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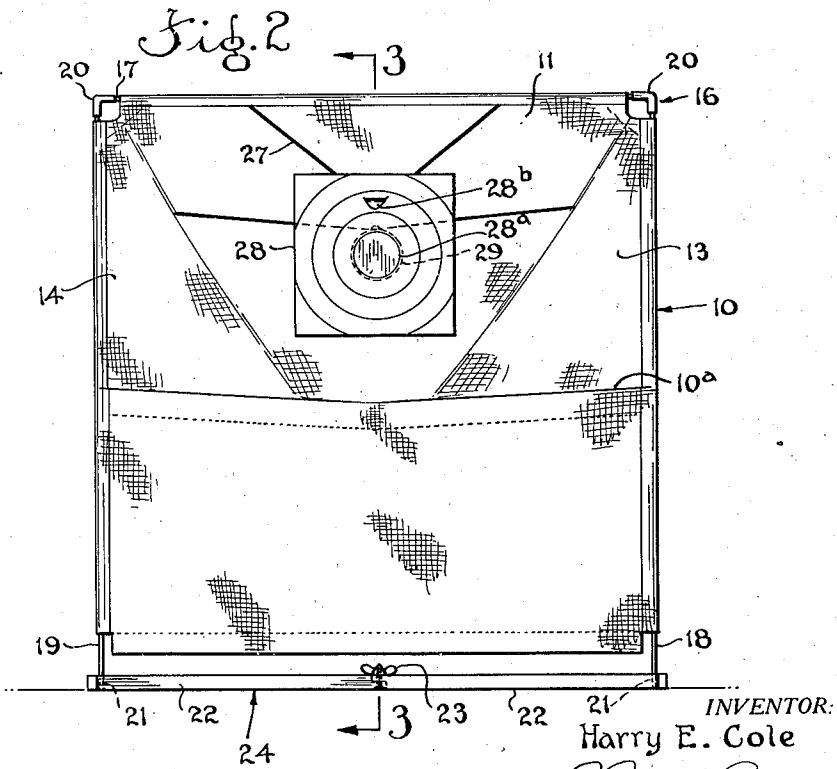
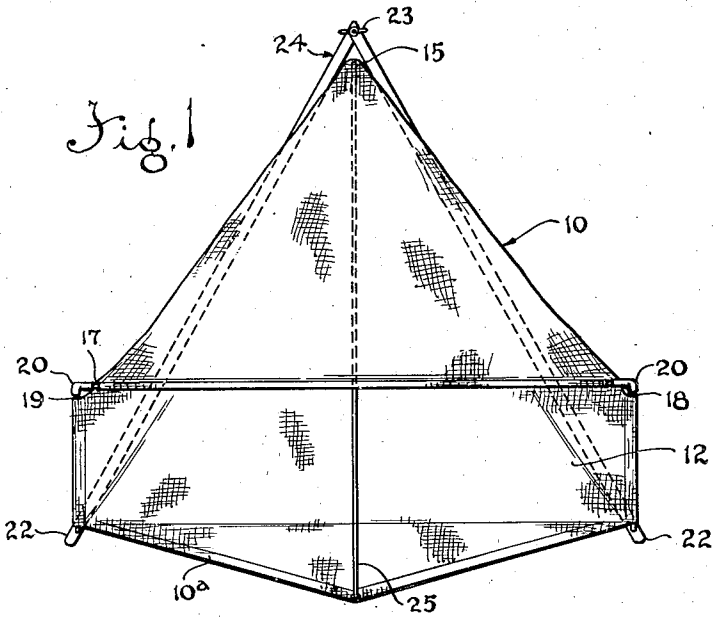
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SHOT TRAP FOR AIR RIFLE TARGETS

