

Aug. 9, 1938.

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2,126,102

BASEBALL PITCHING TARGET

Filed June 18, 1936

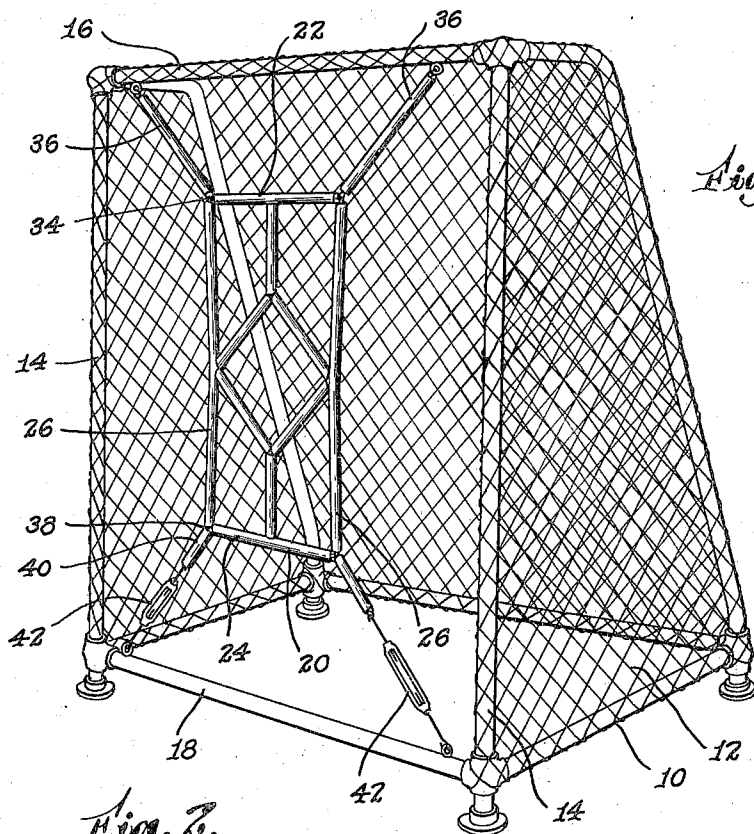


Fig. 1.

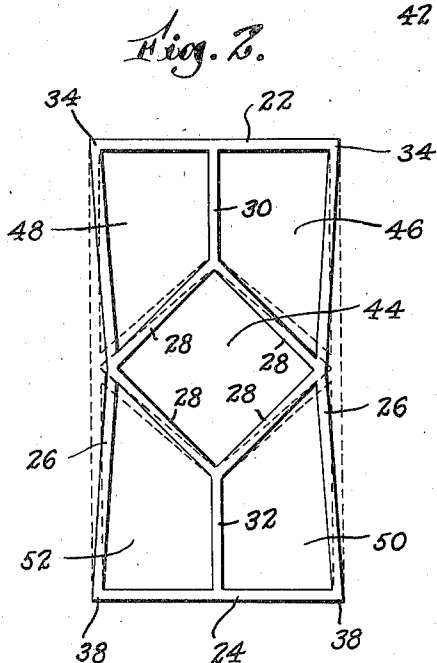


Fig. 2.

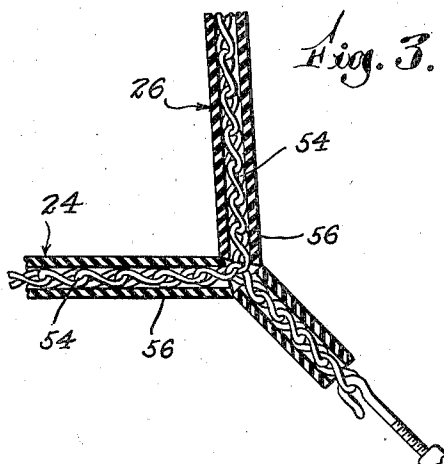


Fig. 3.

