

Dec. 12, 1950

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2,533,338

TENNIS RACKET PRESS

Filed March 26, 1946

FIG. 3

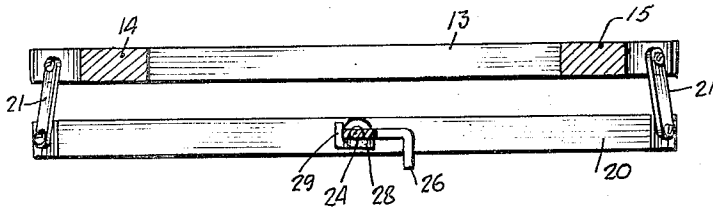


FIG. 1

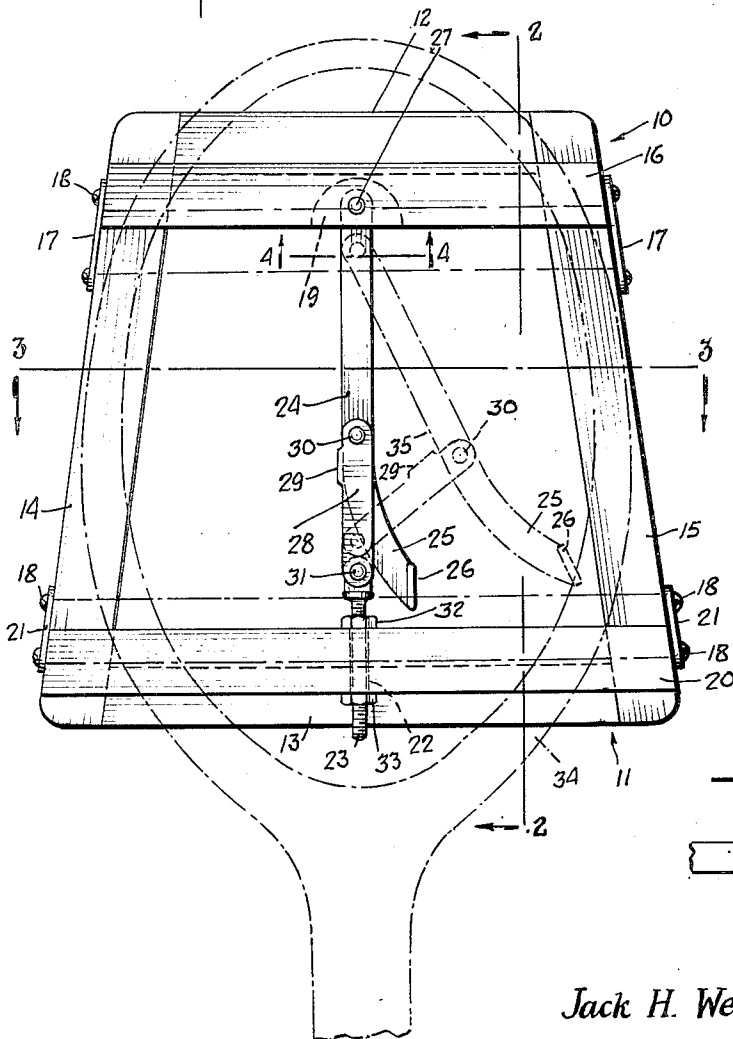
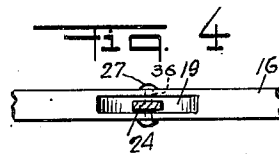
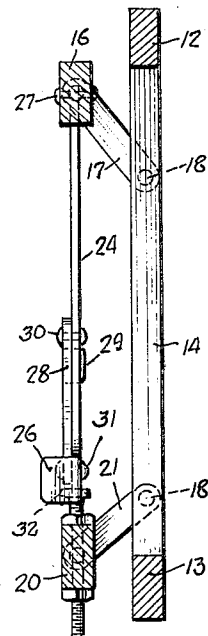


FIG. 2



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2,533,338

## TENNIS RACKET PRESS

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Application March 26, 1946, Serial No. 657,258

4 Claims. (Cl. 273-74)

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This invention relates to a tennis racquet press.

