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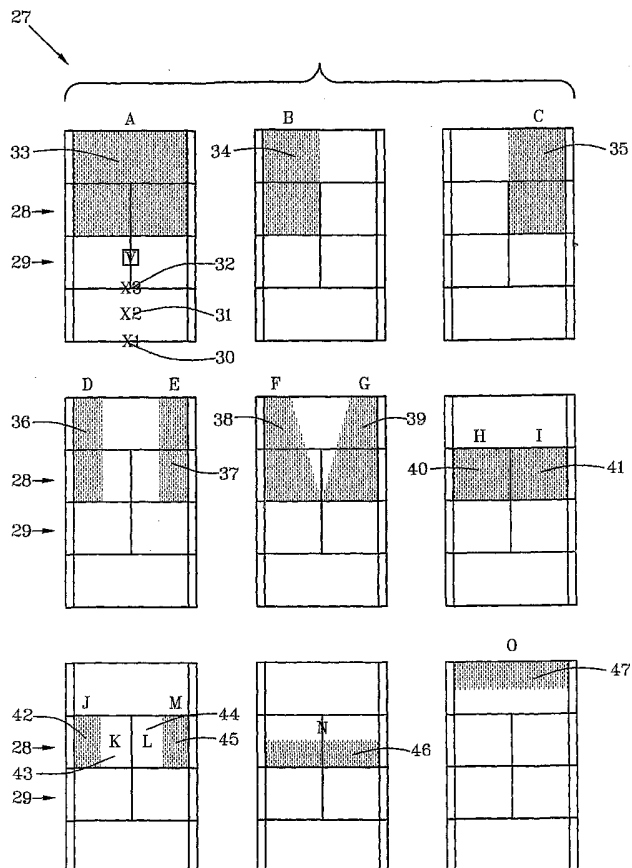
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(54) Title: COLOR-CODE SYSTEM OF RATING TENNIS SKILLS



(57) Abstract: A color-coded system of indicating professional evaluation of tennis skill of a person has emblems which include a plurality of skill-coded colors of color-coded-instrument emblems (1) or color-coded-background emblems (14) for display on tennis apparel, instruments and other items selectively. The emblem can include a plurality of coded colors or representations of preferably a tennis ball (25) or other tennis instrument in uniformly different-colored backgrounds. Optionally, the emblem can include uniformly colored representations of preferably a tennis ball or other tennis instrument in emblem backgrounds of a plurality of differently coded colors. The system is a combination of color-code indicia and a method of professional evaluation of players in accordance with a predetermined rating system that equals preferably zero-to-250 points for lowest-rated ability to highest-rated ability, respectively.



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COLOR-CODE SYSTEM OF RATING TENNIS SKILLS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method of professional evaluation of skill of a person and more particularly, a color-coded system for providing skill evaluation and incentive in the sport of tennis.

There is color-coding for the marshal arts and there are a wide variety of emblems of achievement, status and rank that are very effective for promoting other activities, but there is no known color-coding indicia and method for professionally rating skills in the sport of tennis in a manner taught by this invention.

Examples of most-closely related known but different coding for the sport of tennis are described in the following patent documents:

<u>Patent No.</u> (U.S. unless stated otherwise)	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
4,045,022	Grant, <i>et al.</i>	08/30/1977
4,711,633	Dombrowski	12/08/1987
5,816,953	Cleveland	01/06/1998
6,077,176	Poshadlo, Jr.	06/20/2000
4,948,372	Stoland	08/14/1990
4,596,389	Frankowski	06/24/1996
5,711,725	Bengtson	01/07/1998
4,170,352	Vcala	10/09/1979
3,933,355	Pearce	01/20/1976

This is a color-coded incentive-based system for promoting continual participation and enthusiasm among tennis players. Students and players of tennis will be motivated to advance to higher levels of skill through a desire to achieve an ultimate gold-ball emblem of professional evaluation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Objects of patentable novelty and utility taught by this invention are to provide a color-code system of rating tennis skills which:

- provides a publicly visible emblem of professional skill of an individual when playing tennis or participating in professional matches;

- adds attractiveness of an element of gradation of skill to the sport of tennis;

- increases popularity of the sport;

- tends to cause people to stay with it and to succeed in it after they start;

- adds another opportunity for professionally recognized personal success for people; and

- tends to increase the health and happiness of people.

This invention accomplishes these and other objectives with a color-code system of indicating professional evaluation of tennis skill of a person having a plurality of skill-coded colors of an emblem for display on tennis apparel, instruments and other items selectively. The emblem can include a plurality of coded colors of representations of preferably a tennis ball or other tennis instrument in uniformly differently colored backgrounds. Optionally, the emblem can include uniformly colored representations of preferably a tennis ball or other tennis instrument in backgrounds of a plurality of differently coded colors. The system is a combination of color-code indicia and a method of professional evaluation having steps that include: 1) marking a target side of a tennis court according to target-graded zones of individual strength of a tennis student required to hit a tennis ball to a selected target-graded zone of the target side of the tennis court from an ability-

graded distance from a return side of a tennis-court net; 2) evaluating the tennis student's ability to return-strike the tennis ball to a selected target-graded zone of the target side of the tennis-court net from the ability-graded distances for starter students, for intermediate students and for advanced students from the return side of the tennis-court net; 3) testing the tennis students forehand and backhand return abilities by serving a tennis ball from a central target-side end of the tennis court to the tennis student in the selectively return-graded zone; 4) testing the tennis student's abilities to volley, serve, drop-shoot, lob, rally and handle a racket for bounce control in accordance with predetermined point-grading; and 5) totaling points-of professional evaluation of the student in accordance with a predetermined rating system that equals preferably zero-to-250 points for lowest-rated ability to highest-rated ability, respectively.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

This invention is described by appended claims in relation to description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a first five of eight colored gradation sets of three color-coded tennis balls which are colored emblems of ratings of eight levels of tennis skills and are surrounded by an emblem background with a single background color;

FIG. 2 is a top view of a second three of the eight colored gradation sets of three color-coded tennis balls and one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the tennis skills with the second three gradation sets of three color-coded tennis balls being surrounded by the single background color and with the color-coded tennis balls of the one set of the two colored emblems being surrounded by two separate background colors;

FIG. 3 is a top view of a first five of eight uniformly colored tennis balls surrounded by emblem backgrounds having colored gradation sets of three color-coded emblem backgrounds which are colored emblems of color-coded ratings of a first five of eight levels of the tennis skills;

FIG. 4 is a top view of a second three of the eight uniformly colored sets of three uniformly colored tennis balls and one set of two of the uniformly colored tennis balls surrounded by emblem backgrounds which are colored emblems of color-coded ratings of a second three of the eight and one level of two of the tennis skills;

FIG. 5 is a top view of gradations of ratings of the eight levels of three and the one level of two tennis skills by points per skill level between zero points for a bottom rating in a first level and two-hundred-and-fifty points for a top rating in a ninth level;

FIG. 6 is a top view of nine tennis courts having a plurality of evaluation-target zones marked from-A-to-O for indicating where tennis balls are targeted to land on the target side of the net of a tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players from an X1 starting position, by X2 intermediate players from an X2 starting position and by X3 starters from an X3 starting position on a ball-hitting side of the net for evaluation of the players' tennis skills in accordance with the gradations of

ratings for the eight levels of three and the one level of two tennis skills by points per skill level; and

FIG. 7 is a top view of a point chart of numerical ratings of skills of achieving designated tennis feats.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Color-coded-instrument emblems | 25. Tennis ball |
| 2. Silver-grey tennis ball | 26. Gradational scoring points |
| 3. Silver-green background | 27. Tennis courts |
| 4. Golden-green tennis ball | 28. Target side |
| 5. Golden-grey background | 29. Ball-hitting side |
| 6. White tennis ball | 30. X1 starting position |
| 7. Yellow tennis ball | 31. X2 starting position |
| 8. Orange tennis ball | 32. X3 starting position |
| 9. Green tennis ball | 33. A |
| 10. Blue tennis ball | 34. B |
| 11. Red tennis ball | 35. C |
| 12. Brown tennis ball | 36. D |
| 13. Black tennis ball | 37. E |
| 14. Color-coded-background emblems | 38. F |
| 15. Silver-green emblem background | 39. G |
| 16. Golden-green emblem background | 40. H |
| 17. White emblem background | 41. I |
| 18. Yellow emblem background | 42. J |
| 19. Orange emblem background | 43. K |
| 20. Green emblem background | 44. L |
| 21. Blue emblem background | 45. M |
| 22. Red emblem background | 46. N |
| 23. Brown emblem background | 47. O |
| 24. Black emblem background | 48. Point chart |

Referring to **FIGS. 1-2**, a color-code system of rating tennis skills has a plurality of color-coded emblems that include color-coded-instrument emblems 1 which are color-coded in accordance with a predetermined rating of skills of tennis players to perform predetermined tennis feats which are evaluated by a Tennis Pro.

