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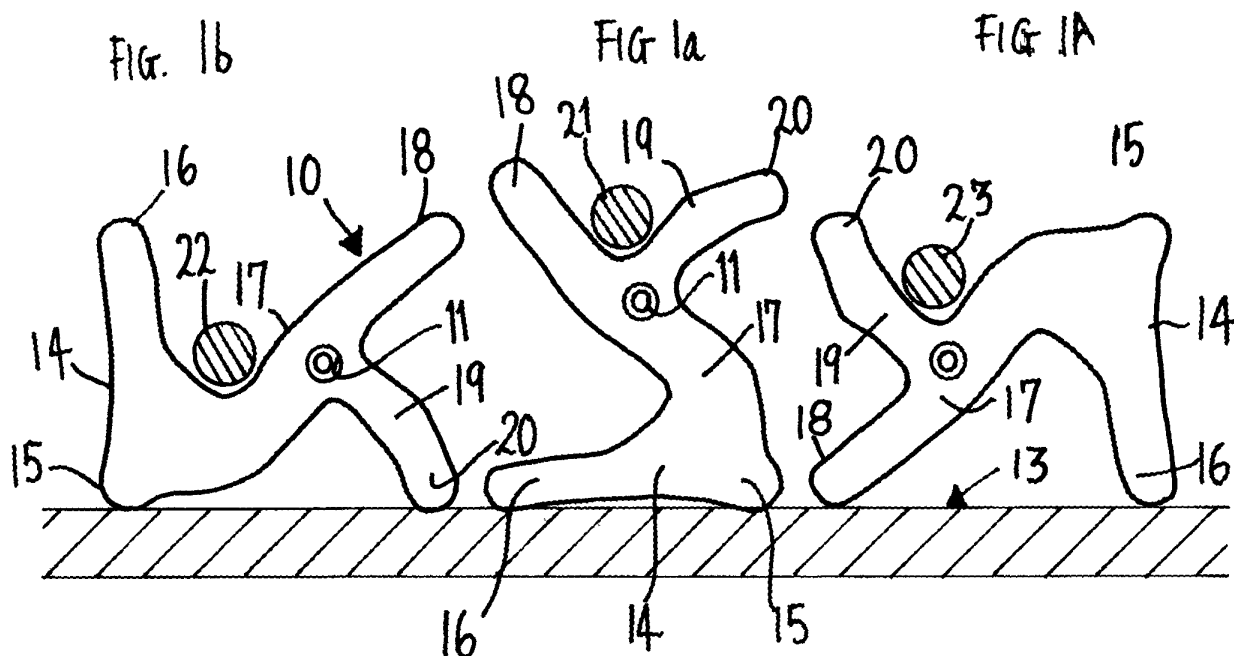
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(54) **Rests**

(57) A rest for use in playing snooker, billiards and similar games comprises a shaft (12) and a head (10). The head (10) includes a fitting (11) for connection to the

shaft (12) and has a configuration such that it can provide support for a cue at a number of different spacings from a support surface on which the rest is placed.



## Description

### Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to rests and is concerned with the provision of an improved form of rest for use when playing snooker, billiards and other similar games, such games being referred to hereinafter for convenience as snooker.

[0002] A typical form of snooker rest comprises a shaft and a head that is of X-form so that two limbs of the X are placed on the snooker table and the cue that is being used to make a shot passes between the other two limbs of the X. Another known form of rest is a butt rest that comprises a pair of spaced vertical limbs that are interconnected by a curved bridge or support surface on which the cue is supported.

[0003] The design of the standard form of rest used when playing snooker is such that, when a player makes a shot using the rest, the butt of the cue that the player is holding is positioned in front of the player's face, rather than the player holding the cue with his normal playing stance.

[0004] The cueing action that a player adopts is thus not the same as that which he normally adopts and there are limitations on the range of shots that he can play using a rest.

[0005] It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide an improved form of rest for use when playing snooker.

### Summary of the Invention

[0006] According to the present invention there is provided a rest comprising a shaft and a head, the head including a fitting for connection to the stem and having a configuration such that it can provide support for a cue at a number of different spacings from a support surface on which the rest is placed.

