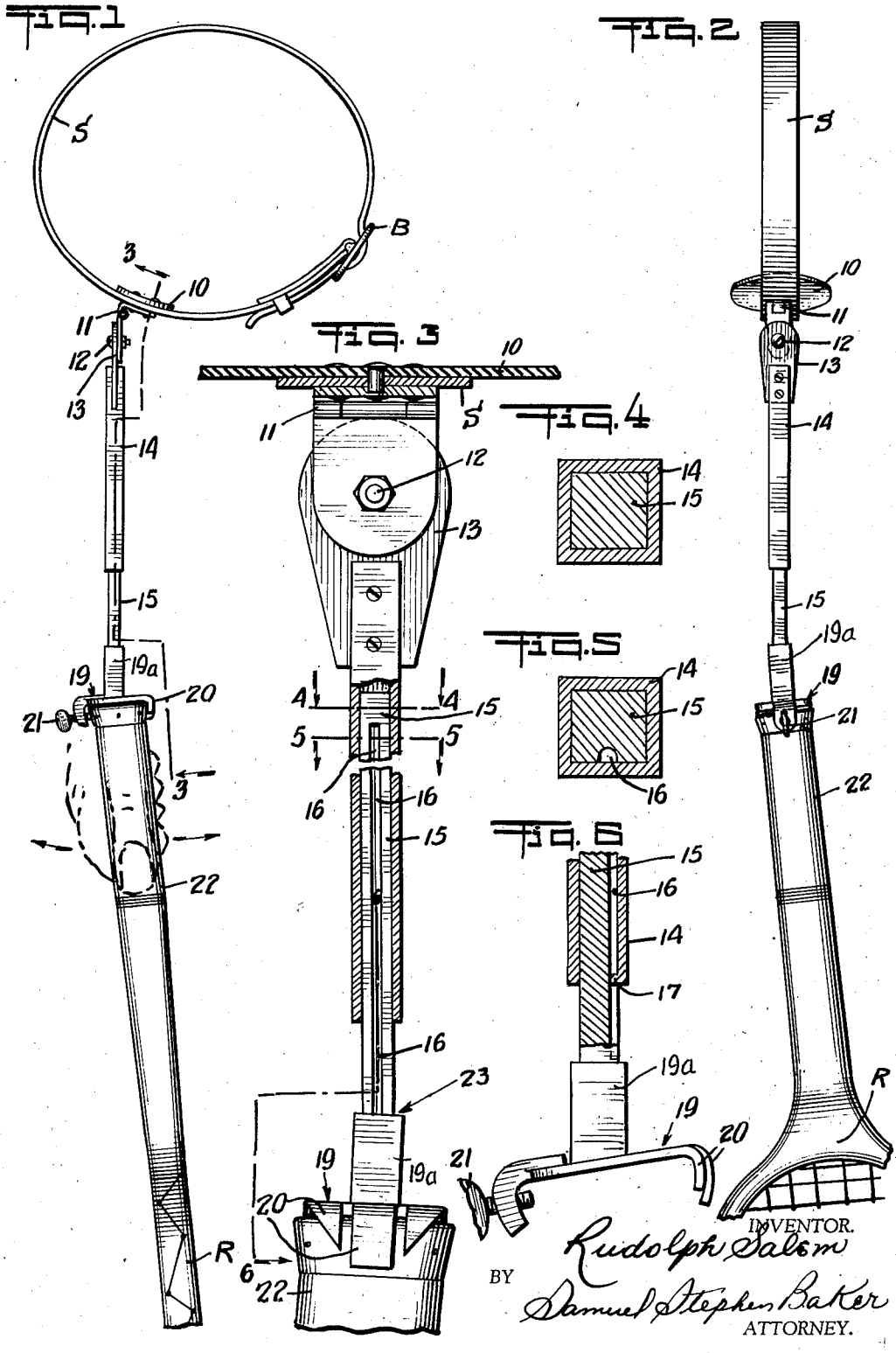
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TENNIS RACKET GUIDE

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TENNIS RACKET GUIDE

Rudolph Salem, Long Island City, N. Y.

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9 Claims. (Cl. 273—29)

My invention relates to a tennis racket guide and more particularly to a device used in combination with a tennis racket and operative to confine said racket in definite paths when the racket is swung.

The present invention is concerned with those strokes termed the forehand and the backhand, these comprising the major portion of the strokes employed in the game. In these strokes the racket is usually held about hip high and inclined upwardly so that the striking face of the racket is substantially level with the waist. I have observed and I believe authorities generally agree that at the moment of impact between the racket and the ball, the striking face of the racket should be substantially perpendicular to the ground so that the ball is not deflected either upwardly or downwardly but is forcefully directed substantially parallel to the ground without either attaining excess height or striking the net or ground. Furthermore, the maintenance of the striking face in the desired position abovementioned should be continued in the "follow through," this assuring a smooth and accurate smash.

Bearing the foregoing in mind it is an object of the present invention to provide a guide or harness for a tennis racket which will prevent a consequential deviation from the correct position when swung.

Another object of my invention is to provide a guide for a tennis racket which guide may be utilized with any type of racket and which may be attached thereto without interfering with the manipulation of the racket in the strokes abovementioned.

Another object of my invention is to provide such a guide wherein a simple adjustment is operative to adapt the apparatus to accommodate either the backhand or the forehand strokes.

