June 7, 1960 J. H. LEMELSON 2,939,707

PLASTIC TOYS

Filed Jan. 31, 1955

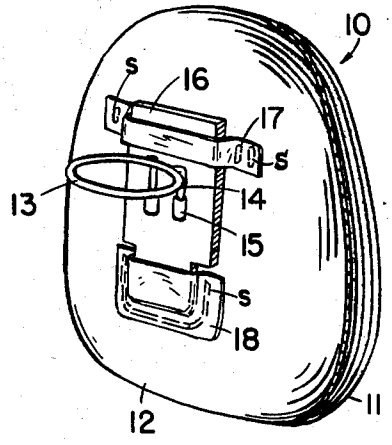


Fig. 1

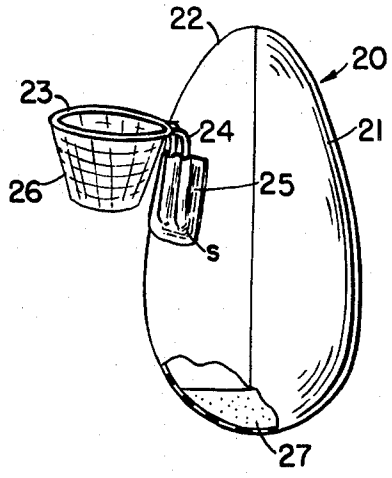


Fig.2

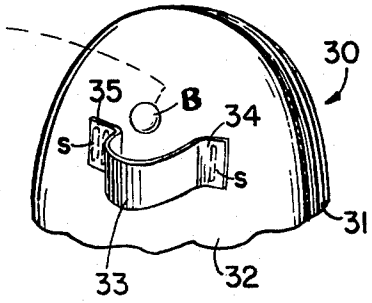


Fig.3

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PLASTIC TOYS

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This invention relates to inflatable toys and in particular to a new and improved target and backdrop which may be used for toss games and the like.

It is a primary object of this invention to provide a new and improved toy and game device in the form of a target for tossing balls or other objects and which may be made large and light in weight at low cost.

Another object is to provide a new and improved game device comprising a target form and an inflatable base for supporting said target form erect on a surface.

Yet another object is to provide a new and improved target and support therefor which may also be used as a backdrop and which is made of thin flexible inflatable material, whereby said support may be made relatively large yet may be packed and stored in a small volume.

Still another object is to provide improved constructions in game apparatus which may easily be produced at low cost.

Another object is to provide a new and improved supporting means for a toss game ring which may be used for basket-ball games and the like.

Other objects and features of my invention are described in the annexed description and drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment thereof.

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of a target device employing an inflated bag as a support;

Fig. 2 is an elevation of a target device having a target portion secured to an inflatable bag in a manner different than that illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a partial view of target device having a further modification in the target portion thereof.

In Fig. 1 is shown a target device **10** comprising the assembly of an inflatable bag and a target form **13** illustrated as a ring loop having an axis substantially parallel to the surface on which it is mounted. The inflated bag is made of two die-cut sheets **11** and **12** of flexible plastic which may be sealed in a sealing line near the border of each which extends in a closed loop and completely encloses the internal volume such that it may be inflated to essentially the shape shown.

The ring loop **13** has a pair of rod-like legs **14** projecting therefrom as shown which are secured to a flat board or plate **16** by means of pocket formations **15** in said plate. The board **16** is held against the surface of the wall **12** of the inflatable bag by means of a pocket formed with said wall and a strap. The lower end of **16** fits into said pocket which is formed by providing a U-shaped seal S between a rectangular sheet of plastic **18** and the wall **12**. The strap **17** extends across the upper end of **16** and is secured by line sealing the ends of said strap to the wall **12**. The dimensions of **17** and **18** as well as the positioning of the welds for each are such that the board **16** is tensionally held thereby as shown when the bag is inflated.

Fig. 2 is a side view of an inflated target device **20** comprising the assembly of two flexible plastic sheets **21** and **22** and having a target in the form of a basket ring **23** and a circumscribing netting **26** secured thereto. A

pair of straight sections of wire **24** extend from the loop **23** and are secured to the inflated bag by passing directly into respective pockets formed when a square of flexible plastic sheet **25** is line sealed in U-shaped sealing lines S to the wall **22** of the inflated bag. The numeral **27** refers to ballast in the form of sand or the like partially filling the enclosure for maintaining said device erect on a surface and returning it to the position shown if tipped over by the impact of a ball or other form thrown at the target.

In Fig. 3 is shown a modification to the device illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 wherein the ring loop target **13** which may be made of rigid or semi-rigid metal is replaced by a U-shaped target made of rigid vinyl sheeting. The target comprises a sheet of plastic such as a rigid vinyl sheet of plastic formed with a semi-cylindrical portion **33** having flange portions **34** and **35** at each side thereof which are secured to the surface of the inflated backdrop and support **30**. Sheets **31** and **32** sealed together in a circumscribing or closed loop sealing line comprise the walls of the inflated bag **30** and the flanges **34** and **35** are sealed thereto by means of sealing lines S. A ball B tossed at the target may be glanced or bounced off the inflated wall **32** so that it falls into the target loop formed by a portion **33** and the wall of **32**.

It is noted that variations in the construction and mounting of the target portion or loop are possible and the target may take various forms without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In game apparatus, a target including aflexible plastic bag capable of inflation to a defined shape whereby the walls of said bag are drawn into a semi-rigid state of tension and said bag is self supporting, means for supporting a base portion of said bag, when inflated, on a surface whereby part of said bag projects away from said surface in an erect condition, a target form comprising a ring loop supported off said projecting part of the inflated bag in an attitude whereby the central axis of said ring is essentially vertical when said bag is in said erect attitude on said surface.

2. A game device in accordance with claim 1, said ring loop comprising the combination of a ring member, a support for said ring member, means securing said ring member to said support, and means securing said support to said flexible plastic bag.

3. A game device in accordance with claim 2, said support for said ring member comprising a board member, and the said means for securing said board member to said flexible plastic bag comprises a pocket formed with said flexible plastic bag and a piece of sheet material line sealed to said flexible member, part of said board member being held in said pocket by said sheet material whereby said ring member projects outwardly therefrom.

4. A game device in accordance with claim 2, said support for said ring member comprising plural arm portions formed with and projecting from said basket loop, said last mentioned securing means comprising a piece of sheet material which is sealed to said plastic bag and holds said arm portions in engagement therewith.

5. A game device in accordance with claim 2, the means for securing said arm portions to said flexible plastic bag comprising plural pockets formed with the wall of said flexible plastic bag by means of sheet material (line sealed) to the exterior of the sheet material comprising said flexible plastic bag, each of said pockets being shaped for receiving a respective of said plural arm portions therein whereby to support said ring loop off said flexible plastic bag.

6. In game apparatus, a target including a flexible plastic bag having flexible sheet walls capable of being in-

flated to a defined shape with said walls drawn into a semi-rigid state of tension to a degree whereby said bag is converted from a limp condition to a self-supporting member, means for supporting a base portion of said bag, when inflated, on a surface whereby the upper part of said bag projects outward from said surface in an erect condition, an outwardly projecting loop shaped target form having an end portion which projects laterally therefrom, said end portion of said target form being secured to a wall of said inflatable plastic bag in a manner whereby said target form is supported when said bag is inflated, said target form defining a target area.

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