

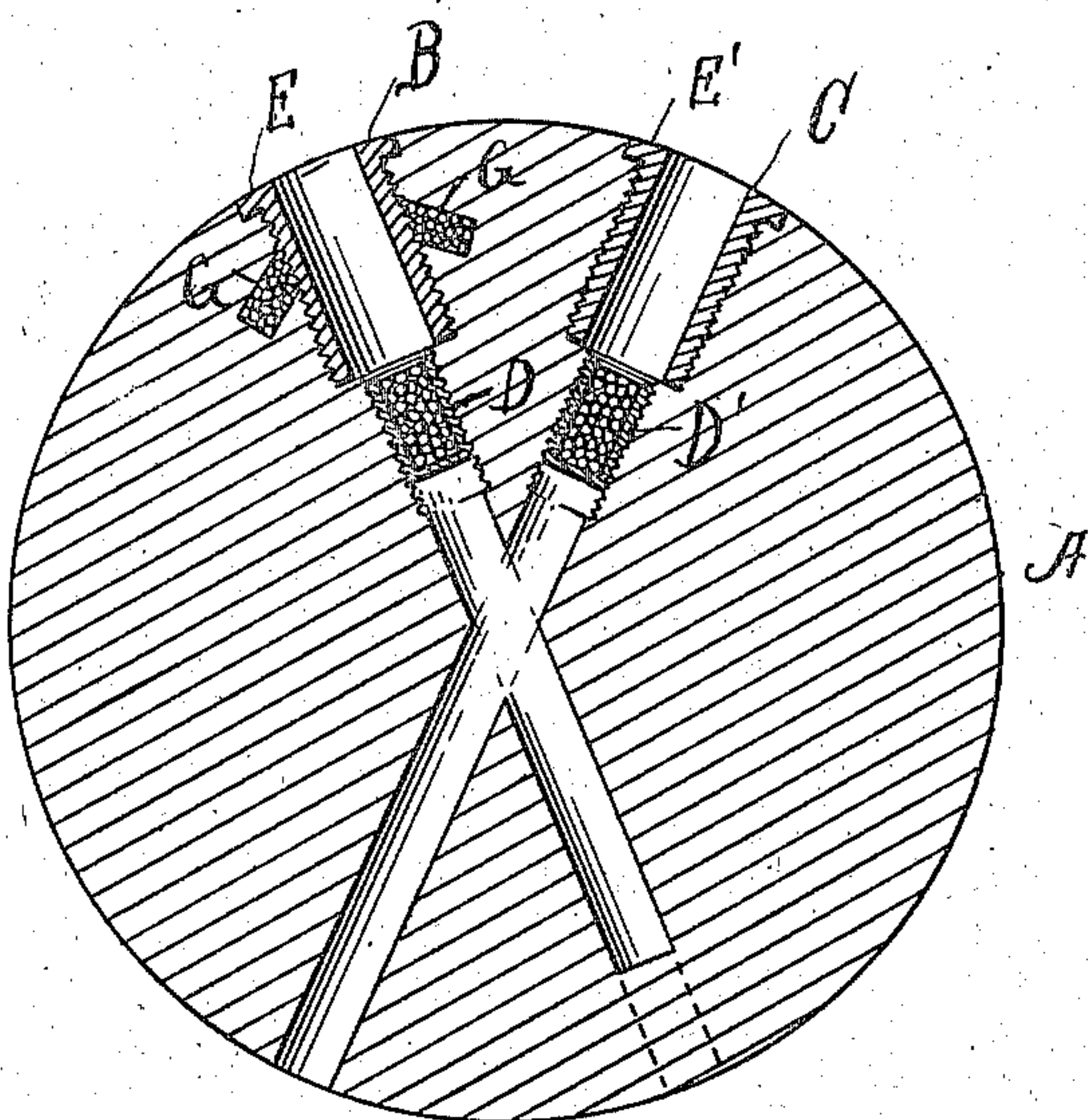
No. 746,576.

PATENTED DEC. 8, 1903.

J. T. RICE.  
BOWLING BALL.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 26, 1902.

NO MODEL.