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2,126,102

BASEBALL PITCHING TARGET

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Application June 18, 1936, Serial No. 85,836

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—26)

This invention relates to improvements in a baseball pitching target or game device.

It is an object of my invention to provide an improved device which may be used to train baseball pitchers in accurate delivery of the ball, and which may be used as a game device or for other purposes.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a target which defines a plurality of open areas through which a ball is to be thrown and to construct the target of flexible and yieldable members which will prevent damaging the ball when struck, by yielding under the impact, and which will preserve and maintain the original shape of the target.

It is further an object of my invention to provide a flexible target device defining open areas and having means for supporting and tightening the target to hold it in a taut condition and in the desired position.

Further objects and advantages of my improvements will be more readily apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof taken in connection with the attached drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the pitching target and cage therefor;

Fig. 2 is a detail enlarged section showing the internal construction of the target; and

Fig. 3 is a somewhat diagrammatic view which illustrates the change in shape of the target as it is pulled taut.

The target may be mounted in any desired manner, and I have illustrated a pipe frame 10 which is formed into a cage for trapping the balls by the provision of netting 12. The front of the cage is open between the uprights 14 and the upper and lower crossbars 16 and 18. The target 20 is mounted vertically in this open space.

The target is essentially rectangular in shape having a top 22, bottom 24 and side members 26. Although the target may be made in various sizes it preferably defines an area equivalent to that in which so-called strikes would be called, and is therefore as wide as the width of the usual home-plate and as high as the distance between the knees and shoulder of an average man, for example, about 11 inches by 36 inches. The four members 28 are connected to each other and to the midpoints of the sides 26 to define an approximate square having its diagonals disposed vertically and horizontally. The upper and lower corners of the square are connected by members 30 and 32 respectively to the midpoints of the top and bottom members 22 and 24.

The upper corner points 34 of the rectangle are connected by the diagonal members 36 to the frame 10 and the lower corners 38 are similarly

connected by members 40 having adjustable turn-buckles 42 to the frame 10.

The rectangular target is therefore divided into five open areas or spaces including the central square 44, the inside and outside upper corners 46 and 48 and the inside and outside lower corner portions 50 and 52. Thus an "high inside ball" would be thrown through the area 46 for a right hand batter. Of course, it will be understood that the different areas may be designated by any suitable terms.

As shown in Fig. 2, the target is made up of flexible chain 54 covered with yieldable rubber tubing 56. Any other suitable material that will provide considerable strength and yet be flexible and yieldable could be used.

By tightening the turnbuckles 42 the target is made taut. In order to draw the members 28, 30 and 32 taut at the same time, it is preferable to initially make the top and bottom members 22 and 24 slightly longer than theoretically required, whereby as the corners 34 are pulled out all of the parts of the target will be placed under stress and become taut. The central square which initially will be somewhat out of shape will be pulled out to form an approximate square.

I claim:

1. A baseball pitching device comprising a vertically disposed, rigid rectangular frame, a flexible target supported within said frame and composed of rubber-covered chain members forming an approximate rectangle divided by cross members to define a plurality of openings through which the ball may be thrown, one of said openings being in the shape of a square in the center of the target, two diagonally opposite corners of which are joined to the vertical sides of the target, and tension members diagonally disposed at the corners of said target and connected to the rigid frame, at least two of said tension members being adjustable to make the target taut.

2. A baseball pitching device comprising a vertically disposed rigid rectangular frame, a target supported within said frame and composed of flexible members forming an approximate rectangle divided by cross members to define a plurality of openings through which the ball may be thrown, one of said openings being in the shape of a square in the center of the target, two diagonally opposite corners of which are joined to the vertical side of the target, and the other corners of which are connected by spacing members to the center of the top and bottom sides of the rectangular target, and tension members diagonally disposed at the corners of said target and connected to the rigid frame, at least two of said tension members being adjustable to make the target taut.

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