The color-coded emblems are made for attachment to tennis clothing, tennis instruments and other items selectively.

The color-coded emblems include an emblem image of a tennis instrument having one of a predetermined plurality of image colors surrounded by an emblem background that includes a uniform-color background of one or more background colors on each of the color-coded emblems. The tennis instrument includes a color-coded tennis ball and the plurality of image colors of the color-coded tennis balls are predetermined in accordance with a plurality of colored ratings of the skills of the tennis players to perform the predetermined tennis feats.

The colored ratings of the skills of the tennis players include eight colored gradation sets of three and one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills. The eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills each represent one level of nine levels of the skills successively intermediate a lowest level of emblem of rating for a first gradation set of three and a highest level of emblem of rating for the ninth gradation set of the two of the colored ratings of the skills.

The eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills are each assigned numerically graded evaluations of the skills intermediate a lowest rating of a level and a highest rating of a level of each of the nine levels of the skills. The emblem backgrounds of the color-coded skills each include a sequentially alphabetical letter intermediate a first and a last of the color-coded emblems of ratings for a total of twenty-six alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest color-coded emblem and a highest color-coded emblem.

The uniform-color background of the emblem backgrounds for levels of each of the nine levels of the color-coded skills include sequentially alphabetical letters

intermediate a lowest and a highest color-coded skill of each of the nine levels. The alphabetical letter of the lowest emblem of rating of the skills being "A" as shown in the top left corner of **FIG. 1** and the alphabetical letter of the highest emblem of rating of the skills being "Z" as shown in the bottom right corner of **FIG. 2**.

The emblem backgrounds of the eight levels of three emblems of color-coded skills is preferably a golden-grey hue, but can be selected from a plurality of predetermined grey hues and other colors. The eight colored gradation sets of three colored emblems of ratings each include separate colors that are predeterminedly contrasting to the uniform-colored background.

A first of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly silver-grey tennis ball **2**. The emblem background of the first of the two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills is a predeterminedly silver-green background **3**.

A second of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly golden-green tennis ball **4**. The emblem background of the second of the two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills is a predeterminedly golden-grey background **5**.

A first set of three of the colored emblems each include a white tennis ball **6**.

A second set of three of the colored emblems each include a yellow tennis ball **7**.

A third set of three of the colored emblems each include an orange tennis ball **8**.

A fourth set of three of the colored emblems each include a green tennis ball **9**.

A fifth set of three of the colored emblems each include a blue tennis ball **10**.

A sixth set of three of the colored emblems each include a red tennis ball **11**.

A seventh set of three of the colored emblems each include a brown tennis ball **12**.

An eighth set of three of the colored emblems each include a black tennis ball **13**.

The uniform-color background for each of the eight sets of three of the colored emblems is preferably the golden-grey background **5**.

Color coding of tennis skills within this invention includes a corresponding reciprocal of uniform colors of the tennis instruments in combination with pluralities of colors of emblem backgrounds. Also included are selections of pluralities of colors of either the tennis instrument in combination with a selection of single colors of emblem backgrounds or selections of pluralities of colors of the emblem backgrounds in combination with a selection of single colors of the tennis instrument that preferably is the tennis ball for color coding a selection of tennis skills.

Referring to **FIGS. 3-4**, the color-code system of rating tennis skills has a plurality of color-coded emblems that can include color-coded-background emblems **14** with color-coded emblem backgrounds which are color-coded in accordance with the predetermined ratings of skills of tennis players to perform the predetermined tennis feats which are evaluated by the Tennis Pro. The color-coded emblems are made for attachment to tennis clothing, tennis instruments and to other items selectively. The color-coded emblems can include an emblem image of the tennis ball **25** in a single predetermined image color surrounded by an emblem background having a separate one of a plurality of predetermined background colors. The separate one of the plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with the

plurality of coded-color ratings of the skills of the tennis players to perform the predetermined tennis feats.

The single image color of the tennis balls is predeterminedly yellow. The coded-color ratings of the skills of the tennis players include eight colored gradation sets of three and one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills. The eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills each represent one level of nine levels of the skills successively intermediate a lowest level of emblem of rating for a first gradation set of three and a highest level of emblem of rating for the ninth gradation set of the two of the colored ratings of the skills.

The eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two coded-color emblems of ratings of the skills each indicate numerically graded evaluations of the skills intermediate a lowest rating of a level and a highest rating of a level of each of the nine levels of the skills.

The emblem backgrounds of the color-coded skills each include a sequentially alphabetical letter intermediate a first and a last of the color-coded emblems of ratings for a total of twenty-six alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest color-coded emblem and a highest color-coded emblem. The emblem backgrounds of levels of each of the nine levels of the color-coded skills include sequentially alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest and a highest color-coded skill of each of the nine levels. The alphabetical letter of the lowest emblem of rating of the skills being "A" as shown in the top left corner of **FIG. 3** and the alphabetical letter of the highest emblem of rating of the skills being "Z" as shown in the bottom right corner of **FIG. 4**.

The plurality of colors of the emblem backgrounds of the eight levels of three emblems of color-coded skills and the one level of two emblems include separate colors that are predeterminedly contrasting to the predetermined yellow of the tennis ball **25**. A first of the one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly silver-green emblem background **15** and a second of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly golden-green emblem background **16** as shown at the bottom of **FIG. 4**.

A first set of three of the colored emblems each include a white emblem background **17**. A second set of three of the colored emblems each include a yellow emblem background **18**. A third set of three of the colored emblems each include an orange emblem background **19**. A fourth set of three of the colored emblems each include a green emblem background **20**. A fifth set of three of the colored emblems each include a blue emblem background **21**. A sixth set of three of the colored emblems each include a red emblem background **22**. A seventh set of three of the colored emblems each include a brown emblem background **23**. An eighth set of three of the colored emblems each include a black emblem background **24**.

Referring to **FIG. 5**, gradational scoring points **26** that are color coded as shown for the eight sets of three and one set of two of the color-coded-instrument emblems **1** that are alphabetically lettered sequentially A through Z with a tennis ball that is color-coded as shown in **FIGS. 1-2** and the color-coded-background emblems **14** that are alphabetically lettered A through Z with background emblems that are color coded as shown in **FIGS. 3-4** include:

- A: 0 to 34 points, B: 35 to 54 points, C: 55 to 69 points, White;
- D: 70 to 85 points, E: 86 to 95 points, F: 96 to 105 points, Yellow;
- G: 106 to 115 points, H: 116 to 123 points, I: 124 to 131 points, Orange;

J: 132 to 139 points, K: 140 to 147 points, L: 148 to 155 points, Green;
M: 156 to 163 points, N: 164 to 171 points, O: 172 to 179 points, Blue;
P: 180 to 187 points, Q: 181 to 188 points, R: 189 to 195 points, Red;
S: 196 to 202 points, T: 203 to 209 points, U: 210 to 216 points, Brown;
V: 217 to 223 points, W: 224 to 230 points, X: 231 to 236 points, Black;
Y: 237 to 243 points, Golden-grey and Z: 244 to 250 points, Golden-green.

Referring to **FIG. 6**, tennis courts **27** are prepared for evaluation of tennis skills by marking them off into a plurality of positioning-target zones designated predeterminedly by zone ropes or otherwise to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on a target side **28** of a net of the tennis court **27** when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side **29** of the net for determining starting positions for the X1 advanced players, for the X2 intermediate players and for the X3 starters.

The starting positions include an X1 starting position **30** proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side **29** of the net for the X1 players; an X2 starting position **31** proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side **29** of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side **29** of the net for the X2 players; and an X3 starting position **32** proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side **29** of the net for the respective players.

