Jan. 2, 1934. L. F. BRAZEAU 1,941,877

EXERCISING BALL

Filed March 21, 1933

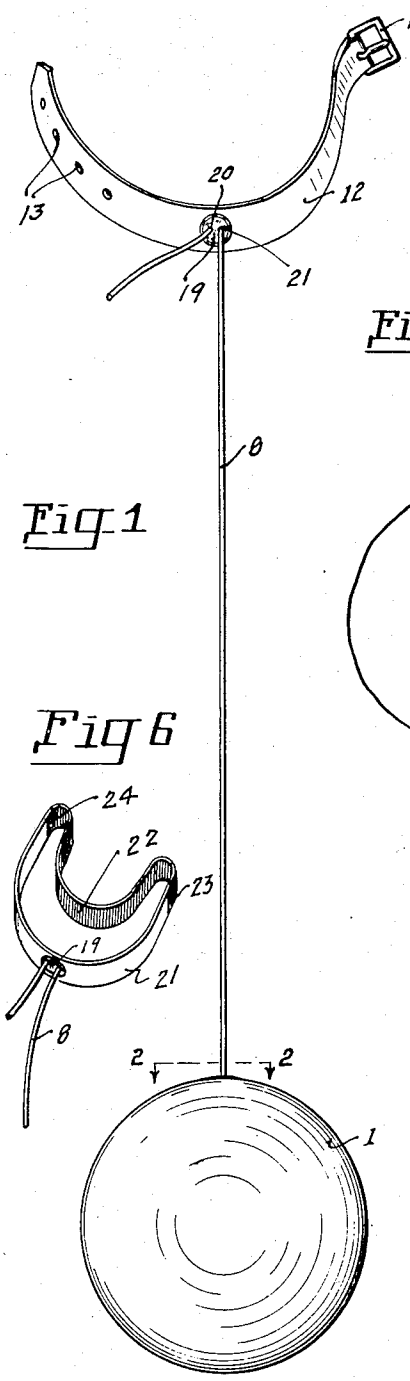


Fig 1

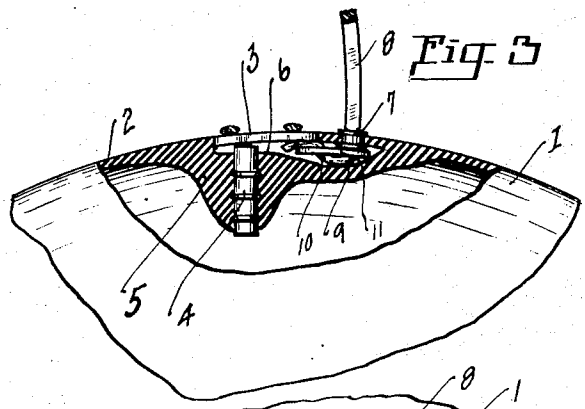


Fig 3

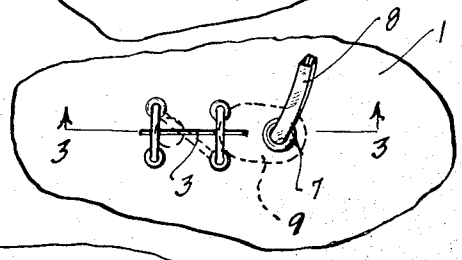


Fig 2

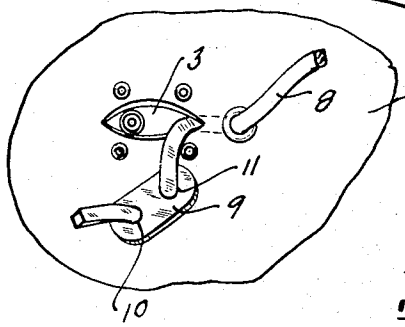


Fig 4

Fig 6

Fig 5

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Patented Jan. 2, 1934 1,941,877

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,941,877

EXERCISING BALL

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Application March 21, 1933. Serial No. 661,964

1 Claim. (Cl. 272—77)

My invention relates to exercising and physical culture balls.

The invention is comprised of an inflatable ball. A valve is associated with the ball to adapt it for being readily inflated and deflated. A reacting element as an elastic rubber member is adjustably secured at one end to the body of the user as being placed about his neck the ball is rendered captive. This means of adjustment of the rubber member at either end makes possible the adjustment of the device to the desired length as indicated by the arm length of the user.

Striking the ball extends the elastic rubber member which reacts to return the ball toward the user.

The primary purpose and object of my invention is to provide a relatively active captive ball that may be used for physical exercise and development.

