May 25, 1965 C. C. ORTEGA 3,185,479

RING-TYPE BALL THROWING AND CATCHING TOY

Filed Dec. 18, 1962

Fig. 1

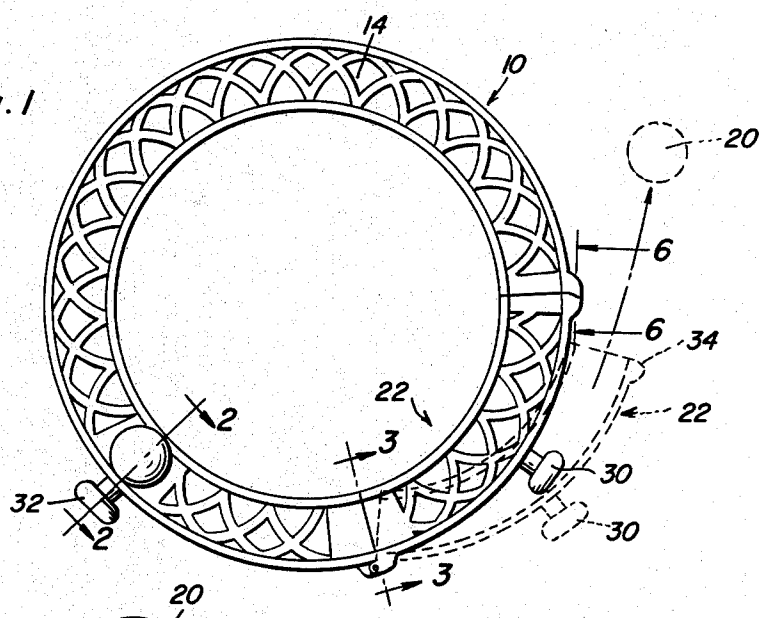


Fig. 2

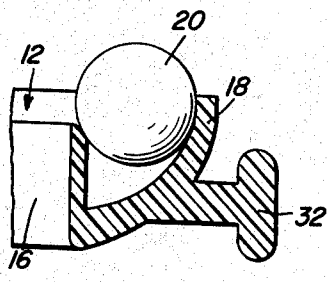


Fig. 3

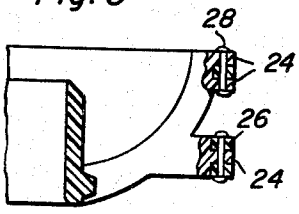


Fig. 4

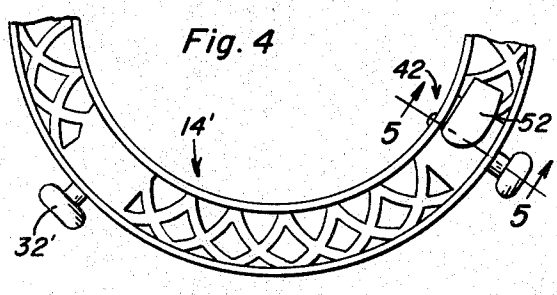


Fig. 6

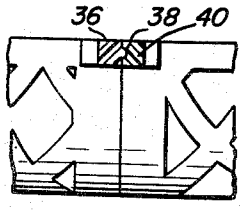
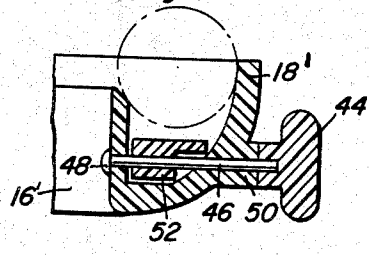


Fig. 5



Charlotte C. Ortega

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson

Attorneys

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RING-TYPE BALL THROWING AND CATCHING TOY

Charlotte C. Ortega, Nestor, Calif.
(221 National Ave., San Ysidro, Calif.)

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This invention generally relates to a game device and more particularly, a toy which can be used to catch and throw a ball.

In brief, the invention comprises a basket like ring of considerable diameter but small enough to be held in one's hands. The ring has a hinged gate formed as a part thereof and also comprises a circular track for the reception of a ball. Upon twirling or imparting an undulating motion to the ring the ball will be caused to roll in the track and at a predetermined movement in the ball's travel around the track, the gate may be opened causing the ball to leave the track and ring and be thrown into the air. Another player in the game may catch the ball with a similar basket ring and by twirling or imparting an undulating motion to the ring cause the ball to roll therein. The series of events just described will continue until a player drops the ball. The device comprising the present invention may include in lieu of a hinged gate, means disposed in the path of travel of the ball around the ring to flip the ball out of its path of movement and into the air.

Accordingly, the primary object of this invention is to provide a toy or game device which will provide entertainment for a series of players.

A further object of this invention, is to provide a toy or device comprising a basket-like ring having a track disposed thereon for controlling the path of movement of a ball used in conjunction with the toy or game device.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a hinged gate forming part of the basket-like ring so that upon opening of the gate a deviation of the path of movement of the ball may occur.

It is still a further object of this invention, to provide a device of the character indicated wherein a flipper mechanism may be disposed in the path of movement of the ball so that the path of the ball may be caused to deviate.

It is still a further object of this invention, to provide a device of the character indicated which may be used in a team effort and may provide entertainment for grownups, as well as for children.

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 thereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the toy or game device of the present invention and illustrates the use of the device when causing a ball to deviate from its intended path of movement.

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1 and illustrating certain details of the track of the instant invention.

