Sept. 23, 1924. 1,509,491

F. L. SAWYER

RING FOR RING TENNIS

Filed May 22, 1922

Fig: 1.

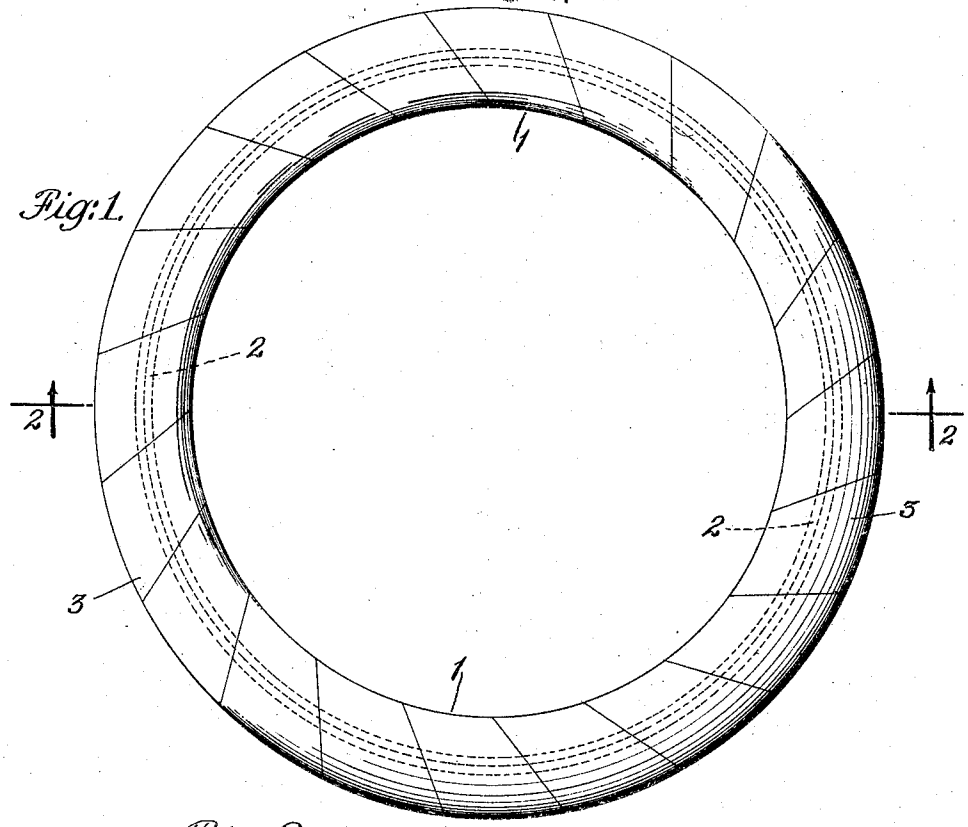


Fig: 2.

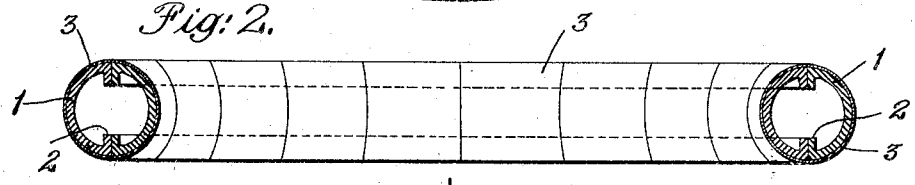


Fig: 3.

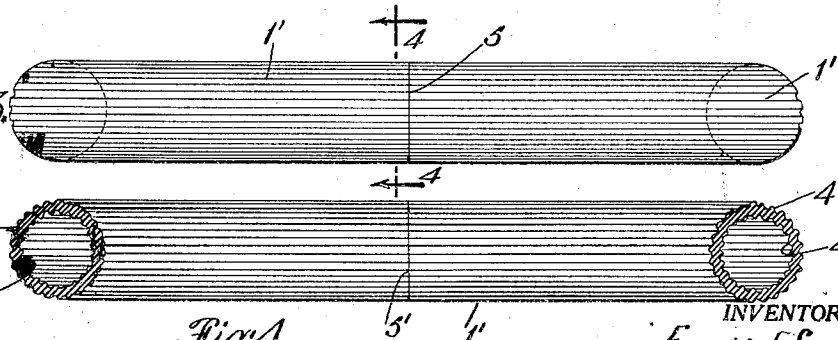


Fig: 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK L. SAWYER, OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

RING FOR RING TENNIS.

