Dec. 31, 1935. L. R. PARRISH 2,026,188

TOY CATAPULT

Filed Aug. 24, 1934

Fig. 1.

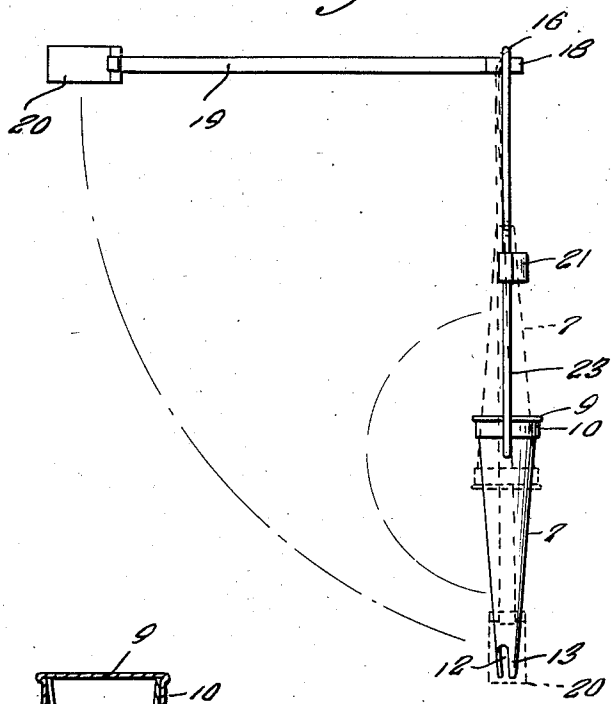
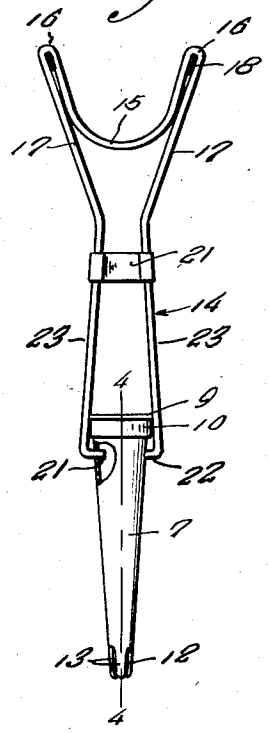


Fig. 2.



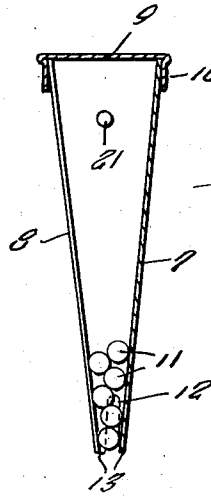


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

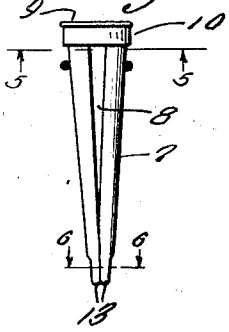
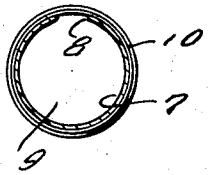


Fig. 6.



Fig. 5.



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2,026,188

TOY CATAPULT

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Application August 24, 1934, Serial No. 741,304

4 Claims. (Cl. 124—2)

This invention relates to an improved toy catapult of the type most frequently referred to in the open market as a sling, or a sling shot, as the case may be.

By way of introduction, it is to be pointed out that the invention hereinafter specifically described constitutes a revision of a similar device disclosed in Patent 1,960,645, granted to me under date of May 29, 1934. By way of contrast, the invention herein covered embodies certain structural refinements and improvements calculated to overcome noticeable objections discovered in the prior patented structure.

In the aforementioned patent, novelty was predicated upon the use and construction of a special magazine constituting a holder for small ball-like missiles, frequently referred to as buck shot. The lower end of the magazine there illustrated is constructed to facilitate discharge of the balls one by one in a manner to permit them to be conveniently grasped in the pocket portion of the sling and to be thereafter projected into flight in the usual way. In the improved structure, the same idea is portrayed but contemplates the use of a somewhat smaller tapered magazine from which the missiles are fed by gravity, the discharge end of said magazine being formed with a series of complemental spring fingers susceptible of being spread apart to permit the balls to be grasped and picked out one at a time for use.

A further comparison of the improvement with the patent will disclose that in the present device, I utilize a light weight wire framework constituting a fork and adaptation means for the resilient sling, it also serving as a hanger for the pivoted magazine or missile dispensing holder.

A further object and advantage has to do with the adoption and use of a single piece lightweight wire frame structure which is bent between its ends to form a saddle and provided with return bends cooperating with the ends of the saddle in providing keepers for the end portions of the rubber band, the free end portions of the wire being so bent and related to one another as to serve as a pair of hanger arms for the associated ball containing magazine.

In addition, an advantageous and improved structure is built around the wire frame unit on which the conical ball containing magazine is pivotally hung, said unit being provided intermediate its ends with a reinforcing and connecting strap which is so made as to serve as a retaining element for the magazine when it is turned back to an out-of-the-way position to provide for compactness and convenience, a well as safety in handling and carriage.

Features and advantages in addition to those already mentioned will be self evident from the succeeding description and the accompanying illustrative drawing.