A plurality of evaluation-target zones indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on the target side **28** of the net of the tennis court **27** when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from the ball-hitting side **29** of the net for evaluation of the skills of the X1 advanced players, the

X2 intermediate players and the X3 starters at performing predetermined tennis feats from the starting positions.

For whichever of the color-coded emblems are used, the plurality of the evaluation-target zones include playing areas of the tennis court **27** designated by capital letters A **33**-through-O **47** in which:

A **33** is an entire target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

B **34** is a left half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

C **35** is a right half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

D **36** is a left half of the left half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

E **37** is a right half of the right half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

F **38** is the left half of the left half of the target side **28** of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-left corner of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

G **39** is the right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-right corner of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

H **40** is an inside half of the left half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

I **41** is an inside half of the right half of the target side **28** of the tennis court **27**;

J 42 is a left half of the inside half of the left half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27;

K 43 is a right half of the inside half of the left half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27;

L 44 is a left half of the inside half of the right half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27;

M 45 is a right half of the inside half of the right half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27;

N 46 is an inside half of the inside half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27; and

O 47 is an outside half of the outside half of the target side 28 of the tennis court 27.

Referring to FIGS. 6-7, the tennis feats include Ground Strokes, Volleys, Serves, Specialty Shots, Rallies and Racket Skills which are evaluated by the Tennis Pro according to the color-coded rating system for whichever of the color-coded emblems are used. The tennis feats have numerical ratings for their achievement.

The numerical ratings for Ground Strokes executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A 33-through-O 47 include:

Forehand (FH) to A 33 9 points

Backhand (BH) to A 33 9 points

Down The Line

FH or BH to B 34 9 points

FH or BH to C 35 9 points

FH or BH to D 36 9 points

FH or BH to E **37** 9 points

Cross Court

FH or BH to F **38** 9 points

FH or BH to G **39** 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Volleys executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

FH to A **33** 9 points

BH to A **33** 9 points

FH or BH to B **34** 9 points

FH or BH to C **35** 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Serves executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Serve to H **40** 9 points

Serve to I **41** 9 points

Serve to J **42** 9 points

Serve to K **43** 9 points

Serve to L **44** 9 points

Serve to M **45** 9 points

Overhead (OH)

OH Serve to A **33** 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Specialty Shots executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Drop Shot

FH and BH to N **46** 9 points

Lob

FH and BH to O **47** 9 points

Rally

FH to A **33** 10 points

BH to A **33** 10 points

FH or BH to B **34** 10 points

FH or BH to C **35** 10 points

FH and BH to A **35**

(Combined) 10 points; and

the numerical ratings for a Racket Skill Test executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Upward Bounce 11 points

TOTAL 250 Points.

The points for achieving these tennis feats are listed on a point chart **48**.

A method has the following steps for using the color-code system of rating tennis skills from the point chart **48**:

determining a player's starting position in accordance with the player's X1, X2 and X3 level of advancement;

testing and evaluating the player's forehand and backhand return abilities by serving a tennis ball from a central target-side end of the tennis court **27** to the player in the player's starting position in accordance with the predetermined point-grading;

testing and evaluating the player's abilities to volley, serve, drop-shoot, lob, rally and handle a racket for bounce control in accordance with the predetermined point-grading; and

totaling points of professional evaluation of the player in accordance with the predetermined rating system that equals zero-to-250 points for lowest-rated ability to highest-rated ability, respectively.

The point chart **48** can be supplemented with

- one point when the ball bounces three times inside of court lines;
- two points when the ball bounces twice inside of the court lines;
- three points when the ball bounces once inside of the court lines;
- three points for a drop shot when the ball stops inside of a target zone;
- two points for a drop shot when the ball bounces twice inside of the target zone;

one point for a drop shot when the ball bounces once inside of the target zone;

and

three points for a lob shot for hitting the target zone over a feeder's outstretched racket head.

A new and useful color-code system of rating tennis skills having been described, all such foreseeable modifications, adaptations, substitutions of equivalents, mathematical possibilities of combinations of parts, pluralities of parts, applications and forms thereof as described by the following claims and not precluded by prior art are included in this invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A color-code system of rating tennis skills comprising:
a plurality of color-coded emblems that include color-coded-instrument emblems which are color-coded in accordance with a predetermined rating of skills of tennis players to perform predetermined tennis feats; and
the color-coded emblems being made for attachment to tennis clothing, tennis instruments and other items selectively.
2. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 1 wherein:
the color-coded emblems include an emblem image of a tennis instrument having one of a predetermined plurality of image colors surrounded by an emblem background of one or more background colors; and
the plurality of image colors are predetermined in accordance with a plurality of colored ratings of the skills of the tennis players to perform the predetermined tennis feats.
3. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 2 wherein:
the tennis instrument includes a color-coded tennis ball.
4. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 3 wherein:
the colored ratings of the skills of the tennis players include eight colored gradation sets of three and one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills; and

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills each representing one level of nine levels of the skills successively intermediate a lowest level of emblem of rating for a first gradation set of three and a highest level of emblem of rating for the ninth gradation set of the two of the colored ratings of the skills.

5. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **4** wherein:

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills each include numerically graded evaluations of the skills intermediate a lowest rating of a level and a highest rating of a level of each of the nine levels of the skills.

6. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **5** wherein:

the emblem backgrounds of the color-coded skills each include a sequentially alphabetical letter intermediate a first and a last of the color-coded emblems of ratings for a total of twenty-six alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest color-coded emblem and a highest color-coded emblem;

the emblem backgrounds for levels of each of the nine levels of the color-coded skills include sequentially alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest and a highest color-coded skill of each of the nine levels;

the alphabetical letter of the lowest emblem of rating of the skills being "A"; and

the alphabetical letter of the highest emblem of rating of the skills being "Z".

7. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 6 wherein:
the emblem background of the eight levels of three emblems of color-coded skills is predeterminedly grey;
the eight colored gradation sets of three colored emblems of ratings each include separate colors that are predeterminedly contrasting to the predeterminedly grey emblem background;
a first of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly silver-grey tennis ball;
the emblem background of the first of the two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills is a predeterminedly silver-green background;
a second of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly golden-green tennis ball; and
the emblem background of the second of the two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills is a predeterminedly golden-grey background.

8. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 7 wherein:
a first set of three of the colored emblems each include a white tennis ball; a second set of three of the colored emblems each include a yellow tennis ball; a third set of three of the colored emblems each include an orange tennis ball; a fourth set of three of the colored emblems each include a green tennis ball; a fifth set of three of the colored emblems each include a blue tennis ball; a sixth set of three of the colored emblems each include a red tennis ball; a seventh set of three of the colored emblems each include a brown tennis ball; and an eighth set of three of the colored emblems each include a black tennis ball.

9. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 8 wherein:
gradational scoring points for the eight sets of three and one set of two
of the color-coded instrument emblems that are alphabetically lettered sequentially
A through Z with a tennis ball that is color-coded as indicated include

A: 0 to 34 points, B: 35 to 54 points, C: 55 to 69 points, White;
D: 70 to 85 points, E: 86 to 95 points, F: 96 to 105 points, Yellow;
G: 106 to 115 points, H: 116 to 123 points, I: 124 to 131 points,
Orange;
J: 132 to 139 points, K: 140 to 147 points, L: 148 to 155 points, Green;
M: 156 to 163 points, N: 164 to 171 points, O: 172 to 179 points, Blue;
P: 180 to 187 points, Q: 181 to 188 points, R: 189 to 195 points, Red;
S: 196 to 202 points, T: 203 to 209 points, U: 210 to 216 points,
Brown;
V: 217 to 223 points, W: 224 to 230 points, X: 231 to 236 points,
Black;
Y: 237 to 243 points, Golden-grey; and Z: 244 to 250 points, Golden-
green.

10. The color-code system or rating tennis skills of claim 1 and further
comprising:

a plurality of positioning-target zones designated predeterminedly by
zone ropes to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on a target side of a
net of a tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players
and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for determining starting

positions for the X1 advanced players, for the X2 intermediate players and for the X3 starters; and

the starting positions include an X1 starting position proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; an X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and an X3 starting position proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the players.