[0007] The configuration of the head may be as shown in any of the figures of the accompanying drawings.

[0008] The design of the head is thus such as to enable the player to strike the ball using his normal cueing action rather than having to lift the butt of the shaft in front of his face. A full range of shots can thus be played with an increased degree of confidence.

[0009] The configuration of the head may be such that different parts of the rest can be placed in contact with the support surface to provide the different spacings. The configuration of the head may alternatively be such that a zig-zag portion provides the different spacings.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

[0010]

Figure 1 shows three possible positions of a first form of head for a snooker rest when being used by a left-

handed snooker player,

Figure 2 shows three possible positions of the first form of head for a snooker rest when being used by a right-handed snooker player,

Figures 3 to 6 show an alternative head design, and

Figure 7 is a side view of a rest having the head shown in Figure 1.

### Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0011] The head 10 shown in Figures 1, 2 and 7 includes an internally threaded socket 11 that is open at both ends and receives the end of a shaft 12. The shaft 12 will normally be telescopically adjustable, for example, within the range of from 600 mm. to 1,000 mm. in length. The shaft 12 may alternatively be of fixed length, for example, 600 mm. in length or 1,500 mm. in length. The shaft 12 may also have means for attachment of a cue extension. The end of the shaft 12 has releasable threaded engagement in the socket 11 of the head 10, so as to permit reversal of the head 10 relative to the shaft 12 to permit use of the rest by a left-handed player as well as by a right-handed player.

[0012] As an alternative to having a threaded connection between the end of the shaft 12 and the head 10, a plug-in connection may be provided between the end of the shaft 12 and the head 10.

[0013] Figure 1 shows three positions of the head 10 relative to the support surface 13, i.e. the table, on which it is placed. The head 10 can be regarded as including a base portion 14 having a first end 15 and a second end 16, a stem 17 extending from the first end 15 of the base portion 14 and terminating at an end 18 that is in register with the second end 16 of the base portion 14, and a branch 19 extending from the stem 17 and terminating in an end 20 that is in register with the first end 15 of the base portion 14.

[0014] This is the position indicated as (a) in Figure 1, in which the two ends 15 and 16 of the base portion 14 are resting on the support surface 13 and in which, in use, the cue will be placed at the position indicated as 21, in which it is supported in the fork defined by the branch 19 and the end portion of the stem 18. The position (a) of the head 10 is that at which the cue is supported at the maximum height from the surface 13 of the table. The player can thus strike the upper part of the ball using his normal cueing action and his normal stance. The shaft 12 of the rest will be held by the player in the right hand and the cue in the left hand.

[0015] The design of the head 10 is such that it can be laid on the table in a number of different orientations so as to provide support for the tip of the cue, with the tip of the cue being positioned at a number of different heights as most appropriate for the shot that the player wishes to make.

**[0016]** When the head 10 of the rest is turned through 90° from the position shown in Figure 1 (a) so that the first end 15 of the base portion 14 and the end 20 of the branch 19 are in contact with the table, as shown in Figure 1 (b), the cue is placed in the position indicated as 22. The cue is positioned in the angle between the base portion 14 and the stem 17. The cue is thus supported so that the tip thereof is located quite close to the table at a position such that the player can safely strike the lower part of the ball, again using his normal cueing action and his normal stance.

**[0017]** When the head 10 of the rest is turned through 90° in the opposite direction from the position shown in Figure 1 (b) into the position shown in Figure 1 (c), the second end 16 of the base portion 14 and the end 18 of the stem 17 of the head 10 are in contact with the table and the cue can be placed in the position indicated at 23. The height at which the cue is supported is thus intermediate the heights obtained with the head positioned as shown in Figures 1 (a) and 1 (b).

**[0018]** Figures 1 (a), (b) and (c) show the three possible positions for the head 10 when the rest is being used by a left-handed player whereas Figures 2 (a), (b) and (c) show corresponding positions of the head when the rest is being used by a right-handed player.

