

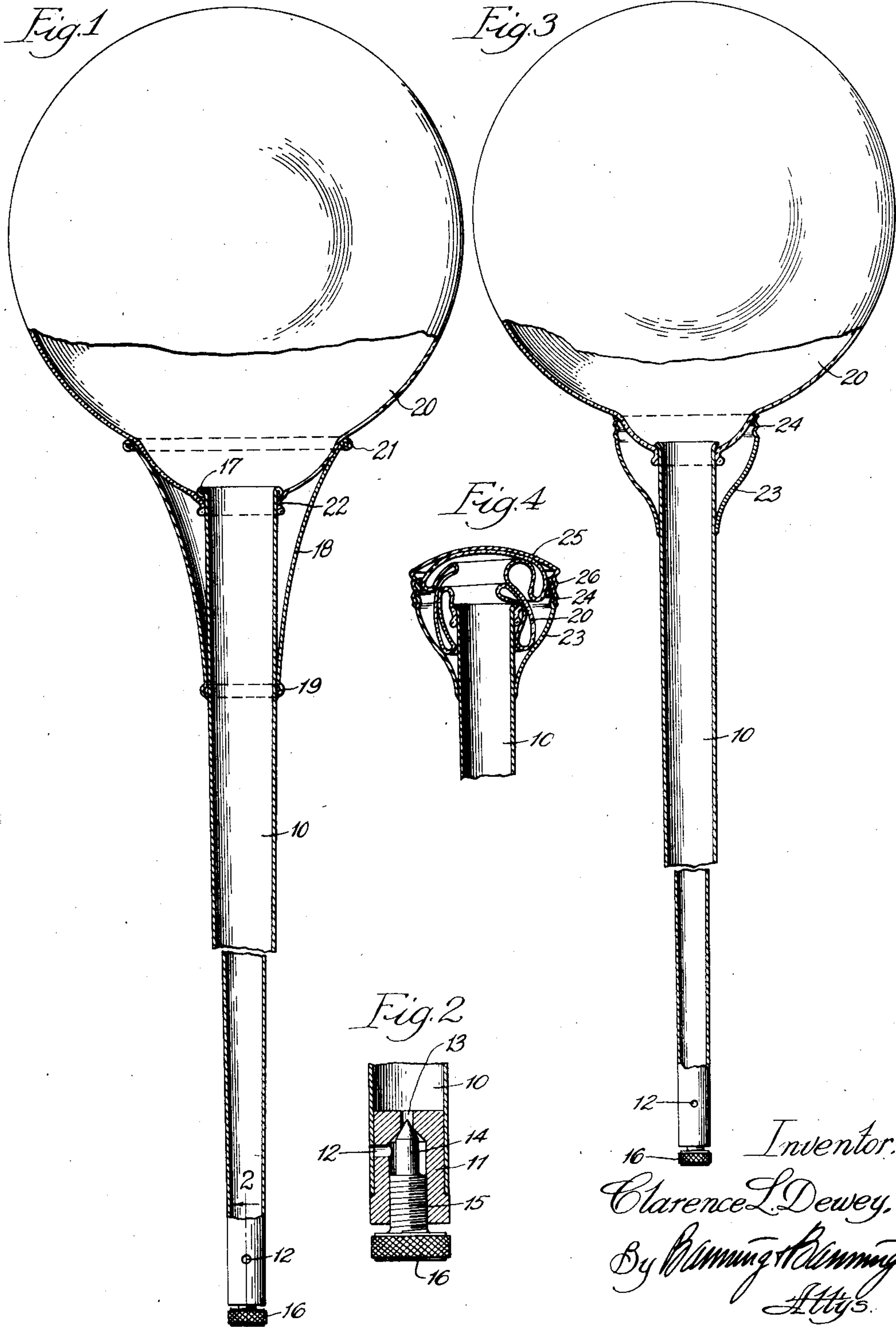
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C. L. DEWEY

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COMBINED BATON AND CANE

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Inventor:  
Clarence L. Dewey,  
By *Wm. H. Wm. H.*  
Attys.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## COMBINED BATON AND CANE

Clarence L. Dewey, Elkhart, Ind.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 84-477)

The present invention is intended for use by the drum major of a band, or by the marchers in the band, as an attractive display and for the purpose of arresting attention and in connection with demonstrations and maneuvers of the character ordinarily performed by a band or similar marching organization.

The staff of the combined baton and cane is constructed of metal, with provision for the inflation of a large rubber ball at the end of the staff, which not only affords an attractive display but which may be suddenly inflated or deflated to attract attention, and may be deflated on occasion to permit storage or to permit the baton to be transformed into a cane by the application of a cap or cover, which constitutes the head of the cane and also serves to protect and conceal the expansible ball when deflated.