Broadly, it is an object of my invention to provide a racquet press which will maintain a pressure upon the tennis racquet and will accommodate racquet frames of varying thicknesses. A further object of my invention is to provide a racquet press which is tensioned upon the racquet frame by a simple operation, and which will release the pressure instantaneously upon a manual movement of a pivoted arm.

A further object of my invention is to provide an inexpensive press for racquets which is simply constructed, easily assembled, and simple in operation.

A further object of my invention is to provide adjustable means to accommodate racquets of different thicknesses, and to vary the tension upon the racquet head as desired.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of my invention, reference is had to the following detailed description in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the racquet press showing a racquet within the press in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the press shown in Fig. 1, in section taken through line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a section taken through line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a central edge view of slat 16 taken through line 4-4 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, numeral 10 represents a racquet press consisting of a base member 11 which may be constructed of wood and comprises upper and lower pieces 12 and 13 and side members 14 and 15, the said members 12 to 15 inclusive being joined together at the corners thereof. Although I prefer to make the base member of wood, such member may be made of plastic, metal, composition, or like materials.

Across the upper portion of the base member there is a horizontal member 16 which is attached to the outside edges of side members 14 and 15 by narrow metal plates 17-17, the said plates having holes at their opposite ends and screws or rivets 18 extend through the holes in the plates 17 and into the side edges of the slat 16 and the side members 14 and 15, thus permitting the horizontal slat 16 to pivot or move up or down and higher or lower. In the central portion of slat 16 and in the lower edge there is a slot 19 and a hole 36 extends transversely through the slat 16 and the slot 19.

Horizontally across the lower portion of the

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base member 11 there is a slat 20 which is pivotally joined to the edges of the base member by plates 21-21, having holes therethrough at their opposite ends with screws or rivets 18 passing therethrough and into the edges of the slat 20 and the lower portions of the side members 14 and 15, permitting the slat 20 to move up or down, higher or lower. Running through the central portion of the slat 20 there is a hole 22 to receive a tension bolt 23.

A metal member 24 having a hole at its upper end and a curved portion 25 at its lower end with a finger lug 26 bent upward at right angles at the lower end is attached at its upper end by inserting the member 24 into the slot 19 and by passing a rivet or pivot pin 27 transversely through the hole 36 of slat 16 and the hole in the upper end of member 24 so that the member 24 may pivot about the rivet 27, the slot 19 permitting movement of the metal member to either side. Another flat metal member 28 having a right angle bend 29 at its edge to act as a stop is attached by rivet 30 to metal member 24 approximately at its midpoint, while the lower end of member 28 is attached to the upper portion of the tension bolt 23 by rivet 31 so that metal member 28 may be pivoted at either end. The tension bolt 23 is threaded and passes through the hole 22 as hereinbefore described. Lock nuts 32 and 33 are used to adjust the tension bolt 23 since nuts 32 and 33 are on opposite sides of the lower slat 20.

In order to use the racquet press hereinbefore described, the finger lug 26 is moved to the right which causes member 28 to also move to the right and take the diagonal position as shown by the dot and dash lines in Fig. 1. Rivet 31 exerts an upward force upon tension lug 23 bringing the lower slat 20 upward and to a greater distance from the base member 11. When lug 26 is moved to the right it also causes upper and lower slats 16 and 20 respectively to move together and to move further away from the base member 11, thus providing a larger opening for the racquet head 34 to enter between the upper and lower slats 16 and 20 and the base member 11. The racquet head 34 is moved upward until the sides of the frame contact the narrow metal plates 17 at the upper side portion. The finger lug 26 is then moved toward the center until the inside edge 35 contacts the inside edge of the stop member 29. By this action member 28 falls vertically in line with metal member 24 and the tension bolt 23 and causes the slats 16 and 20 to move apart and towards the base

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member, thus clamping the racquet head 34 firmly in position between the base member and slats 16 and 20.

