

B. C. RIBLET.
GAME BALL.
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906,932.

Patented Dec. 15, 1908.

Fig. I.

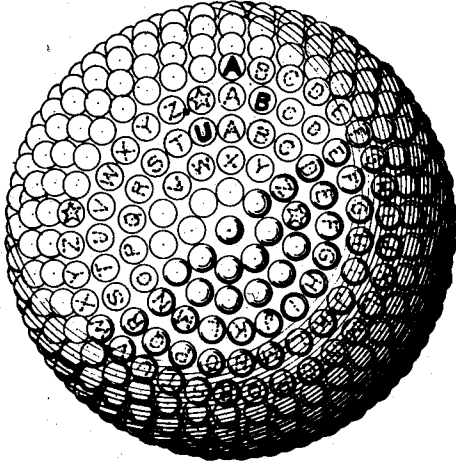


Fig. II.

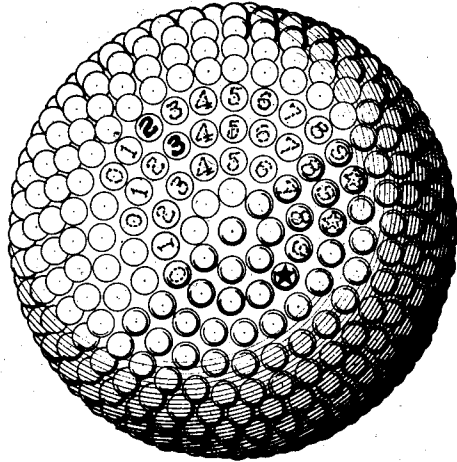


Fig. III.



Fig. IV.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME-BALL.

No. 906,932.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BYRON C. RIBLET, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the city of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Balls, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to balls such as are ordinarily used in playing games and of which I will mention golf balls as being particular ones in which my improvement is of utility.

Games, such as golf, are played upon the same territory by a number of persons, and it has heretofore been a difficult problem for the owners of the game balls to keep track of or identify their particular balls or distinguish them from the balls owned by others, so that each player may retain possession of his own property or regain possession in the event of the balls becoming lost or mislaid and subsequently found.

It is the object of my invention to provide means whereby each of several game players may readily and conveniently mark their balls for identification.

Figure I is an elevation of a game ball provided with my means for player's identification. Fig. II is a similar view to Fig. I, illustrating a varied style of player's identification marking. Fig. III is an enlarged view of a portion of the player's identification markings shown in Fig. I. Fig. IV is a cross section taken on line IV—IV, Fig. III.

Without restricting myself to the particular type of game ball to which my improvement may be applied, I have shown in the drawings and will hereinafter describe, a game ball, such as are used in playing a game of golf and which balls are usually made with numerous knobs or protuberances at their exterior surfaces.

Upon the exterior surface of the game ball to which my improvement is to be applied, I produce two or more complete alphabets which are, when placed upon a golf ball that is made with the knobs or protuberances mentioned, arranged upon said knobs or protuberances as illustrated in Figs. I and III. The characters of the alphabets are preferably arranged in succession and at one end of each series of characters I preferably locate a star-shaped figure that serves as a final character in each set of characters. After the charac-

ters have been produced upon the ball either during the manufacture thereof or subsequently, as may be desirable, I paint the surface of the ball upon which the characters mentioned are located, thereby partly obscuring the characters beneath the paint but leaving them in a condition to be distinguishable through the paint.

In Fig. II I have shown a modification in which instead of using two or more series of alphabets as the characters upon the balls, I use two or more series of numerals preferably from "0" to "9" and in this marking also preferably produce upon the ball a final character or figure at the end of each set of numerals.

Each ball that is made in accordance with my improvement is in a condition to be readily operated upon by any person who may purchase it in order that the ball may thereafter be identified as his personal property. To provide for such identification, the owner of the ball may readily prepare the ball illustrated in Figs. I and II for identification by scraping the paint or covering from the surface of any desired number of characters appearing upon the ball with the object of indicating his initials thereon, or his name.

He may also scrape the paint from the surface of the final character, for instance the star, at the end of the set of characters of which none is used, if such be the case, for the purpose of preventing any other party who may gain possession of the ball from marking another initial in the unused set to make the initials correspond to his own, with fraudulent intent. This is possible due to it being the intention in the use of the improvement to utilize only a single character in each set of characters, when the ball is operated upon to enable its owner to identify it. The operation upon the ball to identify it, which has just been described, is illustrated by example in Figs. I and III of the drawings in which the letters "A" "B" "U" appear in the different alphabetical sets. These letters are present in the three sets of alphabets illustrated, therefore in such instances it is unnecessary to utilize the star or guard mark at the end of either alphabetical set.

When the ball shown in Fig. II is to be prepared for owner's identification, the surface paint over any of the numerals appearing upon the ball may be removed thereby exposing the numerals to full view with the result of providing the identification mark the

owner of the ball wishes to produce. He may also remove the paint from the surface of the final character at the end of the row of numerals which is unused thereby preventing another person from using any character in said row to alter the identification marking.

In example given in Fig. II, the numerals 2 and 3 are utilized in two of the sets of numerals shown indicating that the number employed by the owner of the ball is 23 and the guard character at the end of the third set of numerals is caused to appear in said set for the purpose of preventing any use of a numeral in this last named set by a fraudulent person, who might wish for his own gain to alter the number appearing on the ball.

My game ball is preferably coated with paint of a different color from the color of the

material forming the outer layer or body of the ball in order that when the coating of paint is removed from any one or more characters upon the ball such character or characters will appear distinctly and be readily distinguished from the other characters which remain coated with the paint applied thereto.

I claim:

A game ball having formed on its surface two or more identical series of characters, each character differing from all the others in the same series, and a removable coating over the characters.

BYRON C. RIBLET.

In presence of—

BLANCHE HOGAN,
H. G. COOK.