(No Model.)

W. L. SWEETEN.

COMBINED BAT AND BALL.

No. 286,570. Patented Oct. 9, 1883.

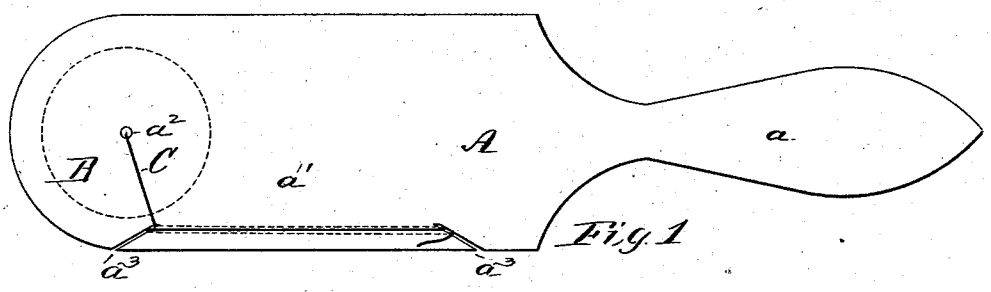


Fig. 1

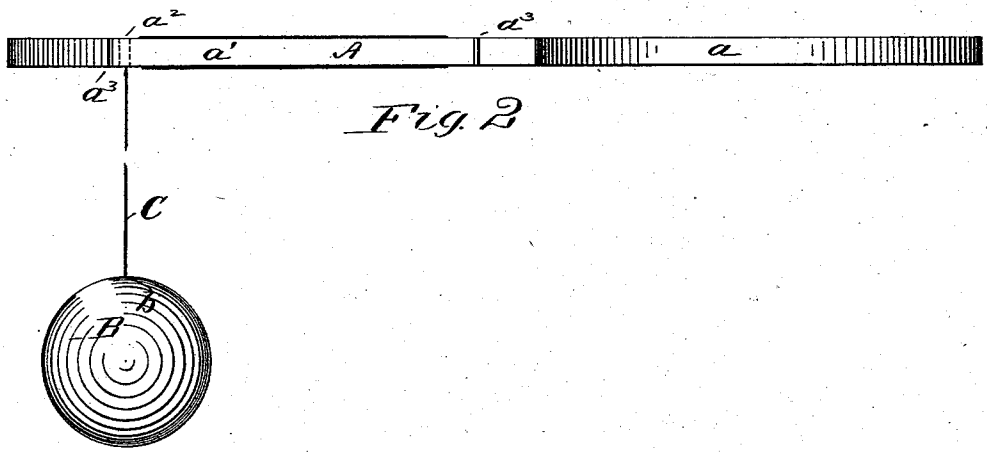


Fig. 2

Witnesses:
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Inventor:
by Connolly Bro
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N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILBERT L. SWEETEN, OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

COMBINED BAT AND BALL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 286,570, dated October 9, 1883.

Application filed May 28, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILBERT L. SWEETEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Camden, in the county of Camden and State of New Jersey, have invented a certain new and useful Combined Bat and Ball; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view, and Fig. 2 a side elevation, of my invention.

My invention has for its object to provide a novel, interesting, and attractive toy, which will afford amusement and exercise for its owners and users.

My invention consists, essentially, of a toy comprising a ball, bat, and flexible or elastic cord or connection.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A indicates a bat, preferably made of wood, and of the form shown, but which may be of other material and modified in shape, if desired. Said bat consists, essentially, of a handle, *a*, and body *a'*. B is a ball of any ordinary or suitable construction, but which is preferably a hollow india-rubber ball, so as to be at once light, elastic, and soft in order that it may rebound readily and not be likely to injure the user by contact therewith in play or use. Said bat and ball are united to one another by a flexible, elastic connection, C, which is preferably a strip or cord of pure or raw rubber, but may be any equivalent member possessing the requisite flexibility and elasticity. The ends of said cord may be connected to the bat and ball in any appropriate manner. In practice I prefer to make the connection as follows: A slit, *b*, is cut in the ball and a knot formed on the end of the rubber strip C. By compressing the sides of the ball the slit will be spread, so as to permit the knotted end of the cord to be introduced through it. When the compression of the ball is relaxed, the sides of the slit tend to come together, thus clamping the cord, so as to prevent its knotted end from being drawn out. A hole, a^2, is bored in the body of the bat A, and in or near the center thereof. One end of the cord is passed through this hole and then secured, so as to avoid its pulling out. Kerfs a^3 a^3 are sawed in one edge of the bat and the cord carried around so as to pass through these, said kerfs being slightly narrower than the normal diameter of the cord, so that when the latter is forced into said kerfs or introduced after having its normal diameter reduced by draft or elongation it will, by expansion, tend to retain itself in position. If sufficient cord be employed in the first instance, it may be wrapped or wound several times, passing from kerf to kerf, so that it can be let out from time to time to take up or atone for waste, wear, or breakage. It can also be drawn in through the hole and taken up by wrapping or winding in the kerfs, so as to reduce its length or to shorten the connection between the bat and ball. In this manner the toy is rendered adjustable to vary the play or extent of projection of the ball at the will of the player, or to accommodate different ages or sizes of persons using the toy, or to adapt the play of the toy to the size of an apartment in which it is used, or to other environments.

The method of use is substantially as follows: The ball is first either thrown in the air or against the wall, floor, or ground, so as to cause it to bounce. On its rebound the ball is struck by the bat, projecting it outwardly or away from the latter, producing a distention or elongation of the cord. The contractile tendency of the latter will then draw the ball backward, and its return should be assisted by a jerk or motion of the bat, so as to bring it toward the latter and into such position that it may be again hit thereby. The operation is somewhat similar to that of the well-known return-ball, except that in the case of the latter the ball on its return is caught in the hand and thrown outwardly, while with my invention the ball is struck by the bat. My invention also differs from said return-ball in these respects: that I combine with the ball a bat, and that I employ, preferentially, a soft, light ball, while in the other toy mentioned a solid ball is used. My toy also affords a different form of exercise from the return-ball, and is less likely to produce damage or injury to the user or surroundings than is the latter.

What I claim as my invention is as follows:

1. The toy herein described, consisting of a ball, a bat, and a flexible, elastic connection, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a ball, a bat, and an adjustable flexible and elastic connection, substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination of a bat, an india-rubber ball, and an india-rubber connecting strip or cord, substantially as shown and described.

4. The combination, with a ball, of an india-rubber strip or cord and a bat having an opening for the passage of said cord or strip, and kerfs for receiving and securing the latter to said bat, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of May, 1883.

WILBERT L. SWEETEN.

Witnesses:

WM. H. POWELL,

LISLE STOKES.