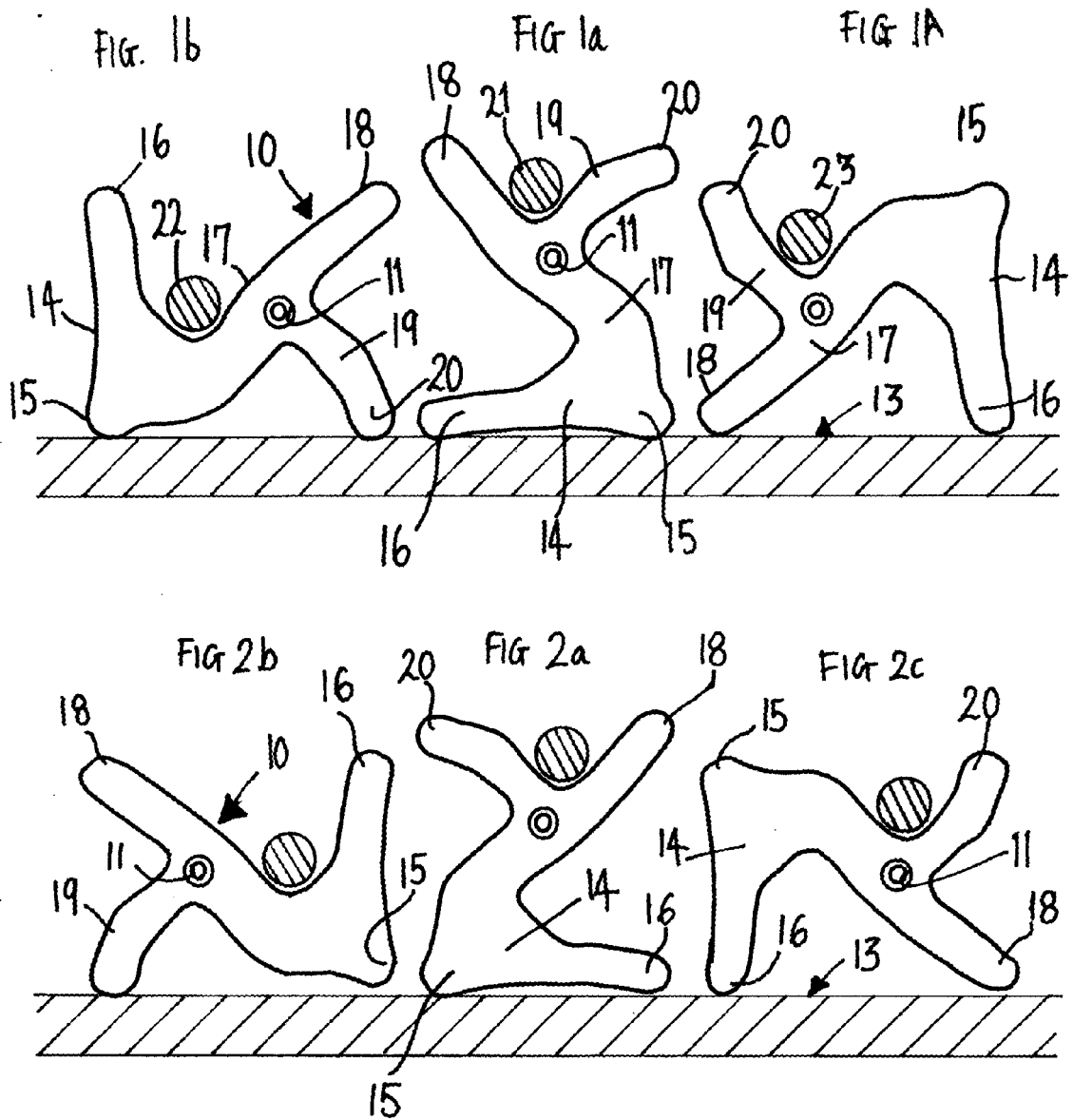
**[0019]** The head shown in Figures 3 to 6 can be attached to the rest in four different orientations as indicated as 40, 41, 42 and 43 depending on the position at which the player wishes to place the rest relative to the balls on the table. The head of Figures 3 to 6 includes a pair of spaced legs 44, 45 the ends of which can be placed on the table and a zig-zag formation 46 interconnecting the legs 44 and 45. The zig-zag formation 46 provides positions at which the cue can be supported with the tip of the cue at different spacings from the table.

