United States Patent

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[54] **AERIAL TARGET WITH POSTS AND ATTACHED RINGS**
3 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **273/105,** 273/104
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 63/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 273/104, 105, 106(2), 105(A)

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ABSTRACT: A target is provided which affords a landing terminal for a simulated spacecraft game device which is capable of flying in a curved path. The target comprises barriers, hazards and the landing. In order to reach the landing the craft must pass barriers and hazards which are created by essentially upright posts that force the craft to enter the landing either from the sides or from the rear of the device. The posts extend above horizontally disposed ring-shaped members that are slightly larger than the craft to be landed, and there may be present supporting, rodlike members between the rings which also act as barriers. Posts of different lengths are used to create different barriers. The rings afford a hollow body which is generally cylindrical and comprises the landing. The upright posts generally extend below the lowermost ring and are tapered to afford a ready means for fixing and steadying the target on the ground.

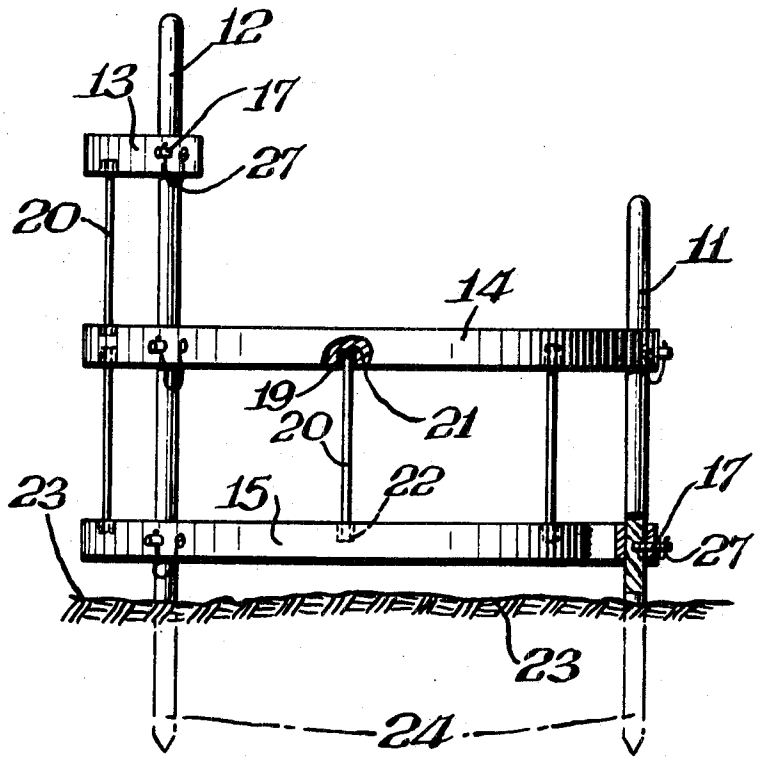


Fig. 3.

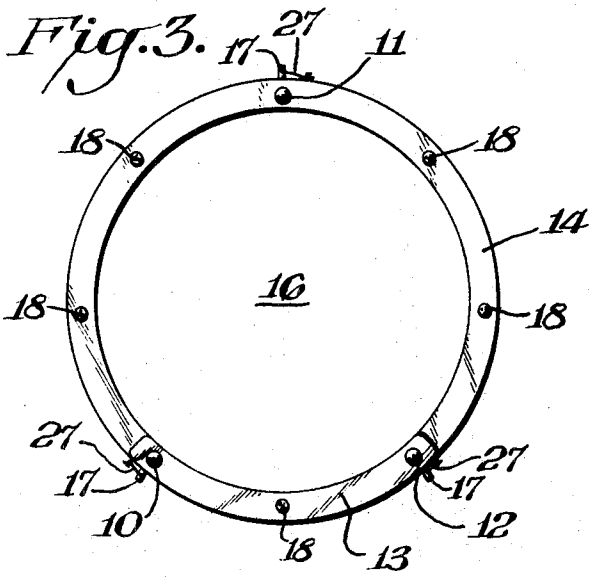


Fig. 4.

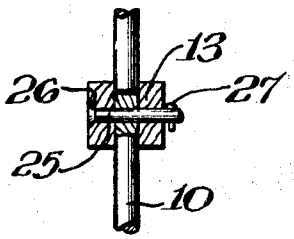


Fig. 1.

