

T. WILKIE.
TRAPS FOR BALLS.

No. 191,628.

Patented June 5, 1877.

Fig. 2.

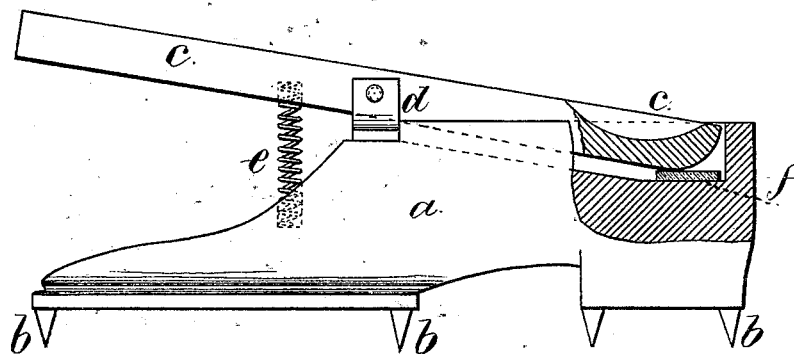
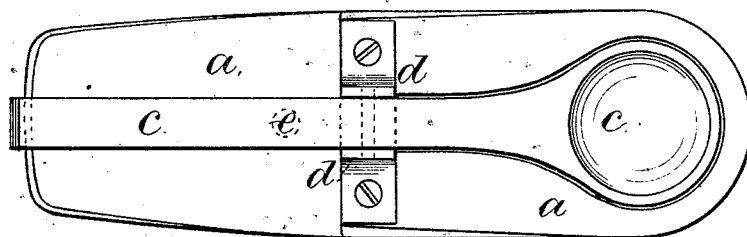


Fig. 1.



Witnesses

Chas. H. Smith
Harold Ferrill

Inventor

Thomas Wilkie
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att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS WILKIE, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRAPS FOR BALLS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **191,628**, dated June 5, 1877; application filed April 7, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS WILKIE, of Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Traps for Balls, of which the following is a specification:

In playing games with a bat and ball, an apparatus has sometimes been made use of to throw the ball upward from the ground so that it may be struck with a bat by the player, and this apparatus is generally termed a "trap."

My invention consists in an improved trap or apparatus whereby the ball is or may be thrown upward with more or less velocity, according to the force applied to the trap.

I use a supporting block or shoe, which is to be placed upon the ground, and, to prevent the same becoming misplaced or moved when in use, it is provided with short spikes, which enter the ground and retain the block in place.

This block or shoe may be of wood, or a hollow casting of metal.

A lever is pivoted upon the upper side of the block. One end of this lever is spoon-shaped, and sets into a socket in the shoe, and a spring near the outer end of the lever keeps it up to its place. The ball is placed upon the spoon-shaped end of the lever, and if the other end be then struck with a bat or other instrument the ball is thrown upward to be struck by the player.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a plan of my improved trap, and Fig. 2 is an elevation, partly in section.

The block *a* is of wood or metal, and is provided with the projections or spikes *b* to retain it in place upon the ground. The lever *c* is pivoted in the bearings *d* upon the upper

side of the block. One end of the lever *c* rests in the recess in the block *a*, which is the normal position of the lever *c*, and it is kept in place by a spring, *e*, near the outer end of the lever. The block *a* is cut away or inclined beneath the outer end of the lever *c*, so that the lever may be depressed at that end. The end of the lever which rests upon the block is made spoon-shaped to hold the ball, and a block of rubber, *f*, is secured upon the block *a*, and the end of the lever rests upon the rubber.

By striking the outer end of the lever the ball is thrown a greater or less distance, according to the force of the blow.

I find the action of the trap is improved by the spring *e*, and it is made more reliable. The pivot of the lever is above the surface of the block *a*, and when made of cast-iron, the bearings *d* of the lever are to be cast with the block.

By the use of this apparatus a very interesting game of ball can be played, and the laborious work of pitching the ball to the batsman is dispensed with.

I claim as my invention—

1. The trap for a ball made of the block *a*, with spikes *b* upon the under side, and with the bearings *d* for the lever *c* above the block *a*, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the block *a* and lever *c*, the spring *e* and the rubber block *f*, for the purposes and as set forth.

Signed by me this 2d day of April, A. D. 1877.

THOMAS WILKIE.

Witnesses:

HENRY S. DE BERRI,
E. WACKERHAGEN.