



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
23.04.2003 Bulletin 2003/17

(51) Int Cl.7: **A63B 49/02**

(43) Date of publication A2:
20.12.2000 Bulletin 2000/51

(21) Application number: **00305069.7**

(22) Date of filing: **15.06.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: **Perry, Richard G.**
Guildford, Surrey GU1 2LN (GB)

(74) Representative: **Stebbing, Timothy Charles**
Haseltine Lake & Co.,
Imperial House,
15-19 Kingsway
London WC2B 6UD (GB)

(30) Priority: **17.06.1999 GB 9914090**

(71) Applicant: **Dunlop Slazenger Group Limited**
Surrey GU15 3YL (GB)

(54) **Improved games racket**

(57) A games racket having a head providing a frame for a bed of strings, the strings entering holes in the frame, and at least part of the frame having a cross-section which is concave in a region where the strings enter the holes, whereby the actual area (A) occupied

by the bed of strings exceeds its visible area (P) when viewing the racket face on. By increasing the actual strung area in this way, the ball speed obtainable when striking the ball can be increased, compared with a conventional racket of equivalent overall size.

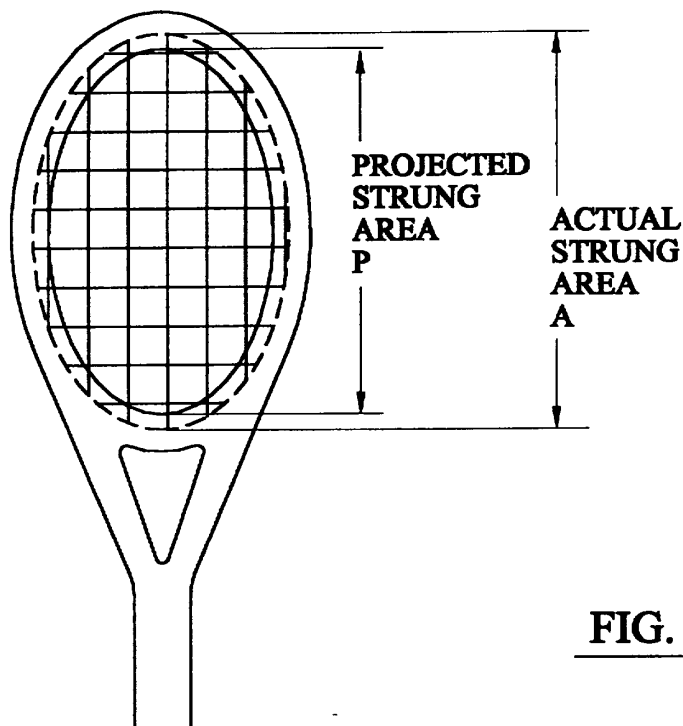


FIG. 6



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 5069

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 082 266 A (LO KUN-NAN) 21 January 1992 (1992-01-21) * column 2, line 55 - line 61 * * figures 6-9 *	1,5,9,12	A63B49/02
A	---	14	
X	US 3 899 172 A (VAUGHN GEORGE A ET AL) 12 August 1975 (1975-08-12) * column 3, line 43 - line 47 * * figures 1,2 *	1,4,6,8	
X	---		
X	US 5 460 370 A (TUNG-HAN LAI) 24 October 1995 (1995-10-24) * column 2, line 58 - line 61 * * figure 2A *	1,4,6,8	
A	---		
A	US 5 014 987 A (SOONG TSAI C) 14 May 1991 (1991-05-14) * column 4, line 58 - line 62 * * column 11, line 64 - line 65 * * figures 2-5,15,16 *	2,3,6,13	

A	US 4 204 681 A (HALL HARLESTON J JR ET AL) 27 May 1980 (1980-05-27) * figure 15 *	2,3	A63B

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 February 2003	Examiner Sedy, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 5069

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

27-02-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5082266	A	21-01-1992	FR	2666236 A1	06-03-1992
			GB	2247408 A	04-03-1992
			IT	220421 Z2	21-09-1993
			NL	9002333 A	16-03-1992
US 3899172	A	12-08-1975	AT	321165 B	25-03-1975
			CA	940957 A1	29-01-1974
			CH	552990 A	30-08-1974
			DE	2042803 A1	11-03-1971
			DE	2065888 A1	28-10-1976
			FR	2099015 A5	10-03-1972
			GB	1311926 A	28-03-1973
			GB	1311925 A	28-03-1973
			JP	50006975 B	19-03-1975
			JP	52014652 B	23-04-1977
			US	3805366 A	23-04-1974
			US	3702701 A	14-11-1972
US 5460370	A	24-10-1995	CN	2173093 U	03-08-1994
			DE	9416119 U1	16-02-1995
US 5014987	A	14-05-1991	DE	3379712 D1	01-06-1989
			EP	0104930 A1	04-04-1984
US 4204681	A	27-05-1980	NONE		