11. The color-code system or rating tennis skills of claim 9 and further comprising:

a plurality of evaluation-target zones to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on the target side of the net of the tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for evaluation of the skills of the X1 advanced players, the X2 intermediate players and the X3 starters at performing predetermined tennis feats from the starting positions which include the X1 starting position proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; the X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and the X3 starting position proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the players.

12. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 11 wherein:
the plurality of the evaluation-target zones include playing areas of the tennis court designated by capital letters A-through-O in which:

A is an entire target side of the tennis court;

B is a left half of the target side of the tennis court;

C is a right half of the target side of the tennis court;

D is a left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

E is a right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

F is the left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court, in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-left corner of the target side of the tennis court;

G is the right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-right corner of the target side of the tennis court;

H is an inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

I is an inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

J is a left half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

K is a right half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

L is a left half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

M is a right half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

N is an inside half of the inside half of the target side of the tennis court; and

O is an outside half of the outside half of the target side of the tennis court.

13. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 12 wherein:
the tennis feats include Ground Strokes, Volleys, Serves, Specialty Shots, Rallies and Racket Skills.

14. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 13 wherein:
the tennis feats have numerical ratings for their achievement;
the numerical ratings for Ground Strokes executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Forehand (FH) to A 9 points

Backhand (BH) to A 9 points

Down The Line

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points

FH or BH to D 9 points

FH or BH to E 9 points

Cross Court

FH or BH to F 9 points

FH or BH to G 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Volleys executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

FH to A 9 points

BH to A 9 points

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Serves executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players, and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Serve to H 9 points

Serve to I 9 points

Serve to J 9 points

Serve to K 9 points

Serve to L 9 points

Serve to M 9 points

Overhead (OH)

OH Serve to A 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Specialty Shots executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Drop Shot

FH and BH to N 9 points

Lob

FH and BH to O 9 points

Rally

FH to A 10 points

BH to A 10 points

FH or BH to B 10 points

FH or BH to C 10 points

FH and BH to A

(Combined) 10 points; and

the numerical ratings for a Racket Skill Test executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Upward Bounce 11 points

TOTAL 250 Points.

15. A color-code system of rating tennis skills comprising:

a plurality of color-coded emblems that include color-coded-background emblems which are color-coded in accordance with a predetermined ratings of skills of tennis players to perform predetermined tennis feats which are evaluated by a Tennis Pro;

the color-coded emblems being made for attachment to tennis clothing, tennis instruments and to other items selectively;

the color-coded emblems include an emblem image of a tennis ball in a single predetermined image color surrounded by an emblem background having a separate one of a plurality of predetermined background colors; and

the separate one of the plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with a plurality of coded-color ratings of the skills of the tennis players to perform the predetermined tennis feats.

16. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **15** wherein:

the single image color of the tennis balls is predeterminedly yellow.

17. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **16** wherein:

the coded-color ratings of the skills of the tennis players include eight colored gradation sets of three and one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills; and

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills each represent one level of nine levels of the skills successively intermediate a lowest level of emblem of rating for a first gradation set of three and a highest level of emblem of rating for the ninth gradation set of the two of the colored ratings of the skills.

18. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **17** wherein:

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two coded-color emblems of ratings of the skills each indicate numerically graded evaluations of the skills intermediate a lowest rating of a level and a highest rating of a level of each of the nine levels of the skills.

19. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **18** wherein:

- the emblem backgrounds of the color-coded skills each include a sequentially alphabetical letter intermediate a first and a last of the color-coded emblems of ratings for a total of twenty-six alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest color-coded emblem and a highest color-coded emblem;
- the emblem backgrounds of levels of each of the nine levels of the color-coded skills include sequentially alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest and a highest color-coded skill of each of the nine levels;
- the alphabetical letter of the lowest emblem of rating of the skills being “A”; and
- the alphabetical letter of the highest emblem of rating of the skills being “Z”.

20. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **19** wherein:

- the plurality of colors of the emblem backgrounds of the eight levels of three emblems of color-coded skills and the one level of two emblems include separate colors that are predeterminedly contrasting to the predeterminedly yellow of the tennis ball;
- a first of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly silvery-green emblem background; and
- a second of the set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills includes a predeterminedly golden-green emblem background.

21. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **20** wherein:

- a first set of three of the colored emblems each include a white emblem background;
- a second set of three of the colored emblems each include a yellow emblem background;
- a third set of three of the colored emblems each include an orange emblem background;
- a fourth set of three of the colored emblems each include a green emblem background;
- a fifth set of three of the colored emblems each include a blue emblem background;
- a sixth set of three of the colored emblems each include a red emblem background;
- a seventh set of three of the colored emblems each include a brown emblem background; and
- an eighth set of three of the colored emblems each include a black emblem background.

22. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **21** wherein:

- gradational scoring points for the eight sets of three and one set of two of the color-coded-background emblems that are alphabetically lettered sequentially A through Z with an emblem background that is color-coded as indicated include

- A: 0 to 34 points, B: 35 to 54 points, C: 55 to 69 points, White;
- D: 70 to 85 points, E: 86 to 95 points, F: 96 to 105 points, Yellow;

G: 106 to 115 points, H: 116 to 123 points, I: 124 to 131 points, Orange;
J: 132 to 139 points, K: 140 to 147 points, L: 148 to 155 points, Green;
M: 156 to 163 points, N: 164 to 171 points, O: 172 to 179 points, Blue;
P: 180 to 187 points, Q: 181 to 188 points, R: 189 to 195 points, Red;
S: 196 to 202 points, T: 203 to 209 points, U: 210 to 216 points, Brown;
V: 217 to 223 points, W: 224 to 230 points, X: 231 to 236 points, Black;
Y: 237 to 243 points, Silver-green; and Z: 244 to 250 points, Golden-green.

23. The color-code system or rating tennis skills of claim **15** and further comprising:

a plurality of positioning-target zones designated predeterminedly by zone ropes to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on a target side of a net of a tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for determining starting positions for the X1 advanced players, for the X2 intermediate players and for the X3 starters; and

the starting positions include an X1 starting position proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; an X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and an X3 starting position proximate the

centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players.

24. The color-code system or rating tennis skills of claim **23** and further comprising:

a plurality of evaluation-target zones to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on the target side of the net of the tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for evaluation of the skills of the X1 advanced players, the X2 intermediate players and the X3 starters at performing predetermined tennis feats from the starting positions which include the X1 starting position proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; the X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and the X3 starting position proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players.

25. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim **24** wherein:
the plurality of the evaluation-target zones include areas designated by capital letters A-through-O in which:

A is an entire target side of the tennis court;

B is a left half of the target side of the tennis court;

C is a right half of the target side of the tennis court;

D is a left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

E is a right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

F is the left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-left corner of the target side of the tennis court;

G is the right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-right corner of the target side of the tennis court;

H is an inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

I is an inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

J is a left half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

K is a right half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

L is a left half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

M is a right half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

N is an inside half of the inside half of the target side of the tennis court; and

O is an outside half of the outside half of the target side of the tennis court.

26. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 25 wherein:
the tennis feats include Ground Strokes, Volleys, Serves, Specialty Shots, Rallies and Racket Skills.

27. The color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 26 wherein:
the tennis feats have numerical ratings for their achievement;
the numerical ratings for Ground Strokes executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include:

Forehand (FH) to A 9 points

Backhand (BH) to A 9 points

Down The Line

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points

FH or BH to D 9 points

FH or BH to E 9 points

Cross Court

FH or BH to F 9 points

FH or BH to G 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Volleys executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

FH to A 9 points

BH to A 9 points

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Serves executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Serve to H 9 points

Serve to I 9 points

Serve to J 9 points

Serve to K 9 points

Serve to L 9 points

Serve to M 9 points

Overhead (OH)

OH Serve to A 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Specialty Shots executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Drop Shot

FH and BH to N 9 points

Lob

FH and BH to O 9 points

Rally

FH to A 10 points

BH to A 10 points

FH or BH to B 10 points

FH or BH to C 10 points

FH and BH to A

(Combined) 10 points; and

the numerical ratings for a Racket Skill Test executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Upward Bounce 11 points

TOTAL 250 Points.