Filed May 12, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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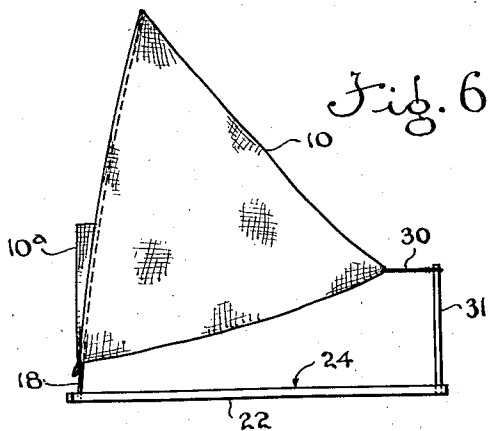
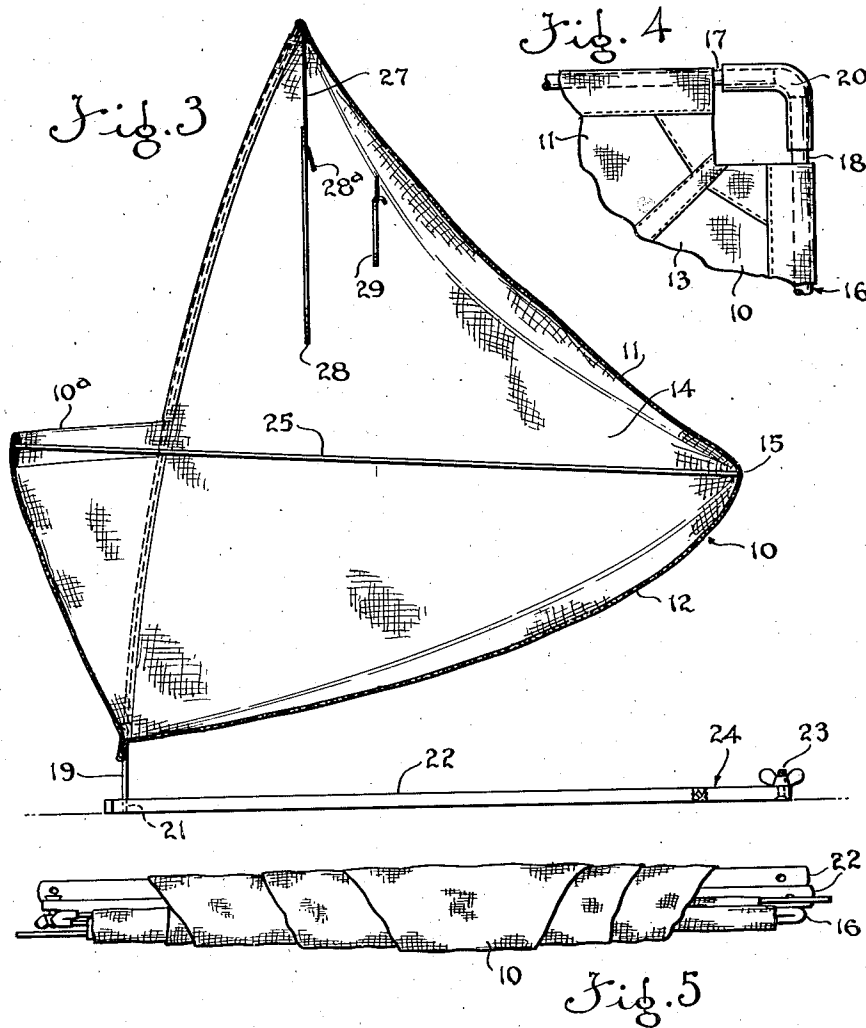
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SHOT TRAP FOR AIR RIFLE TARGETS

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SHOT TRAP FOR AIR RIFLE TARGETS

Harry E. Cole, Akron, Ohio

Application May 12, 1942, Serial No. 442,610

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—102.4)

This invention relates to shot traps for air rifle targets.

An object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive fabric shot trap, particularly for use in target practice with spring pressure air rifles, and by means of which a maximum of shot will be retrieved with a minimum of damage by penetration of the shot through the fabric of the trap.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shot trap of the character described including a shot-retrieving hood in combination with improved means for supporting the same whereby the hood may be made of relatively thin, inexpensive fabric.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a shot trap of the character described which may be quickly assembled for use, and which is readily collapsible to compact size, as for storage or packing.

These and other objects of the invention will be manifest from the following brief description and the accompanying drawings.

Of the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a shot trap embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a cross-section, on an enlarged scale, taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view illustrating the upper right hand corner portion of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a view illustrating the manner of collapsing and folding to compact size the complete apparatus shown in Figures 1 to 4.

Figure 6 is a side elevation, on a reduced scale, illustrating a modified form of the invention.

