Jan. 17, 1928.

1,656,462

G. H. WILLIS

PLAYING BALL

Filed June 6, 1927

Fig. 1.

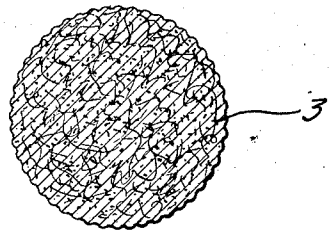
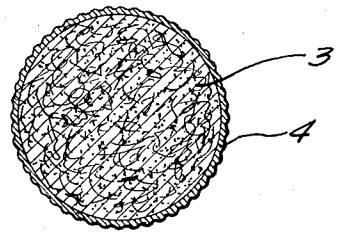


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLAYING BALL.

Application filed June 6, 1927. Serial No. 196,933.

The invention relates to playing balls and more particularly to golf balls.

The object of the invention is to provide a golf ball whose body portion is formed of a homogeneous compound consisting particularly of animal hair and rubber, with the result that the golf ball has the necessary resilient qualities, can be made more cheaply than those heretofore known, will not deteriorate rapidly, but will keep its desirable characteristics such as balance, sphericity, and liveliness, for a long period of time, and will have a uniform consistency.

The invention further consists in several features hereinafter set forth and more particularly defined in the claims at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawings Fig. 1 is a vertical sectional view of a ball embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing a modified form. Referring to the drawing the numeral 3 indicates the body portion of the ball, which in the case of Fig. 1 is the entire ball, and which in the case of Fig. 2 is the inner portion of the ball, and the covering 4 is of the kind usually used such as balata or gutta-percha. In each instance the body 3 of the ball consists of a homogeneous mixture of animal hair and rubber compound, these constituents being intimately mixed together to provide a uniform consistency throughout the entire mass. The rubber compound when mixed with the animal hair is in unvulcanized condition but due to the inclusion therein of a sulphur compound after the ingredients are mixed and heat and pressure applied, the rubber becomes vulcanized and the composition becomes one solid homogeneous mass. The proportion of rubber to the proportion of hair may vary but as an example I may use 55 to 65 per cent of rubber and 35 to 45 per cent of hair, more or less. In case of the construction shown in Fig. 2, the body of the ball is as above described, and in addition a cover is applied to the ball in the usual manner of making golf balls.

While the invention is particularly applicable to golf balls and to the formation of the entire body of the ball as above described, in a broader sense it may be used as a core for or center for golf balls and other balls such as base balls.

It will be understood that where the ball is used without the usual cover that indentations similar to those used on the outer surface of the cover may be impressed on the outer surface of the ball and that this surface may be further compacted by compression.

By the term rubber I mean rubber in a cured or vulcanized condition.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A ball having a core consisting of a homogeneous elastic mass of animal hair and rubber.

2. A ball having its entire body consisting of a homogeneous elastic mass of animal hair and rubber.

3. A ball having its entire body consisting of a homogeneous elastic mass of animal hair and rubber, and an elastic covering for said body.

4. A ball center comprising a homogeneous mixture of animal hair and rubber in the proportions of 35 to 45 per cent of hair to 55 to 65 per cent of rubber by weight.

5. A golf ball having its body portion composed entirely of a homogeneous compacted mass of animal hair and rubber.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GLENN H. WILLIS.