Jan. 8, 1935. H. C. PEARSON 1,986,941

COURT TAPE FOR GAMES

Filed Oct. 11, 1933

FIG. 1.

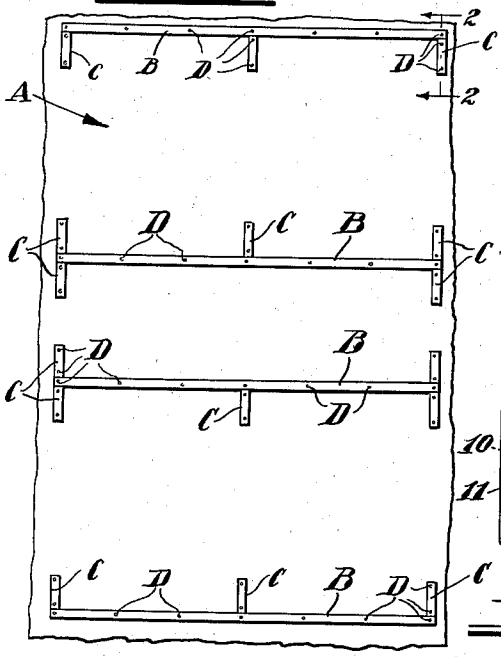


FIG. 2.

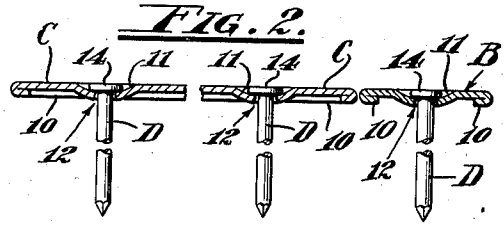


FIG. 3.

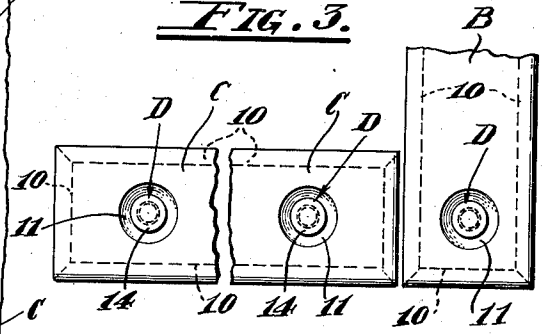


FIG. 5.

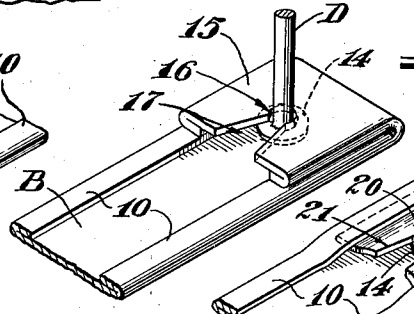


FIG. 4.

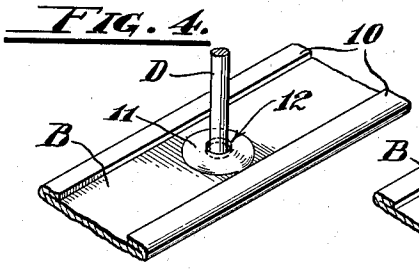


FIG. 6.

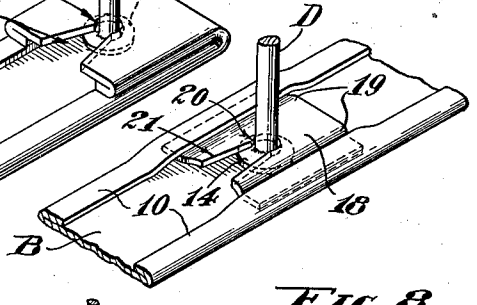


FIG. 7.

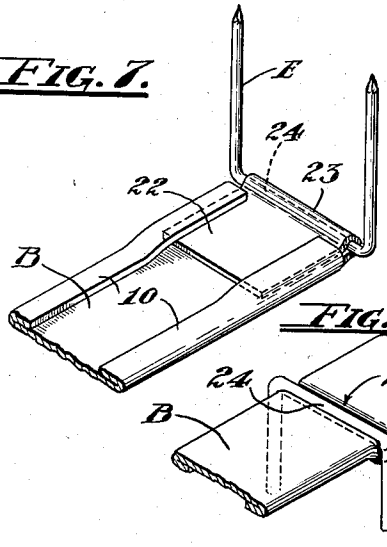


FIG. 8.

