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CATAPULT WITH IMPROVED FORK AND SLING

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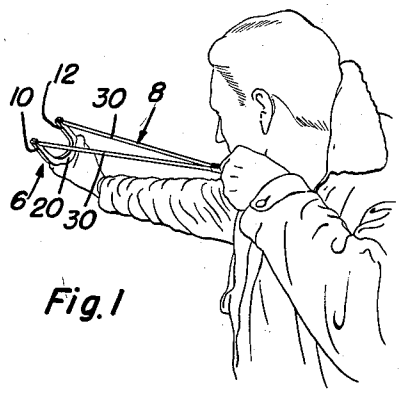


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

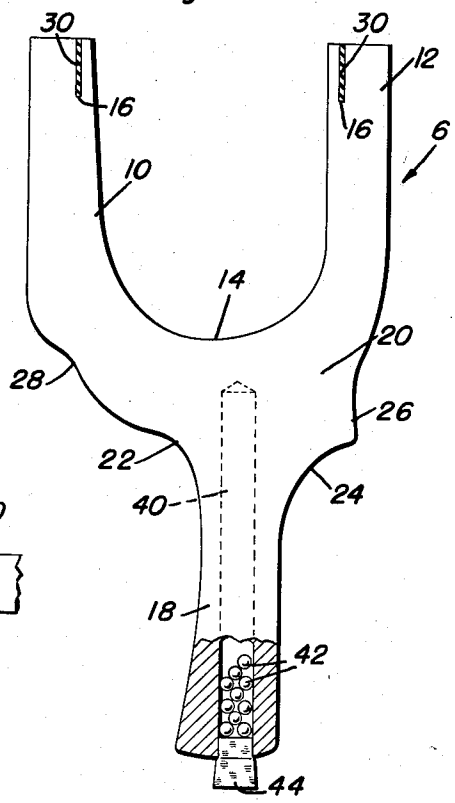
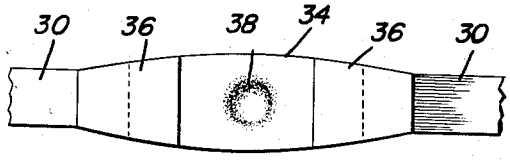


Fig. 4



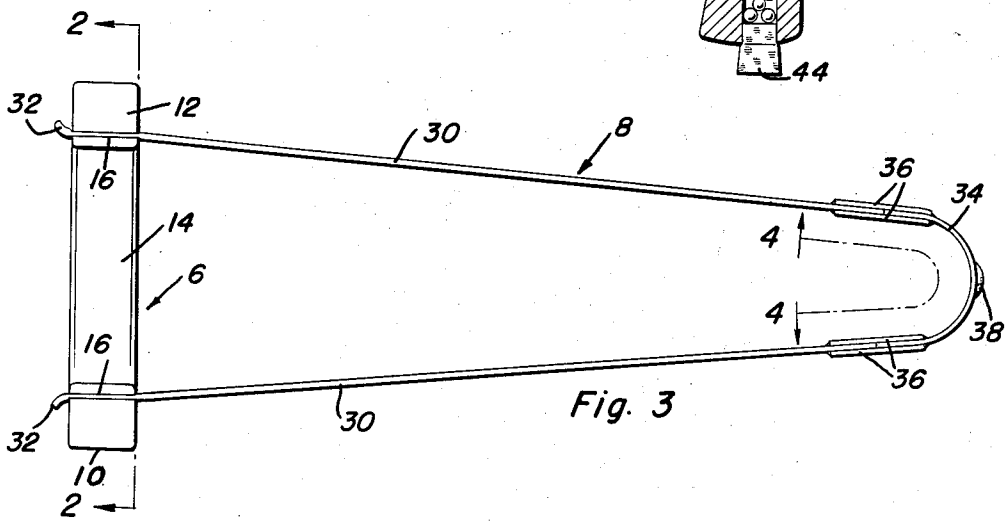


Fig. 3

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CATAPULT WITH IMPROVED FORK AND SLING

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2 Claims. (Cl. 124—20)

1

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in catapults, and has more particular reference to a construction which, in an over-all structural sense, is characterized by fork and handle means of unique design and, in addition, by a complemental composite sling.

