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A. E. FEGAN

2,081,531

SOFT BALL

Filed Oct. 21, 1935

Fig. 1.

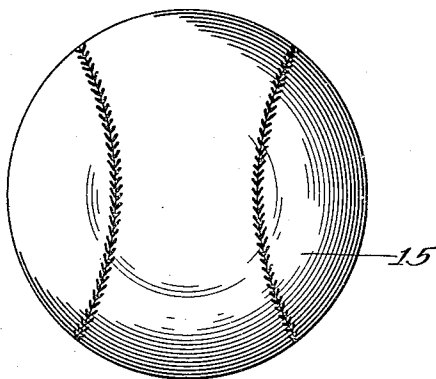


Fig. 2.

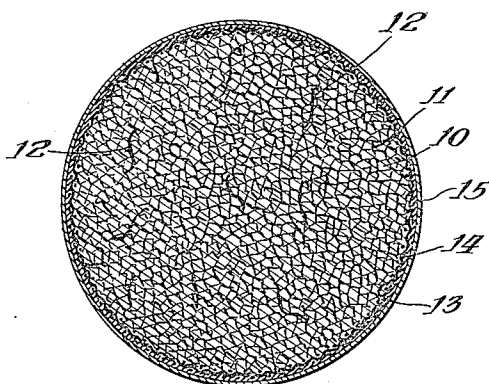
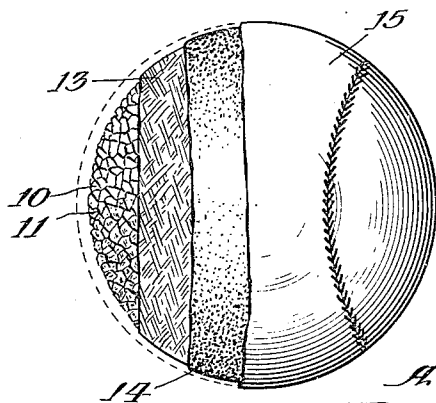


Fig. 3.



Inventor:
Albert E. Fegan,
By: Bertha L. MacGregor
Attorney:

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,081,531

SOFT BALL

Albert E. Fegan, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Geo. Young & Co., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Application October 21, 1935, Serial No. 45,903

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—53)

This invention relates to soft balls such as are also known as indoor, pastime or playground balls.

Prior to 1924 the most approved soft balls for indoor baseball and the like comprised an inner section of goat hair compacted into spherical form and held by a winding of cotton yarn; a surrounding coating or layer of horse hair also held in shape by a winding of cotton yarn, and an outer cover of leather cut in two parts, suitably stitched together along their abutting margins. In balls of this character, which ranged from twelve to seventeen inches in circumference, the circumference of the inner section or core of a fourteen inch ball was substantially eleven and a half inches. The circumference of the layer surrounding such core, without the leather cover, was about thirteen and a half or three-quarters inches. A finished ball of this size weighed eight to nine ounces. In practical use, it was found that this ball was too heavy, and did not have the desired resiliency.

In order to reduce the weight of such balls and to promote livelier action, I produced the ball shown and described in my Patent No. 1,546,483, July 21, 1925 comprising a core composed of cork and a rubber binder, a layer of horse hair and an outer cover. This ball was lighter and livelier than balls theretofore known.

In an endeavor to still further lighten the weight, to insure truer flight and increased liveliness, and to avoid softening and distortion of the balls heretofore known, I have devised the ball of the present invention. Heretofore, a layer of hair, preferably horse hair, located between the cover and core, had always been deemed essential as a shock absorber. I have discovered that by constructing the ball as herein described, this hair layer may be eliminated without impairing the durability and utility of the ball, and the weight is thereby decreased and the resiliency and durability are greatly increased.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is an exterior view of an indoor baseball embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a central, vertical, sectional view of the same.

Fig. 3 is a view of the ball with the outer cover and the several layers partially turned back to show the interior construction of the ball.

In that embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing, the core of the ball is composed of cork or other resilient material 10 in granular form, the particles being mixed with a suitable binding material 11 such as a liquid rubber cement. Hog hair 12 may be mixed with the cork 10, if desired. The mass is pressed into spherical

form and is almost as large in diameter as the finished ball.

The core, after being compressed and dried, is wrapped with wool or cotton yarn 13, or with both wool and cotton yarn, sufficient yarn being used to thoroughly cover the core. Then the wrapped core is dipped in latex 14 which is allowed to dry at room temperature. The dipping preferably is conducted so that the latex does not impregnate all the yarn, for excess latex adds to the weight of the ball. However, a layer 14 of latex covers the outer yarn wrappings and adheres to portions of the inner wrappings and core so as to bind the whole together.

A cover 15 of leather or other suitable material is stitched to enclose the internal parts of the ball.

The construction described results in reducing the weight of a ball, twelve inches in circumference, to six ounces, whereas heretofore a ball of the size stated weighed at least six and one-half ounces. Furthermore, the substitution of a unitary structure made of cork and binder, wrapped in yarn and bound to the core by means of a substance such as latex, for the cork core and non-adhering horse hair layer of the prior art, has resulted in obviating the objections due to softening of the hair, dislocation of the core, distortion of shape, and greater weight.

Charges may be made in details of construction without departing from the scope of my invention and I do not intend to be limited to the exact form shown and described, except as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A soft ball comprising a spherical core composed of small particles of resilient material and a binder pressed together and dried, said core being almost as large in diameter as the finished ball, a wrapping of yarn just sufficient to cover the core, a layer of latex adhering to and covering the outer wrappings of the yarn and penetrating the wrapping at points to unite it to the core, and an outer cover enclosing the whole and frictionally engaged by said latex covering.

2. A soft ball comprising a spherical core composed of small particles of resilient material, such as cork, with a small quantity of hog hair mixed with the cork, and a binder pressed together and dried, said core being almost as large in diameter as the finished ball, a wrapping of yarn just sufficient to cover the core, a layer of latex adhering to and covering the outer wrappings of the yarn and penetrating the wrapping at points to unite it to the core, and an outer cover enclosing the whole and frictionally engaged by said latex covering.

ALBERT E. FEGAN.