28. A color-code system of rating tennis skills comprising:

a plurality of emblems that are color-coded in accordance with a predetermined ratings of skills of tennis players to perform predetermined tennis feats which are evaluated by a Tennis Pro;

the emblems being made for attachment to tennis clothing, tennis instruments and to other items selectively;

the color-coded emblems each including an emblem image and an emblem background,

the color-coded emblems having eight colored gradation sets of three and one set of two contrasting colors of the emblem image and the emblem background;

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of the ratings of the skills each representing one level of nine levels of the skills successively intermediate a lowest level of emblem of rating for a first gradation set of three and a highest level of emblem of rating for the ninth gradation set of the two of the colored ratings of the skills;

the eight colored gradation sets of three and the one set of two colored emblems of ratings of the skills each include numerically graded evaluations of the skills intermediate a lowest rating of a level and a highest rating of a level of each of the nine levels of the skills;

the emblem backgrounds of the color-coded skills each include a sequentially alphabetical letter intermediate a first and a last of the color-coded emblems of ratings for a total of twenty-six alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest color-coded emblem and a highest color-coded emblem;

the emblem backgrounds for levels of each of the nine levels of the color-coded skills include sequentially alphabetical letters intermediate a lowest and a highest color-coded skill of each of the nine levels;

the alphabetical letter of the lowest emblem of rating of the skills being "A";

the alphabetical letter of the highest emblem of rating of the skills being "Z";

scoring points for the eight sets of three and one set of two of the color-coded emblems that are alphabetically lettered sequentially A through Z with a tennis ball that is color-coded as indicated include

A: 0 to 34 points, B: 35 to 54 points, C: 55 to 69 points, White;

D: 70 to 85 points, E: 86 to 95 points, F: 96 to 105 points, Yellow;

G: 106 to 115 points, H: 116 to 123 points, I: 124 to 131 points, Orange;

J: 132 to 139 points, K: 140 to 147 points, L: 148 to 155 points, Green;

M: 156 to 163 points, N: 164 to 171 points, O: 172 to 179 points, Blue;

P: 180 to 187 points, Q: 181 to 188 points, R: 189 to 195 points, Red;

S: 196 to 202 points, T: 203 to 209 points, U: 210 to 216 points,
Brown;

V: 217 to 223 points, W: 224 to 230 points, X: 231 to 236 points,
Black;

Y: 237 to 243 points, Golden-grey and Z: 244 to 250 points, Golden-
green;

a plurality of positioning-target zones designated predeterminedly by zone ropes to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on a target side of a net of a tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for determining starting positions for the X1 advanced players, for the X2 intermediate players and for the X3 starters;

the starting positions include an X1 starting position proximate a centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; an X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and an X3 starting position proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the players;

a plurality of evaluation-target zones to indicate where tennis balls are targeted to land on the target side of the net of the tennis court when hit by X1 advanced players, by X2 intermediate players and by X3 starters from a ball-hitting side of the net for evaluation of the skills of the X1 advanced players, the X2 intermediate players and the X3 starters at performing predetermined tennis feats from the starting positions which include the X1 starting position proximate a

centerline and on a far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X1 players; the X2 starting position proximate the centerline and midway intermediate the far edge of the ball-hitting side of the net and a far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the X2 players; and the X3 starting position proximate the centerline and on the far edge of the front court of the ball-hitting side of the net for the players;

the plurality of the evaluation-target zones include playing areas of the tennis court designated by capital letters A-through-O in which;

A is an entire target side of the tennis court;

B is a left half of the target side of the tennis court;

C is a right half of the target side of the tennis court;

D is a left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

E is a right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

F is the left half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-left corner of the target side of the tennis court;

G is the right half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court in addition to a right-triangular area having a hypotenuse intermediate a diagonal from the centerline at proximate the net to a far target-side end of the tennis court midway between the centerline and a far-right corner of the target side of the tennis court;

H is an inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

I is an inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

J is a left half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

K is a right half of the inside half of the left half of the target side of the tennis court;

L is a left half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

M is a right half of the inside half of the right half of the target side of the tennis court;

N is an inside half of the inside half of the target side of the tennis court;

O is an outside half of the outside half of the target side of the tennis court;

the tennis feats include Ground Strokes, Volleys, Serves, Specialty Shots, Rallies and Racket Skills;

the tennis feats have numerical ratings for their achievement;

the numerical ratings for Ground Strokes executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Forehand (FH) to A 9 points

Backhand (BH) to A 9 points

Down The Line

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points

FH or BH to D 9 points

FH or BH to E 9 points

Cross Court

FH or BH to F 9 points

FH or BH to G 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Volleys executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

FH to A 9 points

BH to A 9 points

FH or BH to B 9 points

FH or BH to C 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Serves executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Serve to H 9 points

Serve to I 9 points

Serve to J 9 points

Serve to K 9 points

Serve to L 9 points

Serve to M 9 points

Overhead (OH)

OH Serve to A 9 points;

the numerical ratings for Specialty Shots executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Drop Shot

FH and BH to N 9 points

Lob

FH and BH to O 9 points

Rally

FH to A 10 points

BH to A 10 points

FH or BH to B 10 points

FH or BH to C 10 points

FH and BH to C

(Combined) 10 points; and

the numerical ratings for a Racket Skill Test executed from starting positions for the X1 players, for the X2 players and for the X3 players, respectively, to the indicated target areas A-through-O include

Upward Bounce 11 points

TOTAL 250 Points.

29. A method having the following steps for using the color-code system of rating tennis skills of claim 28:

determining a player's starting position in accordance with the player's X1, X2 and X3 level of advancement;

testing and evaluating the player's forehand and backhand return abilities by serving a tennis ball from a central target-side end of the tennis court to the player in the player's starting position in accordance with the predetermined point-grading;

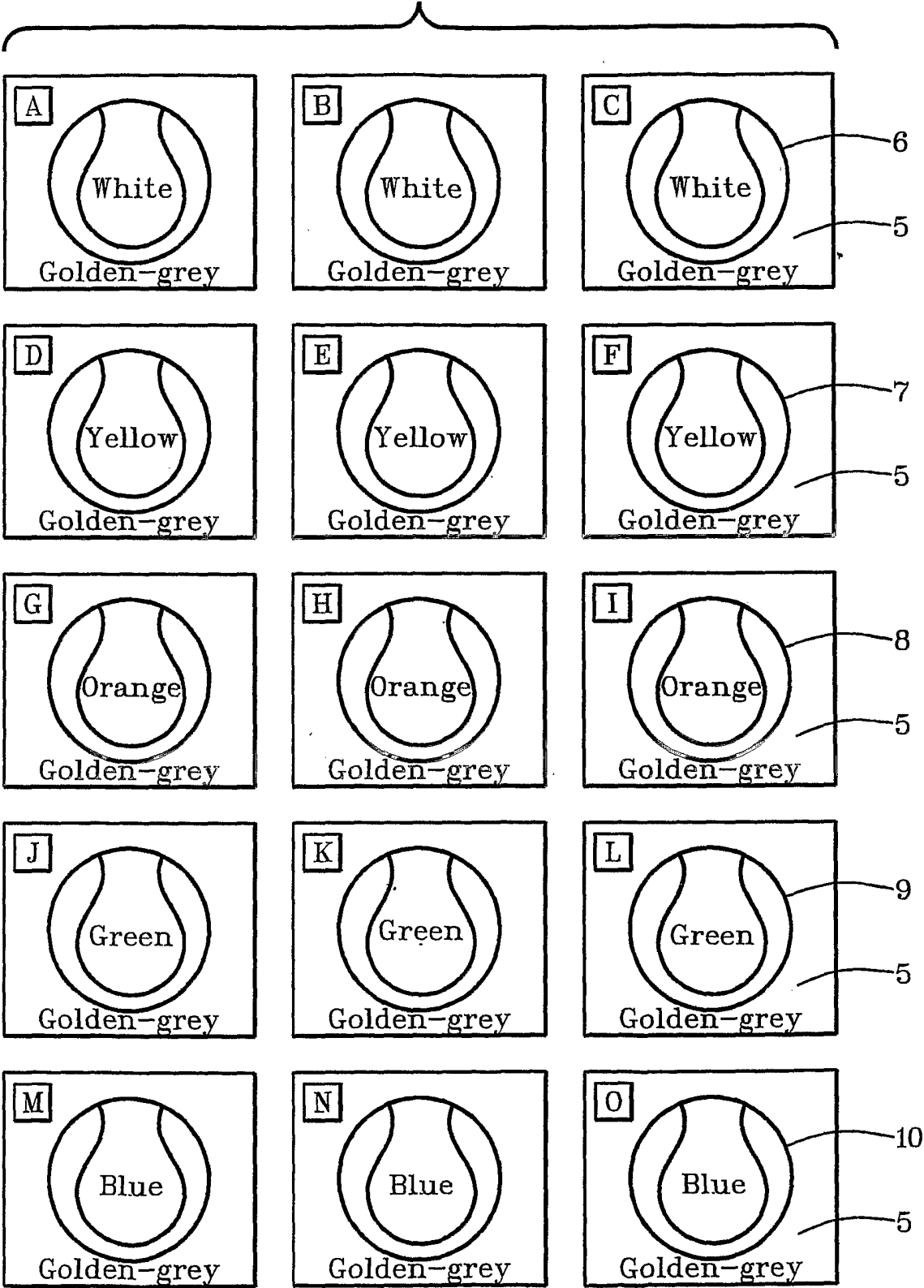
testing and evaluating the player's abilities to volley, serve, drop-shoot, lob, rally and handle a racket for bounce control in accordance with the predetermined point-grading; and

