

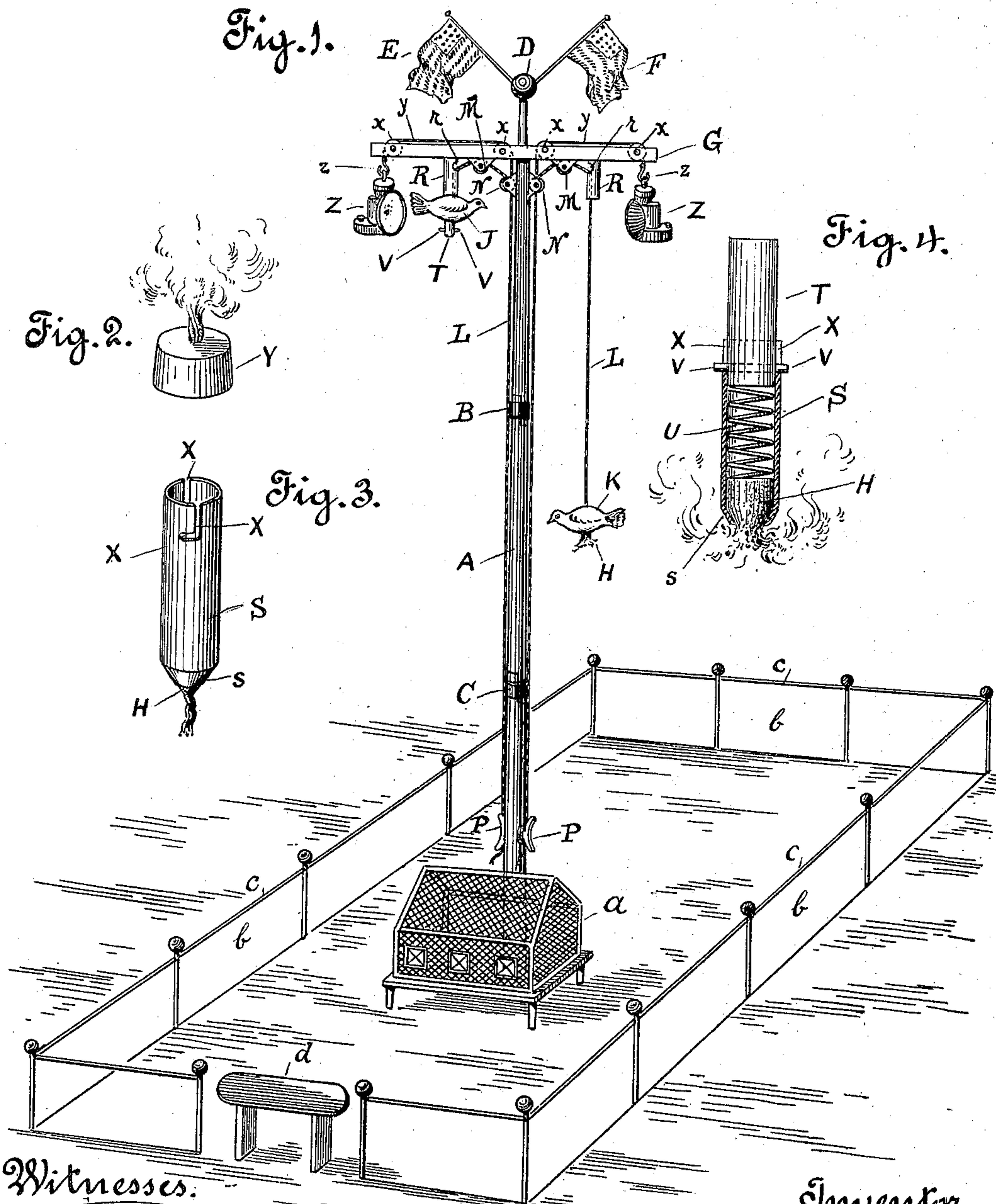
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J. PILLORGET.  
TARGET.

(Application filed Mar. 18, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH PILLORGET, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

## TARGET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 638,886, dated December 12, 1899.

Application filed March 16, 1899. Serial No. 709,349. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH PILLORGET, of the city and county of San Francisco, in the State of California, have invented a certain  
5 new and useful Fuse-Shooting Game, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to sports or plays that call for the exercise of skill, but at the same time are more or less subject to chance,  
10 and in which the successful contestant is rewarded by a prize.