As will be hereinafter made apparent, the instrumentality herein revealed is not to be construed as a simple toy-sized plaything. On the contrary, it is a precision type hunting catapult which, because of special adaptability and scientific designing, functions for shooting small game such as rabbits, squirrels, quail, birds, and the like.

It is a matter of common knowledge that catapults, more popularly known these days as slingshots, have been and are coming into great prominence for target shooting and small game hunting, since it has been found that when the components of the over-all construction are properly designed, any sportsman with hunting talent can, after practice, use slingshots quite skillfully and resultfully.

There has long existed a demand for the production of a precision fashioned and made slingshot with a correct grip and other proportionately correct facilities. It follows, therefore, that the general object of the invention is to provide a huntsman's catapult or slingshot in the category stated which is a significant improvement in this line of endeavor, and in which manufacturers and users will find their primary requirements and needs fully met, contained and effectually available.

More specifically, novelty is predicated on a solid wooden or equivalent fork construction characterized, as usual, by fork arms or prongs to accommodate the complemental bands on the sling but unique in that it embodies a laterally offset handle which is joined to the base of the fork by a so-called stock, the stock and handle coacting in providing a comforting and hand fitting grip, one which allows the user to really grasp the fork and to hold and aim it with requisite certainty and without the possibility of the handle twisting or turning in the hand.

Stated somewhat more explicitly, the handle is polygonal in cross section and joins the base of the fork by way of a sturdy web constituting the stock, the marginal edges of the latter being contoured to merge into the edges of the handle and also being further notched and otherwise contoured to provide a firm fitting seat on one side for the index finger and a reliable thumb rest on the other side.

2

Then, too, novelty is predicated on a container built into the handle for purposes of accommodating and carrying projectiles such as buckshot and the like.

In addition to the above, novelty is predicated on the composite sling made up of sturdy rubber or equivalent bands joined together at corresponding ends by a soft leather (preferably buckskin) which constitutes a saddle and is fashioned with a pouch-like pocket to assist in pinching and holding the missiles until they are released when shot.

Other objects and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying sheet of illustrative drawings.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a huntsman's catapult or so-called slingshot constructed in accordance with the invention and showing the manner in which same is used.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of the fork unit with portions in section, the view being on the plane of the line 2—2 of Figure 3, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the complete instrumentality showing all the details of the sling means.

Figure 4 is a view of the saddle portion of the sling means, which view may be said to be taken approximately on the line 4—4 of Figure 3, looking in the direction of the arrows.

There are two essential components or units in the over-all construction; namely, the fork means or unit 6, on the one hand, and the sling means 8 on the other. The fork means is preferably constructed from a solid block of wood or equivalent material and is common in that it includes the fork proper having spaced parallel prongs 10 and 12 defining the customary crotch 14. The upper free ends of the prongs or arms are formed with kerfs 16—16. The thing which is unique about this unit is that the handle 18 is polygonal in cross-section and is offset in respect to the longitudinal line which intersects the median part of the crotch 14. In Figure 2, we see the handle offset to the right. The handle is joined to the fork by way of a body or web portion which may be best described herein as a stock 20. The stock is also broadened toward the right-hand side in Figure 2. The edge portions 22 and 24 merge into the longitudinal edges of the handle. The remaining edge portions are especially shaped in the manner shown. There is,

