

(No Model.)

C. E. LONGDEN.  
INFLATABLE BALL.

No. 601,520.

Patented Mar. 29, 1898.

Fig. 1

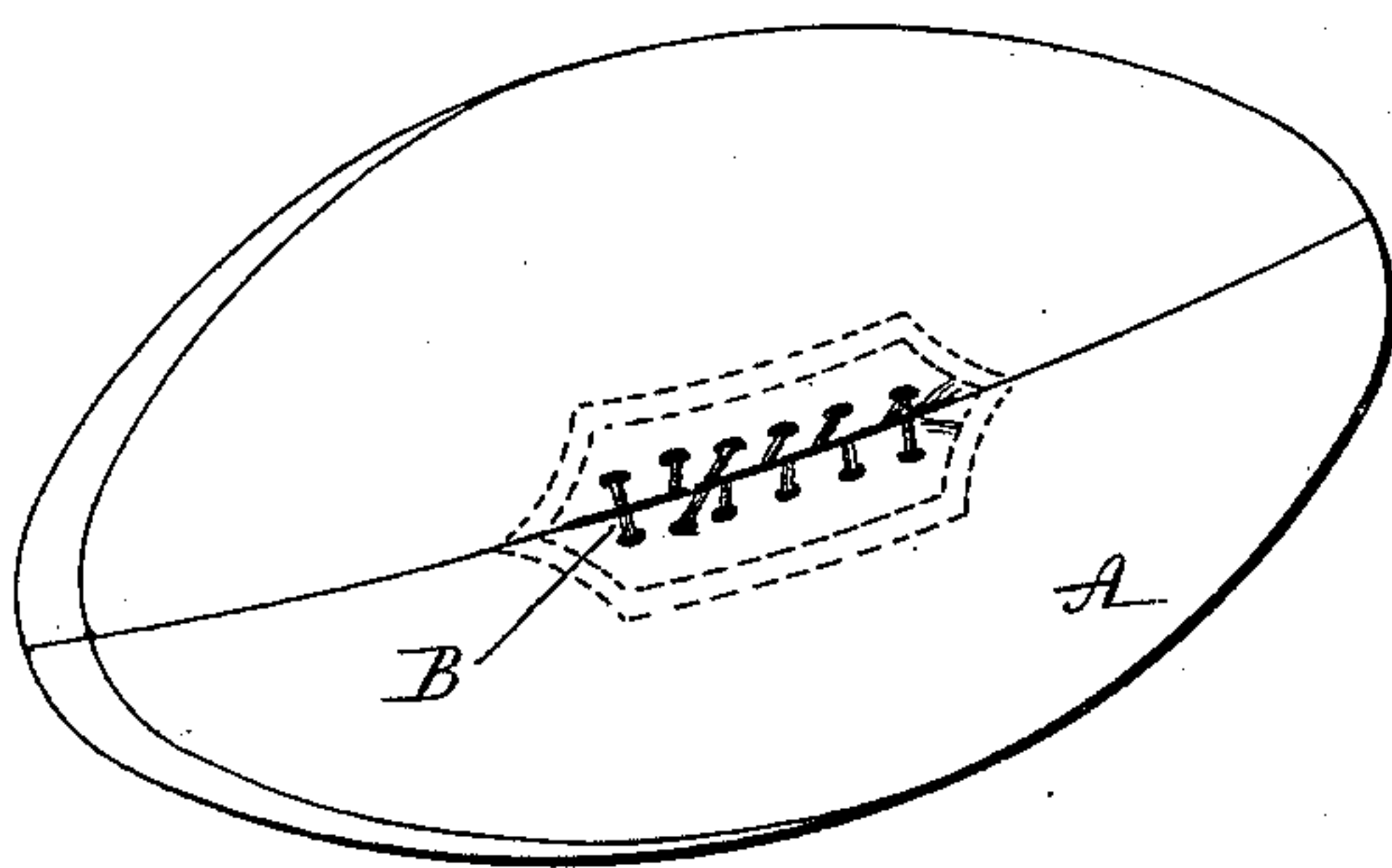


Fig. 2

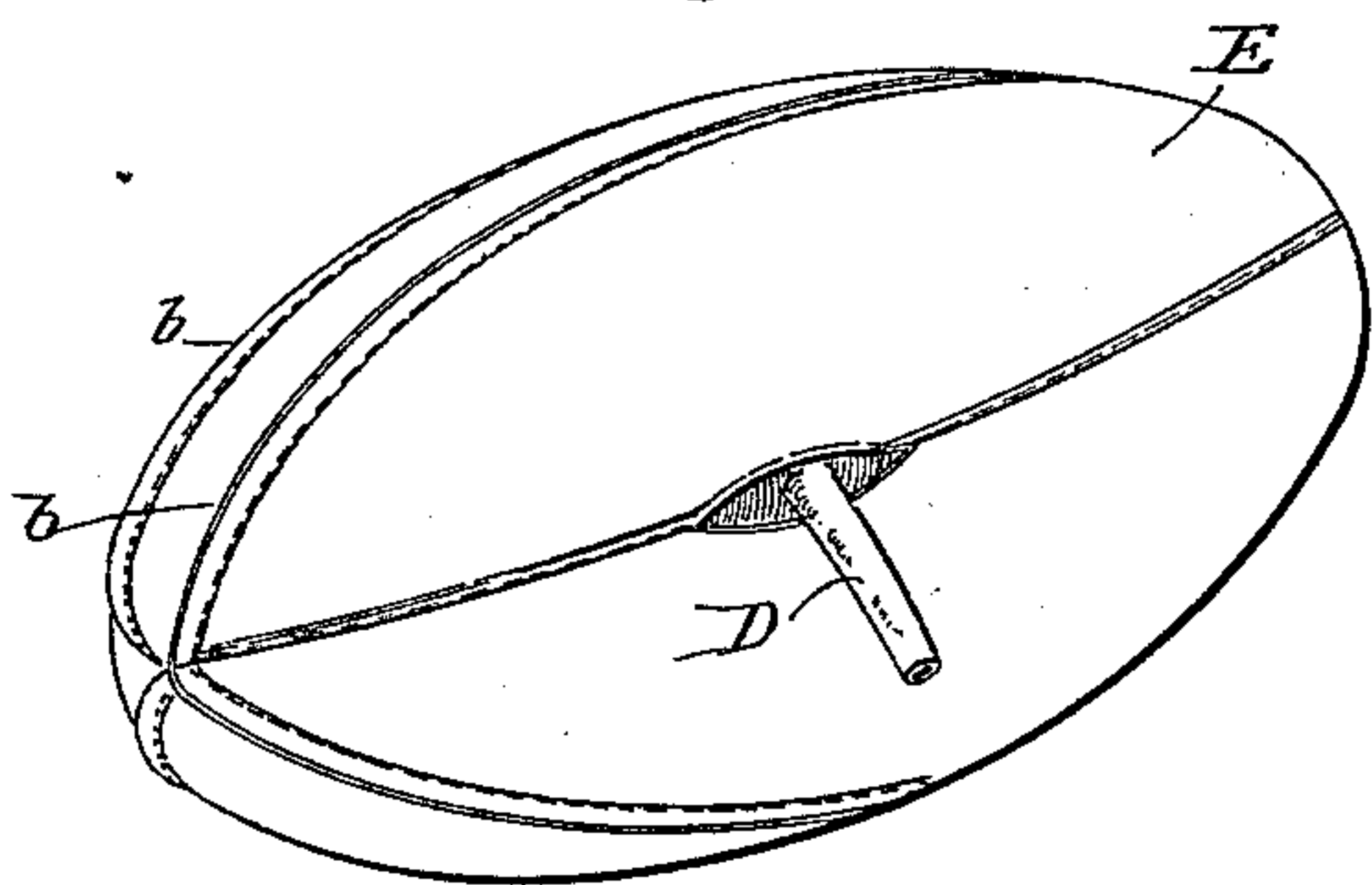
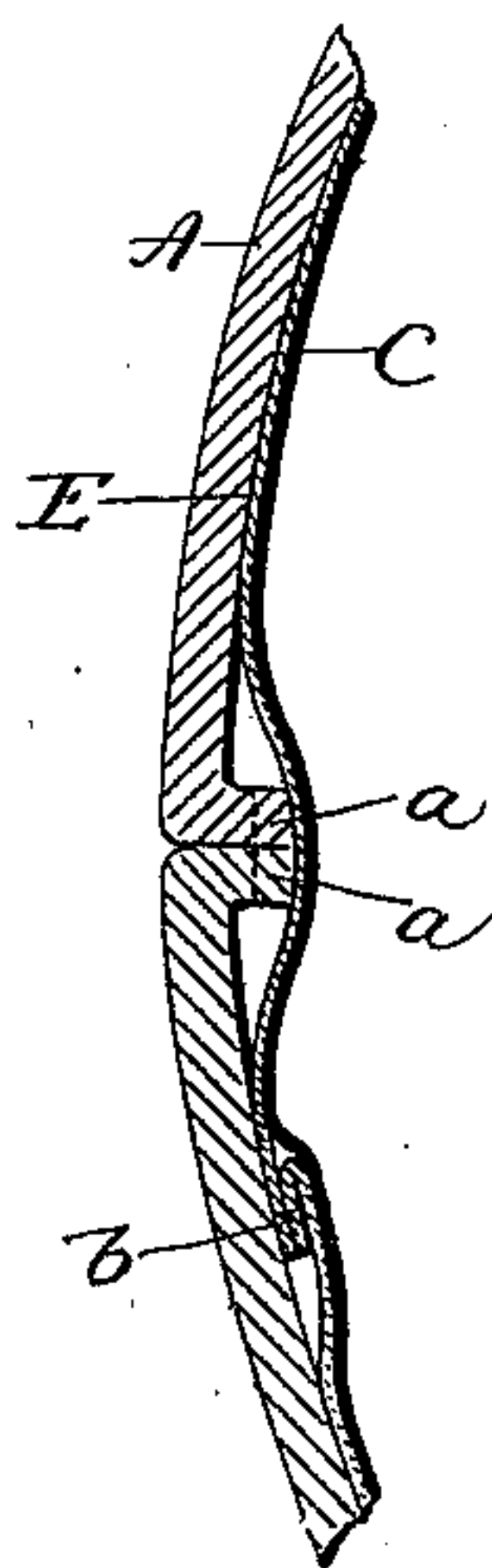