totaling points of professional evaluation of the player in accordance with the predetermined rating system that equals zero-to-250 points for lowest-rated ability to highest-rated ability, respectively.

- 30.** The method of Claim **29** and further comprising the scoring points:
- one point when the ball bounces three times inside of court lines;
 - two points when the ball bounces twice inside of the court lines;
 - three points when the ball bounces once inside of the court lines;
 - three points for a drop shot when the ball stops inside of a target zone;
 - two points for a drop sot when the ball bounces twice inside of the target zone;
 - one point for a drop shot when the ball bounces once inside of the target zone; and
 - three points for a lob shot for hitting the target zone over a feeder's outstretched racket head.

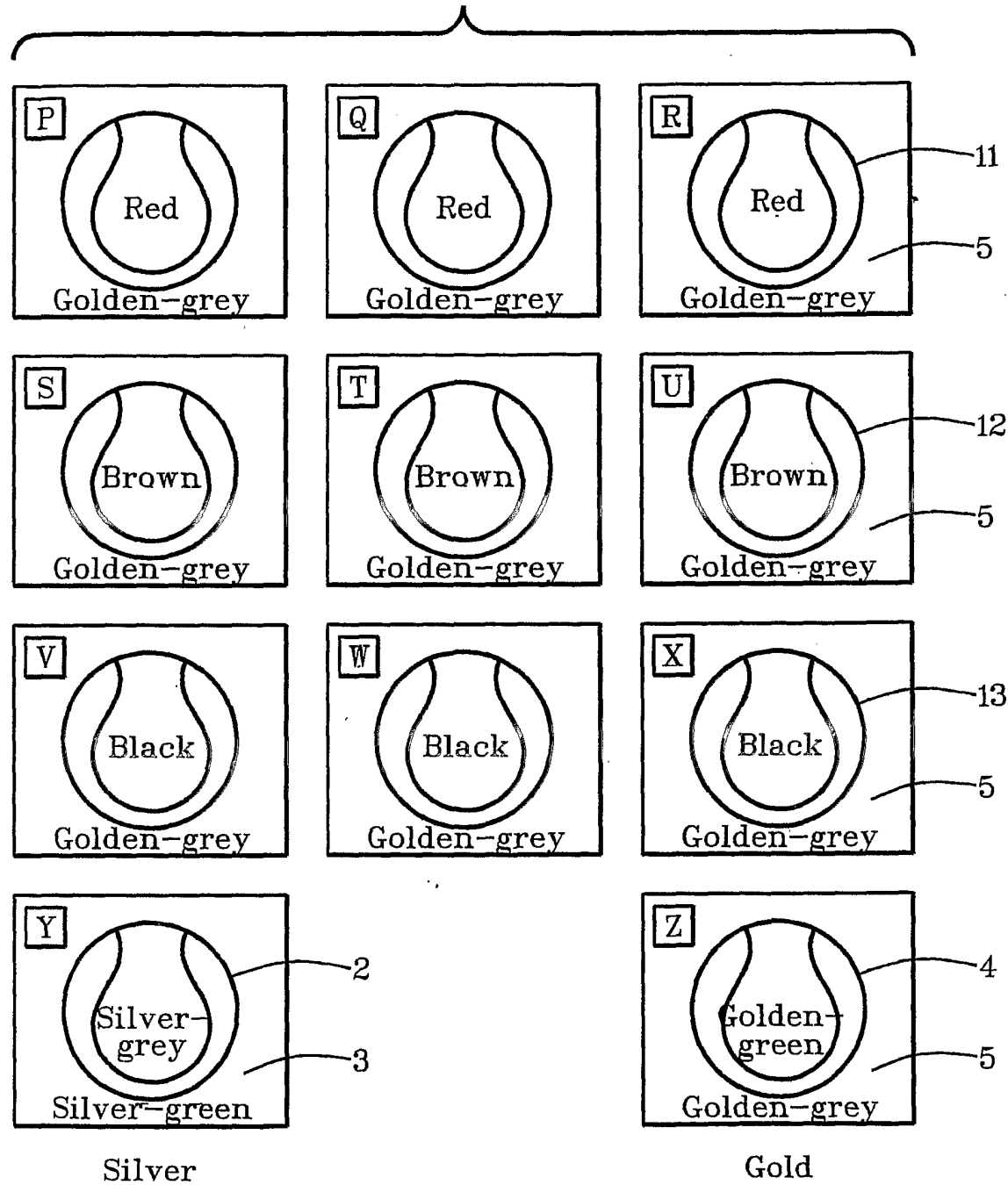


FIG. 1



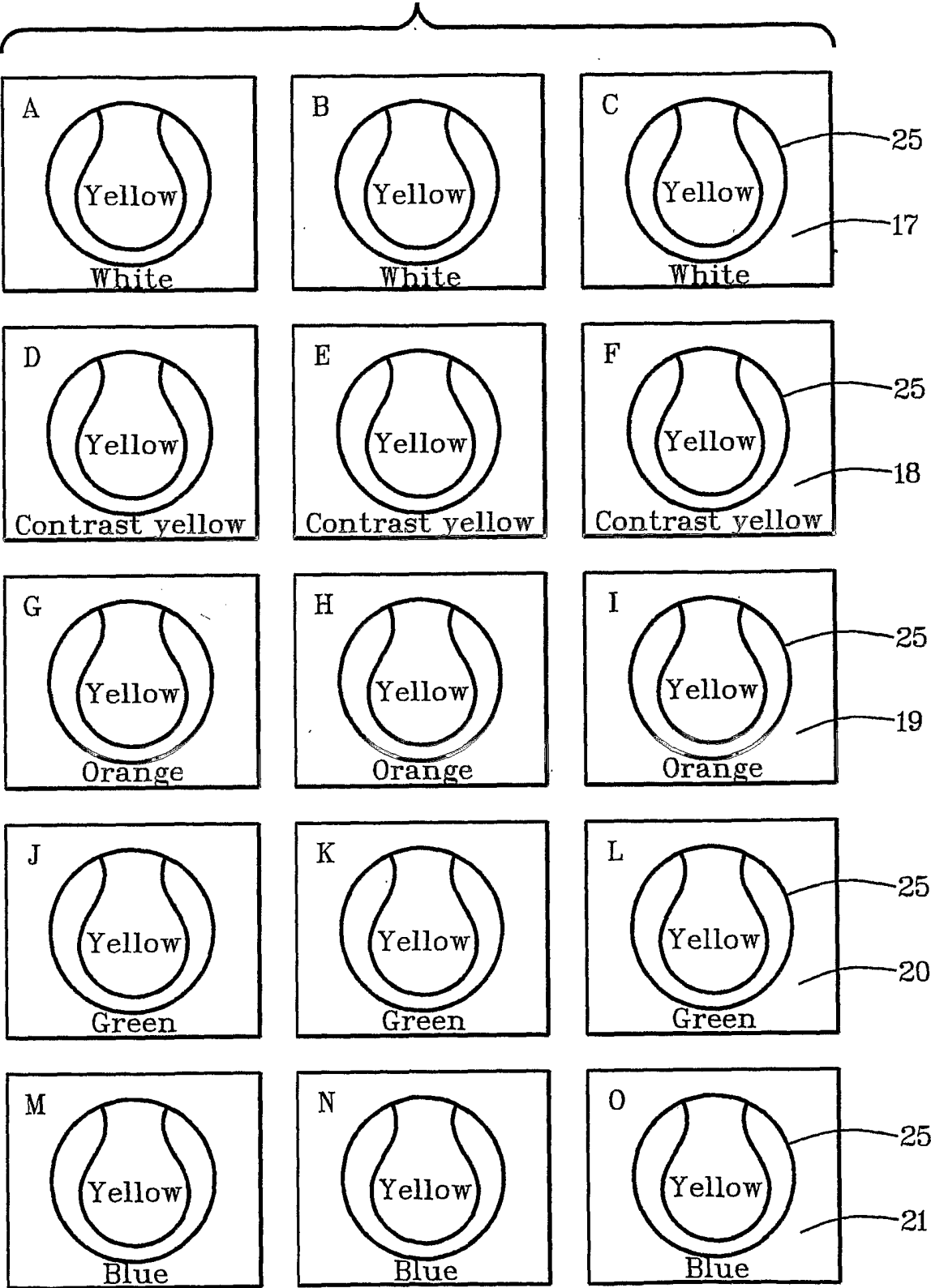
1

FIG. 2



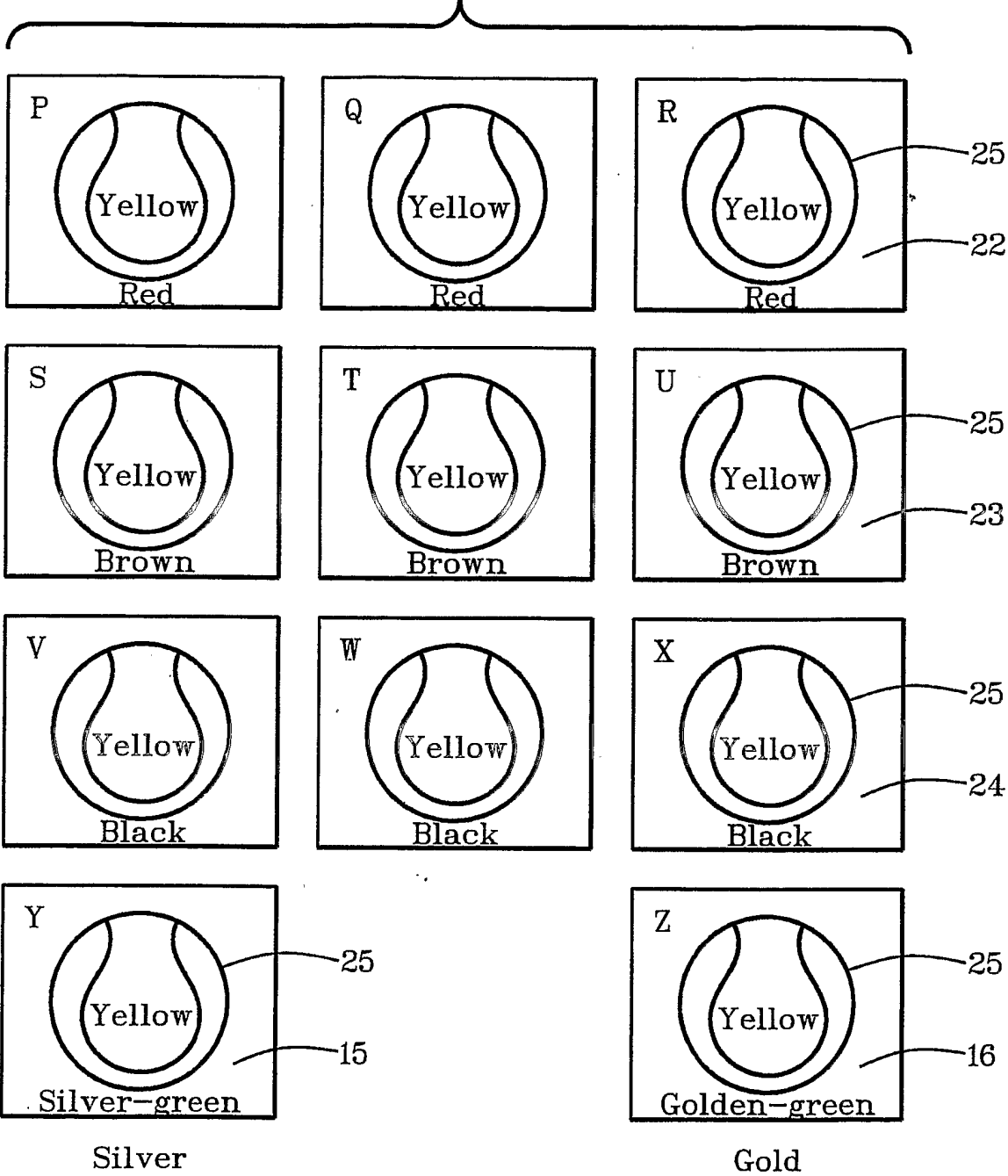
14

FIG. 3



14

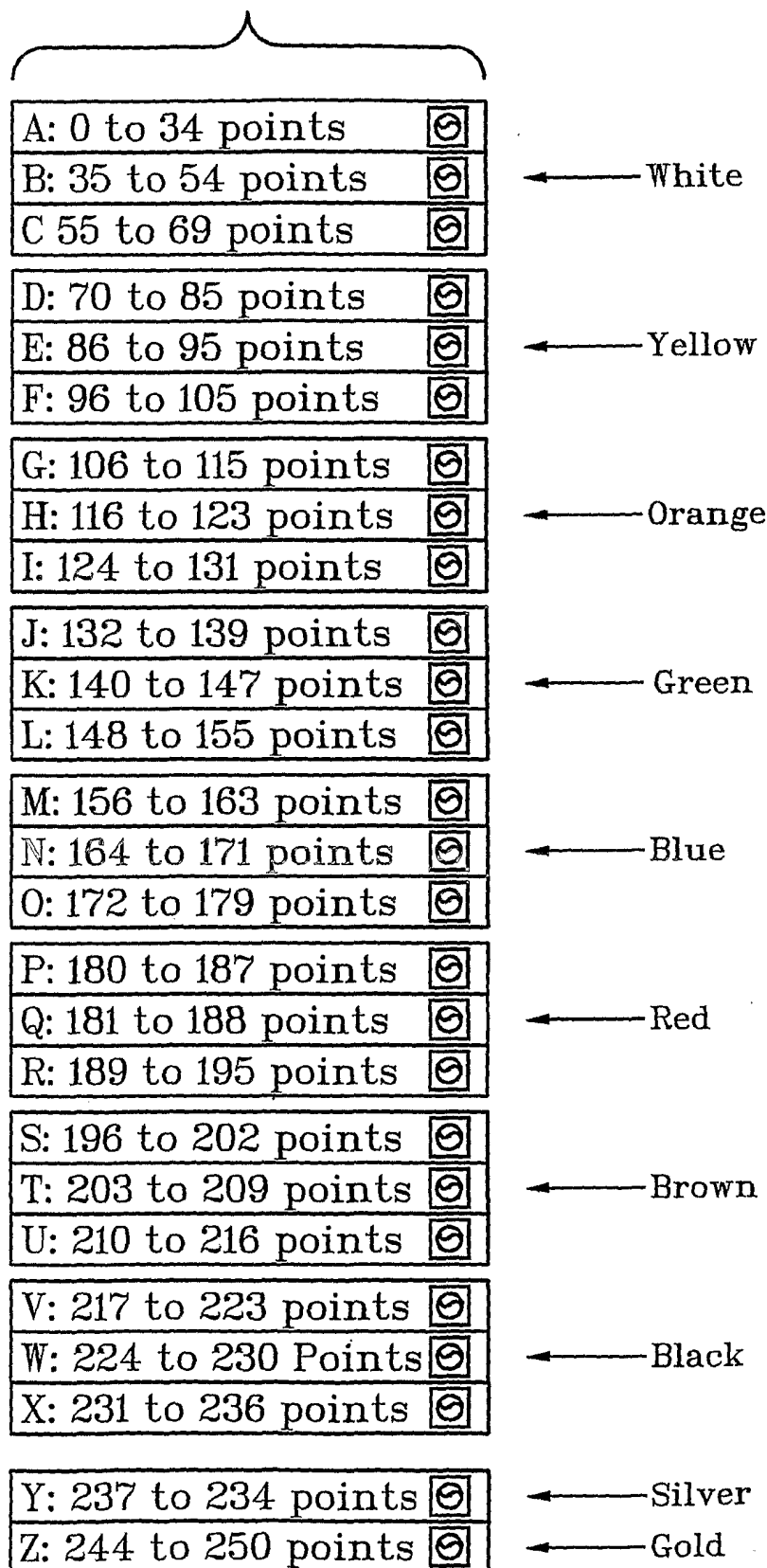
FIG. 4



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FIG. 5

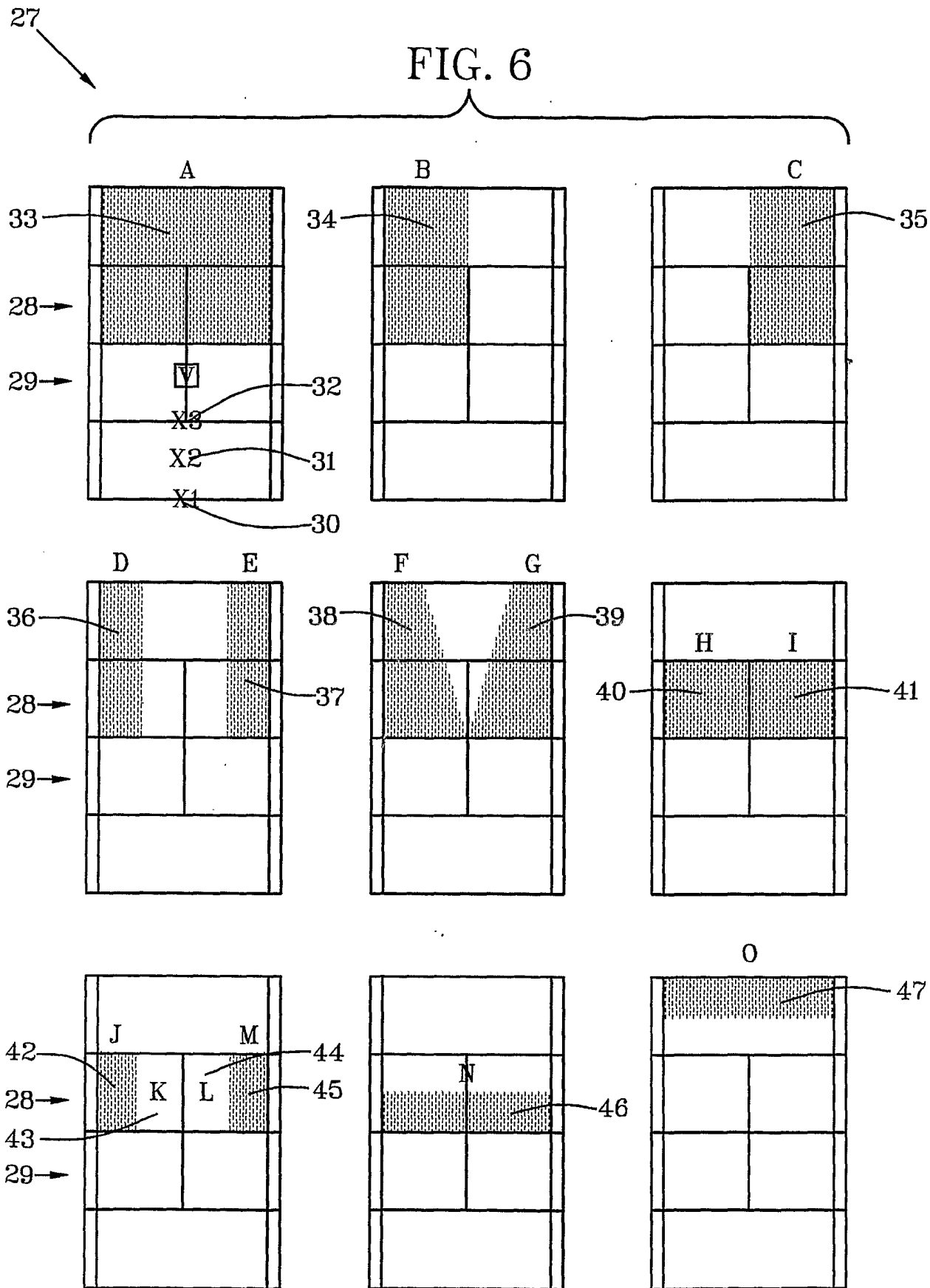
26



A: 0 to 34 points	☉	
B: 35 to 54 points	☉	← White
C: 55 to 69 points	☉	
D: 70 to 85 points	☉	
E: 86 to 95 points	☉	← Yellow
F: 96 to 105 points	☉	
G: 106 to 115 points	☉	
H: 116 to 123 points	☉	← Orange
I: 124 to 131 points	☉	
J: 132 to 139 points	☉	
K: 140 to 147 points	☉	← Green
L: 148 to 155 points	☉	
M: 156 to 163 points	☉	
