No. 703,911. Patented July 1, 1902.

J. GIRDWOOD.

BAT OR RACKET FOR GAME KNOWN AS PING PONG OR TABLE TENNIS

(Application filed Mar. 10, 1902.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1

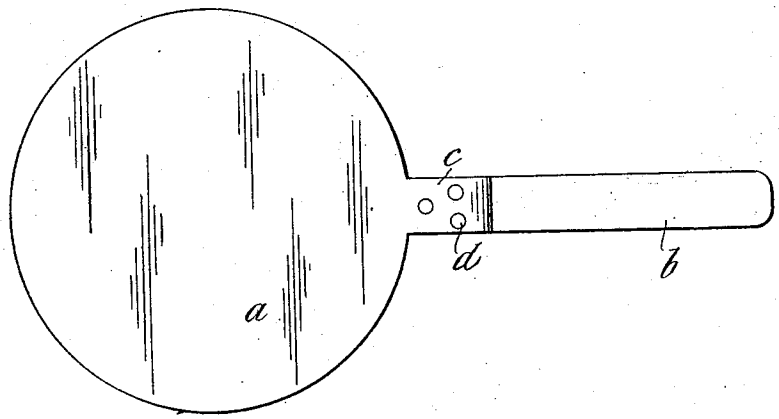


Fig. 2.

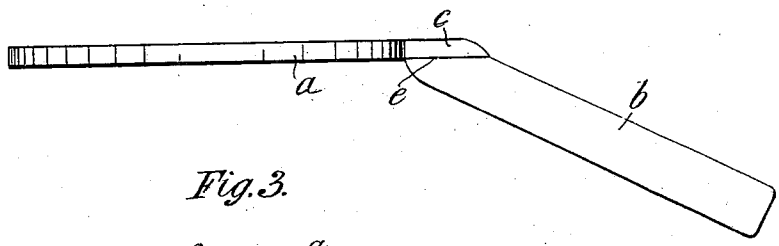
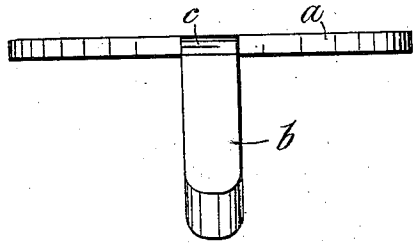


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN GIRDWOOD, OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

BAT OR RACKET FOR GAME KNOWN AS PING-PONG OR TABLE-TENNIS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 703,911, dated July 1, 1902.

Application filed March 10, 1902. Serial No. 97,540. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN GIRDWOOD, dental surgeon, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 16 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, Scotland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bats or Rackets for the Game known as "Ping-Pong" or "Table-Tennis," of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to bats or rackets for the game known as "ping-pong" or "table-tennis."

The object of my invention is to provide a bat or racket which will enable the player more easily to stand directly facing the table upon which the game of ping-pong or table-tennis is being played.

With the bats at present in use the player has to stand more or less sidewise to the table in order to make what are known as "back-hand" returns. The consequence is that great difficulty is experienced by the player in rapidly changing around from a "back-hand" to a "front-hand" stroke. In addition to this the player is prevented more or less from making effective back-hand returns on a certain portion of the table on his right-hand side. In order to obviate these difficulties, I construct the bat so that the handle, or that part of it which is held in the player's hand, instead of its being in the same plane as its blade or striking part is at an angle thereto of such an amount that the player while directly facing the net can hold the bat in a natural position as regards his hand and yet keep the blade approximately parallel to the net. I have found that a suitable angle is about twenty-five degrees to the plane of the blade and inclined toward the player when the blade is parallel to the net in playing a back-hand stroke; but I do not confine myself to any particular angle, as the same may be varied to a considerable extent to suit individual players.

The shape and section of the handle may vary, provided that that part which is to be held by the player is so inclined as to enable the player while facing the net to hold the blade without inconvenience substantially parallel to the net.

In order that my invention may be readily understood, I will proceed to describe the same by aid of the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of the improved bat or racket. Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof, showing clearly the handle set at an angle to the face of the bat; and Fig. 3 is a second edge view at right angles to Fig. 2, with the handle pointing toward the observer.

a is the body or striking portion of my improved bat or racket. This portion may be of any suitable kind, as my invention does not apply to the construction of this particular part. In the example shown it is circular and is made of wood; but it may, for instance, be formed of thin parchment or skin stretched over a frame, or it may be of cork or other suitable material.

b is the handle, which, as shown, is disposed at an angle of about twenty-five degrees relatively to the face of the bat or racket and is connected either to the edge or to any other convenient part of the portion *a*. In the present instance the connection is made by means of a projection or lug *c*, extending from the edge of the part *a* and lying in the same plane as this part. The inner end *e* of the handle is beveled off to fit against the under side of such projection. Three or more pins or the like *d* are passed through this lug into the beveled end *e* and serve to unite the two rigidly.

It will be readily understood that when the player is using my improved bat or racket for playing back-hand strokes—that is to say, with the wrist bent back so that the bat is pointing to the left—it is very much easier for him to keep the portion *a* of the bat parallel with the end of the table or to meet the ball squarely, no matter which side it may strike on, than it is when the handle is in the same plane as the portion *a*. This is especially the case when the player is returning a ball at the right-hand corner of the table, because in this position the back-hand stroke with an ordinary bat requires the wrist to be bent back to an inconvenient amount. In fact, some players for this reason only use the back-hand stroke on their left side and have to change over and use the other face of the bat when playing on their right side.

Now with my improved bat a player can play back-hand strokes at either side of the table equally well and with much less exertion than heretofore.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

A bat or racket for ping-pong, comprising a body portion, a lug or projection integral with said body portion, and a handle suitably attached to the said lug or projection, said handle being permanently disposed at an angle to the body portion.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, in presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 24th day of February, 1902.

JOHN GIRDWOOD.

Witnesses:
JESSIE HUTCHISON,
THOMAS R. CALDER.