

[54] **SPRING-HOOK DEVICE FOR SCORING IN A TARGET TYPE GAME**

[76] Inventor: **David W. Currie**, 1552 Wittekind Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

[21] Appl. No.: **754,333**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 27, 1976**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>2</sup> ..... **A63B 71/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **273/95 R; 273/106 R**

[58] Field of Search ..... **273/95 R, 95 E, 1 R, 273/106 R, 106.5 A, 101; 46/129; 124/7**

[56] **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

D. 30,032	1/1899	Weigelt et al. ....	46/129 X
712,159	10/1902	Voege .....	273/1 R X
771,943	10/1904	Spicer .....	273/95 R
1,329,201	1/1920	Neyd'Hart .....	46/129
1,542,012	6/1925	Spilman .....	46/129 X
1,542,063	6/1925	Knight .....	273/95 R X
1,693,277	11/1928	Hustwick .....	273/95 E

3,612,528	10/1971	Glass et al. ....	273/95 R
3,675,924	7/1972	Smith .....	273/101
3,715,121	2/1973	Renn et al. ....	124/7 X
3,784,200	1/1974	Hotchkiss .....	273/95 R

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

6,943 of	1904	United Kingdom .....	273/95 R
3,345 of	1905	United Kingdom .....	273/106 R

*Primary Examiner*—William H. Grieb

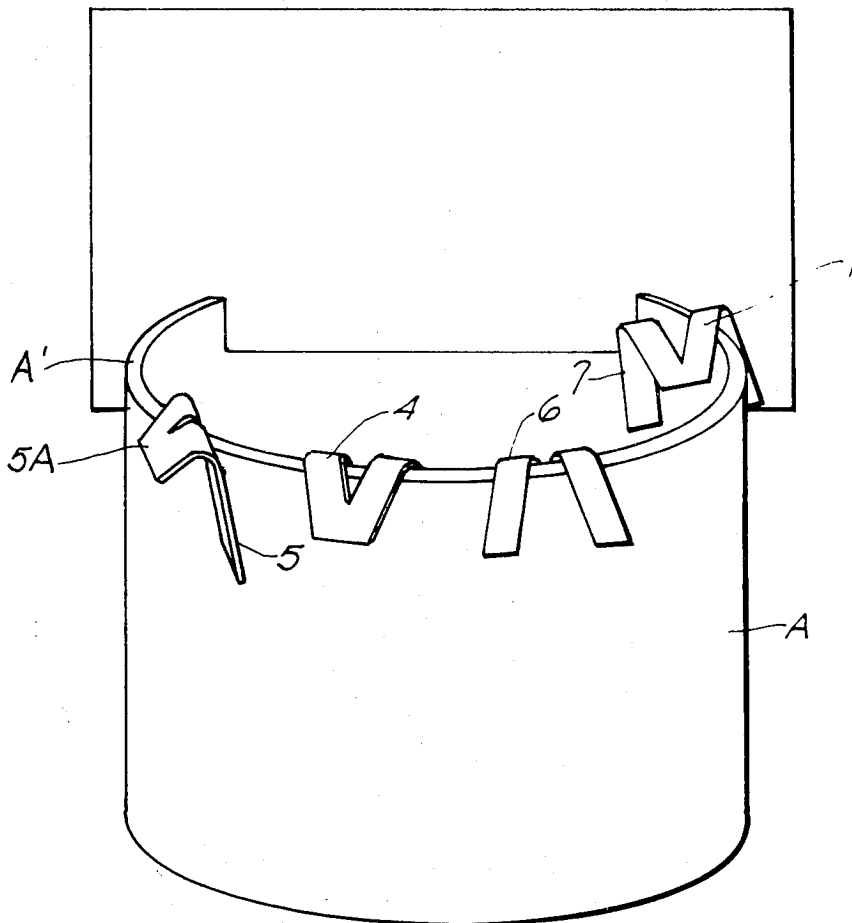
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Melville, Strasser, Foster & Hoffman

[57]

**ABSTRACT**

A game apparatus consisting of an open cup or box-shaped receptacle used as a target for a unitary spring-hook device which after it has been launched by applied pressure and released arches forward in a spin and hooks itself on the raised edge of the target receptacle, when not missing the receptacle or falling into it.