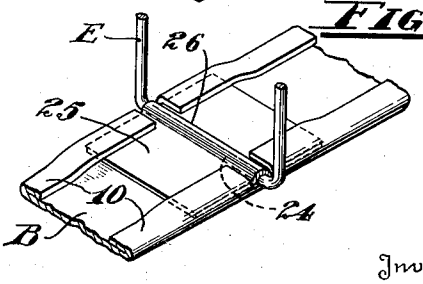


FIG. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,986,941

COURT TAPE FOR GAMES

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Application October 11, 1933, Serial No. 693,108

5 Claims. (Cl. 273—31)

My invention, specifically relates to an improved tape for laying out the court in such games as shuffle ball, badminton, and tennis.

In its principal object, the invention embraces a metallic tape in substitution for the common cotton tape universally employed for said purpose.

An important object is the provision of a tape that will withstand the common defects of cotton tape in that it is proof against mildew, fungi and insect pests, common to any product of the textile art when left to the elements, and/or otherwise subjected to the hard treatment the tape is subjected to on the playing field.

Manufactured from a practically non-corroding material, light in weight but substantially serviceable for the uses intended, another important object of my invention is the production of a court tape that will withstand constant use for long periods of time and thus materially enhance the invention as an economic factor in contrast to the frequent replacement costs entailed in the use of cotton tape for court purposes. Moreover, having independent ground or lawn engaging means, it is the more easily attached than any metallic tape having integral sharp-pointed prongs as an attaching means.

Another important feature of the present invention is that it readily adapts itself to many satisfactory designs for ground or lawn attachment, being readily cut to desired length and shape.

A further important object of the invention is that it may be form fitted to varying designs, as in its adaptation to shuffle ball courts, for example, and when so laid, positively retains its form irrespective of the amount of play and players' actions it is subjected to.

A still further important object is that the court tape is quickly placed into position for use, will not stretch out of shape and loosen as is customary with cotton tape, lies taut under all conditions of weather and play, and offers no obstacle or obstruction to the free movement of the ball.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a court tape which will at all times and under all conditions remain absolutely close to the attaching surface, thus, when attached to a lawn, permitting close operation of the lawn mower when mowing the lawn, experience having amply demonstrated the fact that a lawn may be closely mowed without the mower as much as contacting the court tape. This is of paramount importance for well kept lawns.

Another important object of the invention is that when used to form the court of an indoor game, its weight automatically obviates the necessity of any attaching means, and thus providing a substantially satisfactory indoor court in which the floor need not be damaged by any attaching means.

Other important objects of the invention not herein specifically enumerated will readily present themselves as the present invention is more definitely understood, all of which objects I attain by the herein described specification of my court tape, and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a skeleton type of shuffle ball court wherein the tape comprising my improved invention is in part, but partially extended to complete the court enclosure, as shown;

Figure 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary plan view of Fig. 2;

Figure 4 is an isometrical view showing the tape inverted; taken at one of the mid attaching points;

Figure 5 is an isometrical view showing a modified form of end construction of the tape attaching means;

Figure 6 being a similar view showing said modification adapted to the mid section of the tape;

Figure 7 is an isometrical view showing a further end modification of the tape attaching means;

Figure 8 being a similar view showing said modification adapted to the mid section of the tape, and

Figure 9 is an isometrical view typifying transverse recesses to receive a pin means or other attaching means such as the staple shown.

Similar numerals and letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views, the letter "A" thus indicating the ground or lawn constituting the playing field, "B" the full length surface base sections of tape in a skeleton court adapted to the game of shuffle ball, "C" short length surface base sections making up the same court, and "D" a pin attaching means for securing the tape to the playing surface. Numeral 10 indicates flanges formed by bending the sides of the tape upon themselves. This serves a threefold purpose. 1st it strengthens the tape as a whole, 2nd, provides additional stiffness to assure the tapes lying taut, and 3rd, provides a finished edge as a measure of safety to guard against accidental cutting of the hand in handling the tape and may even be said to provide a 4th purpose

in that it greatly enhances the appearance of the tape.

11 comprises a depression in the body portion of the base comprising the tape proper. It serves to confine the pin head 14 and retain it flush with the uppermost portion of the tape, the pin proper extending through a hole 12, the tape as disclosed in Fig. 5 being bent upon itself as at 15, said bent back portion having a hole 16 and an engaging tapered slot 17 forming a recess wherein the pin is slidably and disengagingly brought into contact with the hole and affording a means for attaching the tape to the playing field.

