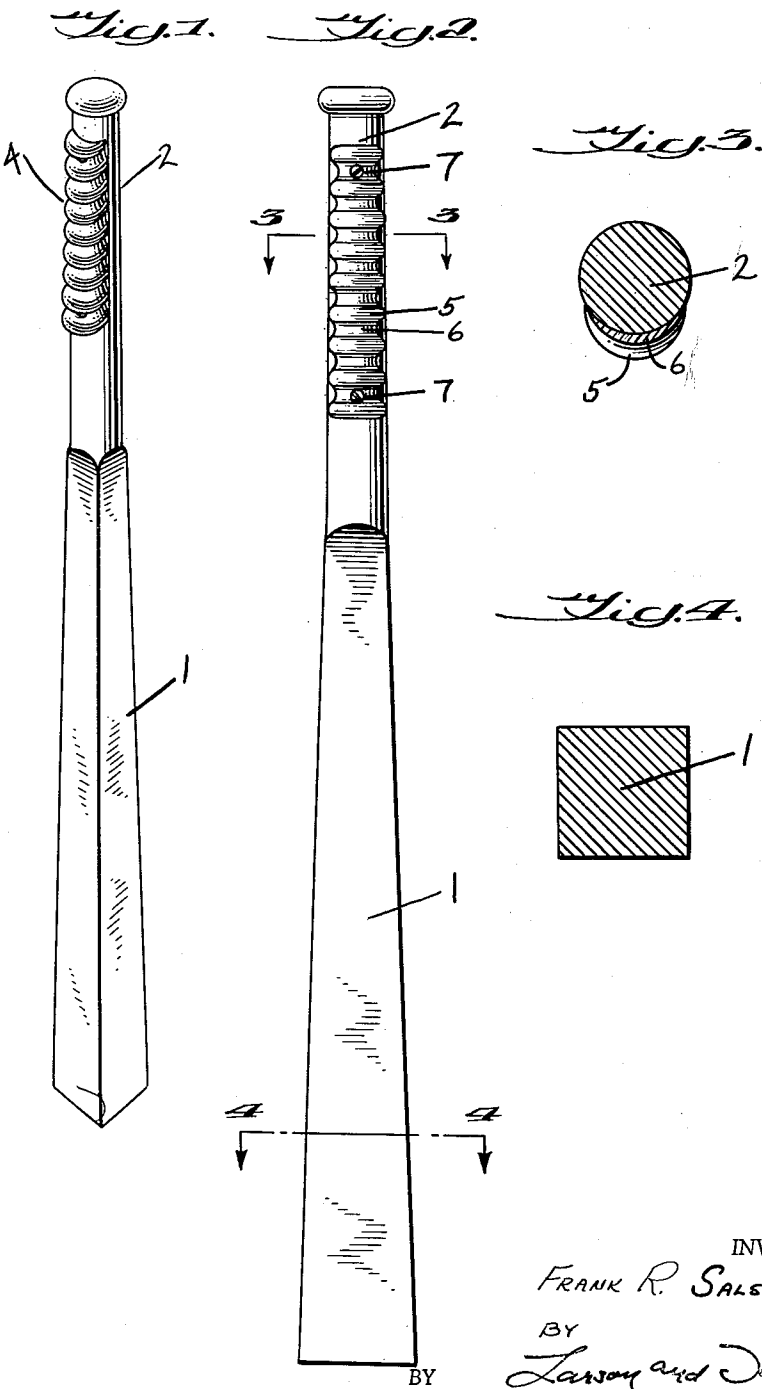


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F. R. SALSINGER
BASEBALL BAT COMPRISING A SQUARE
CROSS SECTIONAL STRIKING AREA
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INVENTOR
FRANK R. SALSINGER
BY
Larson and Taylor
ATTORNEY

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BASEBALL BAT COMPRISING A SQUARE CROSS SECTIONAL STRIKING AREA

Frank R. Salsinger, 135 Butler St., Forty Fort, Pa.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273-72)

This invention relates to novel improvements in baseball bats.

