(No Model.)

J. B. NICHOLS.

FLYING TARGET BALL.

No. 303,315. Patented Aug. 12, 1884.

Fig. 1.

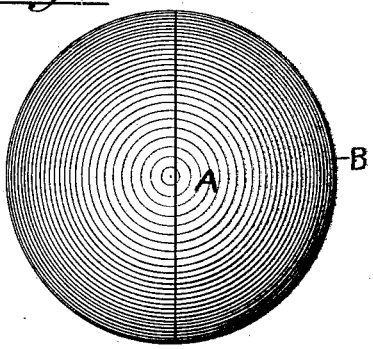


Fig. 2.

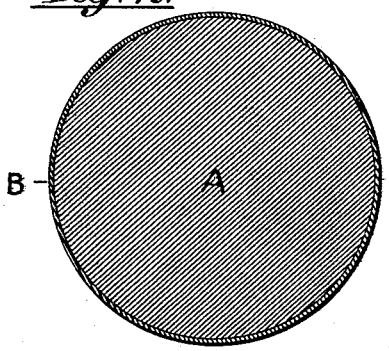


Fig. 3.

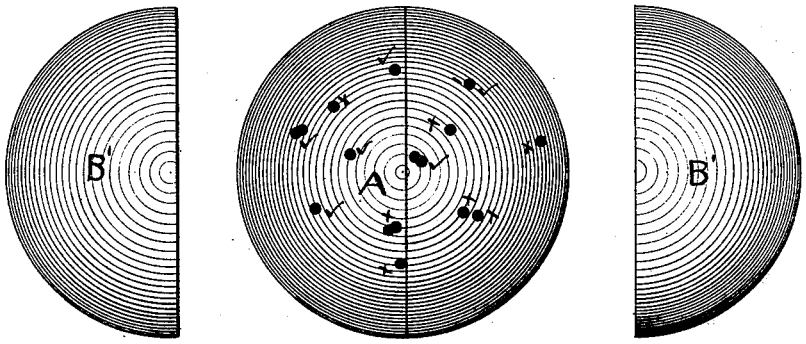
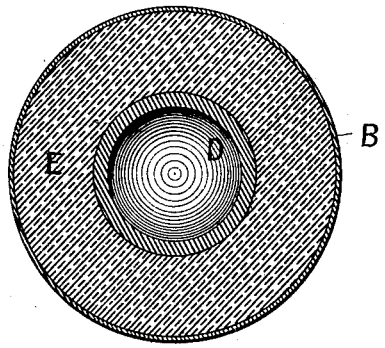


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES B. NICHOLS, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

FLYING TARGET-BALL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,315, dated August 12, 1884.

Application filed May 15, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES B. NICHOLS, of the city of Detroit, Wayne county, Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Flying Target-Balls for Trap-Shooting; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement upon the ordinary glass balls used for trap-shooting. These balls admit of being used but once, and, as they are destroyed by the shot, afford no indications as to the manner in which they are struck.

The object of my invention is to provide a flying target-ball which admits of being used with economy many times, and which will show the exact number of pellets by which it was struck, and permit of a record of the number of shot lodged in the ball by each marksman.

It consists in constructing a comparatively indestructible ball for trap-shooting, adapted to receive and retain the pellets of shot, &c., by which it may be struck, or otherwise to be so indented or marked thereby as to furnish a record thereof, and in providing means for resurfacing the ball to secure a new record thereon and whenever a fresh surface may be desired.

Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved target-ball; Fig. 2, a diametric section thereof; Fig. 3, an elevation of the ball, illustrating the same after it has been struck by shot, and of the covers prepared therefor. Fig. 4 is a diametric section illustrating a modification in the construction of the ball.

In simplest form my improved target-ball is constructed of a solid sphere, A, of wood soft enough to be readily indented by the shot or to permit the pellets to embed themselves therein, and which is covered with paper or other substance, B, permanently fixed thereto, and which may be readily indented or perforated to indicate the fact of the contact of the shot therewith, and will admit of being marked, so as to distinguish the shot-marks produced thereon at one time from those made at another time. In the use of the ball it is, after it has been thrown from the trap and fired upon, to be picked up and the shot-marks thereon noted and distinguished by a pencil-stroke, (see Fig. 3,) or by pasting over each of them a sticker or bit of gummed paper, which may be colored to render it more apparent. The ball may then be used for a second time as a target, and the marks produced thereon be in turn noted with a pencil, (see Fig. 3,) or by stickers of a different color to distinguish them from the previous marks. In this manner the ball may be used over again several times, and its surface will furnish a record of the accuracy and character of the shooting. When the marks become too numerous, a fresh coating of paper or its equivalent may be applied and fixed over the first, and for this purpose the paper or other material for resurfacing the ball may be furnished in segmental forms, (see B′ B′, Fig. 3,) gummed or otherwise ready to be quickly and easily applied and fixed to the ball.

Instead of wood the solid ball may be made of leather or papier-maché, or other materials or compounds which shall be sufficiently hard and tenacious to make a solid ball and yet will allow the shot to enter without fracturing or destroying it.

As an equivalent for a solid ball, A, I contemplate using a hollow shell, D, of metal, (see Fig. 4,) as a core or nucleus, upon which is laid a covering, E, of a soft tenacious character, and of suitable thickness, within which the shot may embed themselves, or which may be so indented thereby as to produce clearly an index of the number of shot by which it is struck when fired at, and this compound ball may be resurfaced, as hereinbefore described, as often as used, or as may be required, by means of the ready-made covers B′ B′.

Although I deem a spherical ball preferable in target-shooting, my invention is applicable to a flying target which may be cubical or otherwise polyangular in form.

I am aware that target-balls of wood have been used inclosed between two detachable shells of paper held in place by an elastic band and charged with fulminate, which, by its explosion when hit, will detach the shells

and release the ball with a puff of smoke; but these balls do not register the number of shot by which they are struck, and my invention differs therefrom in that my ball is covered with a covering which, as often as renewed, becomes integral therewith, and affords a permanent record of the number of shot which hit the ball.

I claim as my invention—

1. A target-ball for trap-shooting, constructed, substantially as described, with a solid body, A, and a yielding covering-surface, B, permanently fixed thereto to become integral therewith for the purpose of receiving and retaining or otherwise indicating the number of shot by which the ball may be struck.

2. The combination, with a target-ball for trap-shooting, having a yielding tenacious surface adapted to receive and retain the shot by which it may be struck, of ready-made covering-pieces B′ B′, gummed on the inner side, and thereby adapted to be readily affixed to the ball to re-cover the same and provide an indicating-surface thereon, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES B. NICHOLS.

Witnesses:
THEO. SCHULTE,
HENRY A. SCHULTE.