A. C. ADAMS.

BOWLING BALL SLING.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 12, 1916.

1,199,330. Patented Sept. 26, 1916.

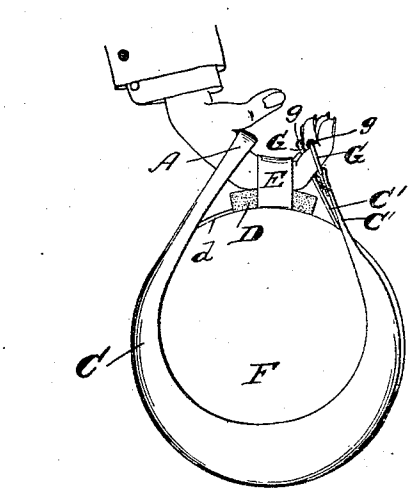


Fig. 2.

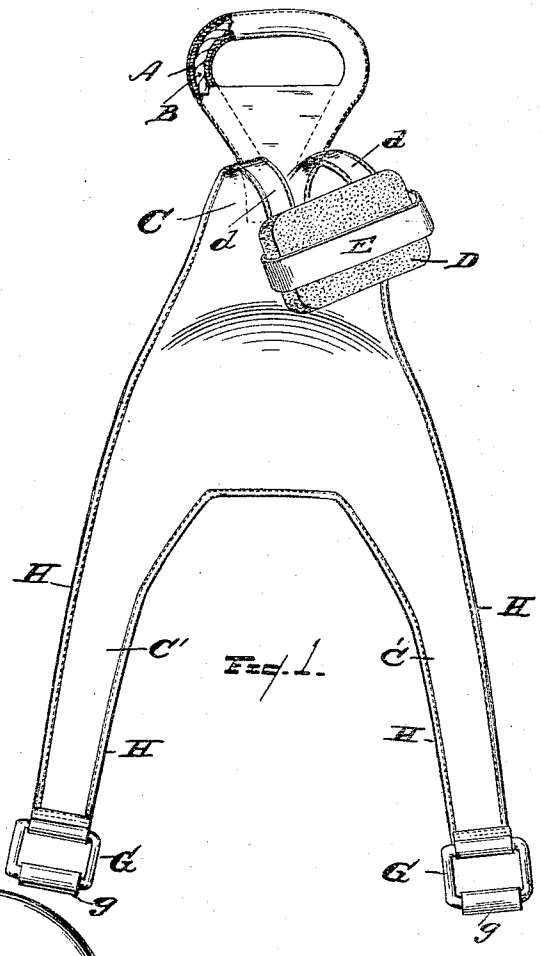


Fig. 1.

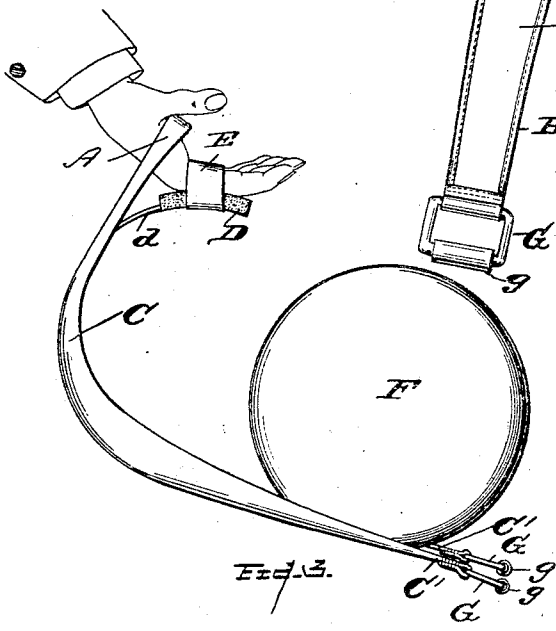


Fig. 3.

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BOWLING-BALL SLING.

1,199,330. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 26, 1916.

Application filed May 12, 1916. Serial No. 96,992.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED C. ADAMS, citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, county of Wayne, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Bowling-Ball Slings, and declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a bowling ball sling shown in the accompanying drawings and more particularly set forth in the following specification and claims.

It is well known that the holes provided in bowling balls to receive the thumb and finger of the bowler must be of suitable size and spaced apart so that the fingers and gripping action of the player may be properly accommodated. It is also well known that the fingers of the player are liable to become caught in the holes and suffer injury. It is further known that a bowling ball as ordinarily played does not leave the hand "rolling" but upon striking the alley "skids", burning and wearing the surface of the latter for a greater or less distance, making periodical repairs in the alley necessary adjacent to the first point of contact.