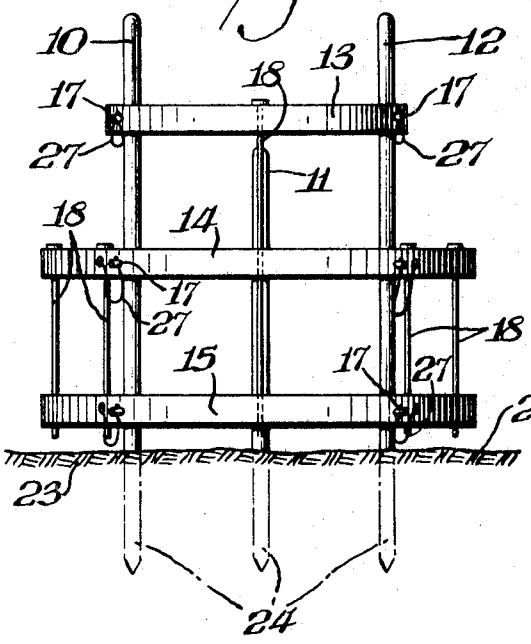
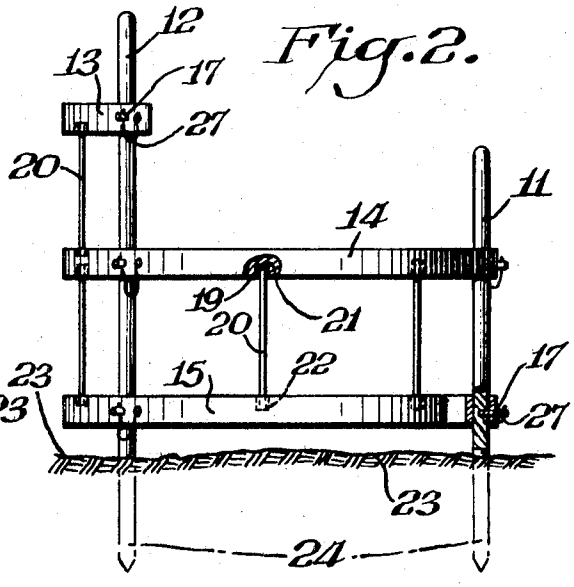


Fig. 2.



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AERIAL TARGET WITH POSTS AND ATTACHED RINGS

This invention relates to a device and more particularly to a game device that is adapted to receive articles which are thrown or tossed toward the target with the objective of having the article settle over or in the target or around posts or pegs contained in the target.

This invention has an objective the provision of a game device which affords a target for throwing a disc such as is described and claimed in the applicant's U.S. Pat. No. 3,312,472. The disc described maintains a spinning motion during its flight and also can be made to fly in a curved path due to its lightness and its tapered construction. The disc can be made to fly past the target of this invention and return to it. Thus, the player can vary the game to seek scoring either with or without passing the target.

Accordingly, this invention has an objective the provision of a game device which may be readily assembled and positioned on the ground or staked in the ground. Another goal is the provision of a target which will receive the entire article that is aimed at the target. A still further object is the provision of a game device which affords parts which act as barriers or which may be ringed by the article aimed at the target. These and other objectives will become apparent as the description of the invention proceeds.

The objectives of this invention are accomplished by a provision of a target which has at least one circular member that is disposed to be mounted horizontally and which has at least one post that is disposed to be mounted vertically. The ring member and the post member are held together in a unitary fashion, the post extending above the ring. Preferentially, there are a plurality of rings and a plurality of posts.

Referring now to the attached drawings which are given for illustrative purposes and are not limitative:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of a target of this invention showing two complete rings, one partial ring and three posts;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of said device; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view showing a mounting means for holding a ring to a post.

In FIG. 1 the device of this invention is shown comprising three upright stakes, 10, 11 and 12. It is to be noted that stake 11 is shorter than stakes 10 and 12. Making stake 11 shorter is done to provide for a more ready access of the tossed article into the center of the device. These stakes or posts pass through holes in the ring members described below and as shown in FIG. 3 and the posts and rings are held together to form a stable target.

