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(54) **ADJUSTABLE GOAL**

(57) A goal for use in a ball sport such as football comprising:

a net assembly comprising:

a net;

a first flexible post member and a second flexible post member, each of the first flexible post member and the second flexible post member attached to an edge of the net, and a flexible crossbar member attached to another edge of the net and extending from an upper end of the first flexible post member to an upper end of the second flexible post member; and

a frame comprising one or more frame members configured to hold the net assembly in tension to form a goal having an opening defined by the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member with the net behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening; wherein:

the flexible crossbar member has a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the flexible crossbar member and secure the flexible crossbar member at a user-selected length; and

the frame comprises a frame member spanning a width of the goal, wherein the frame member has a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the frame member and secure the frame member at a user-selected length; wherein a width of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable

length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means, thereby changing the respective lengths of the flexible crossbar member and the frame member spanning the width of the goal.

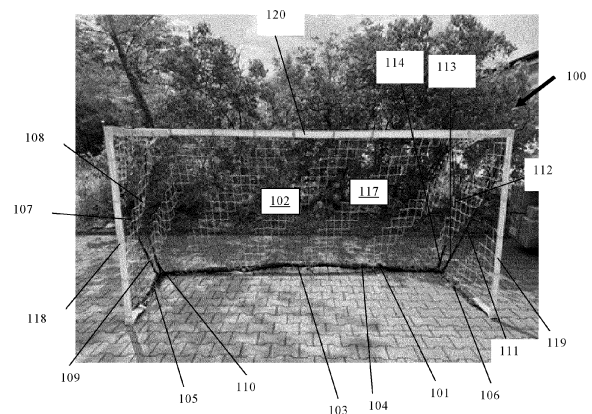


Figure 1A

Description

[0001] This application relates to an adjustable goal for use in a ball sport such as football, in particular, a goal with one or more adjustable dimensions, e.g. an adjustable height and/or an adjustable width and/or an adjustable depth.

[0002] Football goals are used in football matches, football training sessions, and for recreation purposes with a football.

[0003] Current football goals are fixed sizes, with a variety of sizes available depending on the type of use, such as, recreational five-a-side football goal standards, with goal sizes typically with a width between 3.66 metres and 4.88 metres, and a height of 1.2 metres, or professional football goal standards, with a goal size typically of a width of 7.32 metres and a height of 2.44 metres, or amateur youth football goal standards, with goal sizes typically with a width between 3.66 metres and 6.4 metres, and a height between 1.83 metres and 2.13 metres. The limitation in the ability to adjust the football goal size, results in multiple football goals, of varying sizes, to be required.

[0004] It is known to provide a frame for a football goal comprising telescopic frame components, to allow for more convenient packaging.

[0005] US2014/0038753A1 discloses a foal apparatus comprising a frame, a first pliable goalpost member, a second pliable goalpost member and a pliable crossbar member.

[0006] It is an object of the present patent application to provide a football goal with one or more adjustable dimensions, such as, height, width, and/or depth, to allow for a football goal that can adopt any one of a plurality of goals sizes.

[0007] A first aspect provides a goal for use in a ball sport such as football comprising:

a net assembly comprising:

a net;
a first flexible post member and a second flexible post member, each of the first flexible post member and the second flexible post member attached to an edge of the net, and a flexible crossbar member attached to another edge of the net and extending from an upper end of the first flexible post member to an upper end of the second flexible post member; and

a frame comprising one or more frame members configured to hold the net assembly in tension to form a goal having an opening defined by the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member with the net behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening;
wherein:

the flexible crossbar member has a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the flexible crossbar member and secure the flexible crossbar member at a user-selected length; and

the frame comprises a frame member spanning a width of the goal, wherein the frame member has a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the frame member and secure the frame member at a user-selected length;

wherein a width of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means, thereby changing the respective lengths of the flexible crossbar member and the frame member spanning the width of the goal.

[0008] The goal may be configured such that it can adopt a plurality of discrete widths. The goal may be configured such that the width is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values.

[0009] The frame member spanning the width of the goal may be offset from the flexible crossbar member. The frame member spanning the width of the goal may be offset from the flexible crossbar member. At least a portion of the frame member spanning the width of the goal may lie on the ground. The frame member spanning the width of the goal may be a rear frame member forming part of a base of the frame.

[0010] The first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member may comprise a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means. The mechanical fastening means may be engageable by folding the flexible crossbar member. For instance, the mechanical fastening means may comprise a hook and loop fastening means such as Velcro® or one or more press stud snap fasteners. The mechanical fastening means may comprise a clip or a buckle such as a side release buckle.

[0011] The second user-operable length selection means associated with the frame member spanning the width of the goal may comprise, for example, one or more telescopic portions of the frame member. The second user operable length selection means associated with the frame member spanning the width of the goal may comprise a spring locking button mechanism.

[0012] In some implementations:

the first flexible post member may have a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first flexible

post member and secure the first flexible post member at a user-selected length;

the frame may have a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

the second flexible post member has a third user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the third user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the second flexible post member and secure the second flexible post member at a user-selected length;

the frame has a fourth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the fourth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

wherein a height of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means and corresponding adjustments of the third user-operable length selection means and the fourth user-operable length selection means, thereby: changing the length of the first flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member; and changing the length of the second flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member.

[0013] The goal may be configured such that it can adopt a plurality of discrete heights. The goal may be configured such that the height is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values.

[0014] The first user-operable length selection means associated with the first flexible post member may comprise a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means. The first user-operable length selection means associated with the first flexible post member may comprise at least one loop or sleeve, e.g. a plurality of spaced-apart loops or sleeves, in or on the first flexible post member and a hook or prong on the frame to engage with the loop or sleeve.

[0015] The third user-operable length selection means associated with the second flexible post member may comprise a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means. The third user-operable length selection means associated with the second flexible post member may comprise at least one loop or sleeve, e.g. a plurality of spaced-apart loops or sleeves, in or on the second flexible post member and a hook or prong on the frame to engage with the loop or sleeve.

[0016] A second aspect provides a goal for use in a ball sport such as football comprising:

a net assembly comprising:

a net;

a first flexible post member and a second flexible post member, each of the first flexible post member and the second flexible post member attached to an edge of the net, and a flexible crossbar member attached to another edge of the net and extending from an upper end of the first flexible post member to an upper end of the second flexible post member; and

a frame comprising one or more frame members configured to hold the net assembly in tension to form a goal having an opening defined by the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member with the net behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening;

wherein:

the first flexible post member has a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first flexible post member and secure the first flexible post member at a user-selected length; the frame has a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

the second flexible post member has a third user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the third user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the second flexible post member and secure the second flexible post member at a user-selected length;

the frame has a fourth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the fourth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

wherein a height of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means and corresponding adjustments of the third user-operable length selection means and the fourth user-operable length selection means, thereby: changing the length of the first flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member; and changing the length of the second flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the second

flexible post member.

[0017] The goal may be configured such that it can adopt a plurality of discrete heights. The goal may be configured such that the height is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values.

[0018] The first user-operable length selection means associated with the first flexible post member may comprise a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means. The first user-operable length selection means associated with the first flexible post member may comprise at least one loop or sleeve, e.g. a plurality of spaced-apart loops or sleeves, in or on the first flexible post member and a hook or prong on the frame to engage with the loop or sleeve.

[0019] The third user-operable length selection means associated with the second flexible post member may comprise a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means. The third user-operable length selection means associated with the second flexible post member may comprise at least one loop or sleeve, e.g. a plurality of spaced-apart loops or sleeves, in or on the second flexible post member and a hook or prong on the frame to engage with the loop or sleeve.

[0020] One or more of the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member may be foldable and/or rollable.

[0021] One or more of the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member may be made from a strip of material.

[0022] The strip of material may comprise a fabric and/or a polymeric material. One or more of the strips of material may have a weatherproof coating or protective outer layer.

[0023] The frame may comprise a base. The base may comprise the or a rear frame member having a length from a first end to a second end.

[0024] The base may comprise a first side frame member connected to the rear frame member and extending forwards from the first end of the rear frame member. The base may comprise a second side frame member connected to the rear frame member and extending forwards from the second end of the rear frame member.

[0025] The frame may comprise at least one pole receiving sleeve connected to the first side frame member and extending upwards therefrom. The frame may comprise a semi-rigid pole having a lower end received in the or each pole receiving sleeve connected to the first side frame member.

[0026] The frame may comprise at least one pole receiving sleeve connected to the second side frame member and extending upwards therefrom. The frame may comprise a semi-rigid pole having a lower end received in the or each pole receiving sleeve connected to the second side frame member.

[0027] The or each semi-rigid pole may be capable of flexing. One or more of the semi-rigid poles may be a fibreglass pole.

[0028] A corner of the net may be attached to an upper end of each semi-rigid pole.

[0029] A third aspect provides a kit of parts arranged to be assembled into a goal according to the first aspect or a goal according to the second aspect.

[0030] By providing a goal having a frame and a net assembly that are arranged to complementarily adjust a width between a lower bound and an upper bound, and/or a height between a lower bound and an upper bound, a goal with one or more adjustable dimensions may be provided. The goal can adopt any one of a number of goal sizes. In addition, a lightweight goal that can be easily assembled and disassembled at a site of use may be provided, which may allow for easier storage and/or transportation.