Other objects of my inventon wll be apparent from the following description it being understood that the above general statement of the objects of my invention are intended to explain and not to limit it in any manner.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a top view of the apparatus, the tennis racket being maintained in the backhand stroke position.

Fig. 2 is a side view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a view along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view along the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a view along the line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

The apparatus is secured around the hips of the user by means of the strap S, maintained by the buckle B. A member 10 which may be made of metal or plastic is secured to the strap S and connected to said member 10 and strap S is the transverse hinge 11.

The extensible arm comprises the plate 13, the outer shaft 14 and the telescoping inner shaft 15. The plate 13 is pivotally connected to the free leaf of the hinge 11 at 12.

The inner shaft 15 is provided with a longitudinal slot 15 ending just short of the end of said slot 15 and a lug 17 formed integral with the outer shaft 14 and communicating with said slot operates to limit the outward movement of the inner shaft in relation to the outer shaft. It will be noted that the shafts are square in cross-section so that while relative longitudinal movement is provided for, there can be no relative lateral movement. Of course, other expedients can achieve this result.

The inner shaft 15 is bent upwardly at its outer extremity and is frictionally although removably retained in the hollow section 19a. Section 19a supports the inclined platform 19 which, in conjunction with the lugs 20 and set-screw 21 operates to support and maintain the handle 22 of the tennis racket R.

My invention is practiced in the following manner:

The strap S is applied around the hips of the user and tightened, the member 10 being disposed between the right hip and the center of the waist.

The platform 19 is adjusted for the backhand stroke by inserting the hollow section 19a over the inner shaft 15 in such manner that said hollow section 19a is inclined upwardly and the platform 19 is inclined toward the left as illustrated in Fig. 1. The tennis racket is then disposed between the lugs 20 and securely retained thereat by set-screw 21.

The guide is now ready for operation and, the main use of the device being in the practice of the game, the racket may either be swung at an imaginary ball or balls may be directed toward the user either by another person or by a machine.

It will be noted that during the stroke the racket cannot twist relative to the belt to a substantial degree because of the square cross-section of the shafts and the connections between the strap S and the racket. The member 10 serves the purpose of reinforcing the width of

the belt where the tendency of the belt to twist is most likely to occur.

After the device has been used for a short time, its corrective influence is manifested in the tendency of the user to execute the correct stroke even after the device is removed. Thus the device not only is effective in developing the particular muscles that contribute to the correct stroke but it teaches muscular coordination through repeated correct efforts.

Should it be desired to practice the forehand stroke, the racket together with the platform 19 and hollow section 19*a* are removed from the inner shaft 15 and reversed so that the inclination of the platform 19 is toward the right of the user.

I have shown a preferred embodiment of my invention but it is obvious that numerous changes and omissions may be made without departing from its spirit. The pivot 12 enables the racket to reach balls which are somewhat higher or lower than the belt. In this event the shafts will twist slightly relative to the belt but such twist is inconsequential.

I claim:

1. A tennis racket guide comprising an extensible shaft, means on one end of said shaft to connect said shaft to the handle of a tennis racket, a support on the other end of said shaft to connect said shaft to the body of the operator, and means to prevent the rotation of said shaft about its own axis when said tennis racket is manipulated.

2. A tennis racket guide comprising a shaft, means on one end of said shaft to support a tennis racket in operative position, pivoted means to support said shaft, means to prevent said shaft from rotating about its own axis when said shaft is pivoted in a plane parallel to the ground, and means to connect said guide to the body of the operator whereby the handle of said racket may be grasped and the racket manipulated.

3. A tennis racket guide comprising a belt for connecting the guide to the body of the operator, a first rigid shaft pivotally connected to said belt, a second rigid shaft telescoped in respect to said first rigid shaft, a platform removably connected to said second rigid shaft, means to prevent rotation of said shafts about their own axes, and means on said platform to secure the handle of a tennis racket thereto.

4. An article of the character described comprising a harness for connecting the article to the body of the operator, a shaft for supporting a tennis racket pivotally connected to said harness, said shaft being nonrotatable about its axis and being extensible whereby the tennis racket may be directed toward and away from the body of the operator.

5. An article of the character described comprising a harness for connecting the article to the body of the operator, an extensible shaft of rigid material pivotally connected to said harness, means on the end of said shaft to connect a striking implement thereto whereby said striking implement may be grasped and manipulated by the operator and means to limit the path of movement of said shaft and striking implement.

6. A tennis racket guide comprising a plurality of rigid shaft sections telescoped to form an extensible shaft, a support for said extensible shaft, means to prevent the rotation of said shaft and of said shaft sections about their own axes, means on the end of said shaft to connect the handle of a tennis racket thereto, said extensible shaft being operative to permit the tennis racket to be directed toward and away from the body of the operator when the racket is manipulated.

7. A tennis racket guide comprising a harness for connecting the guide to the body of the operator, a shaft pivotally connected to said harness, a second shaft telescoped in respect to said first shaft, a platform secured to said second shaft for engaging the handle of a tennis racket, and means to prevent the rotation of said shafts about their own axes when said tennis racket is manipulated.

8. A tennis racket guide according to claim 7 wherein said shafts are square shaped in cross-section thereby preventing rotation in respect to each other.

9. A tennis racket guide according to claim 7 wherein said platform is inclined upward in relation to said shafts so that the striking face of the tennis racket is disposed in a plane higher than the handle thereof.

RUDOLPH SALEM.