June 10, 1924. 1,497,148

W. F. KENYON ET AL

LAWN TENNIS RACKET AND THE LIKE

Filed Sept. 5, 1923

Fig. 1.

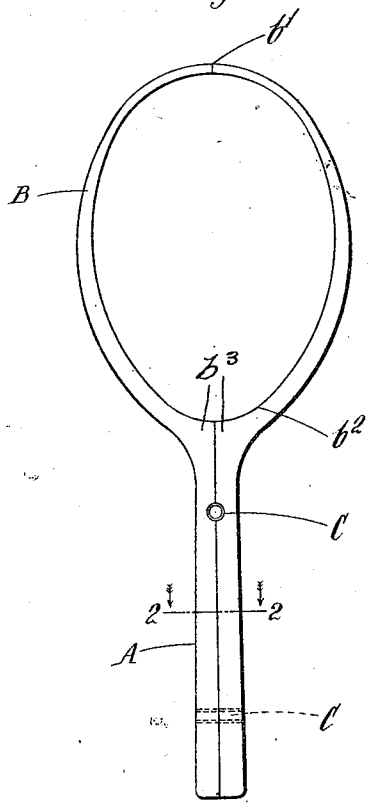
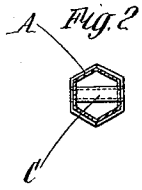


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM FEARON KENYON, OF CAMDEN TOWN, AND ERNEST WILLIAM JOHNSON, OF WEST KENSINGTON, LONDON, ENGLAND, ASSIGNORS TO THE COUNTY SCREEN COMPANY, LIMITED, OF LONDON, ENGLAND, A BRITISH COMPANY.

LAWN-TENNIS RACKET AND THE LIKE.

Application filed September 5, 1923. Serial No. 660,996.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM FEARON KENYON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, of 12 and 13, Miller Street, Camden Town, in the county of London, England, and ERNEST WILLIAM JOHNSON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, of 3, Spencer Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, West Kensington, in the county of London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Lawn-Tennis Rackets and the like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to lawn tennis rackets and similar implements such as those used for example in the games of badminton, lacrosse, and squash rackets of the kind in which the frame of the implement is made of tubular or semi-tubular metal.

According to this invention the said frame is tapered in such manner that the minimum diameter thereof is at the head or top of the implement, that is, at the part furthest from the handle, while the diameter of the metal in the neighbourhood of the shoulder or bifurcation from the handle of the open part of the frame, is large enough to give sufficient strength at this part.

The handle is preferably made in known manner in one piece with the said open part by opposing and joining the ends or side edges of the tube, which may here be so shaped as to give the handle a hexagonal or other suitable cross-section, and short cross tubes arranged at right angles with each other may be secured in perforations in the handle to give stiffness thereto, improve the grip and provide ventilation. It may however be found convenient to make a tennis racket frame in two, four, or more pieces, as for example, two halves of the handle, and two curved tapering tubes joined at their wider ends to the handle and at their narrower ends to each other. The handle may alternatively be made of wood or vulcanite, or sheathed with vulcanite, with cross tubes or perforations as aforesaid, while the open part of the frame is made of tapered tubular metal. The tapered curved tube may be of any usual or suitable configuration, for example of kidney shape or oval in cross-section.

A racket may be thus constructed without the use of any separate packing or filling pieces of wood or metal such as wedges or bridges.

In order that the said invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, the same will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 represents a racket embodying this invention.

Figure 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 in Figure 1.

In the drawings A indicates the handle and B the frame of the racket, which is made of a tapered strip of metal bent into a tube to form the frame, which tube is of the minimum diameter and weight at the head b' and thence increases gradually to the shoulders b^2 at which part the two meeting ends of the tube are partially opened out and laid parallel with each other to form the handle, which may be of hexagonal cross-section as shown in Figure 2, and may be perforated to receive two or more short cross tubes C. Cusps b^3 are provided adjacent the upper end of the handle and these cusps conjointly complete the curved outline of the opening of the frame.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

In a racket for the purposes set forth, a substantially tubular metal frame tapering to its smallest diameter at the head of the racket and having parallel integral continuations opposed to each other to constitute a handle, such continuations being provided with integral cusps conjointly completing the curved outline of the opening of the frame.

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