[0031] Except where mutually exclusive, any of the features of any of the above-described aspects may be employed mutatis mutandis in any of the other above-described aspects.

[0032] Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1A shows a front perspective of an example of an adjustable football goal, with a width at a lower bound and a height at a lower bound;

Figure 1B shows a front-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 1A;

Figure 1C shows a back-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 1A;

Figure 2A shows a front perspective of the example of an adjustable football goal, with a width at an upper bound and a height at a lower bound;

Figure 2B shows a front-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 2A;

Figure 3A shows a front perspective of the example of an adjustable football goal, with a width at a lower bound and a height at an upper bound;

Figure 3B shows a front-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 3A;

Figure 3C shows a back-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 3A;

Figure 4A shows a front perspective of the example of an adjustable football goal, with a width at an upper bound and a height at an upper bound;

Figure 4B shows a front-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 4A;

Figure 4C shows a back-side perspective of the football goal in Figure 4A;

Figure 5A shows a first perspective of a first width adjustment for the net assembly component, with a width in a lower bound;

Figure 5B shows a first perspective of a second width adjustment component for the net assembly, with a width in a lower bound;

Figure 6 shows a third perspective of the first width adjustment for the net assembly component in Figure 5A, in a disengaged manner;

Figure 7A shows a first perspective of the second width adjustment component for the net assembly of Figure 5B;

Figure 7B shows a second perspective of the second width adjustment component for the net assembly of Figure 5B;

Figure 7C shows a third perspective of the second width adjustment component for the net assembly of Figure 5B;

Figure 8A shows a first perspective of the first width adjustment component for the net assembly, with a width in an upper bound;

Figure 8B shows a first perspective of the second width adjustment component for the net assembly, with a width in an upper bound;

Figure 9A shows a first perspective of a first width adjustment component for the frame, with a width in a lower bound, in an engaged position;

Figure 9B shows a second perspective of the first width adjustment component for the frame, with a width in between a lower bound and an upper bound, in a disengaged position;

Figure 9C shows a third perspective of the first width adjustment component for the net assembly, with a width in an upper bound, in an engaged position;

Figure 10A shows a first perspective of a first height adjustment component for the net assembly, with a height in a lower bound;

Figure 10B shows a first perspective of the height adjustment component for the net assembly, with a height in an upper bound;

Figure 11A shows a first perspective of the height adjustment component for the frame, with a height in a lower bound;

Figure 11B shows a second perspective of the height adjustment component for the frame, with a height in a lower bound;

Figure 11C shows a first perspective of the height adjustment component for the frame, with a height in an upper bound;

Figure 11D shows a second perspective of the height adjustment component for the frame, with a height in an upper bound;

[0033] Referring to the Figures, in particular Figures 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B and 4C, there is shown an example of a football goal 100.

[0034] As will be described in more detail herein, the football goal 100 has an adjustable width and an adjustable height. In the illustrated example, the football goal 100 is adjustable such that the football goal can adopt a plurality of discrete heights (e.g. a lower height and a higher height) and a plurality of discrete widths (e.g. a smaller width and a bigger width), depending upon user requirements at a given time.

[0035] Figures 1A, 1B and 1C show the football goal 100 in a first configuration, wherein the football goal 100 has the smaller width and the lower height.

[0036] Figures 2A and 2B show the football goal 100 in a second configuration, wherein the football goal 100 has the bigger width and the lower height.

[0037] Figures 3A, 3B and 3C show the football goal 100 in a third configuration, wherein the football goal 100 has the smaller width and the higher height.

[0038] Figures 4A, 4B and 4C show the football goal 100 in a fourth configuration, wherein the football goal 100 has the bigger width and the higher height.

[0039] The football goal 100 comprises a frame 101 and a net assembly 102.

[0040] The frame 101 comprises a base 103 made up of a rear frame member 104 having a length from a first end to a second end. The length of the rear frame member 104 corresponds to the width of the football goal 100. As will be described later, the length of the rear frame member 104 is adjustable.

[0041] The base 103 comprises a first side frame member 105 connected to the rear frame member 104 and extending forwards from the first end of the rear frame member 104. In the illustrated example, the first side frame member 105 is perpendicular to the rear frame member 104.

[0042] The base 103 comprises a second side frame member 106 connected to the rear frame member 104 and extending forwards from the first end of the rear frame member 104. In the illustrated example, the second side frame member 106 is perpendicular to the rear frame member 104.

[0043] The first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106 are the same length as each other. The length of the first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106 corresponds to the depth of the football goal 100.

[0044] The rear frame member 104, the first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106 all lie on the ground and form three sides of a rectangle. The rear frame member 104, the first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106 are all rigid. The rear frame member 104, the first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106 typically may be made from a metal such as steel.

[0045] The base 103 may have sufficient weight and rigidity to stabilise the football goal 100, in use. There may be no need, for example, to hold the base 103 in place using pegs or weights or the like.

[0046] The frame 101 comprises a first pole receiving sleeve 109 and a second pole receiving sleeve 110 connected to the first side frame member 105. The second pole receiving sleeve 110 is connected to the first side frame member 105 at the point where the first side frame member 105 is connected to the first end of the rear frame member 104. The first pole receiving sleeve 109 is connected to the first side frame member 105 at a point a short distance forward of the second pole receiving sleeve 110.

[0047] The second pole receiving sleeve 110 extends in an upward, outward and rearward direction from the

first side frame member 105. The first pole receiving sleeve 109 extends in an upward, outward and forward direction from the first side frame member 105.

[0048] The frame 101 comprises a third pole receiving sleeve 113 and a fourth pole receiving sleeve 114 connected to the second side frame member 106. The fourth pole receiving sleeve 114 is connected to the second side frame member 106 at the point where the second side frame member 106 is connected to the second end of the rear frame member 104. The third pole receiving sleeve 113 is connected to the second side frame member 106 at a point a short distance forward of the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114.

[0049] The fourth pole receiving sleeve 114 extends in an upward, outward and rearward direction from the second side frame member 106. The third pole receiving sleeve 113 extends in an upward, outward and forward direction from the second side frame member 106.

[0050] The frame 101 comprises a first semi-rigid pole 107. A lower end of the first semi-rigid pole 107 is received in the first pole receiving sleeve 109.

[0051] The frame 101 comprises a second semi-rigid pole 108. A lower end of the second semi-rigid pole 108 is received in the second pole receiving sleeve 110.

[0052] The frame 101 comprises a third semi-rigid pole 111. A lower end of the third semi-rigid pole 111 is received in the third pole receiving sleeve 113.

[0053] The frame 101 comprises a fourth semi-rigid pole 112. A lower end of the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 is received in the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114.

[0054] The first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 are all capable of flexing. The first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 may each be a fibreglass pole. Due to their being capable of flexing, the first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112, may help to absorb, in use, the impact of a ball hitting a part of the football goal 100. Also, the ability of the first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 to flex helps when adjusting the height of the football goal, as described below.

[0055] The net assembly 102 comprises a net 117. When the football goal 100 is assembled, the net 117 is attached along edges thereof to the rear frame member 104, the first side frame member 105 and the second side frame member 106. A corner of the net 117 is attached to an upper end of each one of the first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112.

[0056] The net assembly 102 comprises a first flexible post member 118 and a second flexible post member 119, each of the first flexible post member 118 and the second flexible post member 119 being attached to an edge of the net 117, and a flexible crossbar member 120 attached to another edge of the net 117 and extending

from an upper end of the first flexible post member 118 to an upper end of the second flexible post member 119.

[0057] The first flexible post member 118 is attached to a forward end of the first side frame member 105. The second flexible post member 119 is attached to a forward end of the second side frame member 106.

[0058] The frame 101 holds the net assembly 102 in tension such that the football goal 100 has an opening defined by the first flexible post member 118, the second flexible post member 119 and the flexible crossbar member 120 with the net 117 arranged behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening.

[0059] The rear frame member 104 is offset from and parallel to the flexible crossbar member 120.

[0060] One or more of the first flexible post member 118, the second flexible post member 119 and the flexible crossbar member 120 may be made from a strip of material. One or more of the strips of material may be foldable and/or rollable. One or more of the strips of material may comprise a fabric and/or a polymer. One or more of the strips of material may have a weatherproof coating or protective outer layer.

[0061] When disassembled, the football goal 100 may be stored in a container such as a box or a bag. The football goal 100 may be relatively lightweight and may be relatively compact when disassembled. Hence, the football goal 100 may be portable, e.g. from one site of use to another site of use, and/or may be relatively easy to store and/or transport.

[0062] In implementations, the rear frame member 104 may comprise one or more hinges to enable the rear frame member 104 to be folded when disassembling the football goal 100.

[0063] One or more of the first semi-rigid pole 107, the second semi-rigid pole 108, the third semi-rigid pole 111 and the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 may be configured such that it/they can be folded, e.g. in half or in thirds, when the football goal 100 is disassembled.

[0064] As noted above, the football goal 100 has an adjustable width and an adjustable height.

[0065] The flexible crossbar member 120 has a first user-operable length selection means and a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, each one of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the flexible crossbar member 120 and secure the flexible crossbar member 120 at a user-selected length. The rear frame member 104 has a third user-operable length selection means and a fourth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, each one of the third user-operable length selection means and the fourth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the rear frame member 104 and secure the rear frame member 104 at a user-selected length. Thus, a width of the football goal 100 may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of one or more of the user-operable length selection means associated with the flex-

ible crossbar member 120 and one or more of the user-operable length selection means associated with the rear frame member 104, thereby changing the respective lengths of the flexible crossbar member 120 and the rear frame member 104.

