No. 890,920. PATENTED JUNE 16, 1908.

J. P. NEWBOLD.

RETURN BALL.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1907.

Fig. 1.

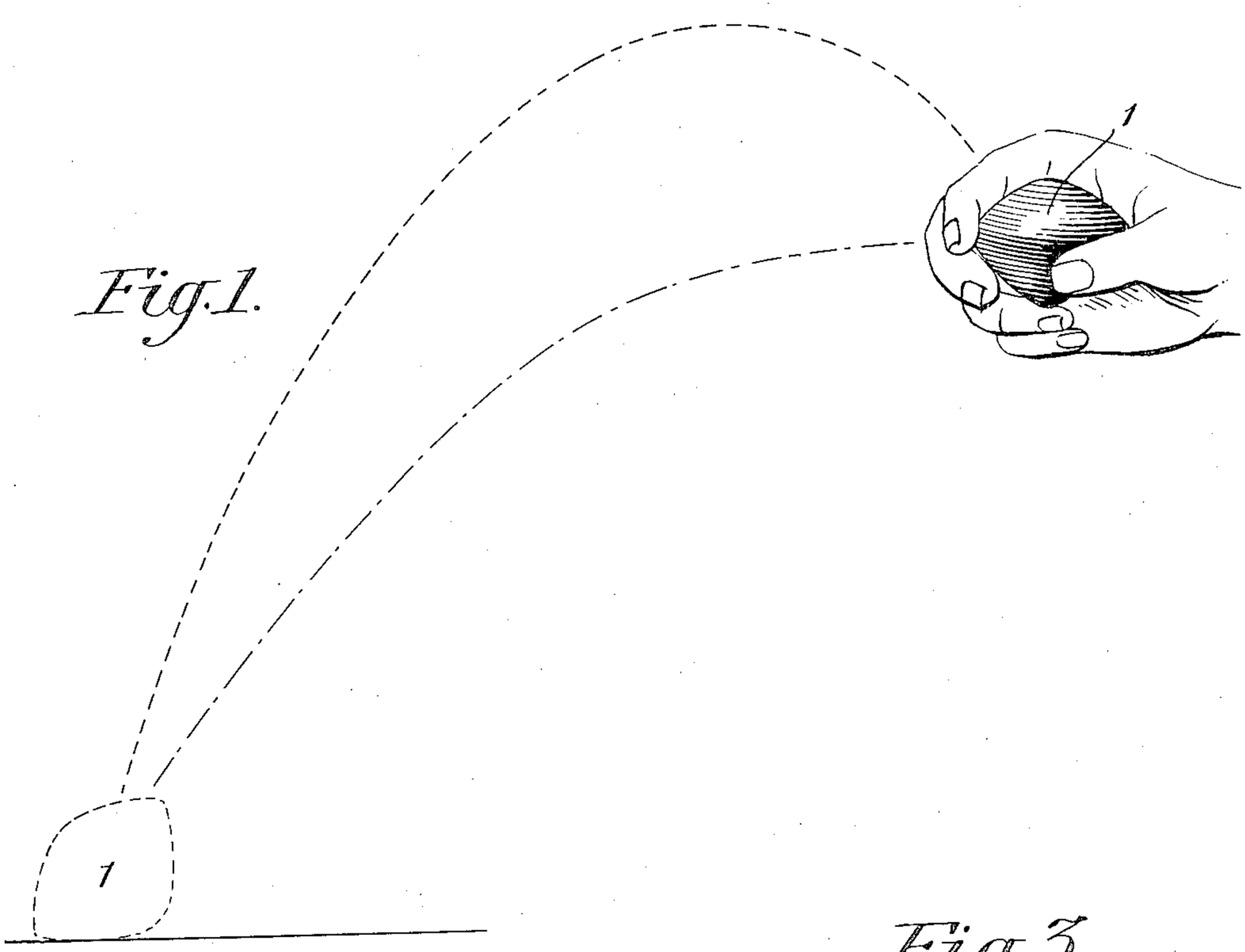


Fig. 2.

