

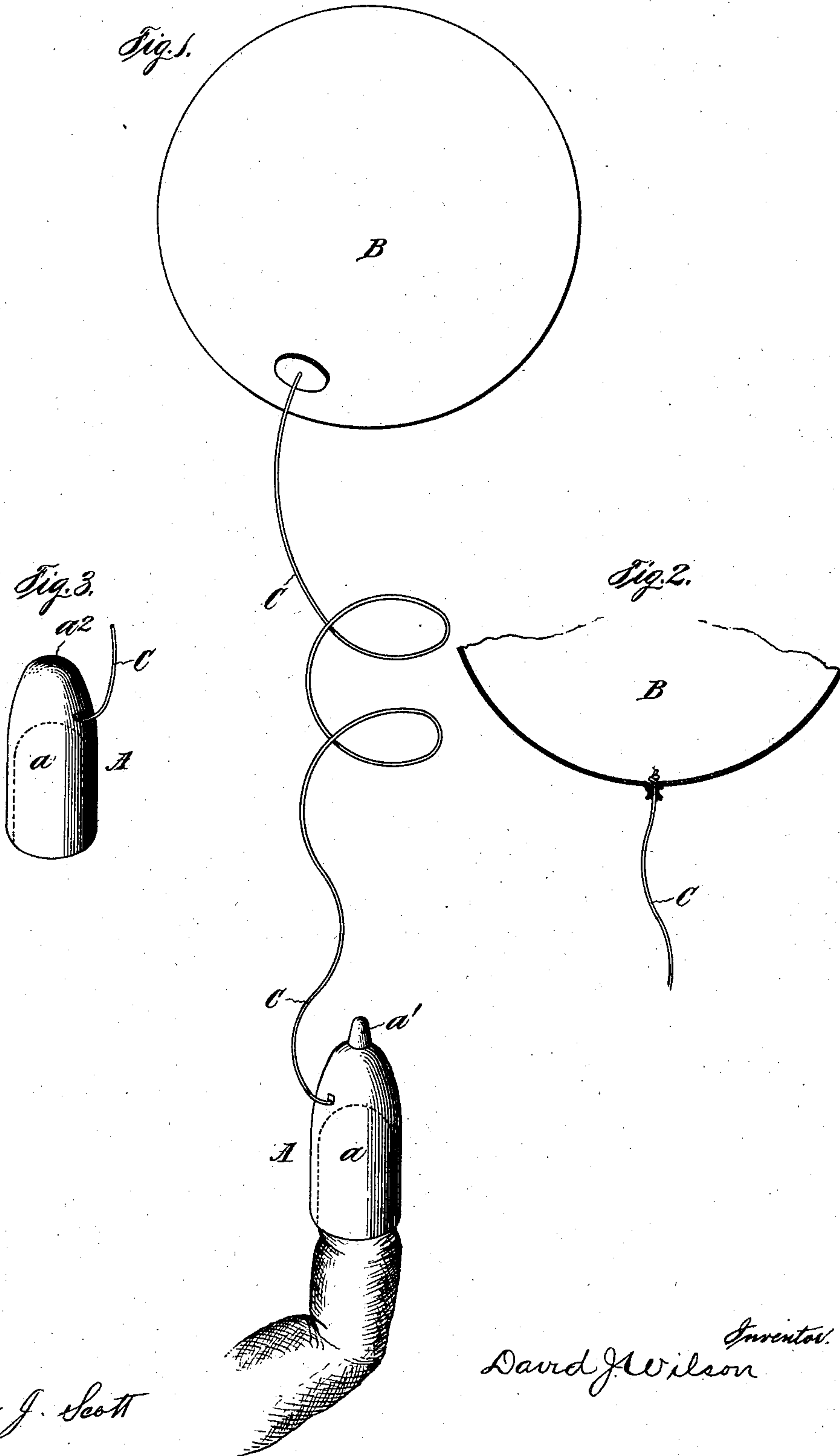
No. 710,090.

Patented Sept. 30, 1902.

D. J. WILSON.
TOY.

(Application filed Aug. 7, 1902.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
Robert
Amanda J. Scott

Inventor:
David J. Wilson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID J. WILSON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR
TO HERRELL ESPEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF WASHINGTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

TOY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 710,090, dated September 30, 1902.

Application filed August 7, 1902. Serial No. 118,835. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID J. WILSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented
5 certain new and useful Improvements in Toys; 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
10 the same.

My invention relates to improvements in toys, and has particular relation to what are known as "return-balls."

The object of my invention is to provide a
15 toy which can be readily used and manipulated by children, which is not only amusing, but tends to "sharpen" the eyesight, and which is inexpensive.

To these and other ends my invention consists in a toy comprising an inflated object, a striker, and a connection between the object and striker.