A still further object of my invention consists in so constructing the device that it may be readily adjusted to meet the physical requirements of the user.

And a still further object of my invention consists in so constructing the device that it may be made highly portable, the ready deflation thereof making it possible to carry the ball in a suitcase or bag, and the inflation of which may be effected by lung pressure, making it usable without the aid of a mechanical pump.

A still further object of my invention consists in so constructing the assembly that it may have a long and useful life with practical freedom from mechanical annoyances.

With these and incidental objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combination of parts, the essential elements of which are set forth in the appended claim, and a preferred form of embodiment of which is hereinafter shown with reference to the drawing which accompanies and forms a part of this specification.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side view of the ball and strap and illustrates the ball secured to the strap through the use of a highly elastic member.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan view of a portion of the shell of the ball illustrating the means for attaching the elastic rubber member to the ball. This view is taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction indicated.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional side view of that portion of the shell of the ball in which the valve is located and to which the elastic rubber member is attached. This view is taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction indicated.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of the shell of the ball and a perspective view of the opening disposed in the shell through which the valve is inserted and also a perspective plan view of the fastening through which the end of the rubber thong is passed thereby to render the ball captive. The fastening for the thong is inserted through the same slit in the shell through which the valve is reached.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of the strap illustrating the means for securing the rubber thong to the strap.

Fig. 6 is a perspective front view of a modified form of fastening attachment having a stretchable member disposed therein that may be used for securing the rubber thong to the body of the user.

Like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views.

I use any suitable ball 1, preferably a ball of good quality rubber having a relatively thick shell 2. I form a slit 3 in the shell and insert a valve 4 through the slit into an enlargement 5 that is formed integral with the shell and that is disposed upon the interior of the shell surface and adjacent the slit.

A pump may be directly attached to the valve for inflating the ball or a tube 6 may be attached to the valve head and tucked within the shell and pulled out for inflating and deflating the ball. The inflation may be done through lung pressure by placing the end of the tube in the mouth.

I place an eyelet 7 in the shell of the ball. A highly elastic rubber thong 8 is used for rendering the ball captive. One end of the thong is adjustably secured to the ball through the use of a fastener 9. The fastener may be made of leather, rubber, fibre or other suitable material. Spaced holes 10 and 11 are formed within the fastener. The holes are smaller in cross sectional area than the normal cross sectional area of the rubber thong, which may be positioned relative to the fastener and the fastener then placed within the slit with the hole 11 in registry alignment with the eyelet 7.

I have found best results are to be obtained with my exercising ball by providing a strap that is of a length and material suitable for placement about the neck of the user. Spaced fastening holes 13 are disposed in one end of the strap and a buckle 14 is placed at the oppositely disposed end. Spaced holes 15 and 16 are disposed with-

in the strap and suitable metal eyelets 17 and 18 are positioned within the holes. A disc fastening means 19 having spaced holes 20 and 21 is provided. The cross sectional area of the holes 20 and 21 is smaller than the normal cross sectional area of the thong and in securing the thong to the strap to render the ball captive, the thong is threaded through the holes 21 and the hole 16 and is reversed then through holes 17 and 20. This provides suitable adjustment means for regulating the length of the thong to the arm length of the user. The strap 12 is placed about the neck of the user and the thong adjusted to coordinate with the arm length of the user. The ball is then struck by the hand of the user in a manner analogous to that of striking a punching bag.

It may be found desirable with some classes of users to make the fastener on the body end of the rubber thong, as illustrated in Fig. 6, and when so made the front portion 21 of the endless band may be made of leather. The rear portion 22 may be made of a stretchable material as live rubber and the two be joined together at 23 and 24 by any suitable means as by cementing. This form of mechanism will be particularly desirable where youths are using the same.

While the form of mechanism herein shown and described is admirably adapted to fulfill the objects primarily stated, it is to be understood that it is not intended to confine the invention to the embodiment herein shown and described, as it is susceptible of embodiment in various forms, all coming within the scope of the claim which follows.

What I claim is:

In a device of the class described having a ball resiliently connected with the body of a user, the combination of a cavity formed within the wall of the ball, and having an upper and lower wall, an enlargement formed integral with the inner wall of the cavity and extending downwardly therefrom, said upper wall of the cavity being slit for a portion of its length, and provided with an aperture in the remaining portion of its length, a tubular valve extending through the enlarged portion of the lower wall of the cavity and accessible through the slit portion of the upper wall.

LLOYD F. BRAZEAU.