UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,506,815

TOSSING GAME PIECE

Clifford A. Shaffer, Freeport, Ill.

Application January 20, 1948, Serial No. 3,240

5 Claims. (Cl. 273—106)

1. This invention relates in general to a game piece of the fabric filled type and is more particularly described as a filled shoe for the game of horseshoe and similar tossing games.

An important object of the invention is to provide a filled game piece which although made of fabric and filled with a limp material will still maintain its desired shape, contour and appearance.

A further object of the invention is to provide a shoe, ring, or similar object which upon landing will minimize the rolling, bouncing, or skidding movement so that the game may be played with safety to surrounding furniture, players, and equipment.

A further object of the invention is to provide an inner stiffener for a filled fabric game piece which will assist in maintaining it in proper shape and form.

Other objects of the invention will appear in the specification and will be apparent from the accompanying drawing in which,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a game piece in accordance with this invention having one end broken away to show a granular filler and a wire stiffening form;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 but omitting the granular filler.

The ordinary game of horseshoes is an outdoor game played with metal horseshoes, but it is a popular game and may also be played indoors if a suitable game piece is provided for playing it. A fabric game piece, stuffed with granular material such as sand, grain, or even material such as beans or metal shot becomes one of little value because the material tends to bunch or collect at one location and to escape from or flatten out at another location.

The present invention provides a shaped piece such as a ring, a horseshoe, or a U-shaped member to which any suitable granular or other filler is applied and also supplements the game piece with a stiffening form located at the outer and inner edges so that the sides bulge outwardly therefrom, providing a bean bag type of game piece which may be cast or thrown as desired without special damage to furniture if it should happen to contact therewith, and having the granular deadening action of such a game piece because of the filling material, but also at the same time having the stiffening form which maintains the fabric holder in proper shape and form.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, a cover 10 of any desired shape is formed of fabric, leather, plastic, or any other suitable material, and it may be cut and sewn with stitches 12 to give it the desired shape and form. The outer surface of the cover may be coated with rubber or a plastic to reduce or minimize any skid or movement upon landing within a given landing area.

A portion of the cover is left open for the insertion of a distending wire stiffening form 14 which is inserted therein and preferably fits the inner and outer contour of the game piece when it is distended. The cover is distended by granular filler 16 so that the sides bulge outwardly from the wire stiffening form at the inner and outer edges thereof. When the cover is completely filled, the filling opening is closed by stitches 18 or by sealing the cover in any other suitable manner.

With this construction, a bean bag type of game piece is provided which will maintain its shape at all times, it will have the proper stiffness, but the surface will also be pliable and resilient so that upon landing, the game piece will not have any excessive bounce and rolling or skidding will be minimized.

In a horseshoe type of game piece, the wire stiffening form may be continuous; in other shapes, the stiffening form may also be continuous and if applied to a ring type of game piece, inner and outer rings may be connected at one or more points by cross-pieces within the granular material.

While I have thus described my invention in some detail, it should be regarded as an example or illustration rather than a limitation or restriction of the invention, since various changes in the construction, combination and arrangement of the parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:
1. A U-shaped game piece, comprising a flexible cover of predetermined shape, a filler of granular material to bulge the sides of the cover outwardly, and a wire stiffening form extending continuously around the inside and outside edges within the cover and operative to maintain the fabric in its predetermined shape and form.

2. A U-shaped horseshoe game piece composed of flexible fabric, a granular filling for distending the cover, and a continuous U-shaped wire stiffening form with rounded ends adapted to fit at
the inside and outside edges of the fabric to maintain the horseshoe shape and form.

3. In a bean bag type of game piece, a flexible hollow U-shaped cover, a distending filler therefor, and a stiffening form having inner and outer sides and rounded ends adapted to fit within the cover to maintain the cover in its intended shape.

4. A horseshoe game piece, comprising a U-shape cover having a filling opening at the rounded end, a stiffening form comprising a continuous U-shaped wire with rounded ends and spaced sides insertable within the cover through the opening and engaging the inner and outer edges of the cover, a filler for the cover inserted through the opening and bulging the sides of the cover outwardly from the inner and outer edges, and means for closing the filling opening of the cover.

5. A bean bag type of game piece, comprising a U-shaped hollow cover having an outer anti-skid coating, a filler of inert material for distending the cover to bulge outwardly at the sides and a stiffening form of continuous wire in the shape of a hollow rounded U adapted to fit in the cover to assist in maintaining the cover in its intended shape.

CLIFFORD A. SHAPFER.

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