June 9, 1925. 1,540,771

E. S. FOSTER

WICKET AND STAKE FOR INDOOR CROQUET

Filed March 15, 1924

Fig. 1.

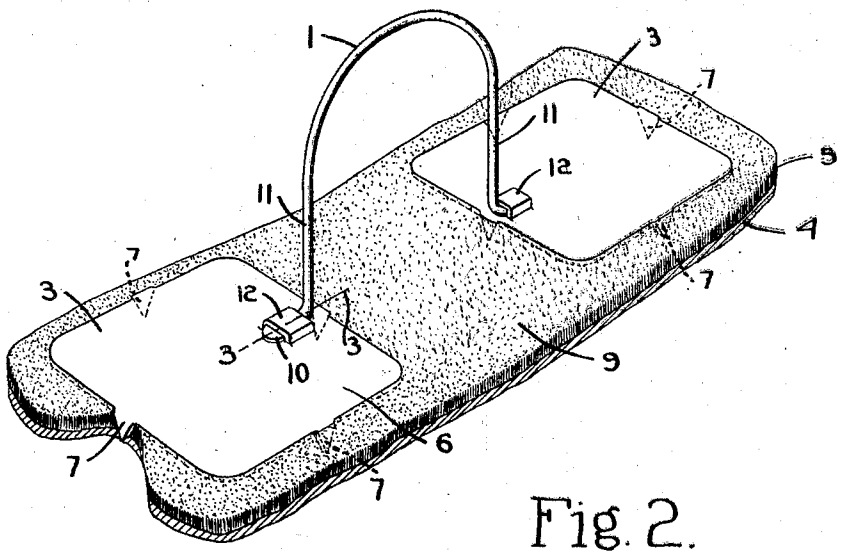


Fig. 2.

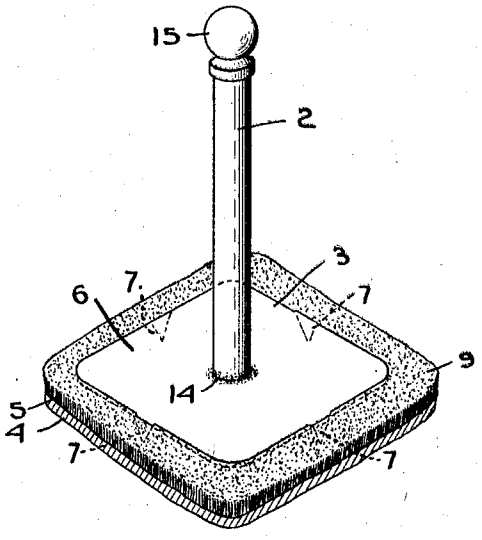
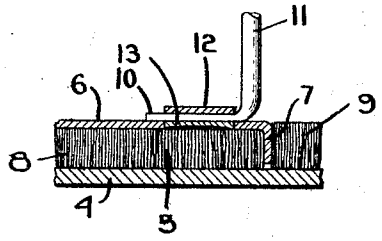


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WICKET AND STAKE FOR INDOOR CROQUET.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD S. FOSTER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Wickets and Stakes for Indoor Croquet, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like characters on the drawing representing like parts.

This invention relates to an article for use in playing an indoor game such as croquet and the general object of the invention is to provide wickets and stakes for the game so constructed that they are durable and rugged and will enable the indoor game to be played under the same conditions as the outdoor game.

The wickets and stakes furnished with many of the usual game sets for playing indoor croquet consist of a body which is either the arch of the wicket or the upstanding post of the stake, with the arms of the wicket or the end of the post driven into the wooden blocks which form supports for the body. With this construction the bodies of the stakes or wickets soon loosen in the supporting blocks with the result that the bodies or the supporting blocks become separated and are frequently lost. Furthermore, the blocks stand up an appreciable distance above the floor and extend a considerable distance away from the body of the article, so that if a ball comes near to the wicket but does not go through, it is stopped by the support for the wicket and does not pass by the wicket as would happen if the game were played outdoors where the ends of the wickets are driven into the ground. If a ball is being driven toward the wicket or stake with considerable force and strikes the support, the wicket or stake is frequently knocked over or at least driven out of its position.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a wicket or stake for use in playing a game such as indoor croquet in which the body of the wicket or stake is firmly secured to the support to provide a rugged construction.