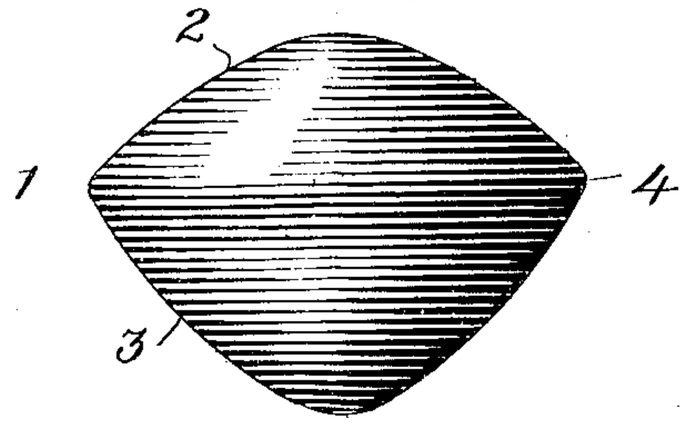
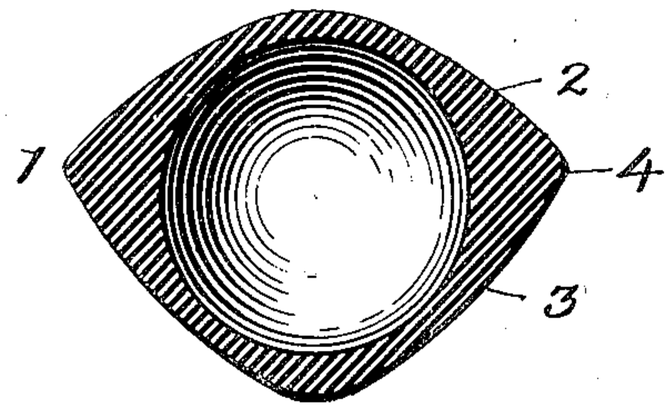


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. NEWBOLD, OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY.

RETURN-BALL.

No. 890,920. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 16, 1908.

Application filed March 26, 1907. Serial No. 364,629.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. NEWBOLD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cape May, in the county of Cape May and State of New Jersey, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Return-Balls, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of this invention is to provide a ball, in the nature of a toy, to be thrown or pitched by the player in such way that it will return toward the player, and hence, I have designated my invention a "return ball".

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 illustrates the ball in the hand of a player in one position in which it may be held, and the upper dotted line indicates the path of movement of the ball when tossed from the hand, and the lower dotted line represents substantially the path of movement of the return. Fig. 2 is an elevation of one form of ball. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of a ball of the same shape as that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, but made hollow.

The ball 1 has different diameters in different planes of section, the portions arranged upon opposite sides of a plane which is coincident with their bases being convex, and said plane containing the greatest diameters. The ball is composed of two such convex portions, designated respectively 2 and 3, and these portions are conoidal and their bases are coincident and form the circumferentially projecting portion 4 of greatest diameters. The circumferentially projecting portion is the salient feature in effecting automatically the return of the ball, by arresting its flight away from the player when it comes in contact with a solid substance, as a pavement, and as illustrated substantially in Fig. 1.

The ball is tossed away from the player with more or less force, and in a path substantially such as indicated by the upper dotted line in Fig. 1, and more or less of a twirl is given to the ball in a plane passing through the portion 4, much in the way that a quoit is tossed, so that the ball will land substantially as indicated by the dotted line in Fig. 1, and in so landing its forward movement will be arrested and its impetus converted into a return movement, such impetus being aided by the resiliency of the ball.

The ball may be made of pure rubber, or rubber composition, clay, celluloid, vegetable ivory, or any other of a variety of well-known substances of greater or less elasticity or resilience, and either solid or hollow.

It will be seen that the zone or portion 2 is smaller than the portion 3, and, consequently, there will be an overbalance in the portion 3, which might have a tendency to guide the ball in casting it, so as to cause it to alight on or near the portion 4 and at an inclination to effect the return. But the portions 2 and 3 may be of equal size and weight. However, my present experience is that the best results are obtained with a ball of substantially the outline, contour, construction, and configuration shown in the drawings, and yet I do not wish to be understood as so limiting the invention.

As already sufficiently indicated, the ball is a toy, and the fascination in its use, when skill in tossing or pitching it is acquired, consists in its return to the player after being cast from him.

What I claim is:—

A return ball, of elastic material, having different diameters in different planes of section, the portions on opposite sides of the plane of greatest diameters being conoidal, their bases lying in said plane.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of March, A. D. 1907.

JOHN P. NEWBOLD.

Witnesses:

HENRY J. NELSON,

OSGOOD WELSH,

VIOLET P. WELSH.