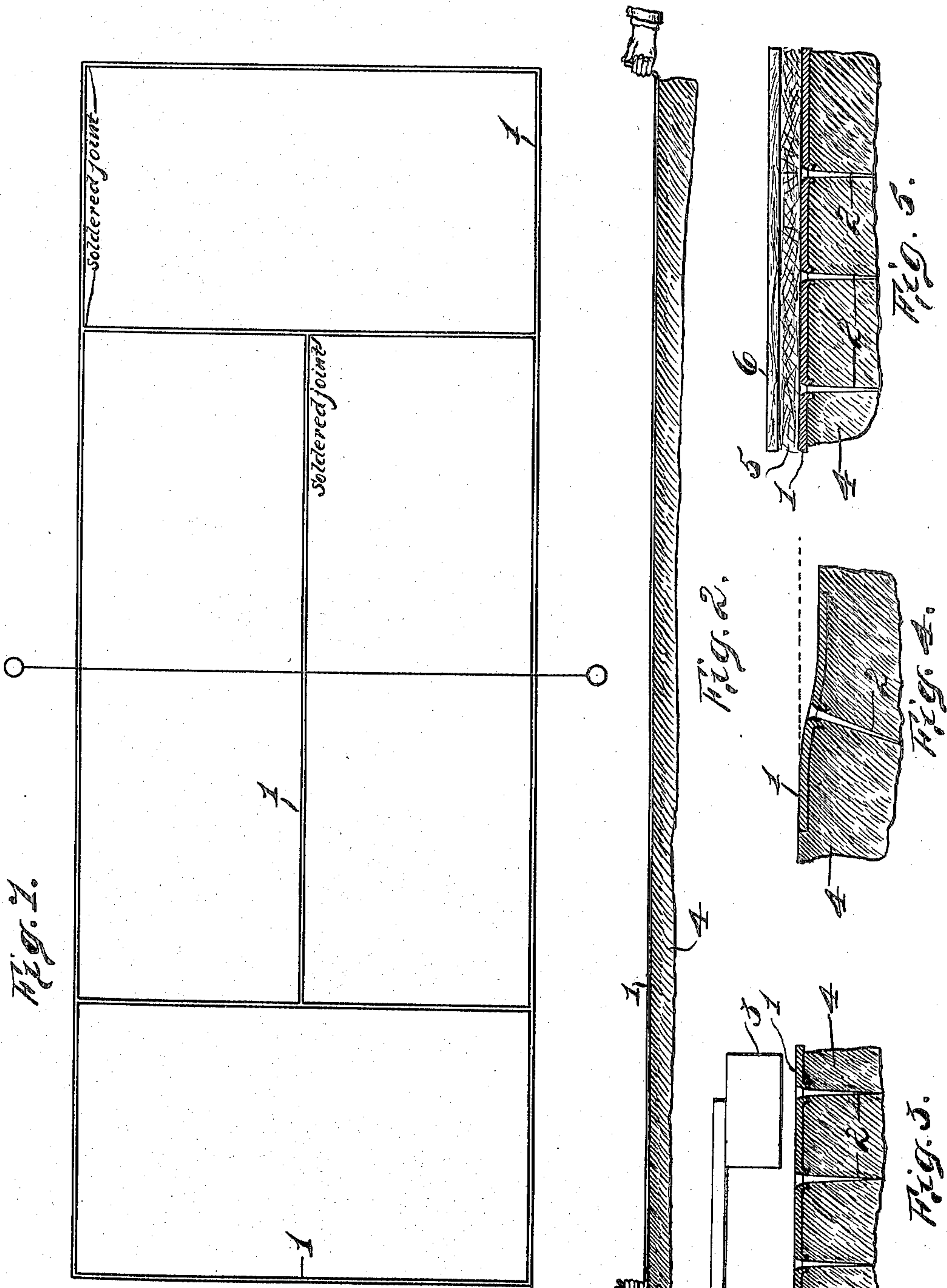


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TAPE FOR TENNIS COURTS AND THE LIKE.  
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951,484.

Patented Mar. 8, 1910.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT MOORE, OF TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK.

TAPE FOR TENNIS-COURTS AND THE LIKE.

951,484.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 8, 1910.

Application filed December 1, 1908. Serial No. 465,494.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROBERT MOORE, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Tuxedo Park, Orange county, New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Improved Tape for Tennis-Courts and the Like, of which the following is a clear, full, and exact description.

This invention relates to improved tapes for marking tennis courts and the like, but particularly adapted for the marking of dirt tennis courts.