N: 164 to 171 points	☉	← Blue
O: 172 to 179 points	☉	
P: 180 to 187 points	☉	
Q: 181 to 188 points	☉	← Red
R: 189 to 195 points	☉	
S: 196 to 202 points	☉	
T: 203 to 209 points	☉	← Brown
U: 210 to 216 points	☉	
V: 217 to 223 points	☉	
W: 224 to 230 Points	☉	← Black
X: 231 to 236 points	☉	
Y: 237 to 234 points	☉	← Silver
Z: 244 to 250 points	☉	← Gold

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FIG. 6



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FIG. 7

	Points
GROUND STROKES	Forehand (FH) to A 9
	Backhand (BH) to A 9
	Down the Line
	FH or BH to B 9
	FH or BH to C 9
	FH or BH to D 9
	FH or BH to E
	Cross Court 9
	FH or BH to F 9
	FH or BH to G 9
VOLLEYS	FH to A 9
	BH to A 9
	FH or BH to B 9
	FH or BH to C 9
SERVES	Serve to H 9
	Serve to I 9
	Serve to J 9
	Serve to K 9
	Serve to L 9
	Serve to M 9
	Serve OH to A 9
SPECIALTY SHOTS	Drop Shot FH and BH to N 9
	Lob FH and BH to O 9
	Rally FH to A 10
	Rally BH to A 10
	Rally FH or BH to B 10
	Rally FH or BH to C 10
	Rally FH and BH to A
	(combined) 10
RACKET SKILL TEST	Upward Bounce 11
	TOTAL 250

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/003729

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A63B71/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A63B A63C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 86/05108 A (SZEDRESSY IVAN) 12 September 1986 (1986-09-12) the whole document ---	10,11, 23,24, 28,29
