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T. A. DAVIS

2,280,382

RACKET HANDLE

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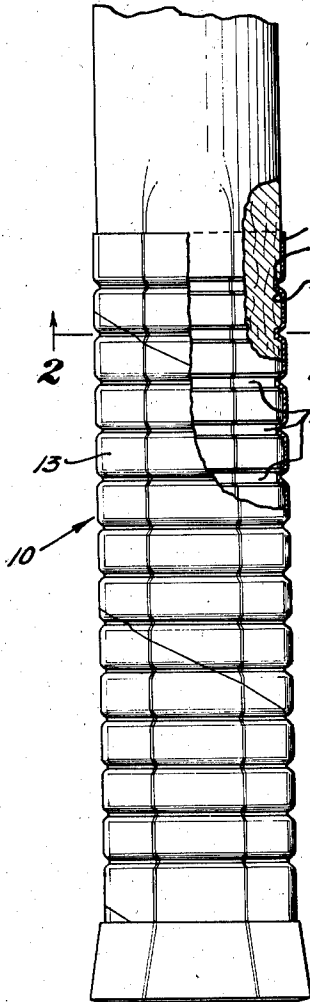


Fig. 1.

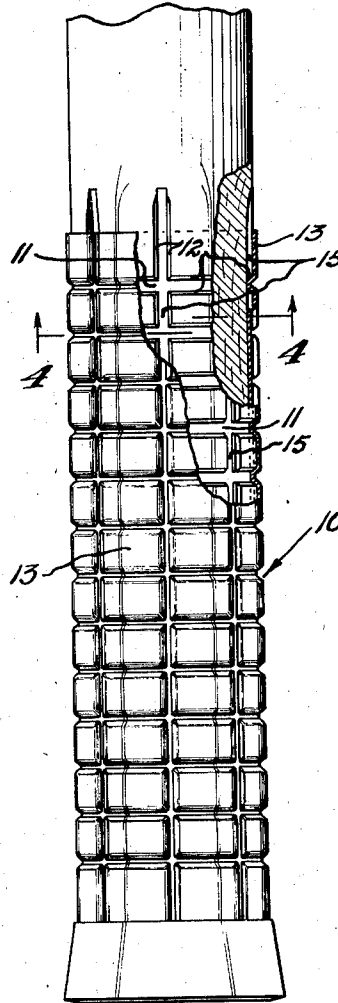


Fig. 3.

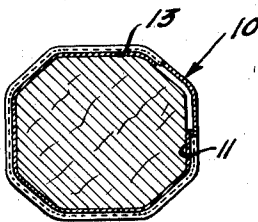


Fig. 2.

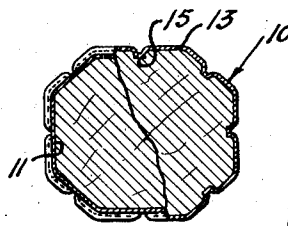


Fig. 4.

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RACKET HANDLE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273-75)

This invention relates generally to handles for rackets such as tennis, badminton, or squash rackets and the like, the general purpose of the invention being the provision of a racket handle having an improved grip and improved "feel."

The conventional tennis racket handle is formed with eight plane sides. The "feel" of the longitudinal edges defining these sides aids the player in applying his hand to the handle with the proper grip, and these edges also tend to prevent rotational slippage of the racket handle in the hand while striking the ball.

A particular object of the present invention is to provide circumferential formations which will tend to prevent longitudinal slippage of the racket handle in the hand, and also, preferably, additional longitudinal formations which will still further reduce rotational slippage of the racket handle in the hand.

The present invention provides a racket handle having, underneath the usual leather sheath or wrapping, circumferential groovings, or a combination of circumferential groovings and longitudinal groovings. The leather wrapping is preferably pressed into these groovings and glued. The result is a leather wrapped racket handle having circumferential grooves, or both circumferential and longitudinal grooves, but without grooving or otherwise weakening the leather itself. The leather wrapping is thus unweakened, and a durable handle of substantially improved grip characteristics is afforded.

The invention will be best understood from the following detailed description of certain typical embodiments, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevation, with parts broken away, of one form of racket handle in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a modification; and

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

In the drawing, numeral 10 designates a racket handle of any usual or desired construction, shown to have the conventional cross-sectional formation. In the form of Figs. 1 and 2 this handle is provided throughout the grip portion of its length with a multiplicity of circumferential grooves 11, spaced preferably about as illustrated. Preferably, though not necessarily, these grooves 11 meet on themselves, i. e., are not spiral, this having the advantage that the handle then feels the same in the hand regardless of which racket face is being used. The grooves are preferably of the cross-sectional formation illustrated near the top of the handle on the right hand side in Fig. 1, the edges of the grooves being beveled, as at 12.

A sheath or wrapping 13 of leather or the like is then glued to the handle, preferably with the use of casein glue, being pressed well into the grooves as illustrated. This wrapping is ordinarily and preferably a strip of grip leather, wound spirally on the handle, and fastened or finished off at the ends in any conventional manner. The leather wrapping is of uniform thickness, and its natural or finished surfaces remain undisturbed and unweakened at any place. After wrapping the leather on the handle, it is preferably pressed into the grooves by mechanical means, such as by the use of appropriate rollers, so that it will become glued to the surfaces of the grooves. However, the leather does not thus have to be initially pressed and glued within the grooves, since the hand pressure of the player will press the leather into the grooves, and it will ultimately set in that position.

Figs. 3 and 4 show the use of additional circumferentially spaced longitudinal grooves 15, these being preferably of the same cross-sectional formation as the previously described circumferential grooves 11, and the leather wrapping 13 being pressed down in the longitudinal grooves the same as in the circumferential grooves. Other than for the additional provision of the longitudinal grooves, the handle of Figs. 3 and 4 may be the same as that of Figs. 1 and 2.

I have thus provided a handle formation having improved grip characteristics by virtue of the provision of circumferential grooves, or circumferential and longitudinal grooves, but without in any way weakening the leather wrapping. The grooved formation as described and illustrated lessens the tendency for the racket to slip in the hand, improves the "feel" of the racket handle, and increases the player's sense of control over the racket.

I claim:

1. A racket handle having longitudinally spaced, circumferential, handle-encircling grooves sunk in its surface, said grooves defining a plurality of handle surfaces, and an exterior sheath of leather or the like closely engaging said handle surfaces defined by the grooves, pressed into the grooves, and secured by adhesive to both the handle surfaces and the groove surfaces.

2. A racket handle having longitudinally spaced, circumferential, handle-encircling grooves and circumferentially spaced longitudinal grooves sunk in its surface, said grooves defining a plurality of handle surfaces, and an exterior sheath of leather or the like closely engaging said handle surfaces between the grooves, pressed into the grooves, and secured by adhesive to both the handle surfaces and the groove surfaces.

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