In the event it is desired to use the racquet press for a thinner or thicker frame the nuts 32 and 33 are adjusted to move the tension bolt 23 either upward or downward, depending upon whether the tennis racquet is thicker or thinner, and applying the desired clamping tension upon the racquet frame. For a thinner frame, or if greater tension is required upon the racquet head, the lower nut 33 is loosened and the upper nut 32 is tightened, thus bringing the slats 16 and 20 further apart so that the space between the base member 11 and the slats 16 and 20 is diminished. For a thicker frame, or a reduction in tension upon the racquet head, the spacing of the nuts 32 and 33 from the rivet 31 is changed, depending upon the result desired.

Of course, before the racquet head is placed within the press, any type of racquet cover may be placed up the racquet head to prevent moisture and dust from affecting the gut of the racquet head.

My press takes in a large variety of shapes and sizes of racquet heads. However, for smaller racquet heads, such as badminton racquets, squash racquets, and similar racquets used for other games, the size of my press can be varied accordingly by the use of the same operable members without departing from the spirit of the invention.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and the arrangements of parts without departing from the general spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In combination in a racquet press having a base member and upper and lower clamping members, linkage connections between said upper and lower clamping members at the central portions thereof, said linkage connections comprising an upper central vertical member bent at its lower end to form a finger piece, said upper central member pivotally attached to the center of said upper clamping member, said upper vertical central member pivotally attached to one end of a lower central member, stop means upon said lower central member for stopping said upper central vertical member, the opposite end of said lower central member pivotally attached to an adjustable tension bolt, said tension bolt attached to the central part of said lower clamping member, opposed plates pivotally attached to said base member and said upper and lower clamping members, said linkage connections acting as a lever manually operable to open and close said press.

2. In combination in a racquet press having a base member and upper and lower clamping members, linkage connections between the central parts of said upper and lower clamping members, said linkage connections comprising an upper central vertical member bent at its lower end to form a finger piece, said upper central vertical member pivotally attached at its upper end to the center of said upper clamping member, said upper central vertical member pivotally attached to one end of a lower vertical central member stop means upon said lower central member for stopping said upper central vertical member, the opposite end of said central lower member pivotally attached to a threaded tension bolt, said tension bolt passing through a hole in the center of said lower clamp-

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ing member, nuts seated on said tension bolt on each side of said lower clamping member for adjustment of said tension bolt, plates movably attached to said base member and said upper and lower clamping members, said linkage connections acting as a lever manually operable to open and close said press.

3. In combination in a racquet press, a base member, upper and lower clamping members, lever linkage connections connecting the central portions of said upper and lower clamping members, said linkage connections comprising an upper central vertical member bent at its lower end to form a finger piece, said upper central member pivotally attached to the center of said upper clamping member, said upper vertical central member pivotally attached to one end of a lower vertical central member, stop means upon said lower central member for stopping said upper central vertical member when said upper member is moved into alignment with said lower member, the opposite end of said lower central member pivotally attached to an adjustable tension lug, said tension lug attached to the central part of said lower clamping member, opposed plates pivotally attached at their ends to said base member and said upper and lower clamping members for movably holding said base and said upper and lower clamping members together.

4. In combination in a racquet press, a base member and upper and lower clamping members and locking means, adjusting means and retaining means, said locking, adjusting and retaining means comprising a lever connected to said upper and lower clamping members at the central portions thereof for opening and closing said press, said lever comprising an upper central vertical member bent at its lower end to form a finger piece and a lower central member, said upper central member pivotally attached at one end to the center of said upper clamping member and at a point between its ends pivotally attached to one end of said lower central member, stop means upon said lower central member for stopping said upper central vertical member, the opposite end of said lower central vertical member pivotally attached to an adjustable tension lug, said tension lug attached to the central part of said lower clamping member, opposed plates pivotally attached at their ends to said base member and said upper and lower clamping members for movably holding said base and said upper and lower clamping members together.

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