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C. A. BUTERA

2,987,316

HAND ATTACHED PADDLE

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Fig. 1

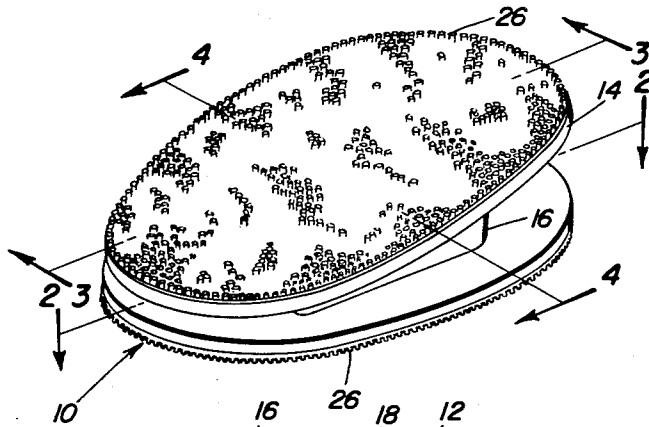


Fig. 2

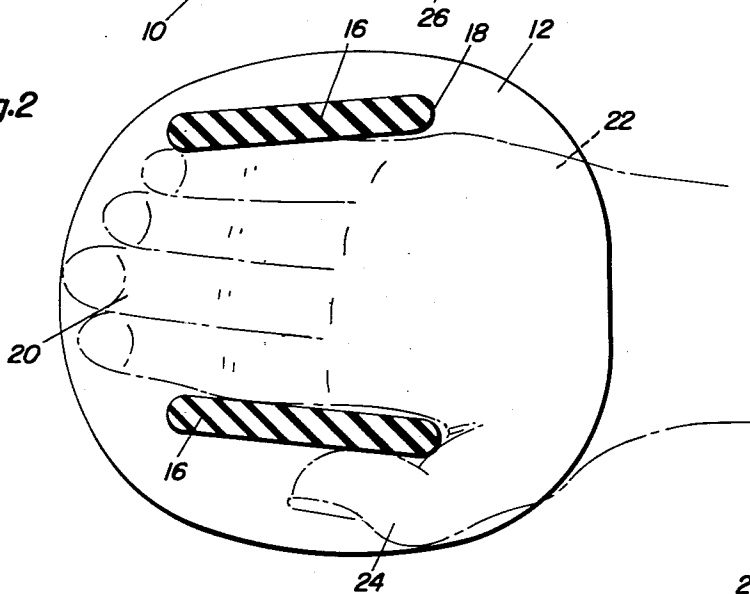


Fig. 3

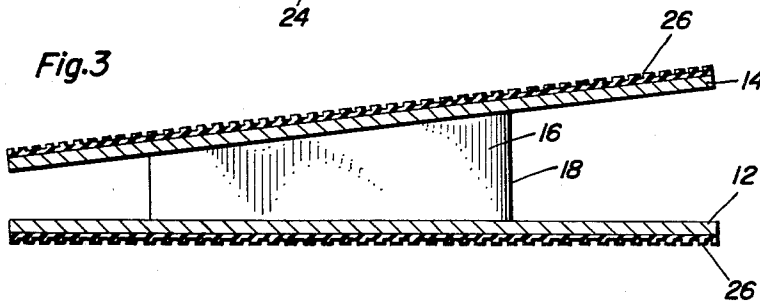
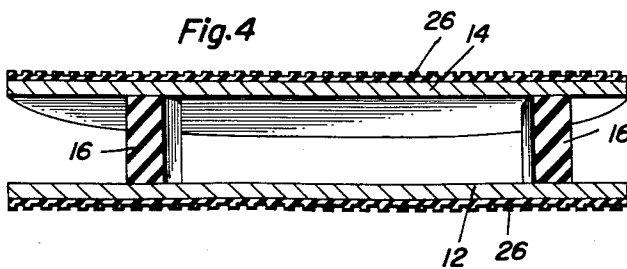


Fig. 4



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HAND ATTACHED PADDLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273-67)

The present invention generally relates to a paddle construction for use in playing table tennis and more particularly relates to a paddle which is mounted directly on the hand of the person using the device.