To provide proper mid sectional attaching means, separate sectional elements 18 are securely held to the tape proper by gripping them under and between the tape flanges 10, the sectional element 18 being formed with a raised shoulder 19 to provide clearance for the reception of a pin head 14, the pin engaging element 18 through a hole 20 and is slidably positioned therein by means of the recess formed by the engaging slot 21.

In the modified form described in Fig. 7, a separate end member or tab 22 is secured to the tape by gripping between the underside of the tape flanges, said tab 22 being bent upon itself to form a rolled or tubular opening 23 wherein the U shaped staple "E" is pivotally secured to the tab by the staple head, a somewhat similar element 25 having a depressed centrally affixed portion 26 for pivotally engaging the staple head 24 is secured where desired along the tape proper by means of the tape flanges 10, a further modification being disclosed in Fig. 9 wherein the tape "B" is provided with a recess portion 27 to accommodate the staple head 24, the latter when thus engaged, substantially filling the recess 27 so as to provide a practically continuous unbroken surface of the tape proper, it being understood that as many mid sectional elements regardless of type are employed as appear necessary by the length of the tape strips to securely hold the same in close contact with the surface area of the playing field upon which the court is formed, the attaching means being readily removable or swung out of the way so as to lie flat with the tape in order to reduce the bulk and for ease in packing and carriage.

It is obvious that the varying types of modifications of tape attaching means herein disclosed under certain conditions may excel each other, and that other modifications may from time to time readily suggest themselves.

As a practical article of manufacture, it is also apparent that my improved metallic tape may readily be constructed of material obtainable in the open market and at very little expense, thereby providing a game court tape not only low in its initial cost, but economical in continuous use.

I am aware that modifications may from time to time be made in the details of construction for the purpose of further improving the serviceability of the invention without departing, however, from the scope of the present disclosure. Hence, I do not limit my present invention to the exact description of construction herein disclosed, but what I do claim as new and novel is:—

1. In an article of the class described, a sectional metallic surface base element having its sides turned upon themselves forming flanges, a tab secured thereby, said tab having a rolled or tubular staple attaching portion, a U shaped staple having mutually parallel leg portions and a head portion, said head portion pivotally engaging said tubular staple attaching portion and whereby said mutually parallel leg portions of said staple are adaptable to secure said sectional metallic surface base element to the surface of the game playing field to comprise the game court.

2. In an article of the class described, a sectional metallic surface base element comprising a tape adapted to form a game court, said element having its sides turned upon themselves to form flanged sides and having a body portion therebetween, a mid sectional tab element having a rolled or tubular portion midway thereof, said mid sectional element secured to said sectional surface base element by gripping between said flanged sides, a staple pivotally mounted in said roller or tubular tab portion and having its leg members in swinging radius with relation to said tape, said staple comprising a means whereby said tape is secured to the playing field to provide the game court.

3. In an article of the class described, a sectional metallic surface base comprising a tape adapted to form a game court, said base having inturned flanged sides, end and mid sectional staple attaching tabs having a depression formed integral therein and adapted to pivotably receive a staple having mutually parallel legs, a staple having mutually parallel legs, said staple in engagement with said depression formed in said tabs and said mid sectional tabs secured to said metallic surface base by gripping the same under the inturned sides forming the flanged sides of said metallic surface base.

4. In an article of the class described, a metallic tape for forming game courts, comprising a sectional base element having its sides turned upon themselves forming flanges, mid sectional tabs secured thereto by gripping between said upturned sides forming said flanges, said mid sectional tabs having a depression integrally thereof and adapted to receive a staple in pivoted engagement therewith, said staple adapted to secure said tape to the playing field in forming said game court.

5. In an article of the class described, a sectional metallic longitudinal body comprising a surface layout means for forming game playing courts, and having its longitudinal body inturned intermediate its sides, and upon itself to form side flanges and leaving a body portion therebetween, metallic tab members secured in fixed engagement to said body portion by said formed inturned flanged sides of said longitudinal body, said metallic tab members having means to engage U-shaped staples and to securely hold the same in pivoted engagement to said longitudinal body, U-shaped staples engaging said tabs and pivotably affixed to said longitudinal body by said tabs.

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