Referring particularly to Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings, the numeral 10 designates a hood of flexible fabric, which may be in the shape of a square pyramid, with upper and lower walls 11 and 12 and side walls 13 and 14 converging rearwardly toward an apex 15. A baffle or flap 10^a of flexible fabric may be provided across the opening of hood 10 at the bottom thereof to provide a pocket for retaining shot, this baffle preferably extending upwardly approximately a sufficient distance, say slightly less than half the depth of the hood opening, to retain shot which might otherwise be deflected outwardly off the walls of the hood.

The hood 10 is supported at the front thereof by means of a U-shaped frame 16 comprising a cross-piece 17 and two side portions 18 and 19

which are received through hems along the top and side edges, respectively, at the opening of the hood. The frame 16 may be formed of normally straight rods of flexible material, such as wood or metal, the cross-piece 17 being connected to the side portions 18 and 19 as by means of flexible rubber tubing 20, as best shown in Figures 2 and 4, to permit folding the frame in a manner to be described later. The upper corners of the hood are cut away to facilitate said folding action.

The lower ends of the side rods 17 and 18 may extend downwardly of the bottom edge of the hood opening to be received in apertures 21, 21 in the outer ends of a pair of arms 22, 22 which are miter-joined at the other ends and releasably connected, as by means of a thumbscrew 23, to form a V-shaped supporting base, generally indicated at 24.

The hood 10 may be maintained in distended condition, preferably with the walls 11, 12, 13 and 14 relatively loose or untaut, by means of a rod 25 extended between the top of baffle 10^a and the apex 15 of the hood. The hood 10 is supported as described above so that the bottom wall 12 thereof will incline downwardly toward the baffle 10^a.

Secured to the top of hood 10 at the front thereof is a looped cord 27, on which may be hung a target 28 having thereon the usual indicia including a bull's-eye 28^a. For this purpose the card 28 has a V-shaped flap 28^b punched therein and adapted to be hooked over the cord 27. In direct line with the bull's-eye, rearwardly thereof, is suspended a metal disc 29 which will give an audible signal when a shot from an air rifle has passed through the bull's-eye 28^a of the target.

In use of the above described shot trap for target practice with spring pressure air rifle, as an example, fired at normal ranges, shot upon striking the untaut top or side walls of the hood 10 will drop substantially directly to the sloped bottom wall 12 and roll to the pocket formed by the baffle 10^a. The yielding nature of the supporting frame 16 absorbs a substantial amount of the shock applied to the walls of the hood by the shot, which, together with the untaut condition of the walls of the hood, greatly minimizes possibility of shot being deflected outwardly of the hood opening, as well as minimizing the possibility of the shot penetrating the walls of the hood. Moreover, the improved construction makes possible the use of a relatively thin, inexpensive fabric for the hood, such

as muslin or cotton, as compared with canvas or duck, for example.

When the apparatus is not in use for target practice, after first removing the targets 28 and 29, rod 25 is removed and the rods 18 and 19 are withdrawn from the apertures 21 in base 24, which is collapsed by releasing the thumbscrew 23. By folding the rods 18 and 19 inwardly about the flexible joints 20, the hood may be folded and rolled into a compact bundle containing the rods of frame 16, the arms 22 and rod 25, as illustrated in Figure 5.

In Figure 6 is shown a modified form of the invention which is similar to the shot trap shown in Figures 1 to 5 in all respects, except that in place of rod 25 the hood is yieldingly maintained in substantially untaut distended condition by means of an elastic or resilient member 30, such as a strip of rubber, extended between the apex 15 of the hood 10 and a rod 31 mounted on the V-shaped base 24. The rod 31 may be utilized to join the arms 22, 22 of base 24 together at the apex thereof in place of the thumbscrew 23 (see Figure 3).

Other modifications of the invention may be

resorted to without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

5 A shot trap for air rifle targets, comprising a flexible fabric hood having a front opening and walls converging toward an apex, said hood having a shot-retaining baffle of flexible material extending across said opening thereof, a supporting base, a U-shaped frame secured around the front opening of said hood at the top and sides thereof, the side portions of said frame being yieldingly flexible and extending downwardly from said hood, means for mounting said frame on said base, and means for yieldingly retaining said hood in rearwardly distended condition, said supporting base comprising a pair of arms and means for releasably connecting the same in the form of a V, said mounting means comprising apertures in the outer ends of the arms of said base for receiving the lower ends of said side portions of the frame said U shaped frame constituting the sole support for the open end of said hood upon said base.

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