March 29, 1960 G. E. GLINTZ 2,930,618

TOY AND GAME APPARATUS

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Fig. 1

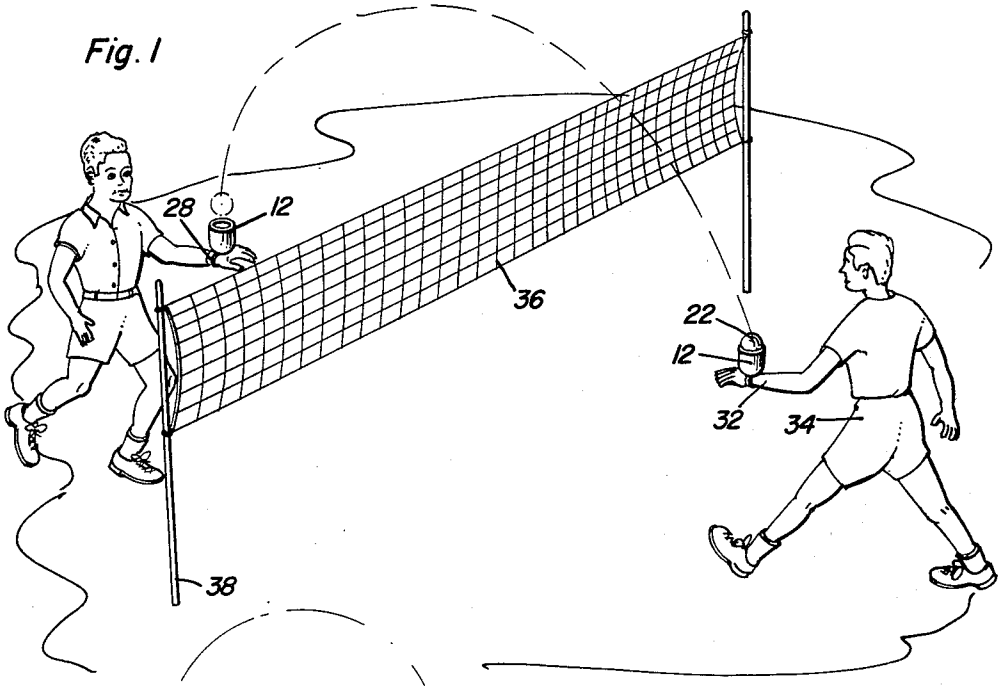


Fig. 2

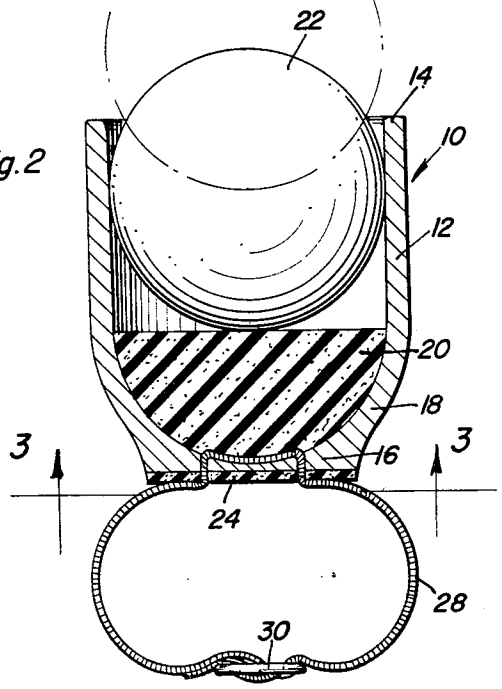
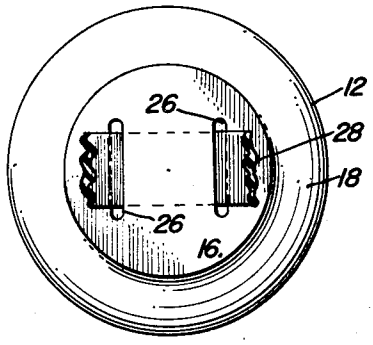


Fig. 3



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TOY AND GAME APPARATUS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—96)

The present invention generally relates to a toy or game apparatus which may be employed by a single child, two children or a group of children and also may be employed by any age person for use in amusing themselves or in playing a game in which the coordination of muscles is developed and certain skills in the judgment of distances are developed.

An object of the present invention is to provide a toy and game apparatus incorporating a ball and means for projecting and receiving the ball with such means incorporating a receptacle or cup strapped to the wrist of a player so that the cup faces upwardly from the back of the wrist or hand with the interior of the cup being provided with a resilient material in the bottom for causing the ball to bounce out of the cup when it is received within the cup thus providing a highly novel and entertaining toy or game apparatus which may be employed in many uses for playing various types of games and for developing various skills.