The object of the invention is to provide a harmless game that will not only afford a pleasant, useful, and profitable pastime to the  
15 person engaged in it, but will also be a source of amusement, diversion, and delight to the people who may be looking on.

Reference is had to the drawings hereto annexed for a detailed description of the invention.  
20

In the said drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view giving a representation of the entire game. Fig. 2 is a perspective of a fuse or equivalent projectile that is used to shoot  
25 with, the same being represented as burning just as it comes out of the gun from which it is fired. Fig. 3 is a perspective of the shell that contains the fuse which is shot at and is to be lighted. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section  
30 of the fuse shot at and lighted, this view showing the plug to which the shell is attached and the spring therein which ejects the lighted fuse as it burns.

The same part is indicated by the same letter of reference wherever it occurs in the several figures.  
35

The letter A represents a mast made of three sections that are united by iron bands B and C. This mast usually is about twelve  
40 yards high and is sunk into the ground to a suitable depth, so that it will stand firmly in position. It is tapering from the bottom up, as shown, and carries at its top a ball D, to which are nailed American flags E F. It will  
45 be observed that, being built as described, the mast A can be readily taken apart and set up again wherever it may be required. It is not necessary to my invention, however, that the mast be made exactly as described. The  
50 form of mast shown herein is merely the pre-

ferred form. Any other suitable form will do—for instance, a mast made of a single stick of wood or from other material than wood—and the same may be set up in various ways besides being sunk into the ground. All this  
55 is within the scope of my invention.

To the upper part of the mast A is secured a spar or cross-piece G, designed to hold up the fuse or fuses to be shot at and lighted. As shown, I prefer to have this spar secured by  
60 its center, so that it may project out on opposite sides of the mast, and thus form two arms of equal length, to each of which one or two or several fuses may be attached.

The fuse or fuses to be shot at and lighted  
65 (designated herein by reference-letter H) could be attached directly to the cross-piece G or otherwise suspended from the mast A, if desired; but as a matter of choice, again, I attach them to wooden pigeons J K in order  
70 to give more attraction to the game and, if possible, cause it to be adopted in preference to a well-known and cruel sport—viz., live-pigeon shooting. As shown, the pigeons J K  
75 are each held up from the cross-piece G by means of a rope L, passing over a pulley M on the under side of said cross-piece and over another pulley N at the upper end of the  
80 mast A and hitched to a cleat P on the lower end of said mast. Each pigeon is kept at a suitable distance from the cross-piece by a short tube R, secured to the under side of the  
85 latter and having a side aperture r, through which the holding-rope is passed. The back of pigeon J, it will be seen, rests against the lower end of the tube R, that is provided for  
90 it. This is the proper position for each pigeon when the fuse attached to it is to be fired at. Pigeon K, on the other hand, is represented with a fuse that is just burning out,  
95 and the position it occupies on the drawings indicates how it is lowered by means of its rope L to replace the burned fuse.

There are several ways of attaching the fuse H to either of the pigeons. The simplest is  
100 to insert the said fuse in a hole bored in the under side of the pigeon, as indicated in connection with pigeon K. This mode of attachment, however, is subject to the drawback that the fuse when lighted may not be seen



burning up to the last. A better mode is to place the fuse H in a shell S, that is fastened to a plug T, driven into the pigeon, and from which it can be expelled by a spiral spring U in proportion as it burns. A plug T is shown in connection with the pigeon J. Such a plug may remain permanently attached to the pigeons. The shell S is fastened to it by means of a pin V, passed transversely through said plug and having both its ends projected, so they will enter L-shaped slots X in opposite sides of said shell. As will be understood, the shell S will be set firmly on the plug T upon turning it slightly and causing the two ends of the pin V to slide in the lower member of the L-shaped slots. The shell is made tapering at its lower end, as at s, to hold up properly the fuse H, upon which the spiral spring U is brought to bear. Said spring, as will be seen by reference to Fig. 4, is caught and held compressed between the top of the fuse H and the lower end of the plug T. When the fuse H is hit and lighted by the projectile fired at it, it blazes and keeps burning in full view of the spectators till it is entirely consumed, as it is ejected from the shell S by the spring U as fast as it burns.