[0066] The first flexible post member 118 has a fifth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the fifth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first flexible post member 118 and secure the first flexible post member 118 at a user-selected length.

[0067] The first semi-rigid pole 107 and the second semi-rigid pole 108 each have a user-operable length selection means associated therewith, each one of the user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first semi-rigid pole 107 or the second semi-rigid pole 108 that is received in the first pole receiving sleeve 109 or the second pole receiving sleeve 110, respectively.

[0068] The second flexible post member 119 has a sixth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the sixth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the second flexible post member 119 and secure the second flexible post member 119 at a user-selected length.

[0069] The third semi-rigid pole 111 and the second semi-rigid pole 112 each have a user-operable length selection means associated therewith, each one of the user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first semi-rigid pole 111 or the second semi-rigid pole 112 that is received in the first pole receiving sleeve 113 or the second pole receiving sleeve 114, respectively.

[0070] Thus, a height of the football goal 100 may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the user-operable length selection means associated with the first and second flexible post member 118, 119 and the user-operable length selection means associated with the first, second, third and fourth semi-rigid poles 107, 108, 111, 112, thereby changing the respective lengths of the first and second flexible post members 118, 119 and the length of the first, second, third and fourth semi-rigid poles 107, 108, 111, 112 received in each of the first, second, third and fourth pole receiving sleeves 109, 110, 113, 114, respectively.

[0071] With reference to Figures 5A, 5B, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B and 9C, the width adjustment of the example football goal 100 will now be described.

[0072] The net 117 is attached to the upper end of each semi-rigid pole by a loop of fabric. For example, as shown in Figures 5A, 5B, 7A, 7B and 7C a loop of fabric 121 attaches the net 117 to the upper end of the first semi-rigid pole 107. The top edges of the net 117 are defined by seams to help the net 117 maintain its desired shape.

[0073] Figures 5A, 5B, 6, 7A, 7B and 7C show the operation of a first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120.

[0074] On a first side of the flexible crossbar member

120, there is a pair of studs 123a, 123b and a pair of stud receiving formations 122a, 122b configured to receive the studs 123a, 123b. Together, the pair of studs 123a, 123b and the stud receiving formations 122a, 122b constitute a pair of press stud snap fasteners.

[0075] When reducing the width of the football goal, the flexible crossbar member 120 is folded back on itself such that the pair of studs 123a, 123b are pressed into the pair of stud receiving formations 122a, 122b. This operation and the resulting arrangement is shown most clearly in Figure 5A, Figure 6 and Figure 7A. When the flexible crossbar member 120 is unfolded, the pair of studs 123a, 123b are disengaged from the pair of stud receiving formations 122a, 122b and the flexible crossbar member 120 adopts a longer length. When the flexible crossbar member 120 is unfolded, the first side of the flexible crossbar member 120 is a forward-facing side of the flexible crossbar member 120.

[0076] A side release buckle 124 (Figures 5B, 7A, 7B, 7C) is provided on a second side of the flexible crossbar member 120, the second side of the flexible crossbar member 120 being opposite the first side of the flexible crossbar member 120. The second side of the flexible crossbar member 120 is a rear-facing side of the flexible crossbar member 120. The side release buckle 124 is configured such that it can be closed when the flexible crossbar member 120 is folded back on itself such that the pair of studs 123a, 123b are pressed into the pair of stud receiving formations 122a, 122b. The side release buckle 124 thus acts to keep the flexible crossbar member 120 neat when the flexible crossbar member 120 is folded.

[0077] When the flexible crossbar member 120 is unfolded and the pair of studs 123a, 123b are disengaged from the pair of stud receiving formations 122a, 122b, the side release buckle 124 is open.

[0078] Referring to Figures 8A and 8B, a second user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 can be seen. The second user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 is located relatively close to the point where the flexible crossbar member 120 meets the second flexible post member 119. The first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 is located relatively close to the point where the flexible crossbar member 120 meets the first flexible post member 118.

[0079] The arrangement and operation of the second user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 is identical to that of the first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 discussed above. Like features are indicated with the same reference numerals, but with a prime (').

[0080] Figures 8A and 8B show the flexible crossbar member 120 in an unfolded state, in which a pair of studs 123a', 123b' is not in engagement with a pair of stud receiving formations 122a', 122b' and a side release

buckle 124' is open.

[0081] Figures 9A, 9B and 9C show a portion of the rear frame member 104. The rear frame member 104 is telescopic in part and comprises a spring locking button mechanism 125. The spring locking button mechanism 125 is an example of a user-operable length selection means configured to enable adjustments of the length of the rear frame member 104 corresponding with the adjustments of the length of the flexible crossbar member 120 enabled by the one or more user-operable selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120.

[0082] As illustrated, the spring locking button mechanism 125 may be configured such that the spring locking button mechanism 125 protrudes from the rear frame member 104 in a rearward direction.

[0083] For example, the rear frame member 104 may comprise a first user-operable length selection means and a second user-operable length selection means, to provide, in use, length adjustment of the rear frame member 104 corresponding to the length adjustment of the flexible crossbar member 120 provided by the first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120 and the second user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member 120, respectively.

[0084] It will be appreciated that the press stud snap fasteners, the side release buckle and/or the spring locking button mechanisms are simply examples of suitable mechanisms for facilitating width adjustment of the football goal. Other suitable mechanisms will be apparent to the person skilled in the art.

[0085] With reference to Figures 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 11C and 11D, the adjustment of the height of the football goal 100 will be described.

[0086] Referring to Figure 10B, the first flexible post member 118 comprises near a lower end a first sleeve 127a extending laterally across a rear surface thereof. A second sleeve 127b extending laterally across the rear surface of the first flexible post member 118 is located a distance along the first flexible post member 118 from the first sleeve 127a. A prong 128 extends from a forward end of the first side frame member 105. The prong 128 is configured to be received in the first sleeve 127a or the second sleeve 127b, depending upon the desired length of the first flexible post member 118 for adjusting the height of the football goal 100. In Figure 10B, the prong 128 is received in the first sleeve 127a. When reducing the height of the football goal 100, the prong 128 is received in the second sleeve 127b instead of the first sleeve 127a.

[0087] Referring to Figure 10A, the second flexible post member 119 comprises near a lower end a first sleeve 127a' extending laterally across a rear surface thereof. A second sleeve 127b' extending laterally across the rear surface of the second flexible post member 119 is located a distance along the second flexible post member 119 from the first sleeve 127a'. A prong 128' extends from a

forward end of the second side frame member 106. The prong 128' is configured to be received in the first sleeve 127a' or the second sleeve 127b', depending upon the desired length of the second flexible post member 119 for adjusting the height of the football goal 100. In Figure 10A, the prong 128' is received in the second sleeve 127b'. When increasing the height of the football goal 100, the prong 128' is received in the first sleeve 127a' instead of the second sleeve 127b'.

[0088] Referring to Figures 11A, 11B, 11C and 11D, the corresponding adjustment of the height of the frame 101 of the football goal 100 will be described.

[0089] Figures 11C and 11D show the lower end of the first semi-rigid pole 107 received in the first pole receiving sleeve 109 and the lower end of the second semi-rigid pole 108 received in the second pole receiving sleeve 110.

[0090] A first pin 129a is inserted through a first pair of apertures in opposing sides of the first pole receiving sleeve 109 such that the first pin 129a extends through the first pole receiving sleeve 109. The first pin 129a prevents the first semi-rigid pole 107 from extending any further into the first pole receiving sleeve 109.

[0091] A second pin 129b is inserted through a first pair of apertures in opposing sides of the second pole receiving sleeve 110 such that the second pin 129b extends through the second pole receiving sleeve 110. The second pin 129b prevents the second semi-rigid pole 108 from extending any further into the second pole receiving sleeve 110.

[0092] To decrease the height of the frame 101, the first pin 129a is removed from the first pole receiving sleeve 109 and the second pin 129b is removed from the second pole receiving sleeve 110. Hence, the first semi-rigid pole 107 can extend further into the first pole receiving sleeve 109 and the second semi-rigid pole 108 can extend further into the second pole receiving sleeve 110, thereby reducing the height of the frame 101.

[0093] The first pin 129a may be insertable through a second pair of apertures in opposing sides of the first pole receiving sleeve 109 such that the first pin 129a extends through the first pole receiving sleeve 109. The second pair of apertures is spaced from the first pair of apertures in a direction towards the first side frame member 105. When the first pin 129a is inserted through the second pair of apertures in opposing sides of the first pole receiving sleeve 109, the first pin 129a prevents the first semi-rigid pole 107 from extending any further into the first pole receiving sleeve 109.

[0094] The second pin 129b may be insertable through a second pair of apertures in opposing sides of the second pole receiving sleeve 110 such that the second pin 129b extends through the second pole receiving sleeve 110. The second pair of apertures is spaced from the first pair of apertures in a direction towards the first side frame member 105. When the second pin 129b is inserted through the second pair of apertures in opposing sides of the second pole receiving sleeve 110, the second pin

129b prevents the second semi-rigid pole 108 from extending any further into the second pole receiving sleeve 110.

