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my net holder;

Fig. 2 is a view in elevation showing my net holder secured to a table;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an elevation of a portion of a modified embodiment of the clamp; and

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the same.

In the following description of my invention similar parts in the various views are designated by like numerals.

A table or flat playing surface upon which a game is to be played is shown generally at 10. A substantially U-shaped member which is preferably formed of flat spring material having upper and lower laterally extending arms 11, 12, respectively, and an interconnecting back portion 13 is shown clearly in Figures 1 and 2, and is adapted to be secured to the table 10. As a convenient means of securing the U-shaped member to the supporting table, I have shown a screw generally at 15 which passes through the lower arm 12 of the U-shaped member. The screw is provided with a swivel head 16 which adjusts itself to the undersurface of the table when pressure is exerted on the screw. It is evident that other means may be used for securing the U-shaped member to the table but the screw member which I have shown is the common practice and I prefer to use this means.

In Figures 1 and 2 I have shown an angular member 17 having legs 18, 19 preferably at right angles to each other. This is the usual construction employed for holding the tennis net and I have shown the leg 18 provided with apertures to which the ends of the net 20 may be fastened. The other leg 19 is operatively associated with the U-shaped member and is thereby guided and adjusted along the table top.

In Figure 2 of the drawing is shown the preferred arrangement for guiding and adjusting the net holder 17. As will be seen from an inspection of this figure, the back portion of the U-shaped member is provided with an aperture 21 which is preferably located immediately below the line of intersection of the upper arm 11 and back portion 13. At the free end of the upper arm 11 down turned lugs 22, 22 are provided and as clearly shown in Figure 3 provide a guideway 23. In practice these lugs will be formed by cutting out a portion of the metal at the free end of the upper arm and bending down the remaining corner portions. It is within the concept of my invention, however, that the depending lugs may be provided in any manner at any points along the sides of the arm 11 so that they may cooperate to form a guideway.

I prefer in forming the lugs 22 that they be of less length than the thickness of the net holder arm 19. When the lugs are so formed they will not extend below the bottom of the arm 19 and hence not come in contact with the surface of the table.

In Figures 4 and 5 I have shown a modified form for the upper arm of the U-shaped member. In this construction the upper arm 23 is shown as having turned down portions providing flanges 24 one on either side adjacent its end. Of course, it is conceivable that the flanges can extend for the full length of the member 21, or may be provided at any points along the length of the arm.

In the use of my improved net holder, the leg 19 of the angular member is inserted in the aperture 21 of the U-shaped member and held against any lateral movement by extending it through the guideway 23, after which the U-shaped member may be placed over the table edge and fixed thereto by the screw member 15. The leg 19 of the angular member 17 will at the same time be tightly clamped between the table top and the upper arm 11 of the U-shaped member since the lugs forming the guideway 23 do not contact the table top and pressure is exerted directly against the leg 19. If any adjustment is required it is only necessary to release the screw 15 and reposition the leg 19, which may then be fixed by tightening the screw.

From the above description it will be evident that I have produced a simple, efficient and inexpensive net holder, and I do not wish to be limited to the particular construction shown, which may

be modified within the scope of the invention as particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A net holder comprising, in combination, a clamp adapted to fit about a support and including upper and lower laterally extending arms and an interconnecting back portion, an aperture in said back portion located immediately below the line of intersection of the upper arm and back portion, a net holding member including a substantially horizontal arm slidably disposed through said aperture and lying beneath and in contact with the upper arm and adapted to rest directly on the support, said upper arm having a central portion and depending side flanges adapted to hold the horizontal arm of the net holder against lateral movement, said side flanges having a length less than the thickness of the horizontal arm, and means on said lower arm operative through the upper arm to clamp the horizontal arm of the net holder against the support.

2. A net holder comprising, in combination, a clamp adapted to fit about a support and including upper and lower laterally extending arms and an interconnecting back portion, an aperture in said back portion located immediately below the line of intersection of the upper arm and back portion, a net holding member including a substantially horizontal arm slidably disposed through said aperture and lying beneath and in contact with the upper arm and adapted to rest directly on the support, said upper arm being substantially flat and being provided with depending lugs adapted to hold the horizontal arm of the net holder against lateral movement, said depending lugs having a length less than the thickness of the horizontal arm, and means on said lower arm operative through the upper arm to clamp the horizontal arm of the net holder against the support.