It further consists in the construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved toy, showing the striker in position on the finger. Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view showing the manner of connecting the elastic connection to an inflatable object. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the striker without a special tip, this being the preferred form.

The common form of return-ball consists of
35 a wooden ball, an elastic cord attached thereto, and preferably a ring which passes over the finger, the object being to throw the ball (using the entire hand) and permitting the cord to return the ball to the hand of the user.

The use of a wooden ball, while increasing the length of forward movement due to its weight, does not permit of a continuous play being made, excepting by striking the palm of the hand, making the toy one liable of injuring
45 not only the palm but the fingers of the hand, especially when used by small children.

In cases where a solid-rubber ball is used the same objections are present, with the additional one of a rapid rebound when striking
50 the object at which it is thrown. In neither

case can rapid play be made in an upward direction.

The present invention, while of this general type, differs therefrom in several important features, with the result that the toy may be
55 put to a new use, in that it forms a miniature punching-bag, the striker being carried, preferably, by the finger, the direction of movement being vertical, and thereby training the eye of the user. This will be more readily
60 understood by referring to the following description.

A designates the striker, consisting of a block α , preferably of wood, having a finger-socket at one end and having its opposite end
65 provided with a striking-surface. The latter may consist in simply rounding the end of the block, as at α^2 , making it semispherical, or substantially so, or, if desired, a tip α' may be inserted in an opening formed in the striking end. The tip may be of any suitable substance, such as rubber, and may be simply
70 secured on the surface, as by gluing.

B designates the inflated object, such as a ball. This may be either permanently inflated or it may be one which is inflated at the time of the securing of the connection between the object and striker, as hereinafter described and as shown in detail in Fig. 2. The use of an inflated object forms an essential feature of the invention, thereby providing an object light in weight and capable of considerable size relative to the striking-surface. This permits the ball or object being hit with a light touch and prevents a rapid
85 return, the user thereby being able to change the position of his striking-surface with ease. Furthermore, it prevents damage to objects which are struck by the ball.

The object B and striker A are connected
90 by a light-weight elastic cord C. One end of the cord is attached to the block in suitable manner, the opposite end being attached to the object in any suitable manner, the form shown in Fig. 1 consisting in using a cap
95 through which the cord extends and gluing or otherwise securing the cap to the surface of the object, in this case the ball being a permanently-inflated one. I preferably, however, use a ball or other object inflated with
100

air at the time of securing the cord to it, as in this case the ball may be made of light stock, thereby not only making it still lighter in weight but decreasing the cost. When securing the cord in position, as shown in Fig. 2, a knot is tied in the end of the cord and then passed inside of the ball or object through the inflating-teat. The usual quill is then placed in position, the ball inflated, a drop of glue being placed on the knot, the teat tied with a suitable string, and the quill withdrawn. This insures a secure connection between the cord and ball.

In use the striker is placed on the tip of one of the fingers, although this is not necessary, as it may be grasped between thumb and finger and the ball or object tossed upwardly. On its return the user attempts to again raise it by striking its under surface with the striker. By using light strokes the movement of the ball is decreased, while a heavier stroke carries the ball higher and against the tension of the cord C. The object can therefore be kept in motion with but slight exertion for a considerable length of time and without fatigue, thereby permitting its use by small children.

It will be obvious that with a rapid motion, such as by the use of light taps, the eye of the user will be trained to follow movements rapidly, in addition to which the constant striking of the object exercises and strengthens the fingers. Furthermore, the striker being located on the end of the finger, the surface extending over the tip, the object is prevented from contacting with the finger, and thereby prevent liability of the object being punctured or otherwise injured by the finger or finger-nail. In addition, the striker being located on the end of the finger and the motion used in striking the object being in a direction corresponding with the extended finger-tip, there is no strain placed on the finger

itself, such as would occur were the striking done with the finger folded, nor is there any necessity of the employment of another finger or thumb in manipulating the striker.

While I have shown the object as in the form of a ball, it will be understood that other shapes may be employed, as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. A toy comprising an inflated object, a finger-striker, said striker preventing contact of the finger and object, and an elastic connection between the object and striker.

2. A toy comprising an inflated object, a finger-striker having a striking-surface, said striker preventing contact of the finger and object, and a permanent connection between the object and striker.

3. A toy comprising an inflated object, a striker having a finger-socket and a striking-surface, said striker preventing contact of the finger and object, and a permanent connection between the object and striker.

4. A toy comprising an inflated object, a striker consisting of a block having one end semispherical in form and its opposite end provided with a finger-socket, said striker preventing contact of the finger and object, and a permanent connection between the object and striker.

5. A toy comprising an inflated object, a striker having at one end a finger-socket and its other end provided with a semispherical surface, the latter end carrying a projecting striking-surface, and a permanent elastic cord connecting the striker and object.

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

DAVID J. WILSON.

Witnesses:

PHILIP F. LARNER,
WM. H. SOMERVELL.