[0095] The football goal 100 is configured such that the height adjustment of the frame 101 corresponds with the height adjustment of the first flexible post member 118.

[0096] Figures 11A and 11B show the lower end of the third semi-rigid pole 111 received in the third pole receiving sleeve 113 and the lower end of the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 received in the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114.

[0097] Also shown in Figures 11A and 11B are a third pin 129c and a fourth pin 129d. The third pin 129c is configured to be inserted through a pair of apertures in opposing sides of the third pole receiving sleeve 113 (see Figure 11B) such that the third pin 129c extends through the third pole receiving sleeve 113. One or more such pairs of apertures are present at spaced-apart locations along the length of the third pole receiving sleeve 113. When the third pin 129c is inserted through one of the pairs of apertures in opposing sides of the third pole receiving sleeve 113, the third semi-rigid pole 111 is prevented from extending any further into the third pole receiving sleeve 113. The fourth pin 129d is configured to be inserted through a pair of apertures in opposing sides of the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114 (see Figure 11B) such that the fourth pin 129d extends through the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114. One or more such pairs of apertures are present at spaced-apart locations along the length of the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114. When the fourth pin 129d is inserted through one of the pairs of apertures in opposing sides of the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114, the fourth semi-rigid pole 112 is prevented from extending any further into the fourth pole receiving sleeve 114. In this way, the height of the frame 101 may be increased.

[0098] Further configurations of other widths and heights are envisaged. The configurations are not limited to the configurations given above. In addition to the embodiments disclosed above, it is further envisaged that the football goal may comprise, for example, three width adjustment positions, in combination with two height adjustment positions, i.e. the lower bound and the upper bound, to provide six configurations. Furthermore, it is further envisaged, for example, that the football goal may comprise three width adjustment positions and three height adjustment positions, to provide nine configurations. Any combination of a discrete number of width adjustment positions and/or height adjustment positions are also envisaged, such as: three by four, three by five, four by three, five by three, four by four, five by five, etc.

[0099] Any suitable user-operable length selection means or combination of user-operable length selection means may be used, to provide the width adjustment of the football goal and/or the height adjustment of the football goal.

[0100] In implementations, the football goal may be configured such that the width is adjustable to adopt any

value within a range of values, as opposed to a plurality of discrete values.

[0101] In implementations, the football goal may be configured such that the height is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values, as opposed to a plurality of discrete values.

[0102] The adjustable football goal may be suitable for other sports, such as, hockey and handball.

[0103] It will be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments described above. Various modifications and improvements can be made without departing from the concepts disclosed herein. Except where mutually exclusive, any of the features may be employed separately or in combination with any other features and the disclosure extends to all combinations and sub-combinations of one or more features disclosed herein.

Claims

1. A goal for use in a ball sport such as football comprising:

a net assembly comprising:

a net;

a first flexible post member and a second flexible post member, each of the first flexible post member and the second flexible post member attached to an edge of the net, and a flexible crossbar member attached to another edge of the net and extending from an upper end of the first flexible post member to an upper end of the second flexible post member; and

a frame comprising one or more frame members configured to hold the net assembly in tension to form a goal having an opening defined by the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member with the net behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening;

wherein:

the flexible crossbar member has a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the flexible crossbar member and secure the flexible crossbar member at a user-selected length; and the frame comprises a frame member spanning a width of the goal, wherein the frame member has a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection

- means being operable to adjust a length of the frame member and secure the frame member at a user-selected length; wherein a width of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means, thereby changing the respective lengths of the flexible crossbar member and the frame member spanning the width of the goal.
2. The goal of claim 1, wherein the goal is configured such that the goal can adopt a plurality of discrete widths.
 3. The goal of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the goal is configured such that the width is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values.
 4. The goal of claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, the frame member spanning the width of the goal is a rear frame member forming part of a base of the frame.
 5. The goal of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first user-operable length selection means associated with the flexible crossbar member comprises a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means.
 6. The goal of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second user-operable length selection means associated with the frame member spanning the width of the goal comprises one or more telescopic portions of the frame member.
 7. The goal of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second-user operable length selection means associated with the frame member spanning the width of the goal comprises a spring locking button mechanism.
 8. The goal of any one of the preceding claims, wherein:

the first flexible post member may have a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first flexible post member and secure the first flexible post member at a user-selected length;

the frame may have a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

the second flexible post member has a third user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the third user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the second flexible post member and secure the second flexible post member at a user-selected length;

the frame has a fourth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the fourth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;

wherein a height of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means and corresponding adjustments of the third user-operable length selection means and the fourth user-operable length selection means, thereby: changing the length of the first flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member; and changing the length of the second flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member.
 9. The goal of claim 8, wherein the goal is configured such that the goal can adopt a plurality of discrete heights.
 10. The goal of claim 8, wherein the goal is configured such that the height is adjustable to adopt any value within a range of values.
 11. The goal according to claim 8, claim 9 or claim 10, wherein: the first user-operable length selection means associated with the first flexible post member comprises a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means; and/or the third user-operable length selection means associated with the second flexible post member comprises a mechanical fastening means or a magnetic fastening means.
 12. A goal for use in a ball sport such as football comprising:

a net assembly comprising:

a net;

a first flexible post member and a second flexible post member, each of the first flexible post member and the second flexible post member attached to an edge of the net, and a flexible crossbar member attached to another edge of the net and extending from an upper end of the first flexible post member to an upper end of the second flexible post member; and

a frame comprising one or more frame members configured to hold the net assembly in tension to form a goal having an opening defined by the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member with the net behind the opening to catch, in use, any balls passing through the opening; wherein:

the first flexible post member has a first user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the first user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the first flexible post member and secure the first flexible post member at a user-selected length;
 the frame has a second user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the second user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;
 the second flexible post member has a third user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the third user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a length of the second flexible post member and secure the second flexible post member at a user-selected length;
 the frame has a fourth user-operable length selection means associated therewith, the fourth user-operable length selection means being operable to adjust a height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member and secure the frame at a user-selected height;
 wherein a height of the goal may be adjusted, in use, by corresponding adjustments of the first user-operable length selection means and the second user-operable length selection means and corresponding adjustments of the third user-operable length selection means and the fourth user-operable length selection means, thereby: changing the length of the first flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the first flexible post member; and changing the length of the second flexible post member and the height of the frame adjacent the second flexible post member.

13. The goal of any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more of the first flexible post member, the second flexible post member and the flexible crossbar member are foldable and/or rollable.

14. The goal of any one of the preceding claims com-

prising one or more semi-rigid poles.

15. The goal of claim 14, wherein the frame comprises one or more pole receiving sleeves and one or more of the pole receiving sleeves receives a lower end of one of the semi-rigid poles.