The composition of the fuse H is not given herein, as the same belongs to a class of inventions entirely different from the game here described. It is sufficient to state that the said fuse is preferably so made as to give out when lighted a bright varicolored flame similar to what is produced by Bengal fire.

For a projectile to fire at the fuse H, I prefer to use another fuse of the type shown at Fig. 2 and designated by letter of reference Y. The latter-named fuse is fired from a muzzle-loading gun with a small charge of powder that is ignited by means of a percussion-cap in a well-known manner. Other firearms, however, may be used, the only requisite being that the fuse Y come out in good shape from the gun employed to shoot with, but burning, ready to communicate fire to the fuse H, which it is designed to hit and light. Z Z represent lamps with reflectors, which are used at night in order to throw out a sufficient quantity or volume of light upon the pigeons and the fuses they hold, and thereby permit the marksman to take his aim properly before shooting. These reflectors may be suspended from hooks z and hoisted and held up by ropes y, passing over pulleys x and fastened to the cleats P in the same manner as the ropes L. Any suitable kind of reflector may be used.

At the foot of the mast A in Fig. 1 will be noticed a cage a. This is used to hold a number of live pigeons, which are given as prizes to those whose skill or good luck enables them to win at the game. Other prizes of greater or less value are usually given to the better marksmen who succeed in lighting several of the fuses H in succession.

The shooting-grounds, when the game is

conducted in the open air, are ordinarily inclosed by a fence made, for instance, of pickets b and ropes or rails c.

The letter d indicates a small table or stand on which are placed the guns employed in the game and from the front of which the shots are fired. The distance of this table from the foot of the mast A is so regulated that the fuses to be shot at will be at about twenty yards in an oblique line from the place where the marksman stands.

It may be stated that the game hereinabove described is absolutely without danger of any sort in so far as the handling of the guns employed and the fuses burned are concerned. Very little powder is used in the guns, and the fuses are not of an explosive nature. There is no danger from fire, either, as the fuses that are fired from the guns do not go much beyond the other fuses against which they are directed, and both kinds of fuses when lighted are about completely consumed before the residue thereof falls to the ground. On the contrary, the game is a perfectly harmless one and, as a rule, is carried on to the entire satisfaction of those who take part in it and never fails to please and excite the admiration of the onlookers.

Having now described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a fuse-shooting game apparatus, the combination with a support, of a substantially horizontal arm supported thereby, a fuse-holder depending from said arm, and a fuse carried by said fuse-holder and exposed whereby it can be lighted by a projectile, substantially as described.

2. In a fuse-shooting game apparatus, the combination with a support, of a fuse-holder supported thereby, a fuse carried by said fuse-holder and exposed whereby it can be lighted by a projectile, and means for projecting said fuse as it is consumed, substantially as described.

3. A fuse-shooting game apparatus comprising a mast, a cross-piece at the upper end thereof, a tube secured vertically to said cross-piece, the figure of a pigeon, a fuse connected with said pigeon, a hoisting-rope attached to the pigeon and passing through said tube, means to guide and hold said rope in a given position, said fuse being adapted to be fired at and lighted by a suitable projectile, substantially as described.

4. A fuse-shooting game apparatus comprising a mast or other suitable support, the figure of a pigeon and means to hold the same in proper position from the support, a plug inserted in said pigeon, a spring-pressed fuse and shell therefor adapted to be fastened to said plug, said fuse being adapted to be fired at and lighted by a suitable projectile, substantially as described.

5. A fuse-shooting game apparatus comprising a mast, a cross-piece on the upper part



thereof, the figure of a pigeon suspended from  
said cross-piece and having a fuse connected  
with it, means, such as a lamp with a reflector,  
to throw light on the pigeon-figure and fuse  
5 carried thereby, said fuse being adapted to be  
fired at and lighted by a suitable projectile,  
substantially as described.

6. In a game apparatus of the kind de-  
scribed, a fuse-holder in the form of a pigeon,

a shell carried by said holder, a fuse in said 10  
shell, and a projecting-spring for said fuse,  
substantially as set forth.

Signed by me, at San Francisco, California,  
this 7th day of March, 1899.

JOSEPH PILLORGET. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

L. ADOLPHE GRINCOURT,  
A. H. STE. MARIE.