In the drawing:—

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view showing the improved toy catapult or sling shot and illustrating in full lines, the magazine hanging down for use and showing in phantom or dotted lines the magazine swung up to an out-of-the-way position.

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of Fig. 1, that is, observing it in a direction from right to left.

Fig. 3 is a detail view of the longitudinally tapered or conical magazine per se.

Fig. 4 is a vertical or longitudinal sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Figs. 5 and 6 are horizontal sectional views taken on the planes of the lines 5—5 and 6—6 respectively of Fig. 3.

Referring now to the drawing by distinguishing reference numerals, it will be observed that the shot holder or dispensing magazine is in the form of a conical sheet metal container 7 of appropriate proportion. This is longitudinally slit as at 8 along one side so as to provide for radial expansion and contraction. It is open at its top, but a lid or cover is used here for closing purposes and the cover is denoted by the numeral 9 and has a rim 10 to fit telescopically down over the adjacent end portion of the receptacle. Incidentally the slot 8 provides the requisite inherent resiliency to yieldably hold the cover in place. The cover is removable to permit the buck shot or ball-like missiles 11 to be inserted and retained in place. At its apex portion, the magazine is provided with slots 12 which define a series of resilient fingers 13 allowing the balls to drop down and be discharged one by one. The fingers are spread apart and the user grasps one of the balls at diametrically opposite points. In other words, by placing the index finger and thumb against the diametrically opposed slots 13, a ball may be grasped and pulled out from between the retention fingers 13.

I next call attention to the special adapter frame and hanger. This is differentiated by the numeral 14 and is principally made from wire. The wire is bent between its ends to define a fork, which fork may be said to include a saddle portion 15 and a pair of fork arms 16. The fork

arms are defined by bending the ends 17 of the metal downwardly as shown in Fig. 2 and this allows the doubled ends 18 of the rubber bands 19 of the sling to be fastened in the crotch portions of said arms 16. Incidentally, the rubber bands are attached to the usual leather pocket or holder 20 of the type generally used for years in sling shots. The intermediate portions of the arms 17 are attached together by a metal strap 21 which is bent to form a sort of a seat to accommodate the apex end of the turnable or swingable magazine 7 (see dotted line arrangement, Fig. 1). The extremities 22 of the free end portions 23 are turned in to form trunnions located in bearing holes in diametrically opposed portions of the dispensing hopper or magazine. The resiliency of the free end portions 23 are such as to press firmly against diametrically opposite sides of the lid 9 when the magazine is down in the perpendicular loading position shown in Fig. 2. In a sense, these features 23 serve to hold the magazine down which makes it convenient to swing the holder or pocket 20 down to the dotted line position shown in Fig. 1, to catch hold of one of the shots and to then swing the sling back to firing position. When the magazine is not in use, it is simply swung up against the keeper or strap 21.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawing. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a component part of a toy catapult of the class described comprising a single piece of wire fashioned to form a holding frame and embodying a length of wire of predetermined longitudinal dimension bent at a point between its ends to define a substantially U-shaped part constituting a fork, the end portions of said wire being formed into return bends and extending in spaced relation down alongside the end portions of said fork and beyond the central portion of the fork to form an elongated frame, the extremities of the wire being bent inwardly toward each other at right angles to function as hanger trunnions, and a metal strap joining the intermediate portions of the frame members together in fixed spaced relationship, said strap being curved to serve as a retention seat in the manner described.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a component part of a toy catapult of the class described comprising a conical magazine, the apex portion thereof being truncated and formed with diametrically opposed notches defining a plurality of individual ball retention and releasing fingers, said magazine being longitudinally slit from end to end and that end opposite to the fingers being open and a removable cover carried by the open end, the longitudinal slit serving to render the body portion of the magazine radially expansible and contractible so that when the rim of the cap is snapped over the upper end portion thereof, the inherent expansible properties of the magazine serve to frictionally hold the cap in place.

3. A toy catapult of the class described comprising a longitudinally elongated wire frame formed at one end to provide a substantially U-shaped saddle constituting a fork, said frame including substantially spaced parallel arms provided at their free end with inturned extremities directed toward each other and located in opposed relation to function as pivot pintles, a flat metal strap connected at its end to the intermediate portion of said arm, said strap being of curved formation to serve as a retention seat, and a conical shot containing and dispensing magazine having its apex portion constructed to facilitate selective discharge of the shot, the inner end of said magazine being open and of radially expansible and contractible form and provided with a removable friction retained cover, the cover equipped end of the magazine being located between the free ends of the arms of the frame and provided with apertures to accommodate the aforesaid pintles, the diameter of said cap being such as to facilitate maintaining the magazine in a depending shot dispensing position when in use, and said magazine being of a length so that when swung between the arms of the frame, the apex portion thereof will nest itself in the aforementioned seat forming strap.

4. In a structure of the class described, a hanger, handling and holding frame comprising a U-shaped fork disposed at one end, inturned spaced apart pivoting and hanger trunnions at the opposite end, the body portion of said frame including substantially spaced parallel longitudinal members, a connecting strap secured transversely across the intermediate portions of said members, said strap being of longitudinally curved formation to serve as a combined seat and stop element, a ball containing and dispensing magazine pivotally attached adjacent one end to said trunnions and swingable from a depending operating position to an out-of-the-way position, said magazine in said out-of-the-way position swinging between the longitudinal members of the frame so that one end portion swings into said connecting strap.

LUTHER RANDOLPH PARRISH.