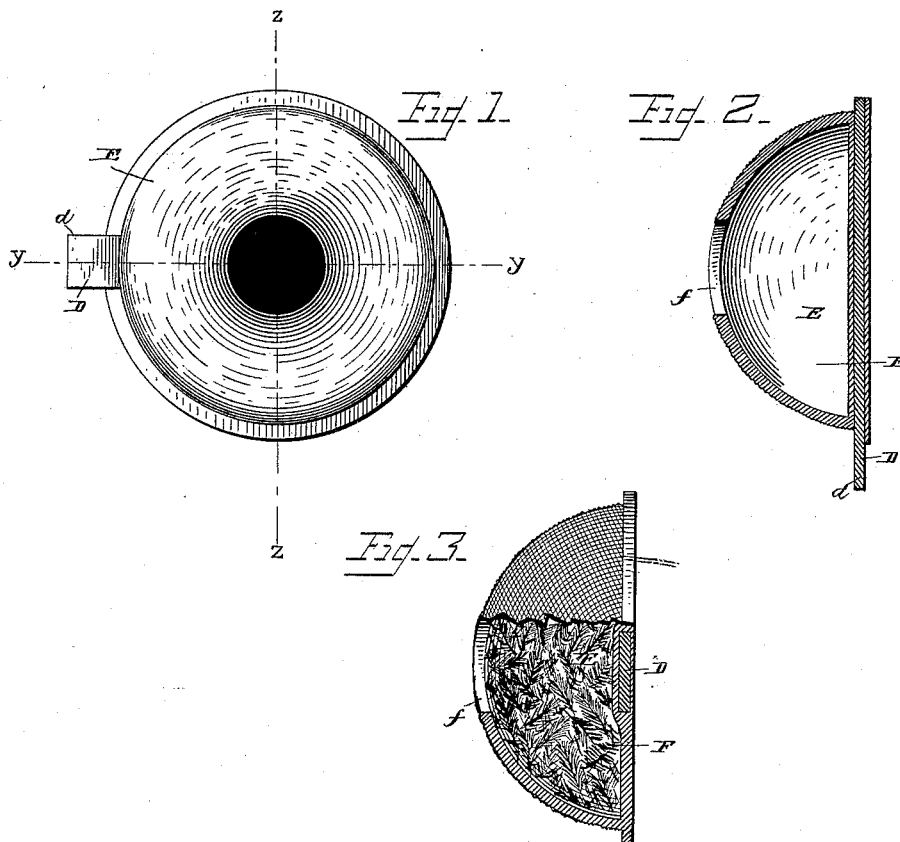


(No Model.)

F. ERB, Jr.
FLYING TARGET.

No. 383,348.

Patented May 22, 1888.



WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED ERB, JR., OF LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN O. PERRIN,
OF SAME PLACE.

FLYING TARGET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 383,348, dated May 22, 1888.

Application filed August 10, 1887. Serial No. 246,604. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED ERB, Jr., of Lafayette, in the county of Tippecanoe and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flying Targets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the flying target complete with the brace-stick applied. Fig. 2 is a cross vertical section of the same on line *yy*, Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a similar partial section of the same on line *zz*, Fig. 1, showing the surface of the target roughened.

This invention relates to improvements in flying targets; and it has for its objects to produce a flying target that will be hollow, light, and friable, and which has its rounded top and bottom formed integral therewith and of the same material.

The further objects of the invention are to fill the hollow targets with feathers, paper cuttings, or other similar articles, which will be disseminated when the target is broken and the better evidence the breaking the target by the marksman, and also to provide the target in some cases with a re-enforcing strip, by which it can be thrown from the trap with less liability of breakage from the shock.

To these ends the invention consists in the construction of the target, as will be fully understood from the following description, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, and particularly specified in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the accompanying drawings by letter, E designates the target, and *e* designates the annular flange around the base of the same. This flange strengthens the target and enables it to stand the shock or impact of ejection from the trap. The hollow interior F of target E is preferably filled with feathers or other suitable light material through the opening *f* in the top of the same, as shown. If desired, this opening *f* may be closed by means of paper after the insertion of the feathers, or by sealing with a stick of the composition, or in other suitable manner.

It will be observed that this target is made of a composition impervious to water, and when the hole *f* is closed by suitable means the feathers in the targets will be kept perfectly dry, whether stored in dry places or not. This is a great advantage. I have shown the re-enforce strip applied in all the figures; but this is not always an essential element. Its projecting end *d*, as shown in Fig. 1, gives a firmer hold to the target, and by extending across the same, as described, the liability of crushing in the bottom of the target is lessened.

The annular flange *e* is formed integral with the body of the target, and while re-enforcing the target as described, it also affords a hold for the trap-finger to grasp the target preparatory to ejecting it from the trap. By having these flanges of sufficient width the targets can be readily and rapidly placed in the trap, as they then require no particular adjustment, as is the case where the hold or target-finger is formed at one portion only of the periphery of the trap.

The essential elements of my invention are having the top and bottom of the hollow target made of friable or brittle material, with an annular re-enforce flange of similar material, and providing an opening in said target for the insertion of feathers, &c., for the purpose described.

The opening *f* in the target may be made in the bottom, if desired, the top being entirely closed, the location of this opening not being essential.

It is obvious that without departing from the spirit of my invention various modifications may be made in the manner of producing the target. For instance, the top and bottom parts of the target might be formed separately of brittle material and afterward cemented together, in which case the top and bottom would still be of fragile material.

The great advantage of having the target made of the friable material throughout is, that there is then scarcely any probability of the target not being broken if struck by a shot, whereas were the top or bottom of the target made of stiff material the shot might glance and the target be unbroken thereby.

In some instances I propose roughening the

surface of the target, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, or in other suitable manner by corrugating or serrating it.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A flying target having a hollow rounded concavo-convex top and a flat bottom formed integral therewith, of brittle material, and having an annular re-enforce ring integral with the bottom and top, and a suitable opening for the insertion of feathers or similar articles, and means for closing said opening, all substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The herein-described target, consisting of a hollow concavo-convex shell and a bottom formed of similar brittle material, and a diametrical transverse re-enforce strip secured to said bottom, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The target E, composed of a hollow con-

cavo-convex rounded top and flat bottom formed integral therewith, of brittle material, and the re-enforce strip D in said bottom extending across the same and having projecting portion *d*, substantially as set forth.

4. The herein-described target, consisting of the concavo-convex shell or top and flat bottom formed integral therewith, and a re-enforcing strip, D, secured to said bottom and extending across the same, with a suitably-closed opening in said top for the insertion of feathers or other light articles into the target, all substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRED ERB, JR.

Witnesses:

FRANK W. CHASE,
HIRAM W. CHASE.