Oct. 17, 1933. C. H. AUGUSTINE 1,931,340

MARBLE SHOOTER

Filed May 18, 1932

Fig. 1.

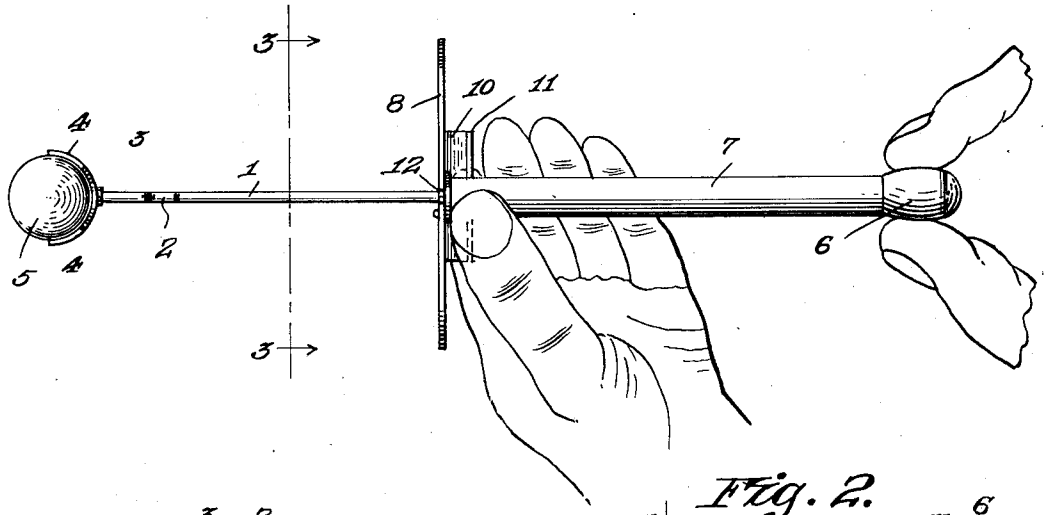



Fig. 2.

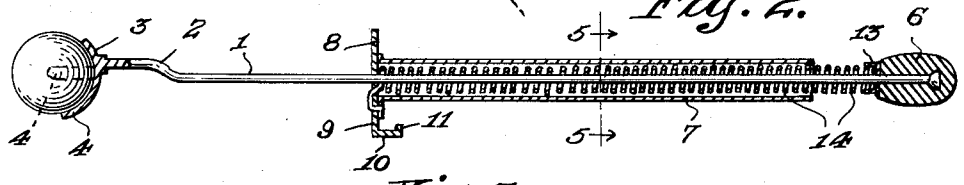



Fig. 5.

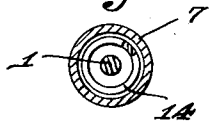



Fig. 4.

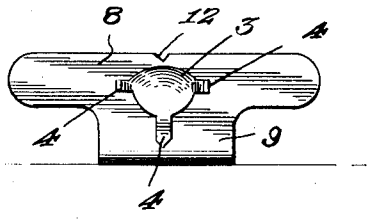
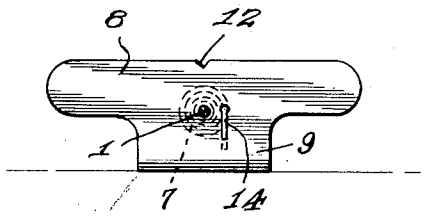



Fig. 3.




Carl H. Augustine,
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans & Co.
ATTORNEY

WITNESS:

Patented Oct. 17, 1933 1,931,340

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,931,340

## MARBLE SHOOTER

Carl H. Augustine, Decatur, Ill.

Application May 18, 1932. Serial No. 612,119

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—129)

My present invention has reference to a mechanical means for shooting or projecting marbles in the children's game known as the game of marbles. The purpose of the invention is the provision of a device for shooting marbles that enables children to play the game when they are of such age that the muscles of their thumbs are not sufficiently developed or strong enough to propel the marble with sufficient force and which will put all players on an equal basis regardless of their physical strength, the only requisite being correct aim. Also it is my object to elevate the game to the rank of rifle shooting contests in which the deciding factor is correctness of aim and not strength applied by the shooter, or to the level of pool playing which also requires correct aim and not strength and which in fact overcomes the great disadvantage of younger children when playing the game of marbles with older and stronger children.

To the attainment of the foregoing the invention consists in the improvement hereinafter described and definitely claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improvement.

Figure 2 is a similar view with parts in section.

Figure 3 is a sectional view approximately on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is an end view of the improvement.