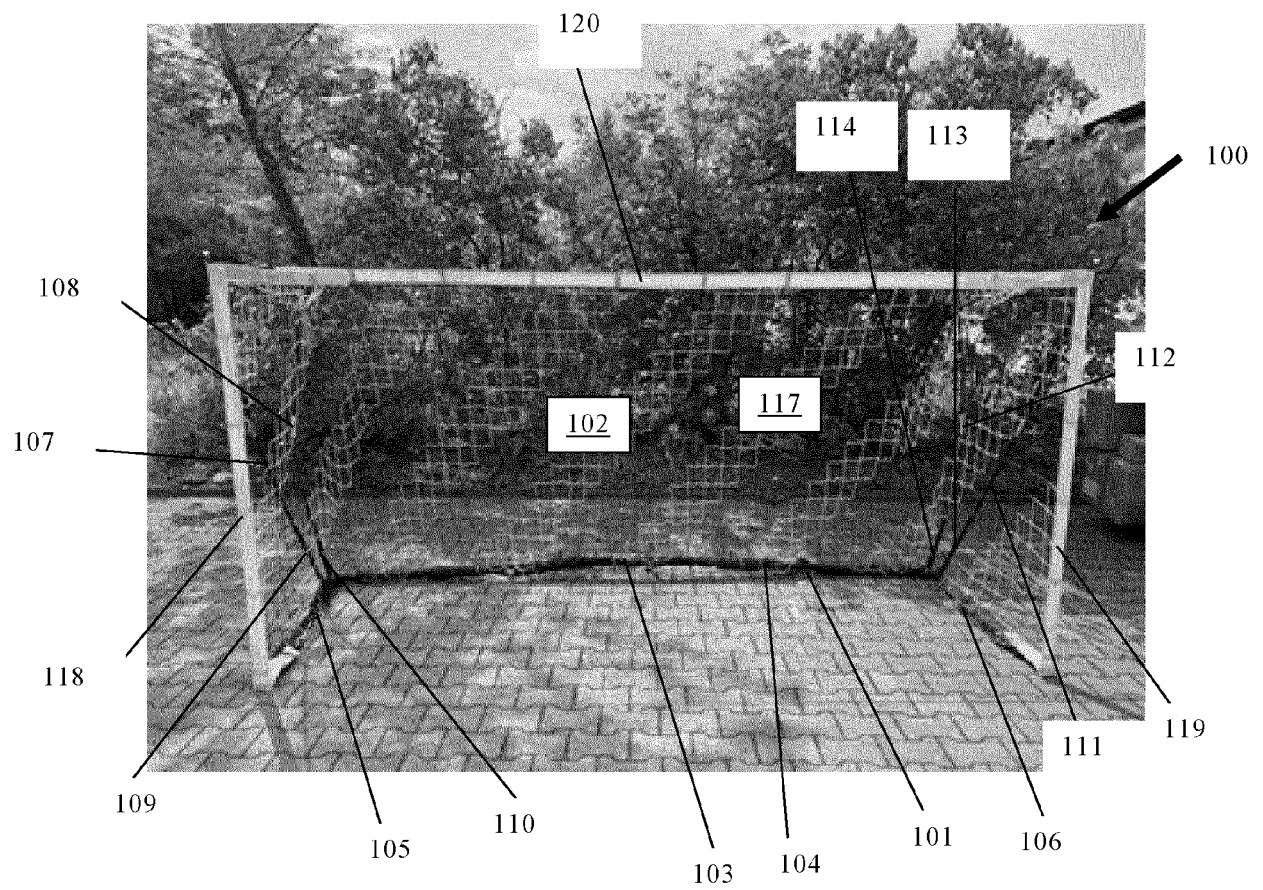


Figure 1A

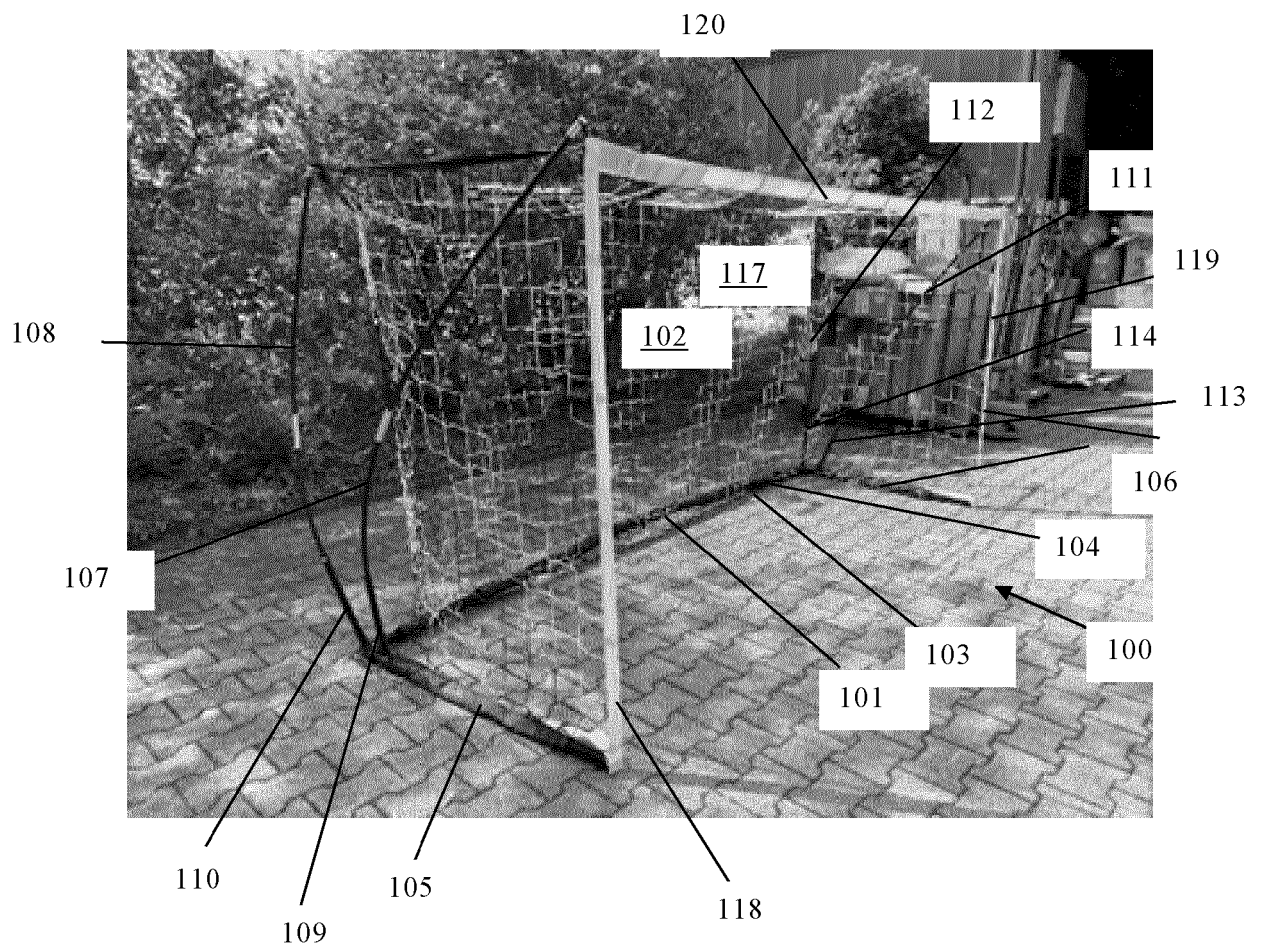


Figure 1B

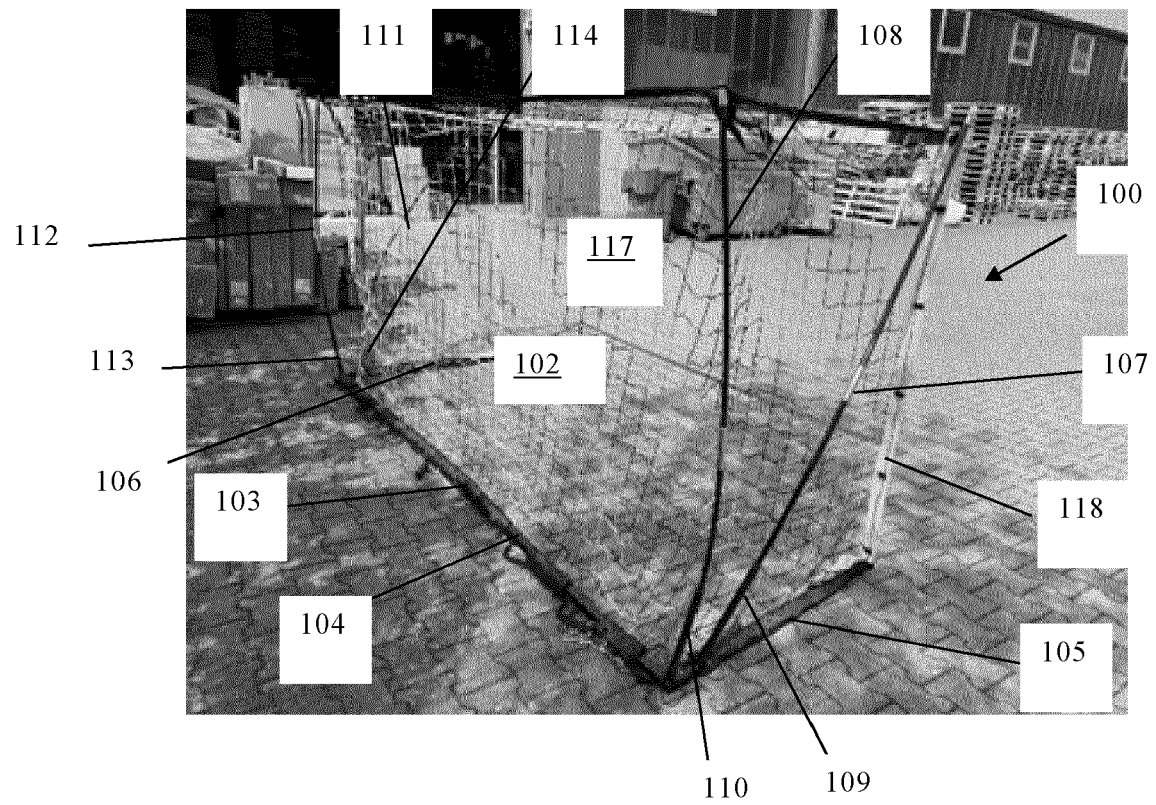


Figure 1C

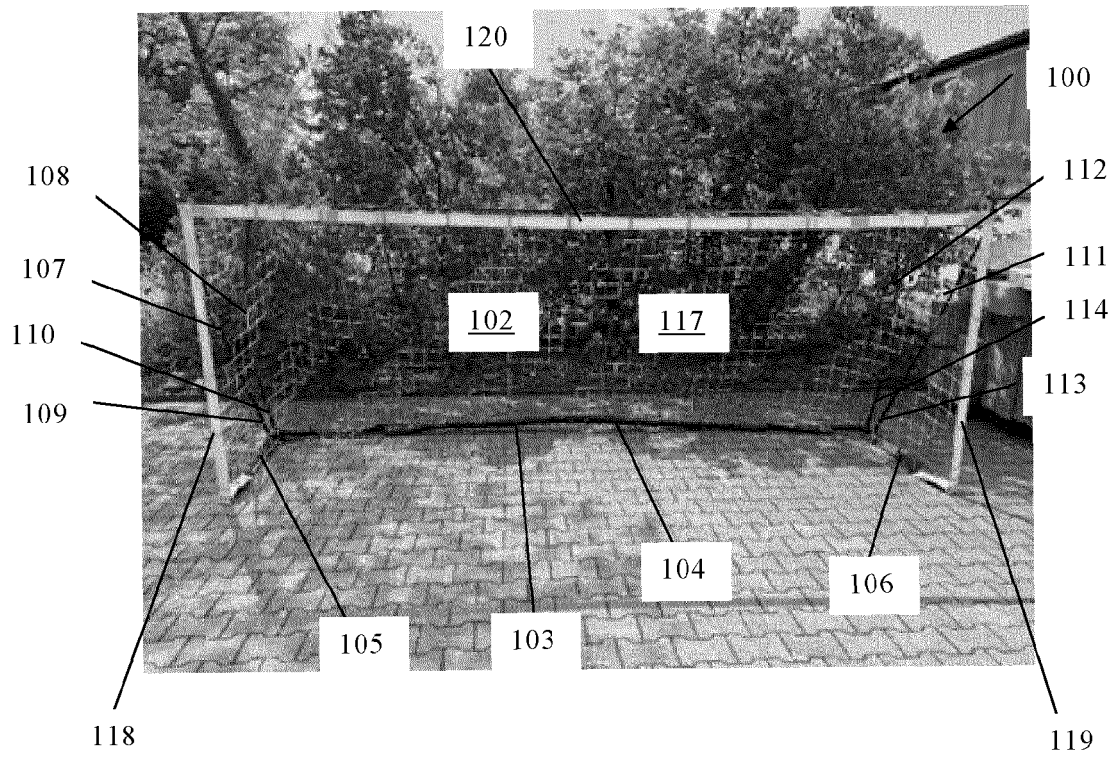


