

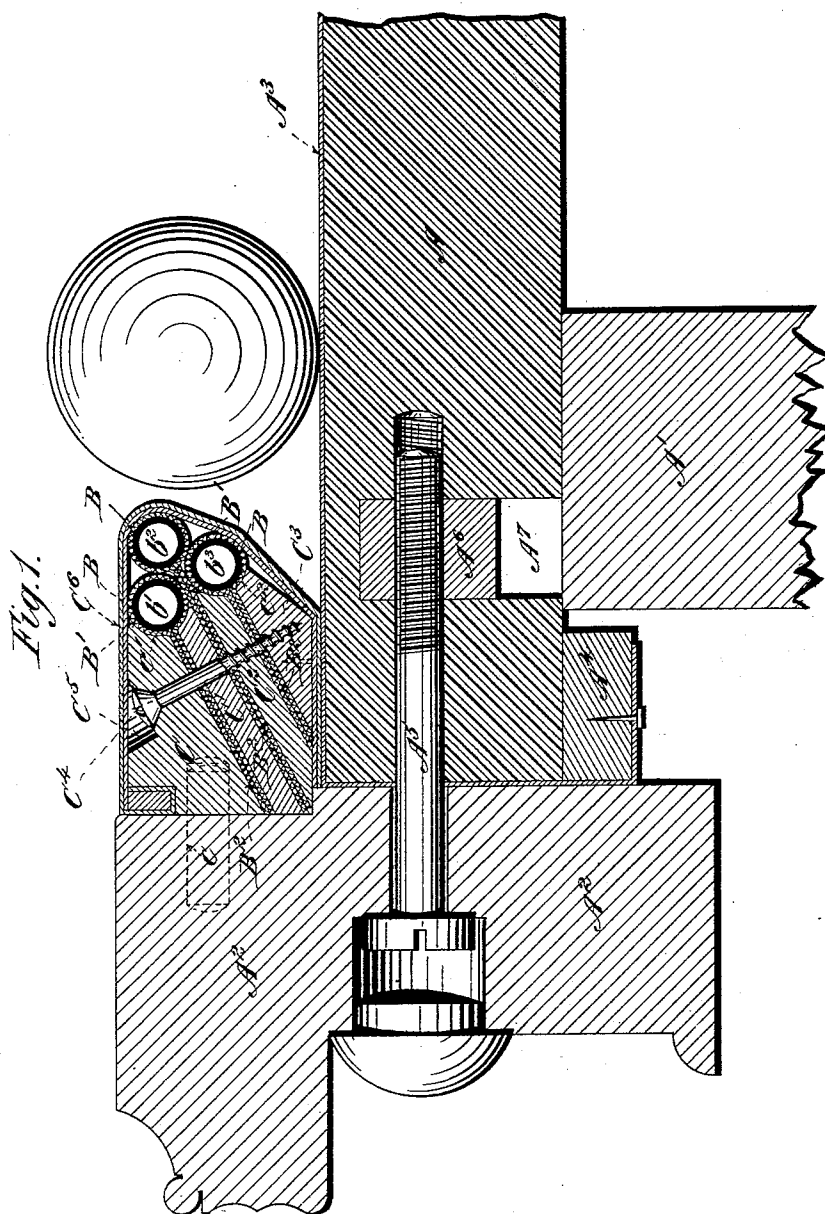
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. J. RODD.
BILLIARD TABLE CUSHION.

No. 569,519.

Patented Oct. 13, 1896.



Witnesses
Thomas James Ward
Michael Joseph Candrick.

Inventor
William John Rodd
by his attorney
Fred Walsh

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Fig. 2.

