(No Model.)

F. W. TAYLOR.

TENNIS RACKET.

No. 335,656. Patented Feb. 9, 1886.

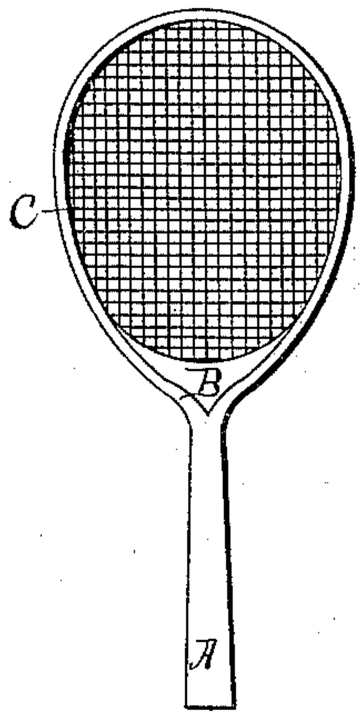


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

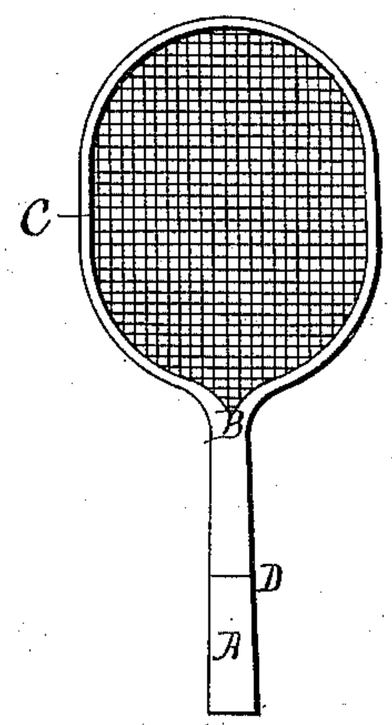


Fig. 3.

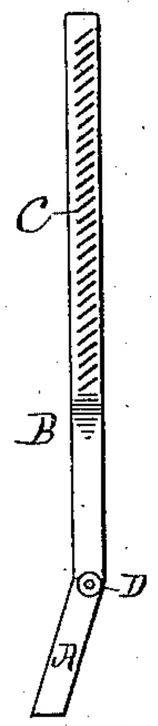


Fig. 4.

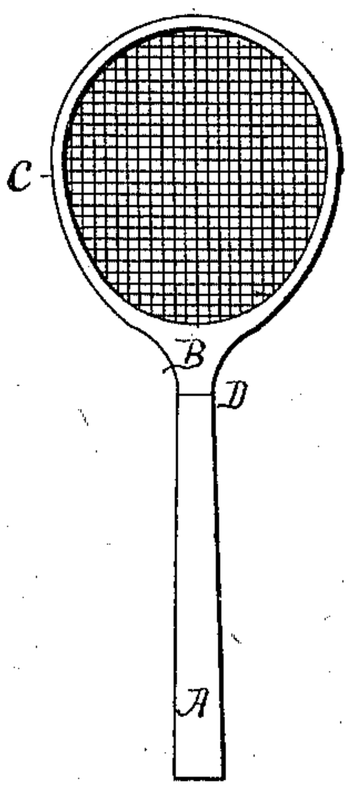
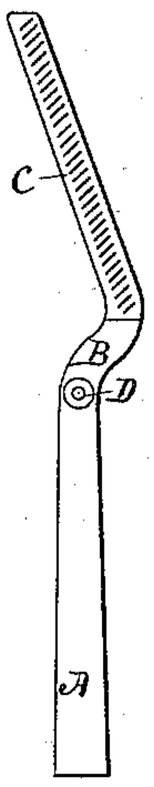


Fig. 5.



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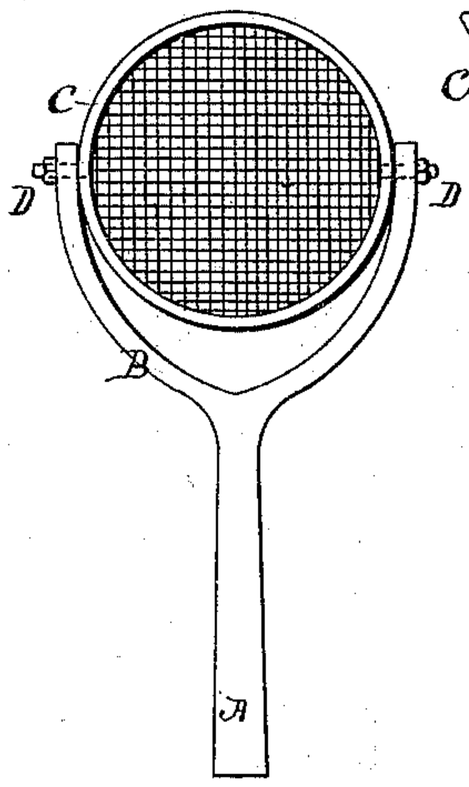