Figure 2A

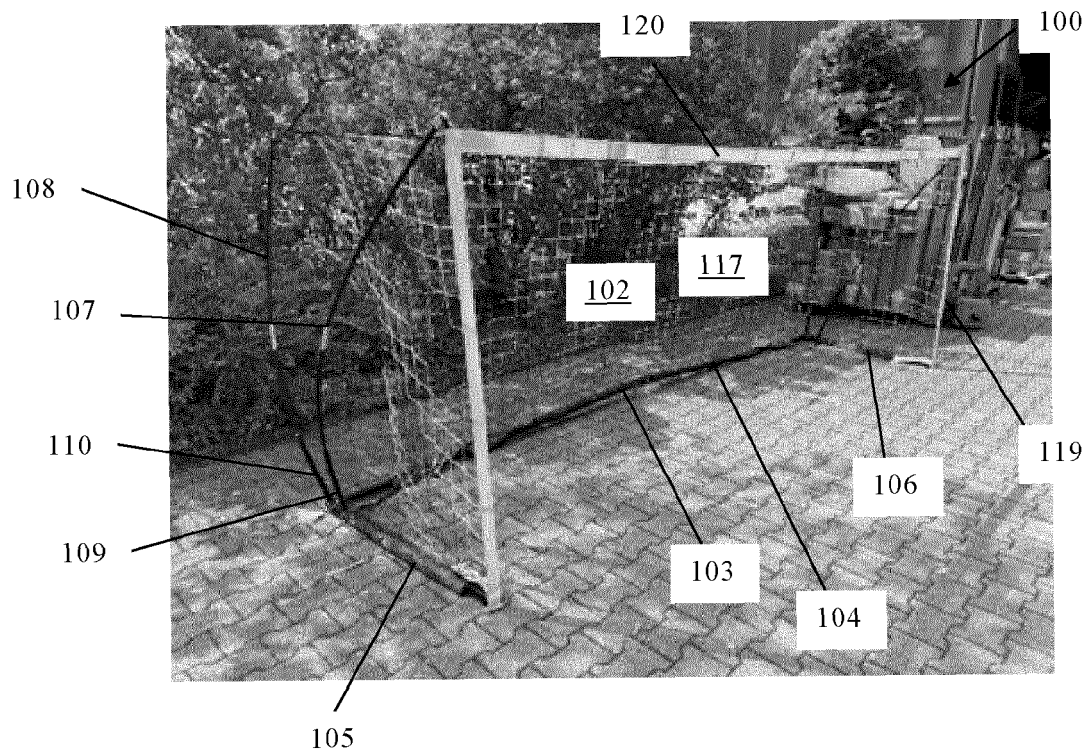


Figure 2B

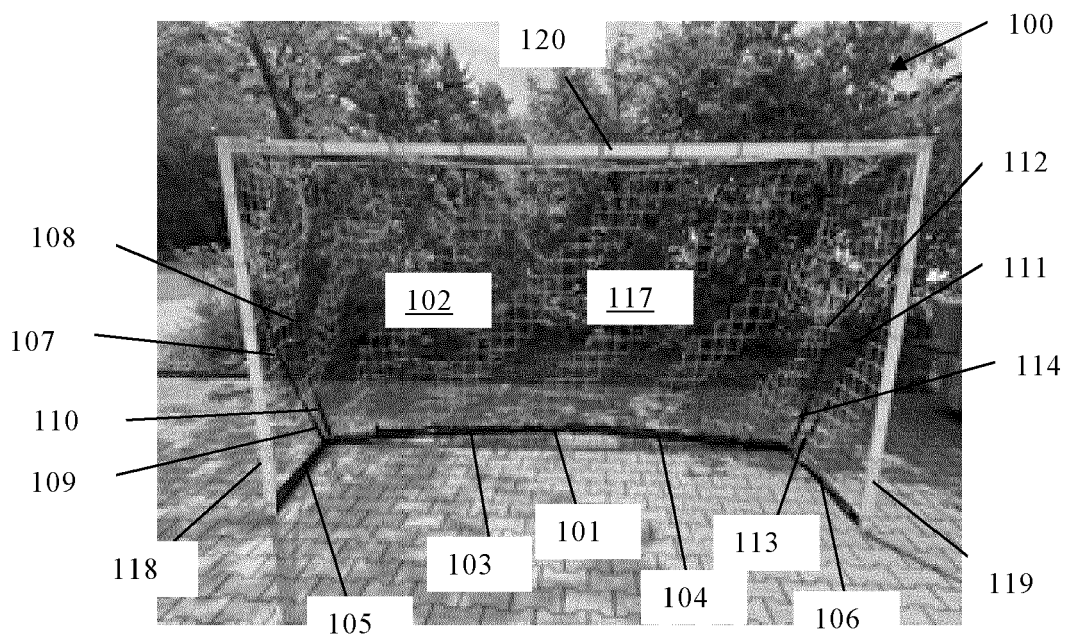


Figure 3A

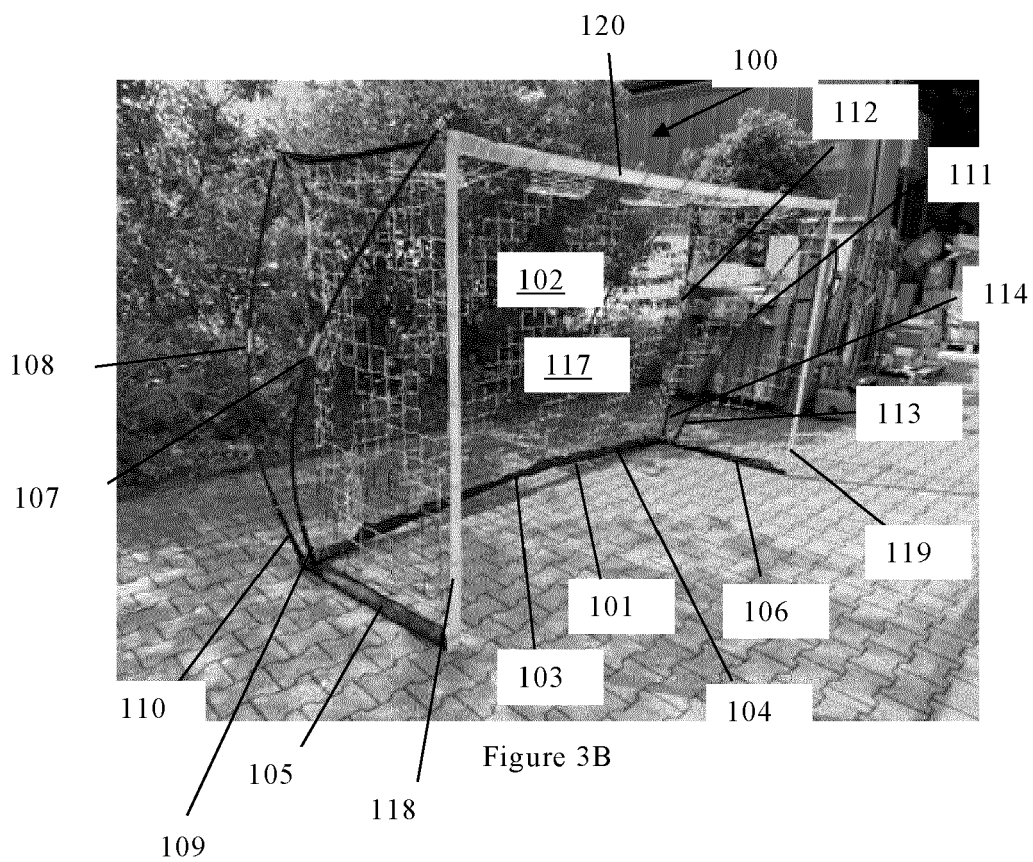


Figure 3B