The object of the invention is to provide a tape which will be permanent and durable, not likely to trip a player, or to work itself out of place.

In carrying out my invention, I make use of a long, narrow, relatively thin ribbon of a material which is ductile, malleable and non-elastic, whereby I am enabled to place the tape in position readily, and make the same conform to the minute inequalities of the ground, in which conformation the material will remain, in view of its non-elasticity and weight. I prefer to use a metal, having these characteristics, and I particularly find that lead well serves the purpose, although it will be obvious that many alloys might be produced to secure the ductility, malleability and non-elasticity which reside in lead, and which make lead a most desirable substance for my improved tapes.

In a co-pending application executed of even date herewith, and filed as of the same date with this application, I have described and claimed a method for laying and preserving the tapes which are themselves described but not claimed in this application.

In order that my invention will be fully understood, from this description, I have described herein the manner in which my improved tapes are applied to a tennis court, or other such space which is to be marked, although such method is not claimed in this application.

Each tape is first stretched along the line on which it is to be placed to take out all the kinks, and to slightly elongate the tape. It is then tacked down at each end, preferably with a flat headed ten-penny nail. I then place a nail in the center of the tape, and then divide the two halves into quarters, the quarters into eighths, and so on until the tape is held to the ground in a sufficient number of places to be practically secured.

While I prefer to so tack the tape in place, it will be obvious that it may be otherwise secured. The lead being very ductile and non-elastic, and malleable, permits the heads of the nails to be inserted so that they will be flush with the top surface of the lead, the lead being dished below the head of the nail. All meeting points of strips I prefer to solder at the joints. After nailing the strips in place, I go over the entire lengths of strips with a mallet, hammer, or roller, to flatten the lead out even with the ground, and to cause it to conform in all particulars to the conformation of the ground as well as to assure one plain surface for the nails and strips. I then, if desired, paint the strips with any improved tennis marker, and any approved marking material. A court marked out with a strip of this kind will last, I have found, more than one season, provided the court is given attention during the winter, so that the frost will be prevented from raising the ground adjacent, and under the strip. To accomplish this purpose, I cover the strips of the court, at least six inches on each side of the strips, at the end of the season, and before frost has set in, with straw bedding or other material which will protect the ground from the frost, and I anchor such bedding or material by placing planks or boards over the same. When the ground is free from frost in the spring, and the court has been so treated, it will be in condition for another year's play, with no other treatment than a court ordinarily must have.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 represents a single tennis court in diagrammatic plan marked according to this invention. Fig. 2 is a view showing how the strips of tape are first stretched. Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the strips secured by nails and the mallet for hammering the strips flat with the earth. Fig. 4 is a sectional view at right angles to Fig. 3 showing an exaggerated uneven condition of the ground with my improved tape in conformation with such unevenness and Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3 with the bedding for the winter in place.

In the drawings above described, Fig. 1 shows in a diagrammatic view, a single court having the tapes 1 where they join each other soldered. As described elsewhere in the specification, the tape 1 is first



stretched as shown in Fig. 2, over and above the ground, to cause it to be slightly elongated, much in the manner in which an upholsterer stretches upholstering webbing. Nails, such as 2, are tacked down as shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, and a mallet 3 is then used to hammer the tape flush with the ground.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a transverse section of Fig. 3, but I have greatly exaggerated the unevenness of the ground, which should never take place in a court, but which will take place to a lesser degree than in this Fig. 4, and when it does take place, the lead will conform to the unevenness of the ground, as will be obvious.

In Fig. 5, I have shown the ground and strip protected by bedding 5 anchored by a board 6 laid along the top of the webbing in the direction of the top.

I claim as my invention:

1. A tennis court, having a dirt foundation, in combination with marking tapes, composed of long, narrow and relatively thin ribbons, of ductile, non-elastic and mal-

leable metal, and means for securing the tape to the court.

2. A tennis court, having a dirt surface, in combination with marking tapes therefor, composed of long, relatively thin, and narrow ribbons of ductile, non-elastic and malleable metal, and means for securing the tape to the court.

3. A tennis court, having a dirt surface, in combination with marking tapes, composed of narrow, long, and relatively thin strips of lead, and means for securing the tape to the court.

4. A tennis court, having a dirt surface, in combination with marking tapes composed of narrow, long, and relatively thin strips of lead, and means for securing the tape to the court, said lead strips soldered together where joints occur.

Signed at Tuxedo Park, Orange Co., New York this 30th day of November 1908.

ROBERT MOORE.

Witnesses:

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