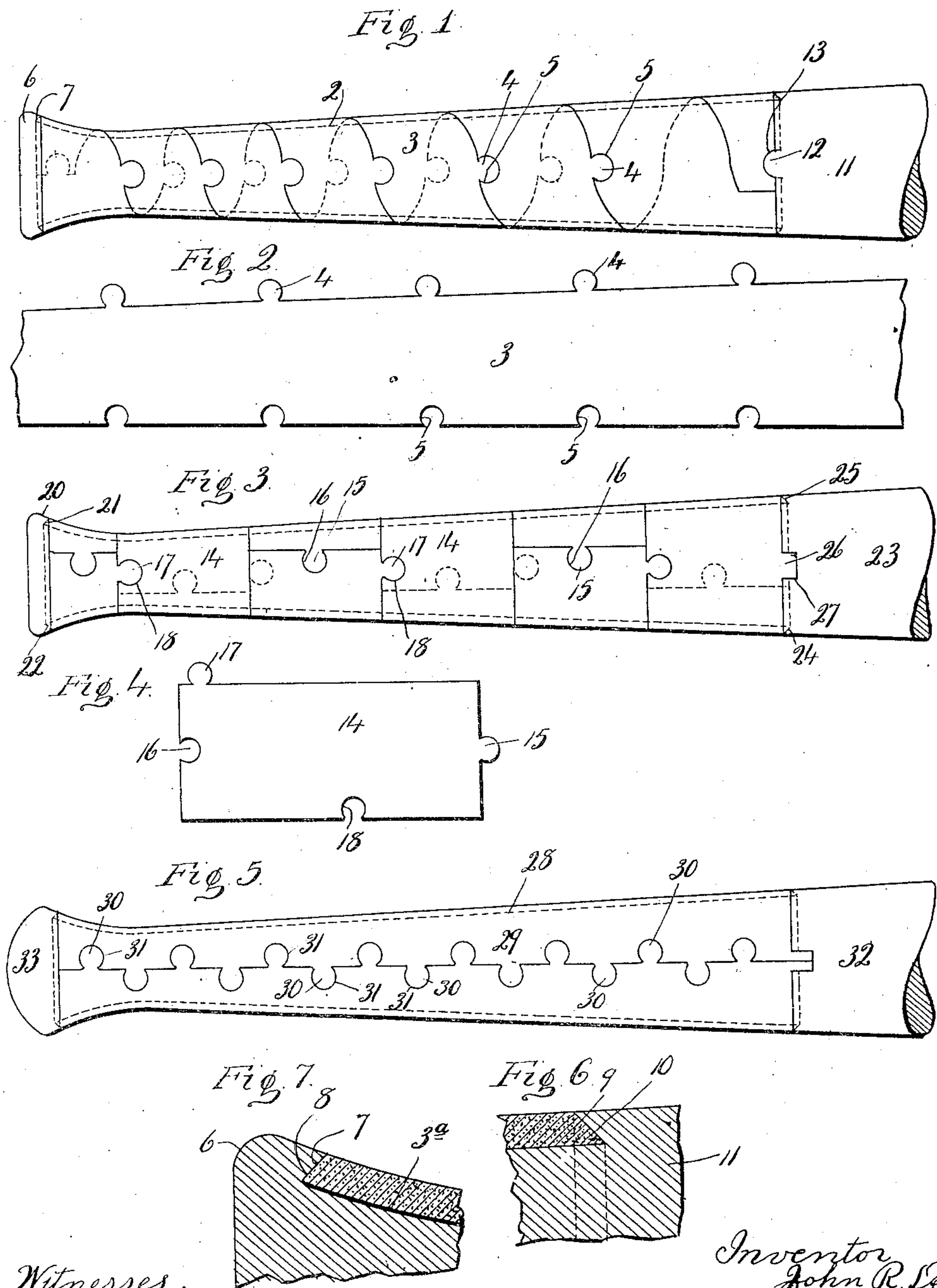


J. R. DEAN.
 BASE BALL BAT.
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979,266.

Patented Dec. 20, 1910.



Witnesses.
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BASE-BALL BAT.