As shown in FIG. 1, there are three horizontal ring members 13, 14 and 15. As will be noted in FIG. 2 ring member 13 is only a partial ring whereas rings 14 and 15 are complete. Thus, if one were tossing a ringlike article toward the target of this invention with post 11 positioned nearest to him it would be possible for him to toss the article directly over post 11 to settle down into the cylindrical space 16 seen in FIG. 3. Alternately, using such a device as is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,312,472, he could make the device go past the target and try to make it settle into the space 16 clearing the higher posts 10 and 12, a difficult maneuver. Of course, the target could be placed with the higher posts 10 and 12 nearest the player, and this is preferred. The rings can be positioned to be held by pins 17 which pass through the ring and are screwed or otherwise anchored into the upright posts 10, 11 and 12 at appropriate places. In the lower right hand part of FIG. 2 there is a partial sectional view which illustrates this mounting. Each peg 17 may be tied to string 27 which in turn is anchored to the ring to prevent losing the pegs. An alternate mounting means is shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 as described below.

Additionally, vertically positioned braces or support members 18 can be placed between the rings such as shown (FIG. 1). These support members 18 can consist of rodlike members that pass through the rings, or as shown in FIG. 2, by the showing at 19, the support member 20 can be a simple rod that is pressure or snub-fitted into grooves 21 and 22 contained in a lined position in respective rings 14 and 15.

It is to be appreciated that the pegs 10, 11 and 12 can be of such length and structure that they can be driven into the ground 23 as shown at places 24 in FIG. 1.

Alternatively, and not shown for convenience, the pegs may contain widened flat structures or suction cup elements in their extremities to allow the target to be placed directly on the ground or on a board in a secure position. It is to be appreciated that the target article particularly to be considered for use with the target of this invention is generally constructed of a very lightweight material so that the target of this invention is not necessarily bombarded with heavy, serious blows. On the other hand, it is desired that when placed on or fixed to the ground the target of this invention have stability and rigidity to withstand the blows that are received. The device of this invention may be made of a wide variety of materials, including aluminum or other metals and synthetics such as nylon and the like and generally any inexpensive lightweight, durable material or plastic may be used.

The various parts of the device are boxed in a knockdown fashion. The user merely inserts the rods 10, 11 and 12 through the appropriate holes contained in the members 13, 14 and 15 and then fits them with an appropriate pin 17. As shown in FIG. 4 the pin may be a rodlike member 25 which has at one end a tapered section 26 and has at the other end a second pin 27 that fits in a hole contained in that end. The pin is inserted through a hole in a post, such as post 10 in FIG. 4, with tapered end 26 becoming flush with the innermost surface of the ring. The rod 25 passes through a hole in ring, say ring 13, which is aligned then with the post and pin 27 is inserted into the transverse hole in shaft 25 to lock the post and ring together. If desired, the end of shaft 25 can be threaded to receive a ring nut, not shown for convenience.

Usually the game is boxed with two targets of this invention and four discs similar to the one shown in said patent. After the device is assembled, it is placed on the ground or a desirable platform above the ground and the player proceeds to throw the saucerlike device of U.S. Pat. No. 3,312,472 toward the target in a curved path of flight. Rules of the game are provided for scoring which rules usually provide that the posts are hazards and points are lost for making a ringer by causing the saucerlike object to settle upon a given post and points are given for causing it to settle into space 16. The game thus comprises a simulated space ship or "flying saucer" and a hangar or shelter for it. It may be used at the beach, on picnics, in playgrounds and elsewhere with much interest not only because of the curved flight but because the target may be approached from the rear as well as from its front or sides.

While the invention has been described herein connection with certain embodiments and certain structural details, it is clear that changes, modifications or equivalents can be used by those skilled in the art; accordingly, such changes within the principles of this invention are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. Apparatus for affording a landing for a simulated spacecraft or like device which apparatus comprises a plurality of posts positioned vertically and spaced apart from each other; and a plurality of ring-shaped members attached to said posts in a horizontal position, said members so positioned affording a hollow body adapted to receive said craft in a properly aimed landing and at least one of said posts extending above the uppermost of said ring-shaped members thus affording a barrier to said craft in said landing and said posts including posts affording barriers that extend above the said uppermost ring-shaped member to distances that differ at least as to one of said posts, thereby affording barriers of different heights.

2. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1 which includes means for mounting said ring-shaped members on said posts and holding them in a fixed horizontal position.

3. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1 which includes supporting elements for and disposed between said ring-shaped members.