Application filed May 22, 1922. Serial No. 562,686.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK L. SAWYER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Evanston, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rings for Ring Tennis, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in the ring for ring tennis.

For several years there has some times been played on shipboard, an improvised game known as ring tennis. The game is played with a rope grommet of about 12 inches external diameter and a rope stretched across the deck about 9 feet in height therefrom, the deck being marked off into a court. The rope grommet twists and bends out of shape in play particularly after it has struck the deck making the return throw as well as the catch difficult. The material of the rope is apt to injure the hands due to its hardness and roughness, and is therefore very unsatisfactory and is particularly objectionable to women and children when playing the game. One of the objects of this invention is to provide a ring that will not hurt or injure the hands. Another object of this invention is to provide a ring that will maintain its shape when thrown. Still another object of this invention is to provide more satisfactory playing implements in order to develop the game and popularize it on both land and on shipboard, as it affords a new means of healthy outdoor recreation, which practically everybody both young and old can play in the small spaces of town or city yards.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1, is a view in elevation of a ring embodying the principles of my invention.

Figure 2, is a cross sectional view of Fig. 1, along the line, 2, 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3, is a view in side elevation of a modified form of ring.

Figure 4, is a cross sectional view of Fig. 3, along the line 4, 4 looking in the direction of the arrows.

In carrying out my invention I propose to provide a tubular ring 1, of elastic material such as rubber, which I prefer to mold in two sections having the junction at right angles to the plane of the ring in order that the internal ridge 2 thereof will act to stiffen the ring 1 to counteract distortion of the ring from its plane by the forces acting thereon when thrown. I also propose to provide a covering 3 of soft material such as felt wound spirally about the ring and fastened thereon in any well known manner, such as by cementing or sewing.

In a modified form I provide a tubular, elastic ring 1′ having internal and external corrugations 4 and 4′.

These corrugations 4, 4′ form a grip for the hands to facilitate the catching of the ring and also function to stiffen the ring 1′ to counteract distortion and to aid the elastic walls and pneumatic pressure to restore the ring to shape. This modified form of ring 1′ I propose to mold in two semi-circular sections and join the sections by vulcanizing at 5, 5′.

Both the preferred embodiment and the modified form are under internal pneumatic pressure of more than one atmosphere.

In playing, the ring is thrown over a net and when caught by the opposing player will distort in the catching of it, nevertheless, the ring will immediately spring into shape when released or thrown. The pneumatic, elastic construction prevents injury to the player and because of the ring's elastic quality and consequent resumption of its circular shape when thrown and maintenance thereof in flight is more readily controlled and the game may be played therefore more skillfully. With my invention children as well as adults can play the game on land or on shipboard without possible injury.

What I claim is:—

1. For the game of ring tennis, a ring, of a diameter of not less than six inches or more than fourteen inches, tubular elastic walls therefor of symmetrical cross section, said walls having a uniform exterior surface without any opening, said walls being under internal pneumatic pressure.

2. For the game of ring tennis, a ring, of a diameter not less than six inches or more than fourteen inches, tubular walls therefor of elastic material containing means within said walls to counteract distortion in the

plane of the ring and means to counteract distortion in the plane at right angles to the plane of the ring.

3. For the game of ring tennis a pneumatic ring, of a diameter not less than six inches or more than fourteen inches, tubular walls of rubber therefor, the material of said walls being uniformly distributed for throwing balance and formed to counteract distortion from the plane of the ring.

Signed at New York in the county of New York and State of New York this 20th day of May A. D. 1922.

FREDERICK L. SAWYER.