

No. 708,569.

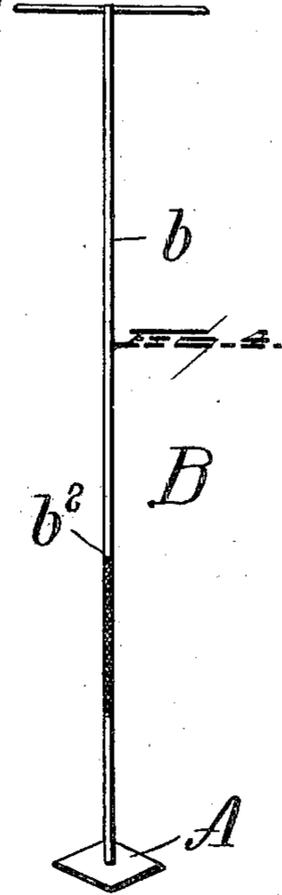
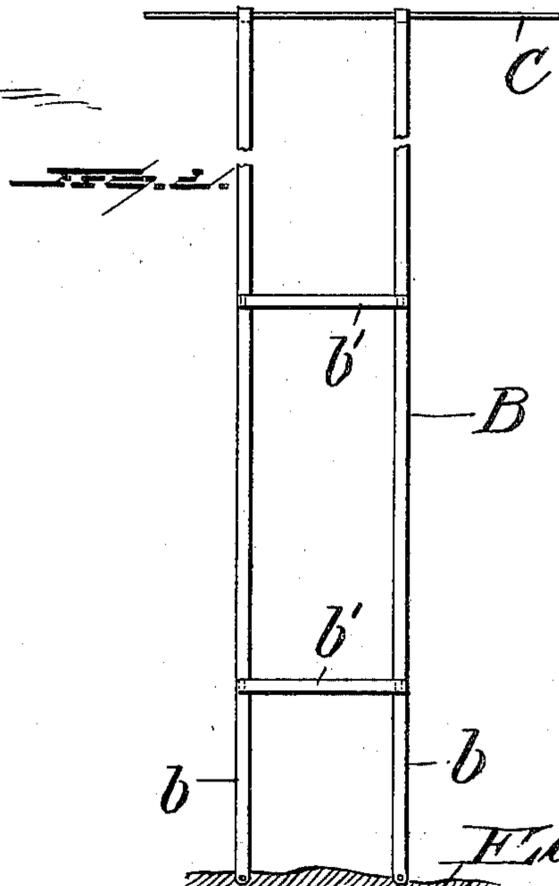
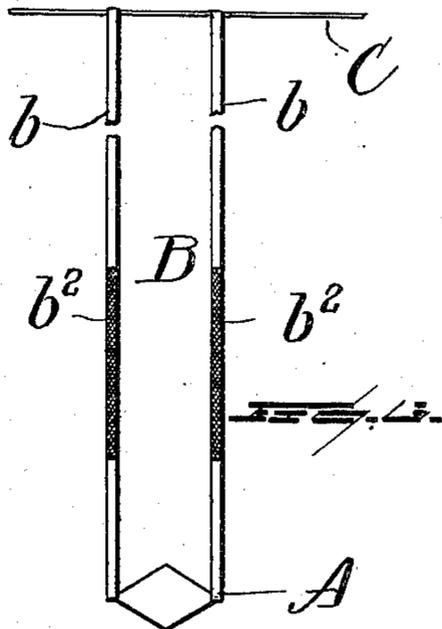
