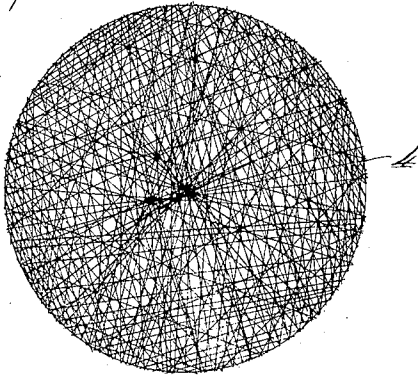


L. WERMELING.
BALL.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 23, 1911.

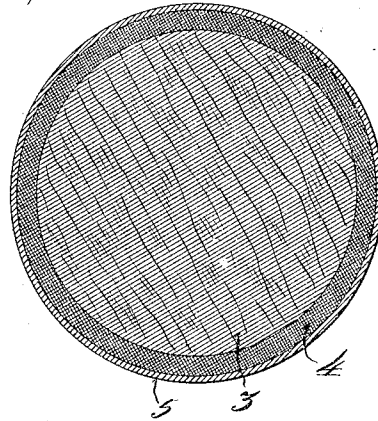
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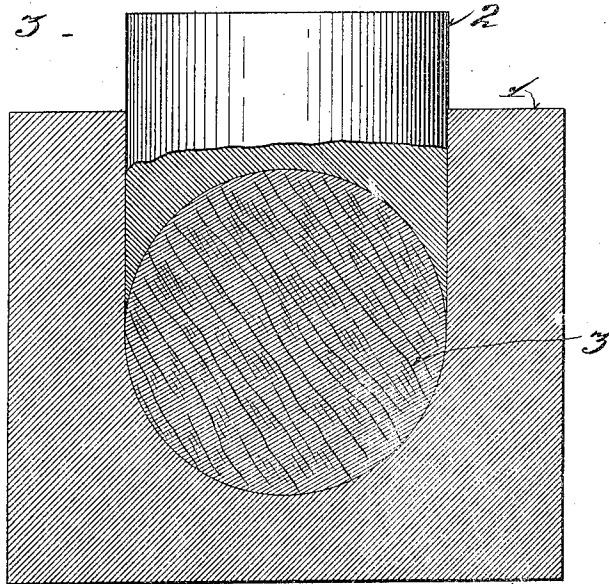
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Inventor

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Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BALL

1,047,354.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS WERMELING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Covington, in the county of Kenton and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Balls, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved baseball.

10 The object of the invention is to produce a very durable, elastic and efficient play ball.

The features of the invention are more fully set forth in the description of the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this 15 specification, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view showing the winding. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section through a completed ball. Fig. 3 is a view, partly in section, through the mold showing 20 the compressing step.

My improved ball is formed substantially from compressed sponge, it may be made of any size, hard or soft, or any desired resilience. The principal component of the ball 25 is known as "sponge trimming", this being an ordinary article of commerce bought from sponge dealers.

Assume that I wish to duplicate an official league ball. A mass of the sponge clipping 30 would be weighed out to amount to between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ ounces and placed loosely in the semi-spherical mold 1. The coacting semi-spherical plunger 2 would then be brought down into the mold with a pressure approxi- 35 mating two thousand pounds to the square inch. The sponge fiber would be powerfully compressed into a homogeneous mass of closely compacted strata of uniform density and of uniform resilience throughout, 40 the circumference of this compacted sponge sphere 3 being substantially eight and five-eighths inches. The sphere thus formed is ejected from the mold and immediately wrapped firmly with twine to form the inner 45 covering $\frac{1}{4}$ a fraction of an inch in thickness. The wrapping is done before the sphere has had time to undergo a reaction which

would disrupt the spherical formation if the wrapping were not done at once. The twine-bound compacted sponge sphere is 50 then covered with the ordinary ball covering 5, of any suitable material.

I am aware that sponges have been used to form the core of a ball and that sponges have been loosely molded into spherical 55 shape to form the principal spherical component of a ball. My discovery, however, has produced a new result, namely, that these sponge trimmings can be powerfully compressed into a compact, homogeneous, 60 unitary sphere, of the requisite density and elasticity to form the ideal body of a ball.

These balls do not depend upon the resilience of the core, as used in the conventional wound ball, but are uniformly resilient, sub- 65 stantially throughout the entire compacted sphere, the result being that the sphere holds its shape perfectly after severe batting. Again, the density is substantially uniform, so that the ball has the ideal sailing or float- 70 ing qualities conducive to long flight and regular, true lines of motion.

The ball is immeasurably superior to the ordinary high-grade ball, has greater durability and resilience, and will retain its 75 qualities after a long continued and hard usage.

Having described my invention, I claim:—

A play ball comprising a spherical body composed of sponge trimmings compacted 80 by heavy hydraulic pressure into a homogeneous unitary body of sponge fiber of uniform density and elasticity, the diameter of said sphere approximating the diameter of the ball, a relatively thin twine binding 85 maintaining said sphere in its compressed condition, and an outer covering fabric.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

LOUIS WERMELING.

Witnesses:

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CLARENCE B. FOSTER.