**6 Claims, 16 Drawing Figures**



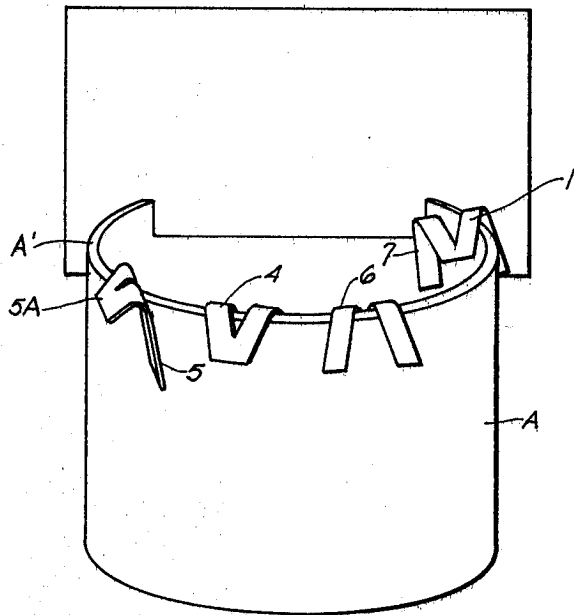


FIG 1A

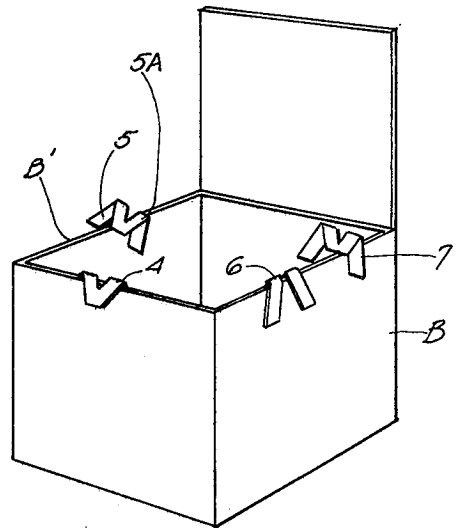


FIG 1B



FIG 2A

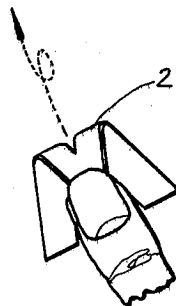


FIG 2B

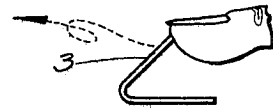


FIG 2C

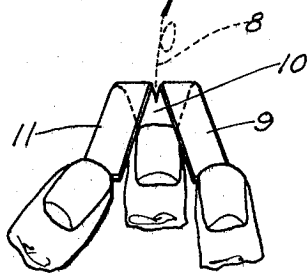


FIG 3A

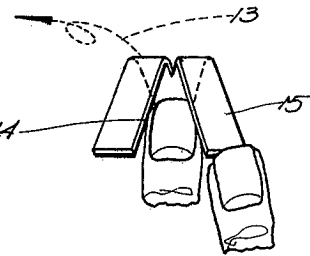


FIG 3B

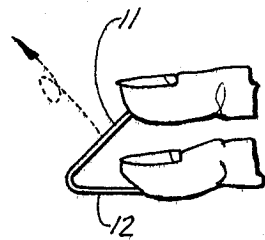


FIG 3C

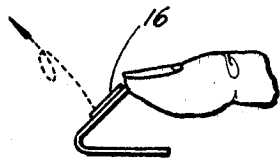


FIG 16A

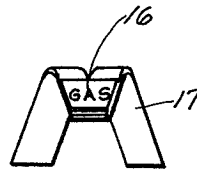


FIG 17B

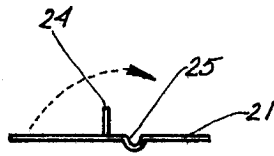


FIG 21A

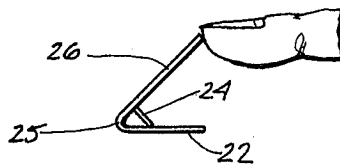


FIG 22B

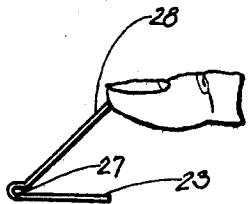


FIG 23A

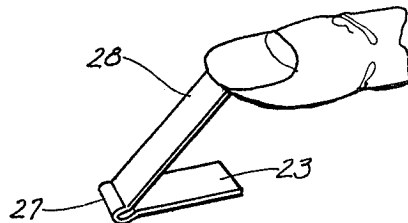


FIG 27B

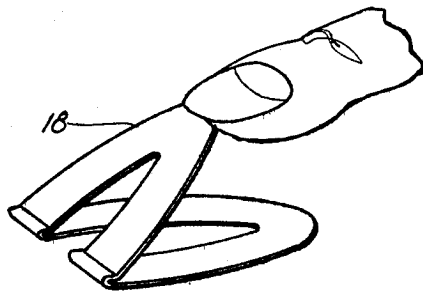


FIG 18B

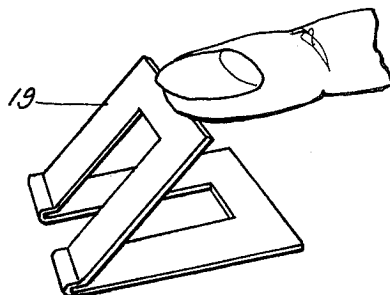


FIG 19B

## SPRING-HOOK DEVICE FOR SCORING IN A TARGET TYPE GAME

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to target games of the type wherein a projectile is projected into a target member.