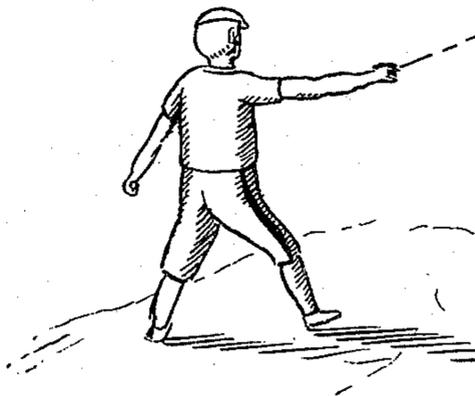
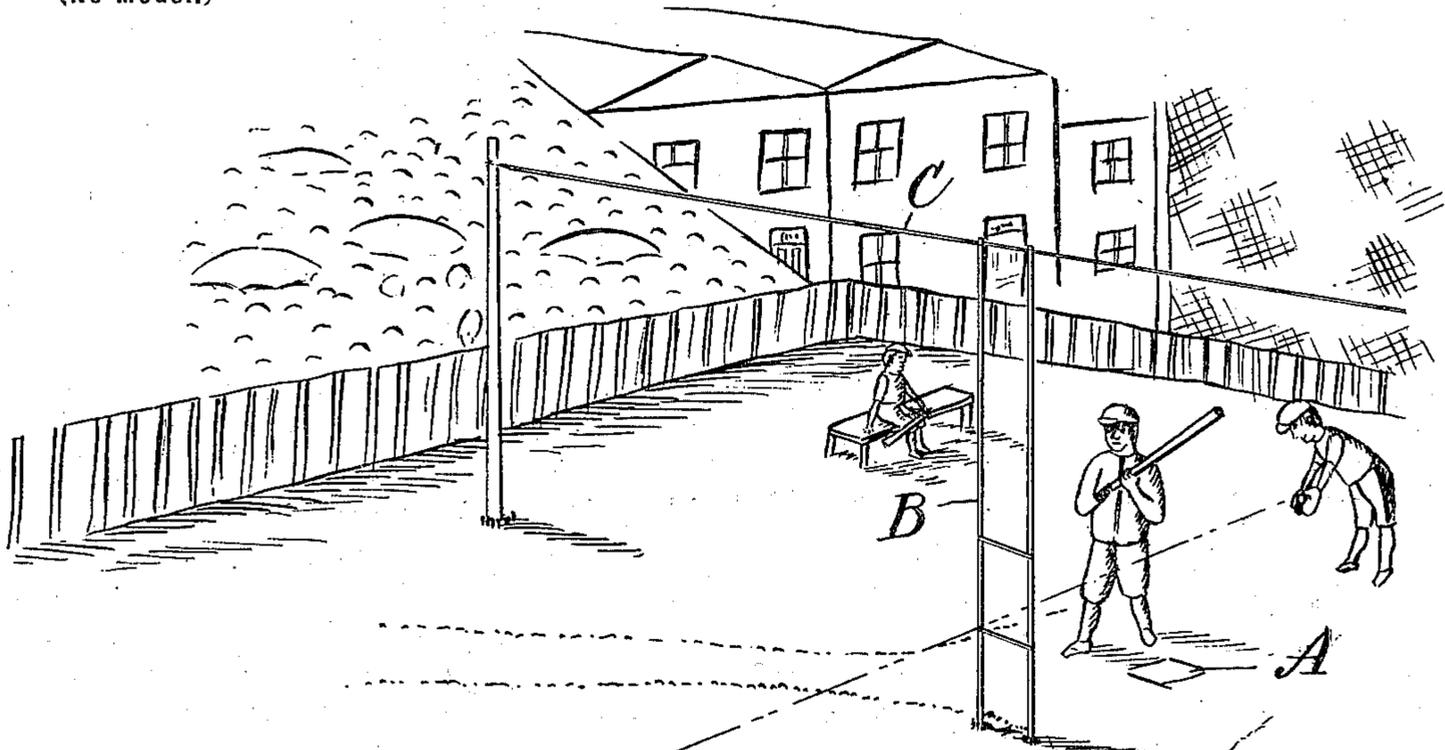
Patented Sept. 9, 1902.