Further objects and details will appear from a description of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein,—

Figure 1 is a view partially in section showing the invention in form to be used exclusively as a baton;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional detail showing the valve for controlling the inflation of the ball;

Fig. 3 is a view partially in section of a modified construction which makes provision for the transformation of the baton into a cane; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail showing the ball deflated and the cap applied.

The invention in the form shown in Fig. 1 comprises a tubular staff 10 preferably formed of tapered seamless metal tubing, which is provided at its reduced end with a valve plug 11 having a laterally extending port 12 and a centrally disposed discharge port 13 which is controlled by a tapered valve 14 carried by a stem 15 which is threaded into the bore in the plug and terminates in a knurled button 16 at the end of the staff.

The opposite end of the staff is rolled over to afford a marginal bead 17, and the end of the staff is surrounded by a bell shaped cup 18 the reduced end 19 of which is outwardly beaded and suitably secured to the wall of the staff at a point somewhat below the upper terminus thereof.

The flared cup extends beyond the terminus of the staff and affords a flaring neck or collar for contact with the surface of an expansible rubber ball 20 which is preferably brightly colored to afford a striking display for the end of the baton when the ball is inflated. The inflation is performed by blowing into the aperture

12 to inflate the ball to the desired degree, after which the valve is closed to prevent the escape of air. When inflated, the expansible ball will bear against the margin 21 of the cup 18, which margin is beaded to afford a smooth contact with the surface of the expansible ball.

The ball terminates in a neck portion 22 which may be stretched to embrace the upper end of the staff immediately behind the bead 17 to afford a close seal, which not only serves to position the ball but also to seal the connection against the escape of air.

The construction shown in Fig. 4 is similar in all respects to that previously described, with the exception of the fact that the cup 23 instead of being outwardly flared as in Fig. 1 is more nearly of bowl-shape and provided near its upper rim with exterior threads 24 which provide for the screwing on of a cap 25 having a threaded flange 26.

The cap is preferably rounded or dome-shaped on its outer surface to afford a head which in configuration resembles the head of a cane or walking stick, so that upon deflation of the ball as in Fig. 4 the deflated ball will be housed within the cup 23 and under the cap 25 so as to be thoroughly concealed and protected and so as to transform the baton into a walking stick of conventional form.

The staff, as stated, is of metal tubing, which may be finished in an attractive manner by any suitable bright metal finish, or it may be lacquered or otherwise finished in any desirable manner.

The invention is one which permits marchers to proceed in marching formation with the ball deflated and the baton used as a walking stick, and further permits the ball to be quickly inflated to transform the stick into a baton to be used in maneuvering as a baton, thereby adding to the attractiveness of the marching display. At the same time the device may be used strictly as a drum major's baton, and if desired the expansible ball may be given a silver finish so that when expanded it will give the appearance of a metallic ball of the character commonly employed on the end of a baton of conventional type.

Although the invention has been described with particularity as to detail, it is not the intention to limit it to precisely the form shown, since variations may be introduced within the scope of the intended claims.

I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a tubular staff having an expansible



rubber ball secured to the upper end of the staff and having a valve controlled orifice at the lower end of the staff for regulating the inflation of the ball, a cup-shaped member surrounding the upper end of the staff and having its margin extended above the upper end of the staff in position to bear against the surface of the ball when inflated, and a cap adapted to fit upon the cup-shaped member and close over the ball when deflated and housed within the cup-shaped member.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a tubular staff having an expansible rubber ball secured to the upper end of the staff and having a valve controlled orifice at the lower end of the staff for regulating the inflation of the ball, a cup-shaped member surrounding the upper end of the staff and having its margin extended above the upper end of the staff in position to bear against the surface of the ball when inflated, and a cap provided with a rounded head and a depending flange adapted to engage with the margin of the cup to close the mouth of the cup and conceal and protect the deflated ball and give to the structure the appearance of a headed walking stick.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a slender elongated tubular staff, having an expansible rubber ball secured to the upper end of the staff, and means for maintaining the ball when expanded in centered relation on the axis of the staff, the staff having a valve controlled orifice for regulating the inflation of the ball, the staff and ball when inflated having the form and proportionate dimensions of a drum major's baton.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a slender elongated tubular staff having an expansible rubber ball secured to the upper end of the staff and having a valve controlled orifice at the lower end of the staff for regulating the inflation of the ball, and a cup-shaped member surrounding the upper end of the staff and having its margin extended above the upper end of the staff in position to bear against the surface of the ball when inflated and maintaining the ball in centered relation to the axis of the staff, the staff and ball when inflated having the form and proportionate dimensions of a drum major's baton.

CLARENCE L. DEWEY.