In conventional table tennis paddles, there is provided a generally oval-shaped paddle having a handle extending laterally from one edge thereof generally in parallel relation to the major axis of the paddle. In the use of the conventional paddle, a lot of time and practice is required in order to become proficient in the use of the paddle since it is necessary to accurately orientate the handle and paddle for properly meeting the ball so that the same may be projected in the desired manner. Accordingly, it is the primary object of the present invention to provide a simple paddle which has a natural feeling when being used and incorporates two similar paddles interconnected by spaced resilient blocks with the paddles being disposed in converging relation and for receiving a hand therebetween so that the thumb may engage over a spacing block thus directly mounting the paddles on the hand with one paddle overlying the palm area of the hand and the other paddle overlying the rear surface of the hand so that a ball may be struck by one of the paddles by proper manipulation of the person's hand and consequently manipulation of the paddle.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a hand attached paddle which provides a natural feeling when in use, can be used on either hand, strikes with either face without shifting of position, fits in the hand, and retaining the striking face of the paddles at the exact direction and position of the player's intended hand direction and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the paddle of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 2-2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a longitudinal, vertical sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 3-3 of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 4 is a transverse, sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 4-4 of FIGURE 1.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, the numeral 10 generally designates the paddle construction of the present invention which includes a first plate or paddle member 12 and a second plate or paddle member 14 each of which are generally oval-shaped in configuration and provided with planar inner and outer surfaces. The first and second paddles 12 and 14 are held in spaced relation by a pair of spacers 16 which are constructed of relatively resilient material such as rubber and which are bonded to the inner faces of the paddles 12 and 14.

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Each of the spacers 16 is elongated and relatively narrow in width and provided with rounded ends as designated by the numeral 18 and each of the spacers 16 are spaced inwardly from the side edges of the panels 12 and 14. As clearly shown in FIGURE 3, the paddles 12 and 14 converge towards each other and, as shown in FIGURE 2, the spacers 16 converge towards each other. The distance between the spacers or partitions 16 is such that the forefingers 20 on a hand 22 may be inserted therebetween with the thumb 24 lying against the outer surface of one of the spacers 16. Thus, the palm or thick portion of the hand 22 is received in between the portion of the paddles 12 and 14 which are spaced the greatest distance apart.

The outer surfaces of each of the paddles 12 and 14 is provided with a rubberized material 26 of a non-skid nature which may be that type of material which is conventionally applied to the surface of a conventional table tennis paddle. The relationship of the paddles to the hand is clearly illustrated in FIGURE 2 and due to the symmetry of the paddles, the paddles may be used effectively for engagement with a table tennis ball and the device may be used effectively on either hand. This type of paddle completely eliminates the handle of a conventional type of table tennis paddle and allows the hand to act almost instinctively in orientating the paddle in a proper manner so that the paddle will meet the ball precisely in the right place, at the right time and with the paddle in the proper angle in relation to the ball in order to return the ball to an opponent in accurate and precise manner.

While the materials may vary, one contemplated material is the construction of the paddles from a pressed fiberboard material with the spaces or partitions being of extruded rubber and bonded to the paddles and with the resilient material 26 bonded to the paddles.

It is noted that the spacers are offset slightly towards one side of the paddles with this spacing being such that the center of the paddle lies somewhat along the point of juncture between the hand and the second finger. The over-all length of the paddle may conveniently be 7 inches and the over-all width 6½ inches with the area of the paddles being sufficient to extend completely over the hand.

The height of the spacers 16 is ¾ inch at the forward or outer end and 1¼ inches at the inner end thereby accommodating the taper of the hand and frictionally engaging the same. The spacers hug the hand both front and back with the thumb clamping over the spacer and thus holding it on the hand. The spacers also flex to receive hands of various shape and size. Also, the inside surfaces of the panels 12 and 14 are rubberized or coated with similar non-skid material for preventing the paddle from slipping off the hand during play. The edges of both panels are bevelled as on a conventional paddle.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A hand attached device comprising a pair of oppositely faced spaced paddles, a pair of spaced opposite partition members forming spacers extending between said paddles and holding the same in spaced relation, said spacers being spaced laterally for receiving the finger portion of a hand therebetween, said paddles being disposed in converging relation for frictional engagement with the palm and back of the hand for mounting the paddles on the hand so that the paddles may be manipulated with the hand for playing a game, said spacers converging relatively and being formed of resilient flexible material for yieldingly receiving therebetween with a gripping action finger portions of different widths of different sizes of

hands, and said pair of spacers being offset laterally of a center line of said paddles to offset the paddles laterally of such finger portions to facilitate manipulation of the paddles by a hand.

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