Another object of the invention is to provide the wicket or stake with a support which will lie close to the floor so that if the ball does not go through the wicket or strike the post it may pass by unhindered by the support.

A further object of the invention is to provide a wicket or stake so constructed that it may firmly be held on the covering for the floor so as to prevent the wicket or stake from having lateral movement or from being knocked over when struck by a ball.

Other objects and features of the invention will more fully appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings and will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

The drawings illustrate in section and elevation preferred forms of the wickets and stakes and illustrate the manner in which the wickets or stakes are secured to the floor covering to prevent movement and also to provide a support which does not hinder free movement of the ball.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a wicket in position on a rug or carpet;

Fig. 2 is a perspective of a stake in position on a rug or carpet;

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3, Fig. 1.

As illustrated herein the articles for use in connection with playing the game of indoor croquet comprise a body which is either the arch 1 of the wicket or the post 2 of the stake, and bases or supports 3 for the bodies. The wickets and stakes are designed to lie on and be fastened to the covering of the floor, said covering being illustrated herein as a carpet having a base 4 and a pile 5 fastened to the carpet base and projecting upwardly therefrom.

The supports for the arch of the wicket or the post of the stake comprise a thin metallic sheet 6 to lie on the floor covering and tabs 7 extending downwardly from said sheet to enter the floor covering and prevent lateral movement of the article. As illustrated in Fig. 3 the support sinks under its own weight and that of the body which it supports compressing that portion 8 of the pile which is beneath it until the upper surface of the support lies flush with the exposed portion 9 of the pile so that the support does not present an obstacle in the path of a ball and if a ball approaches a wicket or stake it will not be deflected from its course by the support. The support is thin and flat so that it will lie closely against the floor covering and the tabs 7 are sharply pointed so that they easily enter the pile of the carpet,

thus offering practically no resistance to the support sinking into the pile. The tabs, however, have quite an appreciable area which prevents lateral movement of either the wicket or the stake and the supports have such an area that they firmly resist tipping of the article even though the body is hit by a ball coming with considerable force.

The arch of the wicket is preferably formed of a heavy metallic wire and in order to fasten the arch to the support the end 10 of each arm 11 of the arch is flattened and clamped under a portion 12 struck up from the main portion of the metallic sheet which forms the support. If desired, solder 13 may be placed in the opening left in the support when the portion 12 is struck up, thus firmly and permanently securing the arch of the wicket to the support.

The flattened end 10 of the wicket arm is preferably of considerably less length than the radius of the ball which is used in playing the game so that the ball will never come in contact with, or be deflected by, the flattened end of the wicket. If a ball aproaches the wicket it will strike the upstanding portion of the wicket arm and be deflected thereby and will not strike the flattened end 10 of the arm, thus rendering the conditions of playing the indoor game as near as possible like the conditions of playing the outdoor game, in which the arm of the wicket is the only portion thereof which will deflect a ball.

The post 2 of the stake is preferably either an iron rod or pipe and is fastened to its support in any suitable manner as by being forced into a hole in the support or by solder 14. The top of the stake may be ornamented by a ball or other device 15 as desired.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. A wicket for use in playing indoor croquet on a floor which is provided with a pile fabric covering, said wicket comprising an arch formed of wire and having the end of each arm thereof flattened and bent at right angles to the arm, a support for each arm which is separate therefrom and is formed of a metallic sheet of relatively large area that is secured to the bent end of the arm, each support having sharp pointed tabs extending downwardly therefrom at right angles thereto and adapted to enter the pile of the floor covering and thus prevent lateral movement of the wicket.

2. A wicket for use in playing indoor croquet on a floor having a covering, comprising an arch formed of heavy wire having the end of each arm of the arch flattened and bent at right angles to said arm, separate thin, flat, metallic sheets to lie on the floor covering and form supports for the arch, each having a struck-up portion between which and the main portion of the sheet said flattened end is clamped and sharp pointed tabs extending downwardly from each sheet to enter the floor covering and prevent lateral movement of the wicket.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

EDWARD S. FOSTER.