The baseball bat heretofore universally used is an elongated bat, circular in cross-section along its entire length, being somewhat wider at the striking part and narrower at the gripping part. The gripping part of the bat handle may be wrapped with tape in some instances. Of course, baseball bats vary in weight, taper, diameter of cross-section, and to some extent in length, to suit the individual needs of the batter.

The "prior-art" baseball bat having a circular cross-section along its entire length provides a curved striking face to the ball. Because of this curved striking face a large number of "foul-balls" are hit during each game. It is an object of my invention to provide a baseball bat having a flat face on the striking part of the bat whereby the batter is able to hit the ball with more control. In experiments using the baseball bat embodying my invention it has been found that an average batter will be able to improve his hitting accuracy remarkably. By striking the ball with the flat surface provided by my invention the number of foul-balls hit during a baseball game will be considerably reduced. Thus in a baseball game where all batters use the flat-faced bat the number of balls lost during a game is considerably reduced, and the players are able to hit the ball more accurately.

Further objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the detailed description which follows when read in conjunction with the attached drawing.

In the drawing FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a baseball bat embodying my invention; FIG. 2 is a front elevation of the baseball bat embodying my invention; FIG. 3 is a cross-section taken on FIG. 2 along line 3-3; FIG. 4 is a cross-section taken on FIG. 2 along line 4-4.

Referring to FIG. 1 reference numeral 1 indicates the striking portion of the bat having four flat sides at right angles to each other. Attached to the bat is a handle 2 being of diameter and length suitable for the player to grip the bat by the handle.

In overall length and weight the baseball bat of my invention is comparable to a conventional baseball bat of circular cross-section. In one bat embodying my invention the overall length is 35 inches. As shown in FIGS. 2, 3, and 4 a preferred embodiment of my invention has a striking portion 1 of square cross-section and a handle 2 of circular cross-section. Although the dimensions and taper of the bat may vary to suit the individual needs of a player, in one example of my invention the bat is 35 inches long and tapers from 2 1/4 inches square at the outer end of the striking portion to 1 1/2 inch square at the junction of the handle and the square striking portion. The handle is approximately 1 1/8 inches in diameter along its entire length. In a preferred embodiment of my invention I have provided a finger-grip 4 on the bat handle 2 to assist the batter in holding the bat properly so that one flat surface of the striking portion will be presented to

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the ball during the batter's swing. It will be understood that the shape and arrangement of this finger-grip may be varied to suit the individual player. In the embodiment shown the finger grip 4 is attached to the bat handle 2 and extends along a portion of its length on one side of the handle. The grip is provided with a series of ribs 5 and valleys 6 to accommodate the player's fingers. This finger-grip may be made of soft rubber, wood, leather, plastic material, or any other suitable material and may be attached by screws 7 as shown, or by gluing or other suitable means, or may be formed as an integral part of a handle during manufacture. This finger-grip provides means for the player to get the "feel" of the bat, making it easier to present one of the flat surfaces of the striking portion to the ball during the batter's swing.

The preferred material for the handle and striking portion of my bat is hickory, or any of the other suitable hardwoods which have been used in the past for baseball bats.

The preceding description discloses only a preferred embodiment of my invention. Variations and adaptations within the scope of the appended claims will be obvious.

I claim:

1. A game bat for striking a spherical baseball of a predetermined diameter, the bat comprising: an elongated wood striking portion defining four equi-sized flat, planar surfaces, all of which form striking surfaces engageable with a baseball, the said striking portion having a square cross-section at any point along its length wherein all of the sides of the cross-section define the four surfaces, the length of the sides of the square cross-section at one end of the striking portion being approximately 2 1/4 inches and the length of the sides at the other end of the striking portion being approximately 1 1/2 inches, the striking portion tapering linearly between the said ends; and a wood handle portion of circular cross-section having a 1 1/8 inch diameter, the handle being integral with the striking portion at the said other end and extending longitudinally axially away from the striking portion and the striking portion having a length of about 3/4 of the total length of the bat.

2. The bat according to claim 1 and further comprising a corrugated finger grip attached to the outside of and extending axially along the handle, the finger grip accommodating the fingers of a game player to enable a predetermined accurate placement of any one of the surfaces for striking the baseball.

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