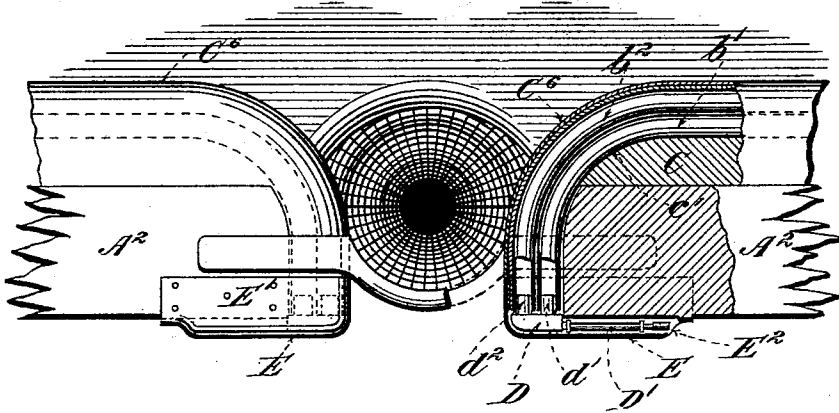


Fig. 3.

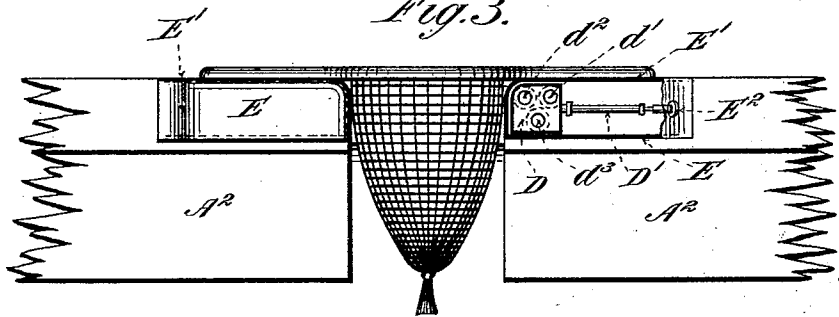
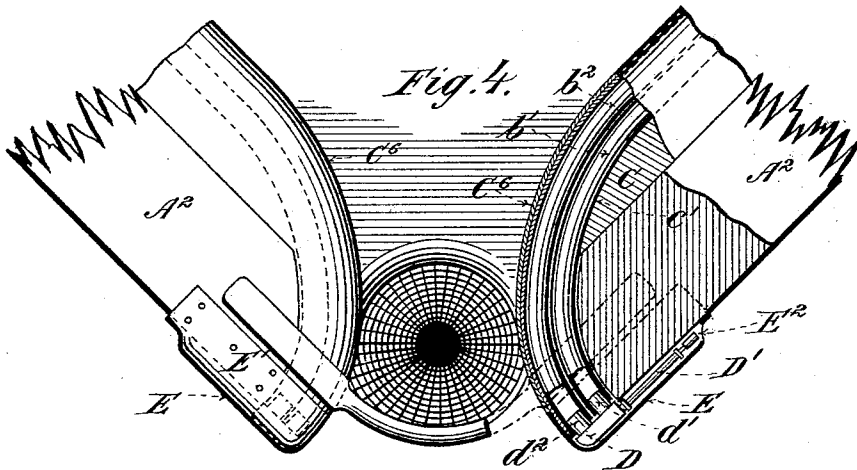


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TO WALTER GEORGE HENDERSON, OF SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

BILLIARD-TABLE CUSHION.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 569,519, dated October 13, 1896.

Application filed August 19, 1895. Serial No. 559,844. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JOHN RODD, accountant, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at St. Leonards, near Sydney, in the British Colony of New South Wales, have invented new and useful Improvements in and Relating to the Cushions of Billiard-Tables and the Like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the cushions of billiard-tables and the like; and it consists in the peculiar construction of pneumatic or air-inflated cushions and their disposition around said tables, whereby such cushions are rendered extremely sensitive and effective in practical use.

Cushions for billiard-tables and the like constructed according to this invention instead of being made of one pneumatic tube or of a pneumatic tube in combination with a nosing or other part of elastic material, are made wholly pneumatic and consist of a multiplicity of pneumatic tubes whose disposition is such that the resilient strength of each one supports the others. In use I anticipate that three such tubes will appropriately form effective cushions, and this number I prefer as being more easily disposed to form a cushion and more easily handled in manufacture and repair. These tubes fit into appropriate metal terminals and are cemented thereto, such terminals having inlet-valves thereon similar to cycle-tire valves for the allowance of the necessary air-pumping and such terminals being conveniently attached to the edge or rim of the table; but in order that this invention may be clearly understood reference will now be made to the drawings herewith, in which—

Figure 1 is a full-size cross-section of a pneumatic cushion constructed according to these present improvements and fixed in place upon a billiard-table. Figs. 2 and 3 show, on a reduced scale, a plan and side elevation, respectively, of a portion of a billiard-table adjacent to the side or middle pockets, while Fig. 4 is a similar partial plan to Fig. 2 in the vicinity of a corner-pocket.