Figure 5 is a transverse section on the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

As disclosed by the drawing the improvement contemplates the employment of a straight rod 1. The rod, however, is slightly bent upwardly adjacent to its outer end, as indicated by the character 2 and is from thence extended in a plane parallel to the rod proper. The outer end of the rod is provided with a cup-shaped holder 3 which may have an inner rubber lining which may be wholly formed of rubber. The cup 3, at its sides and at its bottom, is formed with rounded flexible prongs 4—4, and these prongs are sufficiently resilient to hold a marble 5 therebetween and in the cup 3, but the said prongs will not interfere with the marble 5 being projected from the cup. The cup also serves the purpose of striking the marble directly when the same cannot be picked up according to the rules of the game.

To the second end of the rod 1 there is fixed a knob or handle 6 which, for the major portion of its length, passes through a sleeve 7. The sleeve 7, on its outer face is formed with or has fixed thereto a transversely arranged plate 8, and one of the edges of the plate, from points adjacent to the center thereof, is formed with an extension 9 whose lower edge is flanged, as at 10, and preferably the outer edge of the flange is bent upwardly, as at 11, in the direction of the sleeve. The edge of the plate 8, opposite that provided with the parts 9, 10 and 11, is formed with a V-shaped notch 12 that provides a sight. Fixed to the inner face of the rod and preferably arranged in the cup member 13 on such inner face there is a coiled compression spring 14. The spring is, for the major portion of its length, normally received in the sleeve 7 and has its free end secured to the plate 8 and the part 9 thereof. Preferably, and as disclosed by the drawings the said fixed end of the spring passes through openings in the plate and in the extension 9 and is bent against the inner face of the said extension 9. The plate 8 serves as a rest or support for the marble shooter and as the same projects laterally in both directions beyond the sides of the sleeve 7 either of such extensions may be grasped by one hand of the operator, whether the operator be right or left handed. The laterally arranged plate also permits of the device being tilted angularly at the desired angle at which the player wishes to aim. The device may have the flange 10 resting directly on the ground surface or as disclosed by Figure 1 of the drawing the device may be arranged above the ground surface, in which instance the sleeve portion of the device is gripped by one hand of the operator. When the marble is arranged in the cup and a proper sight is obtained by the player the handle 6 is pulley rearwardly through the sleeve 7 to expand the spring 14, and a release of the handle causes the spring to compress to move the rod longitudinally through the sleeve and thereby project the marble 5 from the cup, the force of such projection being regulated by the pull on the handle 6 and consequently expansion of the spring 14.

My improvement differs from other similar devices with which I am acquainted inasmuch as one end of the spring is fastened to the rod and the other end to the sleeve and that the marble is held in place at one end of the rod. The rod does not strike the marble which is to be propelled, but the marble is carried forward with the rod when released and the momentum of the rod is transmitted to the marble when the forward movement of the rod is checked by

the sleeve, held in place by the plate 8, which latter is in the nature of a rest or support. The spring instead of being held in position by the sleeve is held in place by the rod that is inserted through the spring.

It is believed that when the foregoing description has been read in connection with the drawing the construction and advantages of my improvement will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention relates and that further detailed description will not be required. Obviously I do not wish to be restricted to the precise details herein shown and described and, therefore, hold myself entitled to make such changes therefrom as fairly fall within the scope of what I claim.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A marble shooter, including a rod having a knob or handle on one end thereof, its second end offset and provided with a cup having side and lower arched flexible prongs thereon and designed to yieldably grip therebetween a marble, a sleeve through which the rod passes, and said sleeve at its end, adjacent to the cup having a combined rest and holder plate thereon, and a coiled compression spring surrounding the rod and having its major portion received in the sleeve, and having one end fixed to the knob or handle and its second end fixed to the plate on the sleeve.

2. A marble shooter comprising a rod, having a handle on one end thereof, and a cup-shaped member fixed to the inner face of the handle, said rod having its second end offset and formed with a cup-shaped end that is provided with side and lower arched and flexible prongs for yieldably holding a marble in the cup-shaped end, a sleeve through which the rod passes, said sleeve having its end adjacent the cup-shaped member formed with a laterally extending holder plate having a guide opening for the rod and having one of its edges centrally notched to afford a sight for aiming the shooter and its opposite edge, from points adjacent its ends, extended and bent inwardly and upwardly in the direction of the sleeve and a coiled compression spring having one end received in the cup-shaped member and fixed to the handle and its second end fixed to the holder plate.

CARL H. AUGUSTINE.