Fig. 3



Witnesses,  
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By attys  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. LONGDEN, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE SEAMLESS RUBBER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

## INFLATABLE BALL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 601,520, dated March 29, 1898.

Application filed October 7, 1897. Serial No. 654,367. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. LONGDEN, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Inflatable Balls; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a perspective view of a foot-ball embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a perspective view of the inflated bladder with the auxiliary cover thereon; Fig. 3, a sectional view of a portion of the casing, bladder, and auxiliary cover, enlarged.

This invention relates to an improvement in inflatable balls—such as foot-balls, striking-bags, and other devices in which an outer shell or casing of leather or other hard material is employed as a protector for the inflatable bladder which is inserted therein. In the usual construction of the casing the edges of the various sections of which it is composed are turned inward and thereby form an edge against which the bladder is expanded and which in the rough usage to which balls of this character are subjected soon wears or cuts the bladder, necessitating the substitution of a new one therefor.

The object of this invention is to insert a protector between the inner surface of the casing or cover and the outer surface of the bladder, so as to protect the surface of the bladder from wear and the cutting action of the inturned edges of the casing; and it consists in forming an auxiliary cover for the bladder, of canvas or other suitable material, which casing corresponds substantially in form and size to the outer casing or cover, and as more fully hereinafter described, and particularly recited in the claim.

For convenience of illustration I have shown the invention as applied to a foot-ball; but it is apparent that it is equally applicable to striking-bags or other devices employing an outer casing and an inflating-bladder.

A represents the casing or cover, which is usually formed from leather and made up of four or more sections, according to the form required, the edges *a* of which are turned inward and united. The casing is also provided with the usual lacing B. The bladder C is also of usual construction adapted for insertion into the shell or casing, and provided with the usual inflating-tube D. Around the outside of the bladder is placed an auxiliary cover E, of light canvas or other suitable flexible material, which closely conforms in shape to the internal form of the shell or casing and is adapted to be inserted with the bladder into the case or cover A. The edges *b* of this case or cover are turned outward and may be united in any desirable manner, either by lapped seams or otherwise, as the material is so thin that the joint will not affect the bladder. This auxiliary cover might be said to form an inner lining for the case or shell and so as to cover the edges *a a* and prevent the abrasion of the bladder therefrom, as it forms a smooth surface over the edges, upon which the bladder may stretch. The auxiliary cover adds but little to the initial cost of the ball, and by avoiding the wear and preventing the rupture of the bladder the expense and trouble of procuring and inserting new bladders is avoided.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In an inflatable ball, the combination with an outer sectional case, the seamed edges of which are turned inward and an inflatable bladder within said case, of an auxiliary cover surrounding said bladder, which is thereby protected from injury by said inturned edges, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES E. LONGDEN.

Witnesses:

S. F. FOOTE,  
D. B. MARTIN.