E. MANLEY.

INDICATOR FOR BALL GAMES.

(Application filed Oct. 9, 1901.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD MANLEY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## INDICATOR FOR BALL GAMES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 708,569, dated September 9, 1902.

Application filed October 9, 1901. Serial No. 78,143. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD MANLEY, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Ball Games; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention is an improved device to be used in ball games to determine whether the pitcher throws the ball accurately and to enable the umpire and spectators to determine positively whether "balls" or "strikes" are pitched. At the same time the device is of assistance to the pitcher, as it constitutes an indicator or guide by which he is enabled to more accurately pitch the ball within safe limits.

The indicator, in brief, consists of a visual device which is arranged between the pitcher and batter or catcher and is constructed of very light fragile or yielding material, so that it will not obstruct the flight of the ball nor interfere with the movements or vision of the players, and the pitcher must throw the ball correctly past or through this indicator; otherwise it will be counted as a "ball" against him, and, on the other hand, if the pitcher puts the ball correctly past or through the indicator it will be counted as a "strike" against the batsman whether he actually hits at the ball or not.

The invention is capable of embodiment in various forms and ways and is therefore not restricted to the particular constructions indicated in the drawings, which are the best now known to me, however, but are shown as illustrating, not as limiting, the invention, the scope of which is best defined in the claims.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating one embodiment of the invention and the mode of use thereof. Fig. 2 is a detail front view of the indicator shown in Fig. 1, and Figs. 3 and 4 are views of modifications of the indicator.

In said drawings, A designates the "home-plate" of a base-ball "field," and B is the indicator, which may be located at any convenient points between the pitcher's and catcher's positions where it will not interfere with the

batsman or base-runners. I do not confine myself to any precise location of the indicator, as that may be varied to suit the players and game.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the indicator is composed of a rectangular frame B of a width and height sufficient to embrace or include a transverse section of the area within which a ball can be safely pitched, and the frame is placed transversely across the proper trajectory of the ball, so that if correctly pitched it will pass through the frame and be counted a strike or error against the batsman if he does not hit the ball; but if the ball is pitched outside the frame it will be counted a "ball" or error against the pitcher. This frame may be formed of any suitable material—such as cord, paper, strips, &c.—which will be perceptible without presenting much surface and will not obstruct vision nor interfere with the movements of the players or of the ball—that is, in case of contact of a player or of the ball with the indicator the latter will immediately yield or give way without resistance, so that it constitutes no actual obstruction on the field.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the indicator-frame is composed of two slight vertical members  $b$  and two horizontal members  $b'$ , attached to the vertical members at suitable distances apart, so as to allow the pitcher a proper range or variation in the trajectory of the ball. These members  $b$  may be suspended from an overhead wire C, strung at such a height as not to interfere with the ball or players. Where the frame is made of light but sufficiently stiff material, the overhead support might be omitted. The lower ends of members  $b$  are suitably anchored, so that the frame will be held in position.

As shown in Fig. 3, the indicator is arranged directly over the home-plate A, and the horizontal members  $b'$  of the indicator (shown in Figs. 1 and 2) are omitted, and instead the vertical members  $b$  are marked by a distinct color for a suitable portion of their length, as indicated at  $b^2$ , Fig. 3, so that if the ball passes between or beside these portions  $b^2$  its correct trajectory can be readily determined.

In Fig. 4 the indicator comprises but one vertical member  $b$ , which may be marked at

a proper point by a distinctive color, as indicated at *b*<sup>2</sup>. These modifications indicate how the invention may be embodied in various forms when once known, and I do not  
 5 limit myself to the specific forms shown in drawings.

From the foregoing the essential features of the invention will be readily understood, and the particular form or composition of the  
 10 indicator B and the manner in which the same is supported or retained in position may be altered to suit the pleasure of the constructor. In case the indicator is ruptured it can be quickly repaired with little loss of  
 15 time and slight expense.

The advantages of using the indicator are obvious, as it will serve as a guide for the pitcher and will enable the umpire to determine visually and correctly the accuracy of  
 20 the pitcher's work and whether the trajectory of the ball constitutes the play a "ball" or a "strike."

Having thus described my invention, what I therefore claim as new, and desire to secure  
 25 by Letters Patent thereon, is—

1. A device for use in ball games, comprising an indicator interposed between the pitcher's and catcher's positions and defining or bounding the usual or determined trajec-  
 30 tory of the ball, substantially as described.

2. An indicator for ball games, comprising

a light non-resisting vertical device interposed between the pitcher's and catcher's positions to determine the correct trajectory of a pitched ball, substantially as described. 35

3. An indicator for ball games, comprising a slight frame interposed between the pitcher's and catcher's positions, by which the ball is to be pitched, for the purpose and substan-  
 40 tially as described.

4. In an indicator for ball games, the combination of two vertical members anchored between the pitcher's and catcher's positions, said members being of slight proportions and arranged to determine the correct trajectory  
 45 of the pitched ball, substantially as described.

5. In an indicator for ball games, the combination of an overhead support, a pair of vertically-arranged members suspended therefrom at a point between the pitcher's and  
 50 catcher's positions, and transverse members attached to the vertical members to form therewith a frame through which the ball must be pitched, substantially as and for the pur-  
 55 pose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD MANLEY.

Witnesses:

EDWIN L. MILLER,  
 CHARLES P. MEGAN.