#### 2. Description of the Prior Art

There are many kinds of target games, most of which involve a projectile which is tossed, hurled, shot, flipped or launched by one means or another at the target. The projectiles, themselves, come in many shapes and forms, such as basketballs, bowling balls, flying discs, javelins, arrows, darts, bullets, tiddlywinks, etc. However, in general table-top target games may be divided into two groups:

1. Those which require two or more separate entities as a device to motivate a projectile toward the target. Exemplary of such devices is tiddlywinks, when one wink is pressed against another resting on a piece of felt in such a way as to cause it to slip out from under the pressure and flip forward toward the target. A further exemplary device is shown in U.S. Pat. No. 1,542,063, in the name of Knight, wherein a bottle-like projectile is thrown at its target by an adjustable catapult.

2. Those which are unitary devices and contain within themselves the motive force such as a spring which, when released after pressure, launches the device towards the target. Exemplary unitary devices can be seen in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,784,200, Hotchkiss; 3,612,528, Glass; and 1,329,201, Neyd'hart.

While prior art table-top target games have been successful, it is always necessary to develop new and challenging devices to meet new and more wide spread interests.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The subject of the present invention relates to the aforementioned second group of table-top target games. For purposes of comparison, it can be described as a leaf spring, catapult-action device, wherein the entire body of the catapult becomes the projectile when its spring structure is pressed and released. Its spring frame provides two or more ways to activate its motive force and is so structured to provide more than one way of scoring after being launched.

Broadly considered, the projectile of the present invention is defined by a base and fork having bifurcations extending in a common plane which curves rearwardly to form a twin hook. The body of the projectile is composed of a resilient material that allows the projectile to act as a spring which when pressed and released can launch the entire projectile toward a target. The target comprises a receptacle having a raised edge which the projectile can hook upon when not missing the receptacle or falling into it.

The projectile of the present invention incorporates two means of scoring during game play; namely, (1) as a projected body into the target receptacle; and (2) as a projectile that can readily hook and latch itself onto the raised edge of the target receptacle.

The projectile of the present invention may be launched with the wall of the two hooks facing down, or facing upwardly, with each position requiring a different technique and finger manipulation of the resultant configuration.

The projectile of the present invention provides several ways to activate its motive force by pressure and release and contains within its spring structure more than one means of scoring. Its structure is simple and inexpensive to manufacture; its entire body serving as both of its motive force and structural utility. The projectile of the present invention requires far less material in its construction than other prior art devices, and because of the variety of ways it can be launched, it provides opportunities for the development of techniques and skills offered by no other projectile table-top target game presently known in the art. In summary, the projectile for a table-top target game receptacle of the present invention provides an inexpensive, unitary spring-hook device to be used in game play, which, because of its structure, may be launched in more than one way and with more ease, may fly with more stability, and may be aimed with more accuracy, and which contains within its spring structure the means to readily hook and latch itself upon the raised edge of a target receptacle when not missing the receptacle or falling into it. The projectile of the present invention provides a clear and demonstrable advantage in the flight distance of the projectile when compared on ratio basis of spring, weight and distance to target; variety in launch capability; demonstrably better control during pressure and release at launch; a more integrated center of gravity resulting in: better balance, less spinning wobble, and higher accuracy; more than one defined means of scoring innate in the spring structure of the projectile; less handling discomfort during continuous game play; and inexpensive to manufacture because it uses less material in its frugal construction and when made by a molding device or stamping device, the cost of these devices is considerably less as a result of the simplicity of design and its single-unit structure.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic views of the game of the present invention being played with two kinds of receptacles.

FIG. 2A is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the projectile of the present invention.

FIG. 2B is a plan view of the projectile of FIG. 2A showing it being launched.

FIG. 2C is a side elevational view of the projectile of FIG. 2B.

FIG. 3A is a plan view of the projectile of FIG. 2A being launched in another manner.

FIG. 3B is a side elevational view of the projectile of FIG. 3A.

FIG. 3C is a view similar to FIG. 3A showing a further launching manner.

FIGS. 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are figures showing further embodiments of the projectile of the present invention which may be used because their form takes the shape of trademarks, alphabet letters, or symbols of business who desire to advertise using the projectile of the present invention as a vehicle which would then double as a game piece, etc.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIGS. 1A and 1B disclose versions of the game of the present invention being played with two kinds of receptacles, a circular receptacle A and a square or rectangular receptacle B, with the projectile 1 being launched in a forward rolling hook from a hooks down 2 and 3