Other objects of the present invention will reside in its simplicity of construction, ease of assembly and disassembly on the player and its adaptation for many and varied uses.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the apparatus of the present invention employed by a pair of players for playing a game;

Figure 2 is a detailed sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing through the longitudinal center of the game apparatus of the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 3—3 of Figure 2 illustrating the base of the cup and the manner in which the wrist strap is secured thereto.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, the numeral 10 generally designates the toy or game apparatus of the present invention. The toy or game apparatus includes a generally cylindrical cup 12 having an open upper end 14 and a closed lower end 16 joined to the cylindrical portion 12 by an outwardly curved lower portion 18. Disposed within the lower portion of the cup 12 is an insert of resilient material 20 with the upper surface of the resilient material 20 being spaced considerably below the upper end 14 for substantially receiving a spherical ball 22 within the cup 12. As shown in Figure 2, the insert 20 has a thickness substantially less than the length of the cup 12. Also, the ball 22 is slightly less in diameter than the internal diameter of the cup 12.

The bottom 16 of the cup 12 is provided with a cushion of resilient material 24. Also, the bottom 16 is provided with a pair of spaced parallel slots 26 extending therethrough for receiving a portion of a flexible strap or

band 28 which is provided with a buckle 30 for detachably securing the free ends of the band 28 together.

By employing the band or strap 28, the receptacle 12 may be strapped to the wrist 32 of a player 34 with the receptacle 12 facing in the same direction as the back of the hand. Thus, the receptacle 12 will be facing upwardly when the arm is held straight out with the palm of the hand facing downwardly whereby the open end of the cup 14 will face away from the back of the wrist 32. The cushioning material 24 will render the device more comfortable to the player 34 inasmuch as the bottom 16 of the cup 12 as well as the entire cup 12 may be constructed of relatively rigid material such as plastic, metal, wood or the like. The cushion material 24 may be foam rubber or similar material and the band 28 may be an elastic fabric band. Any suitable type of buckle or clasp may be provided for adjusting the effective length of the band 28.

In practical use of the present invention, a single small child may employ the device by having it fastened to his wrist whereby he can toss a ball into the cup with his opposite hand and the ball will bounce back to his hand from the cup. The return bounce and the direction thereof may be controlled by the player by manipulating the cup as to angular position and as to how the cup is moved in relation to the ball when the ball enters the cup. Thus, the child will develop coordination between his hands and will develop skill in judging distances by judging the distance between the opposite hand and the cup. Another way of using the device is to have the cup fastened to the wrist and throw the ball up against a building wall or the like so that when the ball bounces off the wall and comes back it is caught in the cup and the ball will immediately bounce out and may be directed back against the wall by directing the movement of the wrist. By increasing the rate of bouncing against the wall and into the cup, the player or players may develop certain skills of coordination. Also, older children may play with the device in the form of a game wherein teams are chosen and the ball may be thrown from player to player on the same team thus preventing the other team from taking possession of the ball. If the ball continues to be bounced from one cup to the other of the same team and the ball is never allowed to touch anything but the cup, the same team may retain possession thereof. However, if the ball goes to the ground or off to one side, this team will forfeit a point or the ball. Also, the game may be employed in conjunction with a net designated by numeral 36 which may be supported by end pegs 38 whereby two players or two teams may project the ball 22 back and forth over the net somewhat in the nature of playing tennis, badminton or volley ball except that the ball is projected in the cup 12 with the hands not coming into contact with the ball.

With the toy and game apparatus of the present invention many interesting and entertaining games may be played with the games developing certain skills, techniques and coordination of the players whether they are playing individually or as a team thereby affording a highly desirable toy or game apparatus.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A game apparatus comprising a wrist attached cup-shaped member having a circular cross-section through-

out its length, said member having an open end defined by a peripheral edge disposed in a single transverse plane, the other end of said member being closed and tapering inwardly, said closed end having a pair of spaced and parallel slots therethrough, an elongated strap threaded through said slots, buckle means detachably and adjustably interconnecting the free ends of said strap for maintaining the strap in wrist encircling relation, the closed end of said member being circular and having a diameter less than the diameter of the open end thereby presenting a flat area engaging the flat portion of the back of the wrist of a person using the device, a relatively thin cushion of resilient material on the outer surface of the closed end for engaging the wrist for cushioning said member, a generally semi-spherical resilient insert disposed within the bottom of said member, said insert having a longitudinal thickness substantially less than the length of said member, and a spherical ball having a diameter slightly less than the internal diameter of the member for reception therein whereby said insert will

bounce the ball back out of said member when thrown against said resilient insert, the diameter of said ball being less than the distance from the open end of said member to the face of the insert whereby a portion of the periphery of the ball will project beyond the open end when received in the cup-shaped member, the slightly less diameter of the ball in relation to the internal diameter of the cup-shaped member requiring accurate alignment of the cup-shaped member with the ball when receiving the ball therein.

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