3. A net holder comprising, in combination, a clamp adapted to fit about a support and including upper and lower laterally extending arms and an interconnecting back portion, an aperture in said back portion located immediately below the line of intersection of the upper arm and back portion, a net holding member including a substantially horizontal arm slidably disposed through said aperture and lying beneath and in contact with the upper arm and adapted to rest directly on the support, said upper arm being substantially flat and being provided with depending lugs at its free end adapted to prevent lateral movement of the horizontal arm of the net holder, said lugs having a length less than the thickness of the horizontal arm, and means on said lower arm operative through the upper arm to clamp the horizontal arm of the net holder against the support.

4. A net holder comprising, in combination, a clamp made of flat spring material and having substantially horizontally extending upper and lower arms and an interconnecting back portion, an aperture in said back portion immediately below the line of meeting of the upper arm and back portion, a net holding member including a horizontal arm slidably disposed through said aperture and lying beneath and flush against the upper arm of the clamp and adapted to rest directly on the support, said upper arm having depending lugs at its free end adapted to receive the horizontal arm of the net holder and retain it against lateral movement, said lugs having a length less than the thickness of the horizontal arm of the net holder, and screw means on the lower arm of the clamp operative through the upper arm to clamp the horizontal arm of the net holder against the support.

5. A net holder comprising an angular net holding member of flat strip material having a horizontal base arm and an upright arm to support a net, and an angular clamp member of strip material consisting of an upper horizontal flat arm, a lower arm carrying a clamping element, and an upright section spacing and connecting the upper and lower arms, an aperture in the upright section slidably supporting the base arm of the net member beneath the horizontal arm of the clamp member, the clamp member being open immediately below its upper arm and being adapted to fit around the table edge with its upper arm clamping the base arm of the net member directly against the table surface.

6. A net holder comprising a net standard having a horizontal base arm adapted to seat against the upper surface of a playing table, and an angular clamp member, said clamp member including an upright section apertured at its upper end to slidably receive the base arm of the net standard, and including a horizontal arm overlying the base arm of the net standard adapted to hold the latter against the table surface when the clamp member is tightened, the base arm of the net standard projecting below the horizontal clamp arm and adapted to support said clamp arm clear of the surface of the table.

7. A net holder comprising a net standard having a horizontal base arm adapted to seat against the upper surface of a playing table, an angular clamp member, said clamp member including an upright section apertured at its upper end to slidably receive the base arm of the net standard, and including a horizontal arm overlying the base arm of the net standard adapted to hold the latter against the table surface when the clamp member is tightened, the base arm of the net standard projecting below the horizontal clamp arm and adapted to support said clamp arm clear of the surface of the table, and guide means for holding said base arm of the net standard in alignment with the horizontal clamp arm located entirely above the table-engaging lower surface of the base arm.

8. A net holder comprising a net standard having a flat horizontal base arm adapted to bear on the upper surface of a playing table, and an angular clamp member of resilient flat strip material, said clamp member including an upright section apertured at its upper end to slidably receive the horizontal base arm of the net standard, and including a horizontal clamping arm positioned above the base arm of the net standard and adapted to resiliently engage and hold the standard base arm against the table surface when the clamp is tightened.

9. A net holder comprising a net standard having a flat horizontal base arm adapted to seat on the upper surface of a playing table, and an angular clamp member adapted to fit around the edge of the table and adjustably hold the net standard in engagement with the table surface, said clamp member including a resilient upper arm overlying the base arm of the net standard and having a free end portion adapted when the clamp member is tightened to press said standard arm against the table.

10. A net holder comprising a net standard having a flat horizontal base arm adapted to bear on the upper surface of a playing table,

and an angular clamp member of resilient flat strip material, said clamp member including an upright section apertured at its upper end to slidably receive the horizontal base arm of the net standard, and including a horizontal clamping arm positioned above the base arm of the net standard and adapted to resiliently engage and hold the standard base arm against the table surface when the clamp is tightened, and a screw clamping element carried by the clamp member adapted to engage the under surface of the playing table at a point below the middle portion of the horizontal arm of the clamp member.

11. A net holder comprising a net standard having a horizontal base arm adapted to seat on the upper surface of a playing table, an angular clamp member including an upright section apertured at its upper end to slidably receive the base arm of the net standard and a horizontal clamping arm adapted to overlie and hold said standard arm against the table surface when the clamp member is tightened, and a guide channel for the standard base arm at the underside of the horizontal clamp arm of lesser depth than the thickness of the standard arm.

GEORGE D. ROBERTS.