Feb. 17, 1948. M. C. MYERS 2,436,174

GAME PROJECTILE

Filed Dec. 21, 1943

Fig. 1.

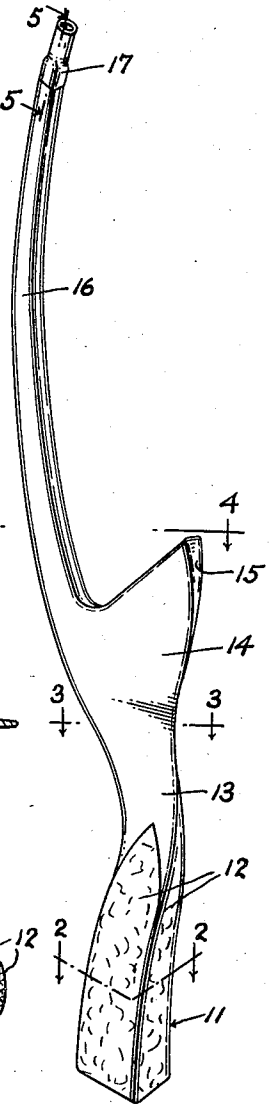


Fig. 3.

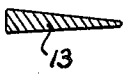


Fig. 2.

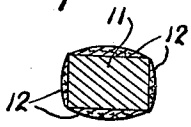


Fig. 6.

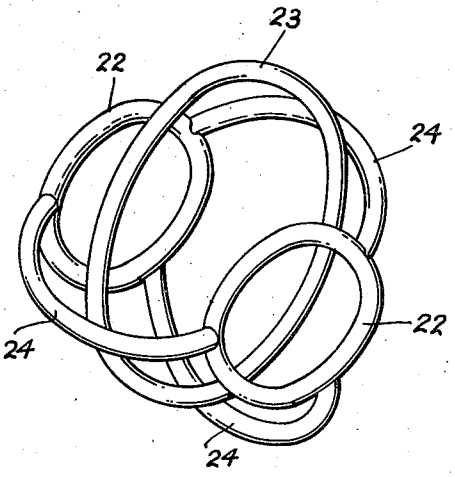


Fig. 7.

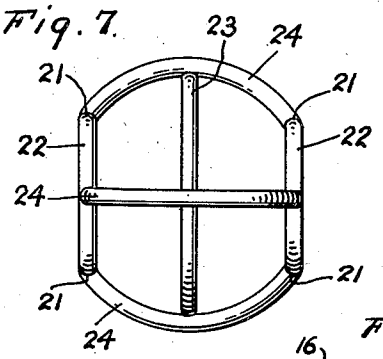


Fig. 4.

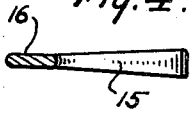


Fig. 8.

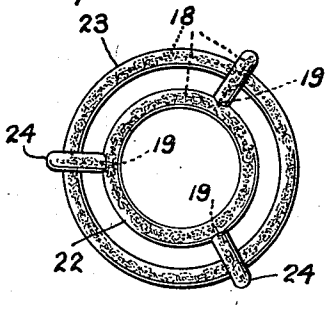


Fig. 9.

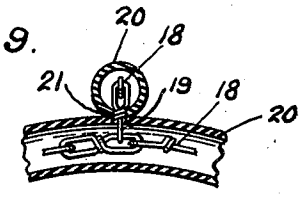
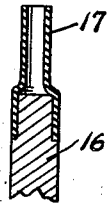


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
Mahlon C. Myers
BY
Victor J. Evans & Co.
ATTORNEYS

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GAME PROJECTILE

Mahlon C. Myers, Takoma Park, Md.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—106)

1

This invention appertains to amusement and exercising devices generally, and has for an object to provide a game apparatus which is embodied in an aerial projectile and a combined projector and catcher therefor, the same to be employed for either indoor or outdoor play between two or more persons, not only for their amusement but also for their general physical development, as well as for the development of a more or less perfect coordination between the mental and physical faculties.

Another object of the invention is to provide a game apparatus of this character, wherein the projectile is put into play by being hurled from one player in the general direction of another player, with the objective of keeping the projectile in substantially continuous motion, without at any time touching the person or ground, over a predetermined period of playtime, the projectile being caught on a hand implement and immediately projected therefrom to that end.

A further object of the invention has to do with the provision of a game apparatus of this kind, which in its play and results is comparable to the Spanish game of Pelota, or Jai-Alai, in that it requires a better eye, more speed, activity, and a surer control of practically every muscle of the body than a majority of other similar sports.

In play, the game has the advantages, in that no especially prepared or defined court, or other enclosure or area is required, although any one of these may be utilized if available, and there need be no limit placed upon the number of persons for play, unless it is desired to engender competition between selected groups or teams, in either case, the players will take scattered positions on the play area for the hurling of the projectile from one player to another, either in a haphazard manner or by rotation. Any suitable system of scoring may be employed, as by adding points for catches made and penalizing by point deductions for misses and for fouls or intentional interference.

With these and other objects and advantages in view, the invention resides in the certain new and useful combination, construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, set forth in the appended claim, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form of the combined projector and catcher, in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a horizontal section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

2

Figure 3 is a similar view but taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is another similar sectional view, taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a preferred form of the aerial projectile;

Figure 7 is a side elevation thereof;

Figure 8 is an end view of a modified form of the invention and

Figure 9 is a sectional detail, showing the interconnected lengths of chain housed within the protective tubing forming the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 8.

