Nov. 11, 1969 S. W. WILCOX 3,477,724

PELLET TARGET

Filed May 16, 1966

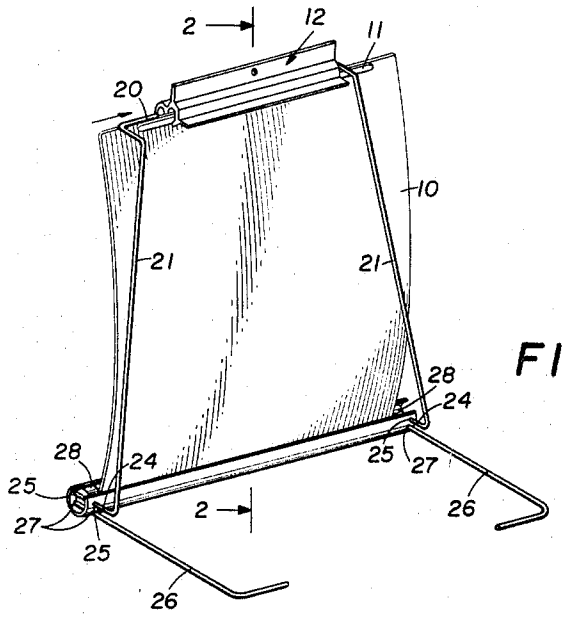


FIG. 1

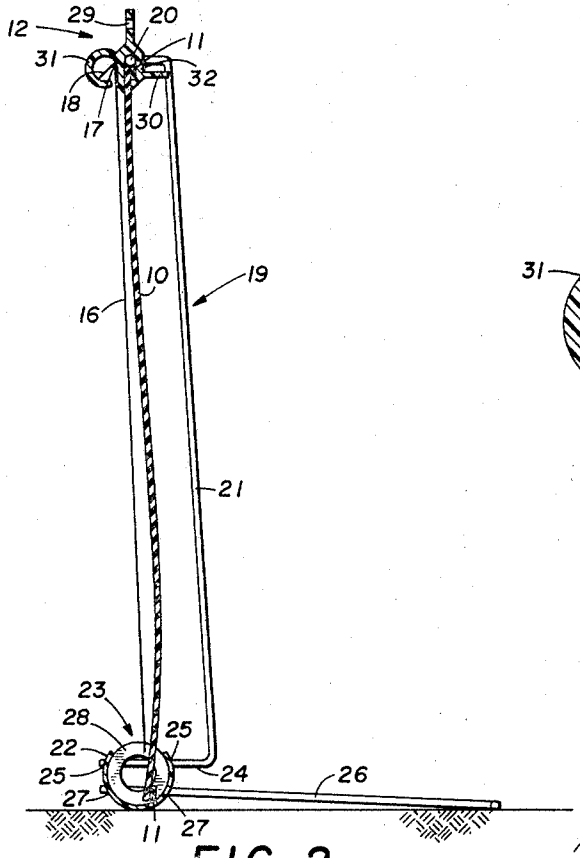


FIG. 2

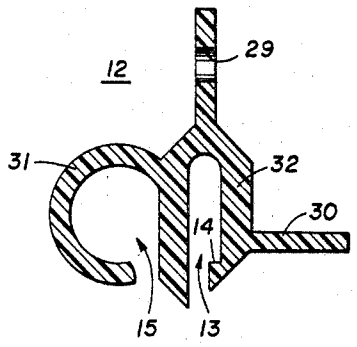


FIG. 3

INVENTOR
STANLEY W. WILCOX
Richards, Harris & Hubbard
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,477,724
Patented Nov. 11, 1969

3,477,724

PELLET TARGET

Stanley W. Wilcox, Tulsa, Okla., assignor of one-half to Century Geophysical Corporation, Tulsa, Okla., a corporation of Delaware

Filed May 16, 1966, Ser. No. 550,313
Int. Cl. A63b 71/00; A63f 9/02
U.S. Cl. 273—102.4 6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pellet target with rebound control includes a target sheet and an energy absorbing impact sheet which are supported at the upper ends thereof by a clip structure. A bracket includes legs which pass behind the impact sheet and support the clip structure over a pellet tray so that the freely hanging lower end of the impact sheet passes through an open mouth of the pellet tray to permit pellets stopped by the impact sheet to collect in the tray.

This invention relates to a pellet target capable of stopping and collecting pellets.

In training in the proper handling of firearms, many kinds of activities are sponsored among young people. However, substantial limitations and precautions are necessary in the use of firearms in metropolitan areas. Consequently, air guns and the like are widely used by young people. Furthermore, adult interest is widespread in connection with higher velocity, more accurate air rifles.

This invention provides a relatively simple and economic, yet efficient pellet target capable of stopping and collecting pellets fired by air rifles and the like. The invention may be generally described as a pellet target with rebound control that includes an energy absorbing impact sheet of a rubber. A target sheet is provided which is adapted to be supported across the face of the impact sheet by clip means which engage and support the upper edge of both the impact sheet and the target sheet. A bracket having legs which proximately pass behind the impact sheet serves to support the clip means over a pellet tray so that the bottom edge of an impact sheet supported by the clip means will pass through an upwardly oriented opening in the pellet tray to permit pellets stopped by the impact sheet to collect in the tray.