X	EP 0 815 904 A (CLEVELAND WILLIAM C) 7 January 1998 (1998-01-07) column 2, line 57 -column 4, line 48 column 6, line 32 - line 48 column 11, line 58 -column 12, line 6; figures ---	10,11, 23,24, 28,29
X	US 6 135 456 A (COOPER STEPHEN R) 24 October 2000 (2000-10-24) column 1, line 62 -column 2, line 15 column 6, line 35 - line 49; figures --- -/--	10,11, 23,24, 28,29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/07/2004

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Squeri, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/003729

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 070 018 A (HODGES KENNETH M) 24 January 1978 (1978-01-24) column 1, line 33 -column 2, line 14; figures ----	10,11, 23,24, 28,29
X	US 5 709 620 A (REINPRECHT CHRISTINE K) 20 January 1998 (1998-01-20) column 2, line 26 -column 3, line 3; figures ----	10,11, 23,24, 28,29
A	DE 199 46 798 A (KOEHLER THOMAS ;WANDEL MARLO (DE)) 14 September 2000 (2000-09-14) -----	
A	US 5 638 300 A (JOHNSON LEE E) 10 June 1997 (1997-06-10) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2004/003729

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-9, 12-22, 25-27, 30
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
A meaningful search is not possible on the basis of the claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-27, 30 because these claims are directed to a mere presentation of information (Rule 39.1(v) PCT).
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/003729

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