**[0020]** The head design shown in Figures 3 to 6 allows the player to position the shaft of the rest at a position to the side of the cueing line, thus avoiding obstruction from other balls. If necessary, the head may be turned over to provide the required position of support for the cue while avoiding obstruction from other balls. The head design of Figures 3 to 6 can be used with any suitable length and type of shaft and with any appropriate form of connection between the head and the shaft.

3. A rest as claimed in Claim 2, in which the head includes a base portion having a first end and a second end, a stem extending from the first end of the base portion and terminating in register with the second end of the base portion, and a branch extending from the stem and terminating in register with the first end of the base portion.
4. A rest as claimed in Claim 1 in which the head includes a zig-zag portion that provides the different spacings.
5. A rest as claimed in Claim 1, in which the shaft is adjustable in length.

## Claims

1. A rest comprising a shaft and a head, the head including a fitting for connection to the shaft and having a configuration such that it can provide support for a cue at a number of different spacings from a support surface on which the rest is placed.
2. A rest as claimed in Claim 1, in which the configuration of the head is such that different parts of the rest can be placed in contact with the support surface to provide the different spacings.



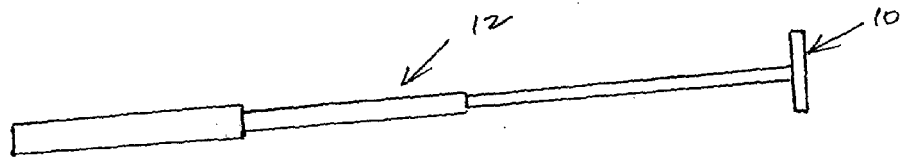


FIGURE 7

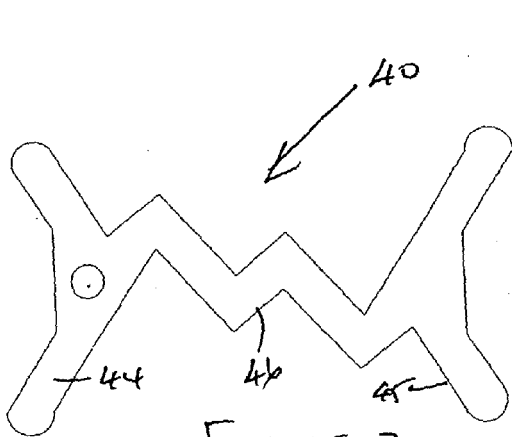


FIGURE 3

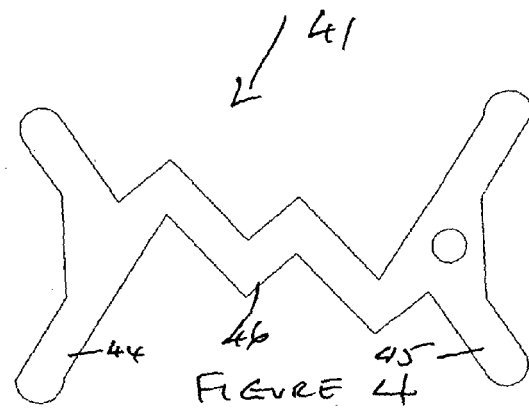


FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5

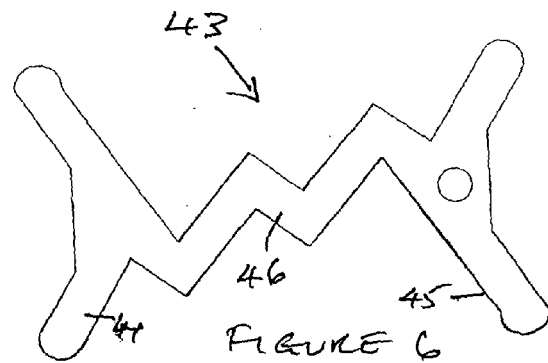


FIGURE 6



European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 25 0410

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A63D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		1 June 2007	Shmonin, Vladimir
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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

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

EP 07 25 0410

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  
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01-06-2007

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82