To be more particular and describe one embodiment of the invention, reference is made to the drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the rear of one embodiment of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment of the clip means used in FIGURES 1 and 2.

Referring now to the drawings, an impenetrable, non-reflective barrier, such as rubber impact sheet **10** is provided. Impact sheet **10** should be made of a material having a low reflective index whose elastic limit is not exceded by the impact of a steel pellet traveling at velocities of 450–500 ft./sec., which is conventional for spring air rifles. Butyl rubber, having a durometer test of from 40 to 45 and a thickness of from 3/32 inch to 1/8 inch has been found satisfactory, though other suitable materials may be used. Impact sheet **10** may have glued thereto or molded thereon, along the top and bottom edges, a strip of rubber **11**.

Impact sheet **10** is adapted to be engaged and supported by resilient means, such as clip **12**, which may be formed of rubber or the like. Clip **12** has a first downwardly oriented slot **13** within which the upper edge of impact

sheet **10** may be accommodated, as particularly illustrated in FIGURE 2. Strip **11** secured to impact sheet **10** will engage shoulder **14** for supporting sheet **10** within slot **13**. Clip **12** is also provided with a second downwardly oriented slot **15** adapted to receive a target sheet **16**, as illustrated in FIGURE 2. Conventional target sheet **16** which carries target indicia is folded along a line **17**, as illustrated in FIGURE 2, and inserted into slot **15** so that its normally top edge **18** will bear against hook **31**. Target sheet **16** will then be supported across the face of impact sheet **10**.

Clip **12** is supported by a bracket which, in the illustrated embodiment, takes the form of a relatively rigid wire **19** that includes a horizontal offset portion **20** and vertical legs **21**. Horizontal portion **20** passes through the top of slot **13** formed by hook **32** and supports clip **12** over an arcuate pellet tray **22** which is provided with an upwardly oriented opening **23**. Legs **21** of the frame have feet portions **24** which pass through and are supported in horizontal registering apertures **25** in either end of tray **22**. There are provided, in order to prevent tipping of the pellet tray **22** and structure supported thereby, wire braces **26** which pass through substantially horizontal registering apertures **27** provided in either end of tray **22**. Braces **26** extend rearwardly to engage a surface on which tray **22** may be supported. Legs **21** are of such a length that the bottom of impact sheet **10** passes through opening **23** in tray **22** so that pellets passing through target sheet **16** and impinging sheet **10** will gravitate into tray **22**. To retain pellets in tray **22**, each end of tray **22** receives a resilient ring **28** of rubber or the like.

Should it be desired to suspend the illustrated embodiment from a vertical surface, braces **26** may be removed and the device suspended on a nail or the like which can be received through aperture **29** in clip **12**. The pellet tray **22** and clip **12** are offset from the impact sheet **10** to assure spacing from a vertical surface so the impact sheet will be free hanging. A rearwardly extending rib **30** is provided on clip **12** to assure spacing from a vertical surface if wire **19** is removed and the clip **12** suspended on a nail or the like.

It will be understood after reading the above description of the illustrated embodiment that the various parts may assume different forms, and while rather specific terms have been used to describe the illustrated embodiment, they are not intended, nor should they be construed as a limitation of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A pellet target comprising:

(a) a pellet penetrable target sheet,

(b) an energy absorbing and non-reflective impact sheet adapted to be supported behind said target sheet to control the rebound of pellets impinging thereon,

(c) clip means for engaging an upper edge of each said impact sheet and target sheet to support said target sheet and said impact sheet in a freely hanging spaced apart relationship,

(d) a pellet tray having an upwardly oriented opening, and

(e) a bracket having legs which proximately pass behind said impact sheet to support said clip means over said opening in said pellet tray, means for restraining said tray in a position relative to said bracket so that the freely hanging bottom edge of said impact sheet will pass through said upwardly oriented opening to permit collection in said pellet tray of pellets impinging said target and impact sheets.

2. The device of claim **1** wherein said bracket comprises:

an elongate relatively rigid member having a horizontal portion adopted to engage said clip means and two vertical legs which depend from said horizontal portion, said legs serving to support said horizontal portion above said pellet tray.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein a substantial portion of said legs are offset from said horizontal portion for maintaining a space between an impact sheet supported by said clip means and said legs.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein:

the legs of said relatively rigid member engage said pellet tray, and the device includes rearwardly extending support means engaging said pellet tray for preventing tipping of said pellet tray and the structure supported thereby.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein said clip means is provided with an aperture for permitting said device to be suspended from a vertical surface.

6. The pellet target of claim 1 wherein said clip means comprises:

an integral body having a first downwardly oriented slot with an abutment for engaging and supporting a shoulder of structure attached to the upper edge of said impact sheet, and

said integral body also having a second downwardly

oriented slot spaced in front of said first slot for supporting a downwardly bent upper portion of said target sheet.

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ANTON O. OECHSLE, Primary Examiner

M. R. PAGE, Assistant Examiner