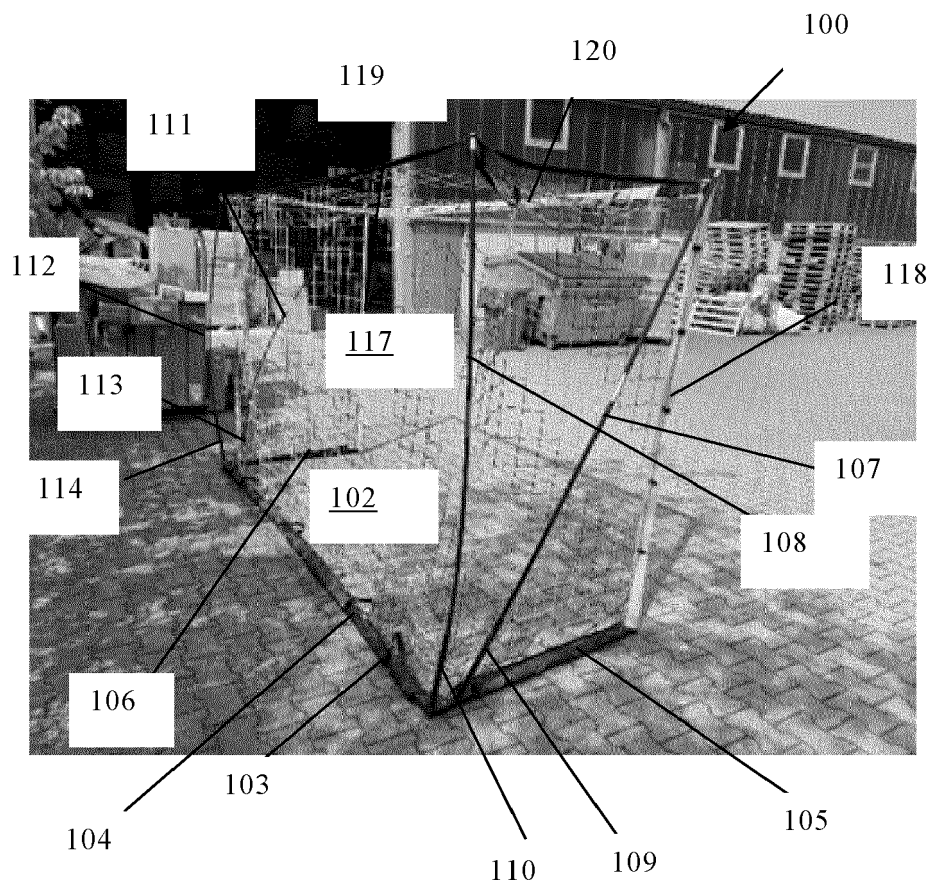


Figure 3C

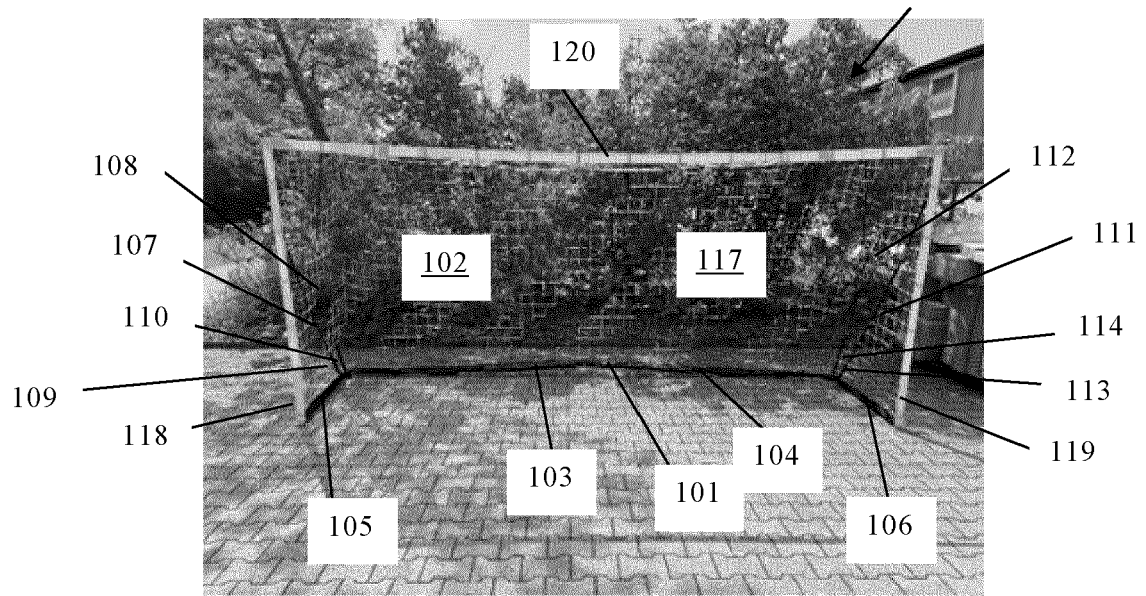


Figure 4A

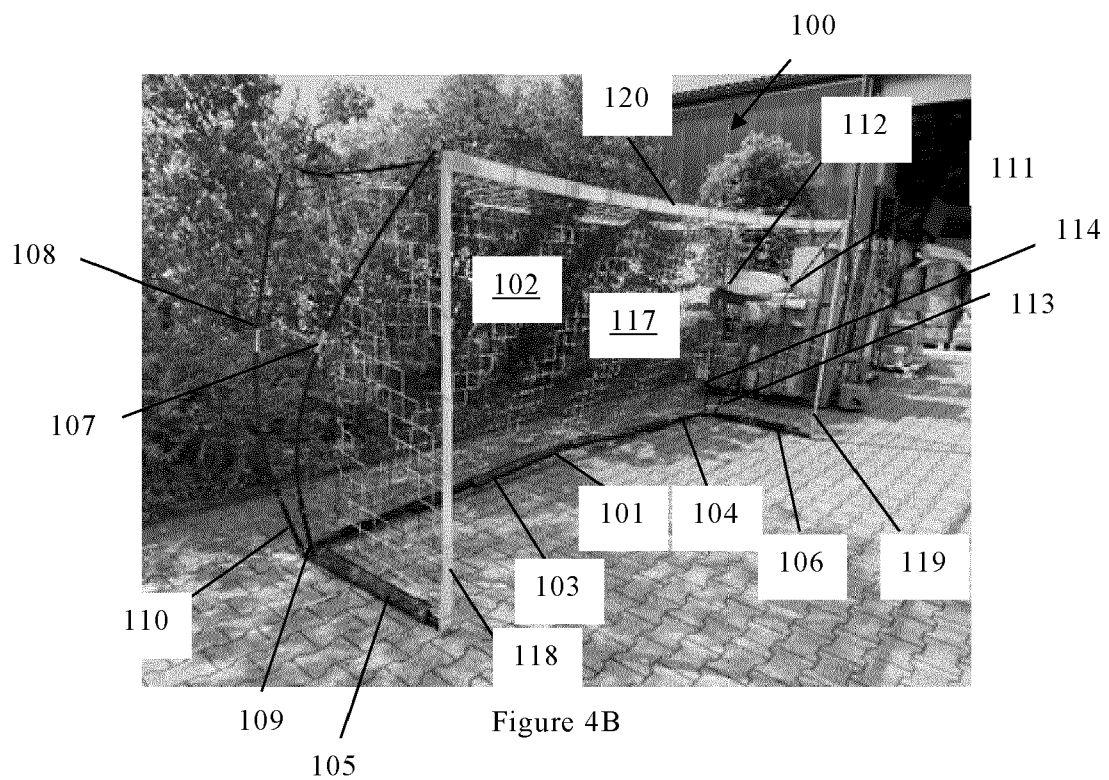


Figure 4B

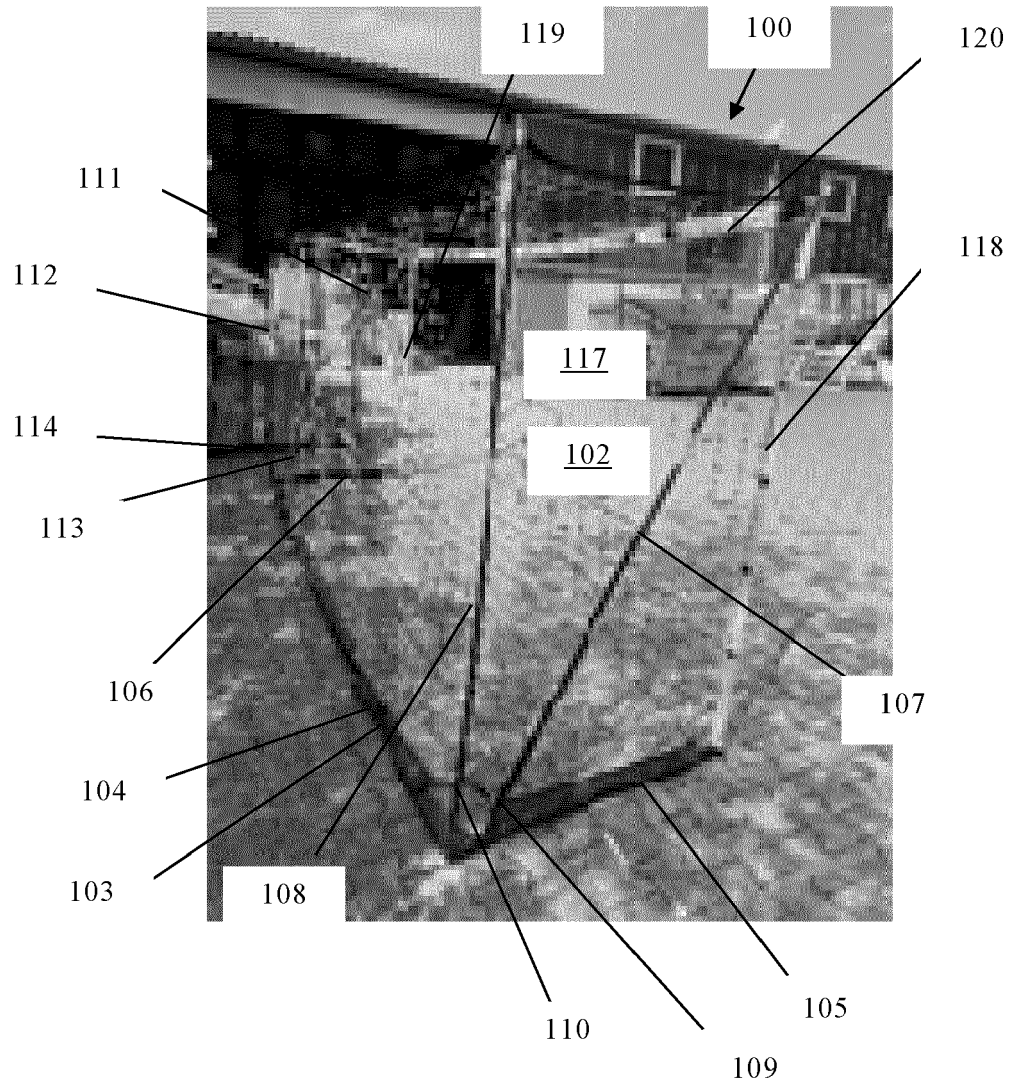