The bed A, frame A', and rail A² of the table are all of the usual construction, with the bed A of slate or other suitable material

covered with the ordinary cloth A³, fastened by strip A⁴ in the ordinary manner. The rail A² is secured to the bed A by bolts A⁵, screwed into nuts A⁶ in recesses A⁷, as well understood.

The cushions are formed of three inflated tubes *b' b² b³*, preferably of india-rubber B or other suitable impervious elastic material, and each tube is covered or incased in canvas, linen, or other like textile fabric B', exactly fitting the rubber B or preferably just slightly larger than the tube. Each fabric casing has a double tail or web B², by which the tubes are fastened in place, as hereinafter described. The top backing C of the cushion is fixed to the rail in any ordinary manner, say, by a glue-joint and dowels *c*, and the other parts of the backing attached thereto by means of screw C¹, whose heads take in recesses C⁵.

The backing is made in one piece, with grooves *c'* and *c''* for the back tubes, and when so shaped it is then parted into four pieces by means of a saw or such like, so that strip C' secures the tail web of the back upper tube *b'* to the top backing C, to which it is temporarily tacked, so that strip C² secures the tail web B² of the outer tube *b²* to the strip C', to which it is temporarily tacked, and so that final or bottom backing C³ secures the tail web B² of the back lower tube *b³* to the strip C², to which it is temporarily tacked. The screws C¹, being then inserted and tightened up, will fasten the whole cushion together, and the wrappings or casings C⁶ being placed around the whole they are fastened in any well-known manner, making the whole cushion complete with the outer edge or angle in a perfectly straight line.

At the pockets the grooves *c'* and *c''* are curved around as desired, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. One set of the ends of the tubes *b' b² b³* take upon the nipples *d', d², and d³* (to which they are hermetically cemented) of the metal terminal D, which is screwed upon or otherwise attached to casing E, which is secured by its top plate E' to the face of the rail A² of the table. One terminal D of each set of the tubes is a blank or stop, while the other end is a hollow casing, having thereon a valve

D', similar to the valve on the pneumatic tires of cycles, which valve takes within the casing E, which has aperture E² at one end, through which the discharge-nozzle of an air-pump (similar to a cycle-tire pump) may be inserted for the purpose of inflating the tubes.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is—

1. The combination with the rail of a billiard-table, of a backing secured to the rail and having a plurality of longitudinal grooves, a plurality of inflated tubes arranged in the grooves, and an air-valve having a terminal provided with nipples to which the inflated tubes are attached air-tight at one end, said terminal being common to all the tubes at one end, for the purpose of simultaneously inflating them, substantially as described.

2. In a billiard-table cushion, the combination with a backing secured to the rail of the table and having two grooves in its inner face, of two inflated tubes arranged in said grooves, an inflated tube superimposed upon the tubes arranged in said grooves, and means for con-

fining said tubes in the said grooves, substantially as described.

3. In a billiard-table cushion, the combination with a backing composed of a plurality of sections superimposed one upon the other, of a plurality of inflated tubes arranged in a group against said backing, each of said tubes being incased in a textile casing having radially-projecting webs disposed between the sections of said backing, and means for securing said sections together, substantially as described.

4. The combination with the rail of a billiard-table, and a backing secured to the rail, of a plurality of inflatable tubes mounted on and connected with the backing, and an air-valve having a terminal common to all the tubes and provided with nipples to which the tubes are attached air-tight at one end, whereby the tubes may be simultaneously inflated, substantially as described.

Dated this 15th day of July, 1895.

WILLIAM JOHN RODD.

Witnesses:

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MICHAEL JOSEPH CANDRICK.