for example, a shallow seat **26** which serves to accommodate the index finger, as shown in Figure 1. Then there is a longer ranging compound curve defining another recess **28** and this is, in effect, a form fitting thumb rest. The stock with the finger rest in conjunction with the offset handle provide a form fitting or conformable grip for the user. The grip is well balanced and accurately situated and designed to serve its intended purposes with requisite certainty and usefulness. The sling means is as shown and comprises a pair of duplicate sturdy rubber or equivalent flexible elastic bands **30—30**. These have their end portions **32** wedged and thus removably secured in the kerfs in order to be able to reverse the fork means **16** in respect to the sling means for use by both right-handed and left-handed shooters. The saddle is of soft leather and is denoted by the numeral **34** and comprises a relatively short wide length of buckskin. The ends of this are abutted with the ends of the rubber bands and patches of vulcanizing rubber, as shown at **36**, are secured to these abutting ends, and thus the saddle is joined to the rubber bands. As stated, buckskin is preferably used because it is soft and will not blister the fingers of the user. The intermediate portion is depressed into a pouch-like pocket which is pre-formed and retains its shape, said pocket being denoted at **38** and being adapted to accommodate a plurality of buckshot or other missiles, for example, BB buckshot, steel ball or similar projectiles. Briefly summarized, here are some of the advantageous aspects of the over-all instrumentality, to-wit:

1. The stock is made of a good hard wood, the right weight to balance with the sling when shooting. It is made to fit the hand with ease and comfort, which is necessary to give you accuracy. It will not twist or turn in the hand and it can be used either right or left handed by reversing the sling straps from one side of the stock to the other. It has a hole in the bottom of the stock that carries twelve quarter inch balls or thirty BB's held in by a cork stopper.

2. The sling straps are made from the best of gum rubber to give one power and hard hitting which is so important. The shot pouch is made of soft buckskin that will not blister the thumb or finger, and yet tough for long life. The rubber straps and leather shot pouch are smoothly vulcanized together, making the sling all in one straight piece, or you might say streamlined. There are no strings to break or pull loose, no twist in the straps as the old type.

3. The leather shot pouch has a shot pocket, which one must have if he is going to use shot. The receded shot pocket in the center will carry from six to ten number 5 shot, three BB's or one-quarter inch steel balls, and when pinched together with the thumb and finger automatically closes the pocket and cannot roll out until released to shoot. One cannot lay shot on a flat piece of rubber or leather and fold it together and expect them to stay there.

The numeral **40** designates a bore in the handle serving as a convenient holder for small missiles, such as buckshot **42**, and the latter are kept in place by a stopper **44** fitting removably into the bore.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that a clear understanding of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials and arrangement of parts may be resorted to in actual practice without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A precision-type catapult expressly designed for shooting game comprising a one-piece structure embodying a substantially U-shaped fork having spaced parallel prongs and a crotch between said prongs, a handle, said handle being polygonal in cross-section, and a finger-gripping stock providing a junctural connection between said handle and fork, one marginal edge of said stock having a recess shaped to provide a thumb rest, the latter being situated in alignment with the adjacent longitudinal axis of one prong, the marginal edge of the stock adjacent the other prong having a recess and a cooperating shoulder collectively defining a seat for the butt of the index finger, said handle being offset relative to the center of the crotch and having its longitudinal axis disposed between said last named seat and the center of said crotch, and a sling having elastic band portions joined at corresponding ends by way of a connecting saddle and having their opposite ends joined with the free end portions of said prongs.

2. A precision-type catapult expressly designed for shooting game comprising a one-piece structure embodying a substantially U-shaped fork having spaced parallel prongs and a crotch between said prongs, a handle, said handle being polygonal in cross-section, and a finger-gripping stock providing a junctural connection between said handle and fork, one marginal edge of said stock having a recess shaped to provide a thumb rest, the latter being situated in alignment with the adjacent longitudinal axis of one prong, the marginal edge of the stock adjacent the other prong having a recess and a cooperating shoulder collectively defining a seat for the butt of the index finger, said handle being offset relative to the center of the crotch and having its longitudinal axis disposed between said last named seat and the center of said crotch, and a composite sling embodying a pair of balanced sturdy duplicate rubber bands and a pliant leather saddle positively adjoining corresponding ends of said band, the central portion of said saddle being fashioned into a permanently distended pouch providing a pocket for a buckshot or a similar projectile, said pouch being generally concavo-convex but pliable in order that its shape may vary to fit the different sizes of projectiles.

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