Referring to the drawing, wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts in the several views, and more particularly to Figures 1 through 5, the embodiment of the combined projector and catcher, as it is exemplified therein, takes the form of a hand implement that is of unitary construction, preferably carved or otherwise shaped, from a single block of a wood of tough fiber, and is comprised essentially of a hand-grip portion 11, a guard portion 14, and a prong or finger portion 16. The hand-grip portion 11 is substantially rectangular in cross-section, preferably oblong, as shown in Figure 2, and has its four sides covered with leather or a like material 12 to provide a non-slip gripping surface. The rear and opposite sides of the upper end of the hand-grip portion 11 tapers off on inwardly curving lines to merge into the neck portion 13, which in turn merges into the guard portion 14 that takes a flattened and upwardly flaring shape of substantially wedge-like form in cross-section, substantially as is shown in Figure 3. This upward and forward curvature of the rear side of the hand grip portion 11 merges at the neck portion 13 with the reversely or rearwardly and upwardly curving back edge of the guard portion 14 that takes the form of a sweeping arc the length of which, beyond the top end or side of the guard portion, defines the curvature of the prong or finger 16.

The prong or finger 16 projects upwardly from the top of the guard portion 14 in continuation with its rear side or edge and has its free end terminating in a plane slightly in rear of a vertical plane passing through its base and the lower end of the rear side or heel of the hand-grip portion 11, substantially as shown. The prong or finger 16 is tapered upwardly from its base and has its front side or edge merging on a curved line into the top side or edge of the guard portion 14,

while the latter is made to a gradually increasing thickness forwardly from the base of the prong or finger 16, as at 15 and as shown in Figure 4. The top side or edge of the guard portion 14 is sloped upwardly from the base of the prong or finger 16 and forwardly therefrom, so that it forms an obtuse angle with reference to the axis of the hand-grip portion of the implement. The free end of the prong or finger 16 is preferably provided with a protective tip 17, of rubber or the like, to prevent otherwise possible injury to the players.

The aerial projectile, to be employed with the hand implement just described and as depicted in Figures 5 through 9, is comprised in an open-work body that may have an over-all size comparable with that of a football or a basketball and it is preferably made up of interconnected lengths of chain enclosed within corresponding lengths of a flexible tubing, the chain being of the closed link type and of a size to give an effective weight to the finished projectile, and the tubing of a soft or freely flexible rubber or rubber substitute to give protection to the players against injury during play. As illustrated, the lengths of chain 18 and tubing 20 (Figures 8 and 9) are made up to provide two end circlets or rings 22 of equal diameters and an intermediate circlet or ring 23 of a larger diameter, which are arranged in equidistantly spaced, side to side, relation and concentrically, one with respect to the other, and are thereafter interconnected at points spaced along their respective lengths, by straight lengths 24 of the chain and tubing, the chain lengths being linked together at their points of connection, as at 19, and the tubing lengths vulcanized at their respective points of contact, as at 21. Due to the larger formation of the intermediate circlet or ring 23, the chain and tubing lengths 24 assume curvatures which define arcs of circles when in assembly with the circlets or rings 22, 23, the lengths of which may be such as to give to the projectile the elongated oval form of a football, or the more or less spherical form of a basketball. In assembly, the opposite open ends of the lengths of tubing are abutted against the outer peripheries of the circlets or rings 22 for securement thereto by vulcanizing, while medial portions thereof are similarly secured to the outer periphery of the intermediate circlet or ring 23, which with the linking together of the several chain lengths, provides an open-work body of sufficient strength and durability to withstand the hard usage to which it is subjected during play.

In use, each of any number of persons will be provided with a hand implement and will then take scattered or predetermined positions on the play area, when a projectile will be put into play by one of the players. In play, the starting player will engage the projectile on the prong or finger 16 of his hand implement and will then forcibly hurl it from the prong or finger by a sweeping motion of the arm. If the play is to be a free-for-all, the projectile will be hurled from one player to another in a haphazard fashion, or if the play is to be conducted by the players in a predetermined rotation or sequence, the projectile will then be hurled as directly as possible, depending upon the skill acquired by a particular player, toward the player who is next in turn to receive it. The play and the scoring of the game will be governed by rules to be agreed upon between the players. As to scoring, this may be done by point values added for fair catches of the projectile and making deductions of the same or other point values as penalties for misses, fouls, and the like. In any case, the projectile is preferably kept in substantially continuous motion from player to player after start of play and over predetermined play periods. In effecting a catch of the projectile, the hand implement is positioned in the line of flight of the projectile for the engaging of one of its openings by the prong or finger 16 and, when so caught, the force of its impact will be taken on the guard 14—15, so as to avoid injury to the hand of the player making the catch. Immediately upon making a fair catch of the projectile, the player will hurl it from his implement so as to keep it in continuous speedy motion between the several persons engaged in the play.

Having thus fully described my invention, it is to be understood that various changes in form and minor details of construction of both the hand implement and the aerial projectile may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention, or its scope as claimed.

What I claim is:

A game projectile comprising two relatively spaced rings of similar contour, a third larger ring positioned intermediate of said first mentioned rings centrally thereof, arcuate spaced members connected at their ends to said rings and at their center to said third ring to connect said rings in parallel relation to each other, and said rings and said members are made of flexible tubing and chains are positioned in said rings and said members and are connected at their meeting points to form a unitary assembly.

MAHLON C. MYERS.

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