Among the objects therefore of the present invention is to overcome these several objections by providing a device,—hereinafter more particularly described,—adapted to suspend the ball from the back of the bowler's hand, its construction and operation being such that the ball may be easily and accurately bowled by anyone without tiring the player, or injury to the hand or fingers.

Another feature of this invention is that women and children may readily bowl with balls not ordinarily used by them, either on account of their size or the spacing of the gripping holes.

Another feature of the invention is that the ball leaves the sling under a "rolling" motion, thereby avoiding undue wear upon the alley through skidding.

Another feature of the invention is that a much faster game may be played,—an advantage in alleys operating for commercial purposes.

Other advantages and improvements will hereafter appear.

In the drawings accompanying this specification Figure 1 is a plan view of the device, with its cushion portion folded back that the gripping handle beneath may be clearly seen. Fig. 2 shows a sling, supporting a bowling ball beneath the hand of the player, as it would appear before the ball is released by the player. Fig. 3 shows the sling released with the ball leaving it.

Referring now to the letters of reference placed upon the drawings: A, denotes a handle preferably formed of metal tubing, in which is housed a rope B, having projecting ends secured to the body portion C, of the device. The tubing forming the handle is preferably covered with leather as shown.

D, indicates a felt or other pad connected with the body portion C, by straps *d*, *d*.

E, designates a handle secured to the pad D, designed to overlap the palm of the hand.

Projecting from the body portion C, which is shaped to conform with the contour of the ball F,—are straps C′, C′, and to the free end of the strap are secured loops G, G, each of which carries an anti-friction roller *g*.

To strengthen the device its edge may be corded and bound by a strip of leather or braid H, if desired.

Having thus indicated the several parts by reference letters the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood.

The ball F, is first placed upon the body portion of the device. The hand of the bowler is then slipped through its handles A, and E, with the pad D, directly below the knuckles to protect the latter from injury through contact with the ball or from the pressure resulting from gripping the ball in the sling. The first and second fingers and the third and fourth fingers are then slipped through the loop G, of the respective straps C′, C′, with the anti-friction rollers *g*, *g*, resting upon the fingers as shown in Fig. 2. The ball is thus firmly gripped in the sling and upon a forward swinging movement of the arm, the fingers are allowed to relax, whereupon the pressure of the ball due to its weight and motion forces the loops G, G, from the fingers. The ball, being thus released, starts upon its journey under a spinning or rotary motion as will be readily understood, and thus avoids "skidding" upon contact with the alley floor, thereby relieving the latter of un-

due wear. If desired the inside of the sling may be lined with a strip of rubber or like material to increase the clinging action of the sling and to serve to accelerate the rotary movement of the ball.

The device may be made of leather or other material, and if manufactured of fabric may be woven to more closely conform to the shape of the ball.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. A device of the character described comprising a flexible member adapted to receive a ball, means for manually holding the device, and coöperating means adapted to be gripped to retain the ball in the flexible member until released from manual control.

2. A device of the character described comprising a flexible member adapted to receive and embrace a ball, a handle carried by said member for gripping the device and for supporting the ball, a pad carried by the flexible member adapted to protect the hand from contact with the ball, and means carried by said flexible member adapted to cooperate with the handle to grip and support the ball, said means being adapted to be released, whereby the ball may be freed from the flexible member.

3. A device of the character described comprising a body portion conforming to the contour of a ball, a handle secured to one end of the body portion, and straps connected with the body portion adapted to cooperate with the body portion in supporting the ball, said straps fitted with means at their free ends to receive the fingers of the player.

4. A device of the character described comprising a body portion adapted to receive and support a ball, a handle fitted to one end of the body portion, straps connected with the opposite end of the body portion, loops secured to the free ends of the straps to receive the fingers of the player, anti-friction rollers carried by the loops, and a pad carried by the body portion adapted to protect the hand from contact with the ball.

5. A device of the character described comprising a body portion adapted to receive a ball, a handle fitted to the body portion, a pad carried by the body portion to protect the back of the hand, a strap carried by the pad adapted to embrace the hand to secure the pad against displacement, straps secured to the body portion, and anti-friction rollers carried by the free ends of the straps.

In testimony whereof, I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

ALFRED C. ADAMS.

Witnesses:
S. E. THOMAS,
WAYNE S. THOMAS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."