*Witnesses:*

*A. L. Lord.*  
*E. B. Donnelly.*

*Inventor.*  
*James T. Rice*  
*W. E. Donnelly*  
*his Att'y*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES T. RICE, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

## BOWLING-BALL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 746,576, dated December 8, 1903.

Application filed April 26, 1902. Serial No. 104,823. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES T. RICE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bowling-Balls; 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 pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to balls adapted to be used for playing tenpins or for the game of bowling, and more especially to such balls when the same have been made or formed of hard wood, such as lignum-vitæ and provided with holes adapted to receive the finger and thumb of the bowler or player.

The object of my invention is to provide a ball which is balanced and may be retained in a balancing condition by adjustment.

A further object of my invention is to provide a ball which may be reduced in diameter after having become worn and subsequently balanced.

My invention consists in details of construction and combination of parts for carrying out or retaining the above objects, all of which will be hereinafter fully set forth and claimed.

In the drawing is illustrated a cross-sectional view of a bowling-ball constructed according to my invention, showing the sockets extending beyond the center and illustrating the adjustable weights and auxiliary weights.

A represents a ball which is formed of hard wood and provided with the usual finger-holes B C, one for the thumb and the other for a finger, whereby the ball is grasped, held, and propelled.

The object in extending the finger-holes beyond the center is to, as far as possible, balance the ball, leaving but little, if any, weight to make up in the balancing.

The balancing of the ball I attain by the use of a weight preferably inserted at the lower ends of the finger-holes B C. These weights D D' are preferably formed in divided form and as a matter of preference I construct them in the form of casings, which are filled with shot or like divided weights, such as illustrated in Figure 1. These casings are secured in the lower part of the finger-holes in any suitable manner, but preferably by

means of screw-thread connections, as suggested. I may also, if desired and found necessary, pack the divided weights tightly within their several casings with suitable material to prevent them from rattling or moving. The casings or weights D D' may be made adjustable toward and from the center of the ball for the purpose of securing a proper balance of the ball. The bushings E E' extend to the outer periphery of the ball and are formed flush with said periphery.

G G represent one or more auxiliary pockets, which may be formed near the outer periphery of the ball and may be provided with additional weights where additional balancing is required, or they may constitute the entire balancing-weight formed of divided parts, such as shot or like small pieces.

I am aware that it has been endeavored to balance a ball by means of a bushing, but I have found the same to be impracticable, inasmuch as owing to the different density of the material of which the balls are made and also owing to the different density of the material at different parts of the same ball it is impracticable to form a bushing which will perfectly balance the ball, and hence I have overcome this objection by providing adjustable weights, as above set forth.

In the drawing I have shown the finger holes or sockets B C extending beyond the center of the balls, the one, B, being almost to the opposite side or periphery of the ball and the other, C, extending through the ball. Either construction may be employed for the purpose of balancing, if desired, and as auxiliary to the weights in large balls.

In setting forth this invention I have endeavored to show and describe a construction which I deem best adapted to perform the function required; but I do not wish to be limited to these details of construction or to the assemblage of the parts, inasmuch as it is obvious that the same may be modified or altered and still embody my invention.

What I claim is—

1. A bowling-ball comprising finger holes or sockets, adjustable divided weights, located within said finger holes or sockets, and at or near the lower portion thereof, in combination with auxiliary sockets extending from the side walls of said finger-holes and



adapted to receive weights, for the purpose set forth.

2. In a bowling-ball, the combination with the finger-sockets thereof, of hollow externally-screw-threaded bushings arranged in the said sockets, and weights arranged in the said ball, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In combination with a bowling-ball formed with holes extending inward beyond the center of the ball, hollow bushings mounted in the outer ends of the said holes, weights adjustably mounted in the said holes at a point in the rear of the said bushings, and

means for additional weights in the ball at points adjacent the said bushings. 15

4. A bowling-ball of the type set forth provided with finger holes or sockets and weights adjustably mounted in the ball at a point below the finger-holes. 20

Signed at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, this 28th day of February, 1902.

JAMES T. RICE.

Witnesses:

E. B. DONNELLY,

W. E. DONNELLY.