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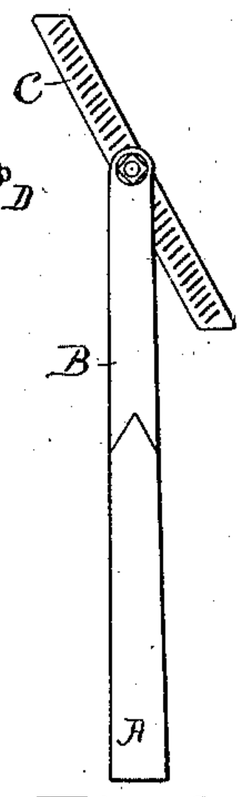

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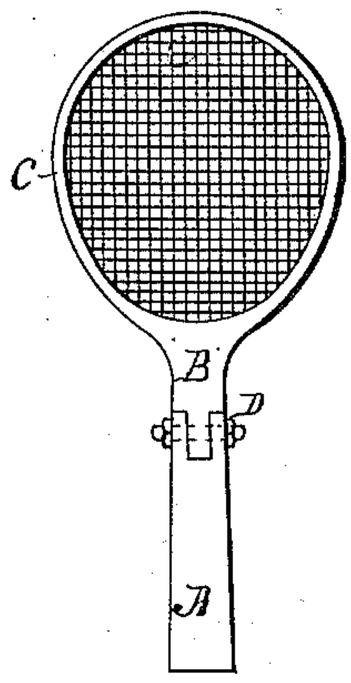

Fig. 9.

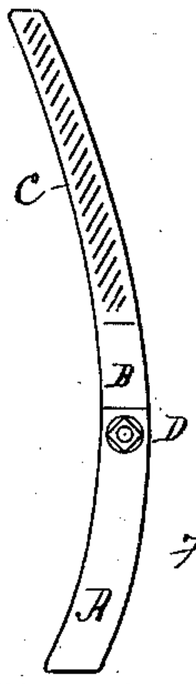

Fig. 10.

WITNESSES:

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C. Hazer.

INVENTOR

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by his attorney

Chas A. Rutter.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK W. TAYLOR, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

TENNIS-RACKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 335,656, dated February 9, 1886.

Application filed July 29, 1885. Serial No. 172,943. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. TAYLOR, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tennis-Rackets, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to furnish a tennis-racket by means of which a certain class of players will be more readily enabled to strike balls which bounce close to the ground, so as to cause them to rise over the net, and to strike certain balls which are above the level of their heads in such a way as to drive them to the ground in the opposite court from that in which they stand.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and in which similar letters of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views, Figures 1 and 2 are a front and side elevation of the ordinary tennis-racket; Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, front and side elevations of various forms of my improved racket.

A is the handle of the racket, B the neck, and C the head.

In Figs. 1 and 2, which are a front and side elevation of a tennis racket as at present constructed, the axis or center line of the handle A lies in the plane of the net-work of the head C. Certain players have difficulty in using a racket of this form when the ball bounces close to the ground or passes above the level of their heads, as the manner in which they hold the racket is such that in striking the ball in these cases the ball is not driven to the opposite court, as is desired and intended, but passes from the racket in such a way as either to strike the net or fall outside of the opposite court. In my racket, which is intended to obviate this difficulty, the axis or center line of the handle A makes a greater or less angle with the head C. The amount of this angle i not material to my invention, for with differ ent players it will probably be necessary t vary it.

Figs. 3 to 10 represent front and side eleva tions of various forms of my improved racket

In Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 I have furnished the racket, at the point where the handle A joins the neck, with a joint, hinge, or pivot, D, by means of which the angle formed by the axis of the handle and the plane of the head may be varied. It will be understood, however, that it is not essential to the working of my racket that there should be any such hinge or any means for varying this angle, for it is probable that most of my improved rackets will have the greater part of the frame of the head, the neck, and the handle all made out of a single piece of wood bent into the proper form.

In Figs. 7 and 8 the head C of the racket is shown pivoted to the neck.

In Figs. 9 and 10 the handle A is curved, so that its axis is at an angle with the center plane of the head C.

There may be many more ways of securing the head of the racket to the handle without departing from the spirit of my invention, and it will be understood that I do not desire to limit myself to any particular method of attachment or adjustment.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A tennis-racket in which the center line or axis of the handle is set at an angle with the center plane of the net-work of the head, substantially as set forth.

FREDERICK W. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:

CLARENCE M. CLARD,

GUILLIAM AUTSEN.