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 1 and illustrating certain details of the hinge mechanism for allowing a portion of the periphery of the ring to swing out to discharge the ball.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of another embodiment of the invention comprising a flipper mechanism for deviating the intended path of movement of the ball.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 5—5 of FIGURE 4 and illustrating certain details of the flipper mechanism.

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 6—6 of the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1 and illustrates means for holding the hinged gate portion of the ring in operative relationship with the ring.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, wherein like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, and more particularly to the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGURES 1 to 3 and 6, a basket-like ring **10** formed from any suitable material such as plastic is shown. The ring **10** has an arcuate track **12** formed of a basket-like network **14** disposed about the circumferential extent of the ring. The basket-like network may be utilized by the player to grasp the ring. The track **12** opens upwardly and is formed with a vertically extending circular flange **16** joined to an arcuate circular flange **18**. A ball of rubber or other suitable material **20** may be caused to revolve about the track **12** of the ring by twirling the ring or imparting an undulating motion to the ring by the hands of the player. It should also be noted that the flange **18** is of greater vertical extent than flange **16** thus preventing the ball from bouncing out of the track when received from another player.

A portion of the periphery of the ring such as indicated generally at **22** is adapted to swing out so that the ball may be deviated from its path of movement in the track **12** to be discharged to another player. The section **22** has three ears **24** formed integral therewith. These ears are in mating engagement with ears **26** extending laterally from the stationary portion of the ring **10**. Suitable pivot means such as rivets **28** extend through the mating ears so that the discharge portion of the ring may pivot about the stationary portion thereof but yet remain integral with the stationary portion so that it can be quickly returned to place. It will be noted from the illustration of FIGURE 1 that the discharge portion of the ring may be quickly pivoted to and from a discharge position by merely grasping a knob or lever **30** and pulling the ring portion **22** so as to pivot it about rivets **28**. The knob **30** also serves the purpose of enabling the player to firmly hold the device in his hand if he desires while revolving the ball **20** in the track **12**. Another knob **32** is also formed integrally with the stationary portion of the ring for use with the other hand.

The discharge portion **22** of the ring **10** may be held in place to complete the track **12** by means of a cooperating notch and detent. A small detent **34** is formed on the tip of an integral lug **36** disposed at one end of the hinged gate or discharge portion of the ring **22**. Cooperating therewith is a notch **38** formed on a mating lug **40** formed integral with the stationary part of the ring.

Referring more specifically to that embodiment of the invention depicted in FIGURES 4 and 5 the structure and object of the game device or toy remain the same, but in lieu of the hinged gate or discharge portion of the ring **10** a flipper mechanism generally designated at **42** is provided for deviating the ball from its revolving path on a one-piece annular ring **14'**. The flipper mechanism comprises a knob **44** affixed to a pin **46** which extends through arcuate flange **18'** and vertical flange **16'** and is formed with an enlarged head **48** which abuts the inner surface of the vertically extending flange **16'**. The knob **44** abuts against a laterally extending flange **50** formed integral with the arcuate flange **18'**. Knob **44** is disposed so that it may rotate with respect to said lateral flange or extension **50** about a horizontal axis. Rigidly attached to the pin **46** is a flipper **52**. It should be apparent that the path of the ball may be deviated from the track by merely rotating the flipper to an angle relative to the path of

movement of the ball. The flipper acts as a runway and the ball will take off into the air. It should also be noted that knob 44 may be grasped in one hand and knob 32' grasped in the other to impart the requisite motion to the ball.

To summarize the operation of the game device or toy, a ball is manually disposed or caught on the track formed on the annular ring 10 and an undulating motion is imparted thereto. The ball runs around the track a few times and then the player unexpectedly discharges the ball to another player by means of a hinged gate or discharge portion of the ring which is hingedly connected to a stationary portion or by means of a flipper runway. Another player must then catch the ball in his basket-like ring and this action is subsequently repeated until the ball is dropped. It should be noted that one person may play the game alone as long as there is some surface upon which the ball may be thrown and it may rebound to the player so that he may pick it up in his basket again.

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:

1. A ball throwing and catching toy comprising a ring having a continuous track of arcuate cross-sectional configuration opening upwardly throughout its extent upon which a ball may be caught and rolled therein, handle means on the ring for enabling the ring to be grasped for imparting an undulating motion in a generally horizontal plane to the ring for moving the ball around the track, and means for deviating the ball from its path of movement and discharging it from the track, said last named means comprising a peripheral portion of the ring and track having one end thereof pivotally connected to the remaining portion at the outer peripheral edge, the other

end of said pivotal portion having releasable locking means thereon for selectively locking the pivotal portion in circumferential alignment with the remaining portion of the ring and track when in non-discharging position and enabling the pivotal portion to swing outwardly into generally tangential relation to the track at the point of pivotal connection therewith when in discharging position.

2. A ball throwing and catching toy comprising a ring having a continuous track of arcuate cross-sectional configuration opening upwardly throughout its extent upon which a ball may be caught and rolled therein, handle means on the ring for enabling the ring to be grasped for imparting an undulating motion in a generally horizontal plane to the ring for moving the ball around the track, and means for deviating the ball from its path of movement and discharging it from the track, said last named means comprising a flipper normally disposed in horizontal position in the bottom of the track and not interfering with the movement of the ball along the track, handle means disposed externally of the ring and connected to the flipper to pivot the flipper about one end thereof to form an inclined runway extending towards the top of the track for engagement by the ball as it moves around the track whereby the ball will be elevated above the track and discharged from the ring.

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DELBERT B. LOWE, *Primary Examiner.*