979,266.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, JOHN R. DEAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Base-Ball Bats; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1 a broken view in side elevation of a base-ball bat having its handle incased in a sheet of cork in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 a broken view of the development of a cork strip designed to be wound spirally upon the handle-end of a base-ball bat as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 a broken view in side elevation of the handle-end of a base-ball bat, showing another way of applying a cork sheath thereto. Fig. 4 a development of one of the cork sections of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 a broken view in side elevation showing still another mode of applying cork to the handle-end of a base-ball bat. Fig. 6 a broken view on an enlarged scale showing the undercutting of the bat for the protection of the beveled outer end of the cork-sheath. Fig. 7 a sectional view showing the under-cutting of the inner end of the bat to receive the beveled inner end of the cork-sheath.

My invention relates to an improvement in base-ball bats, the object being to adapt them to be more easily and firmly gripped and held, and hence to enable them to be more comfortably and effectively used.

With these ends in view my invention consists in a base-ball bat having certain details of construction as will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claim.

In carrying out my invention as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the handle-end 2 of the bat is incased in a sheath of cork formed by winding a strip 3 of cork spirally upon it, the edges of the said strip being formed at regularly spaced intervals with coupling lugs 4 and coupling notches 5 which, when the strip 3 is wound upon the handle-end 2, coact to interlock its edges. The said handle-end 2 terminates at its inner end in a rounded head 6 undercut as at 7 for the reception of the beveled outer end 8 of the strip 3, the opposite end of which is formed with a

corresponding bevel 9 entering a corresponding undercut 10 formed at the point where the handle-end 2 of the bat merges into the body 11 thereof. It will be seen by reference to Fig. 7, that the handle-end 2 of the bat is reduced in diameter in conformity with the thickness of the cork 3 which I intend to secure to the handle-end 2 throughout the length thereof, by means of a water-proof cement 3^a of any suitable composition. As shown, also, the body 11 of the bat is formed with a lug 12 entering a notch 13 in the outer end of the cork 3 to assist in holding the same against rotation in case it should by any chance get loose at this point.

On account of its yielding character, cork forms a surface at once comfortable, and yet providing for the very powerful grip which is necessary to prevent the bat from slipping in the hands. In case the cork is allowed to get wet or damp, it readily dries out without any appreciable loss of its natural quality.

In the modified construction shown by Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, a cork-sheath is formed by claspings upon the handle-end 2 of the bat, a series of graduated cork bands 14 each having a coupling-lug 15 at one end for entrance into a corresponding coupling-notch 16 in its opposite end and having a coupling-lug 17 upon one of its edges for entrance into a corresponding coupling-notch 18 upon its opposite edge. The lugs 17 and notches 18 upon the bands 14 are shown, as staggered, so that the interlocking lugs will not be in line. The bands 14 will be cemented to the handle-end 2 of the bat by a suitable cement, preferably water-proof in its character. In this construction also the head 20 at the inner end of the bat is formed with an undercut groove 21 for the reception of a bevel 22 formed upon the outer end of the inner band 14, while the body 23 of the bat is formed with an undercut groove 24 for the reception of a bevel 25 formed upon the outer end of the outer band 14. The band 14 last mentioned is also furnished with a lug 26 entering a notch 27 in the body 23 to assist in locking the said band against rotation.

In the construction shown by Fig. 5 of the drawings, the handle-end 28 of the bat is inclosed in a cork-sheath consisting of a long tapering piece 29 of cork cut to fit the said handle 28 and having its edges formed with coupling-lugs 30 and coupling-notches 31, whereby the edges of the strip are inter-

locked. The cork 29 will be cemented directly to the handle-end 28, and will be beveled at its ends for their protection at the points where the sheath joins the body 5 32 of the bat and the head 33 thereof.

I am aware that it is old to use cork, or compositions of cork, in the construction of handles for tools, fishing rods, cricket bats, golf clubs, tennis rackets, base ball bats, etc., and do not broadly claim the use of cork in such situations, but only my particular construction. 10

I claim:—

As a new article of manufacture, a base- 15 ball bat having its tapering handle-end reduced in diameter and provided with a cork sheath merging into the full diameter of the body of the bat, the said cork sheath being

sectional in form and having its edges provided with coupling-lugs and complementary coupling-notches, whereby the said edges are interlocked, and the ends of the sheath formed by the cork being beveled to enter circumferential grooves respectively formed in a bead at the extremity of the 25 handle-end of the bat and at the point where the opposite end of the sheath merges into the full diameter of the bat.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 30

JOHN R. DEAN.

Witnesses:

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