Figure 4C

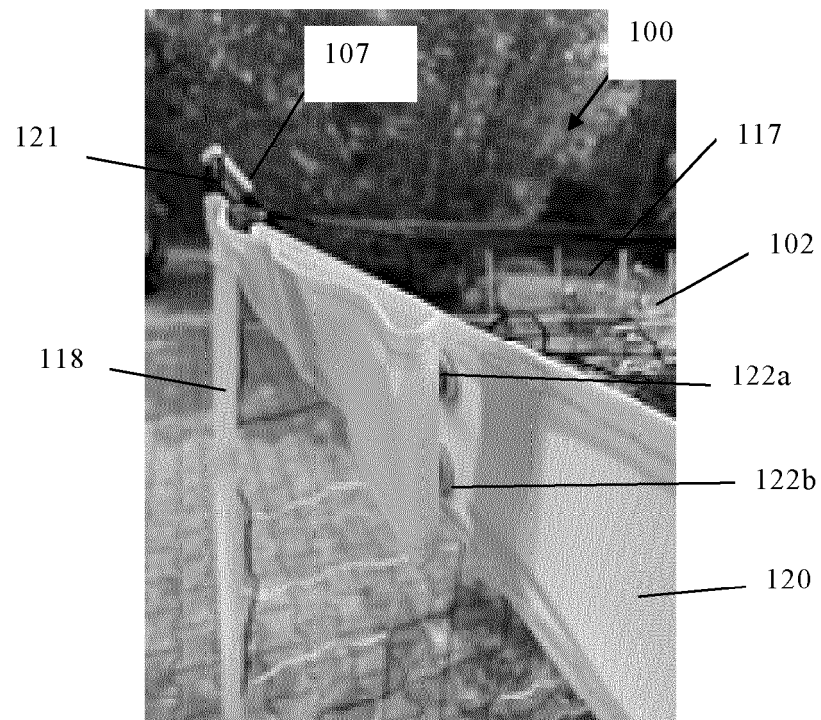


Figure 5A

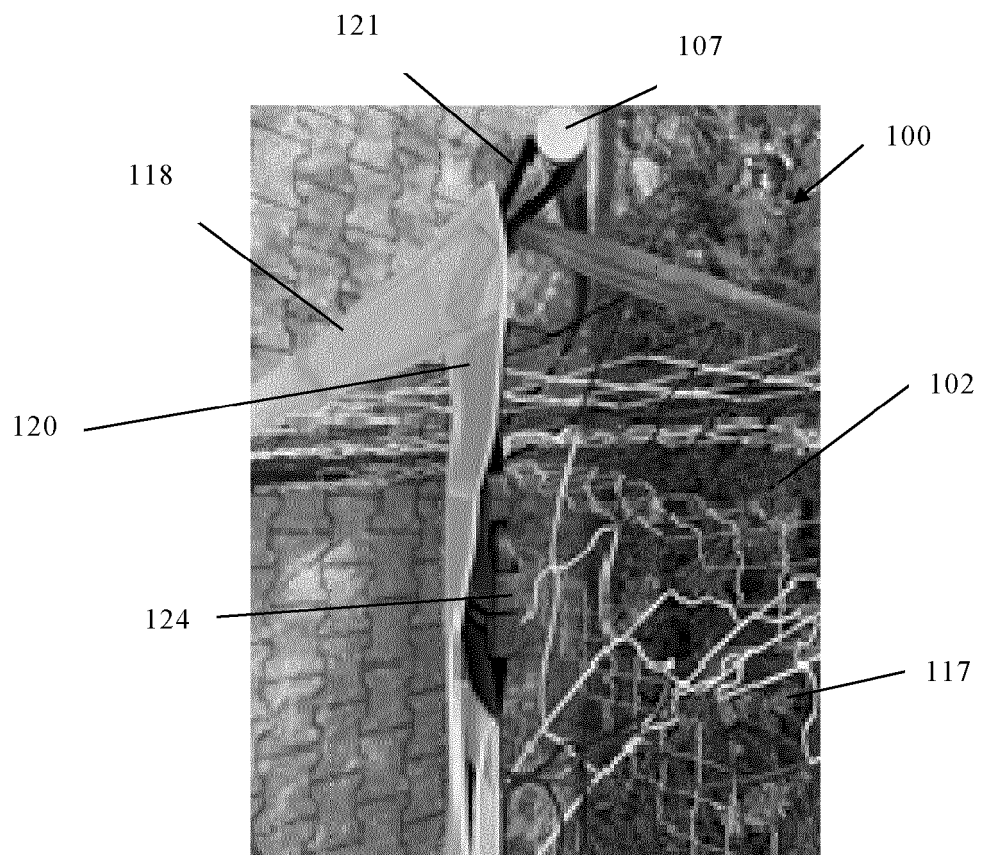


Figure 5B

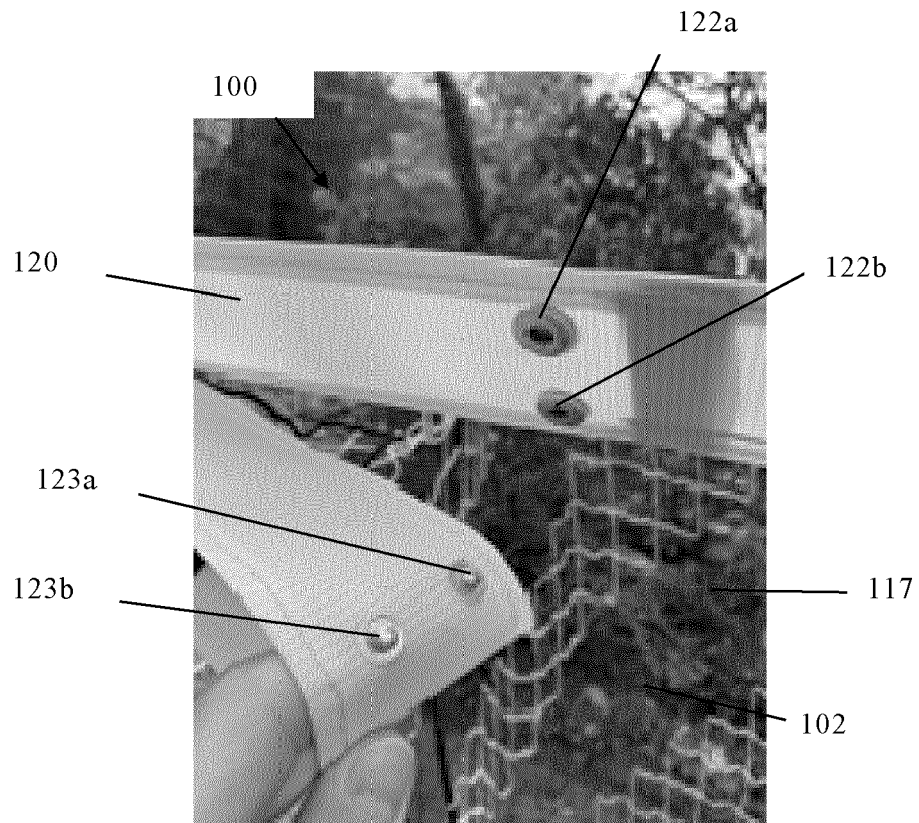


Figure 6

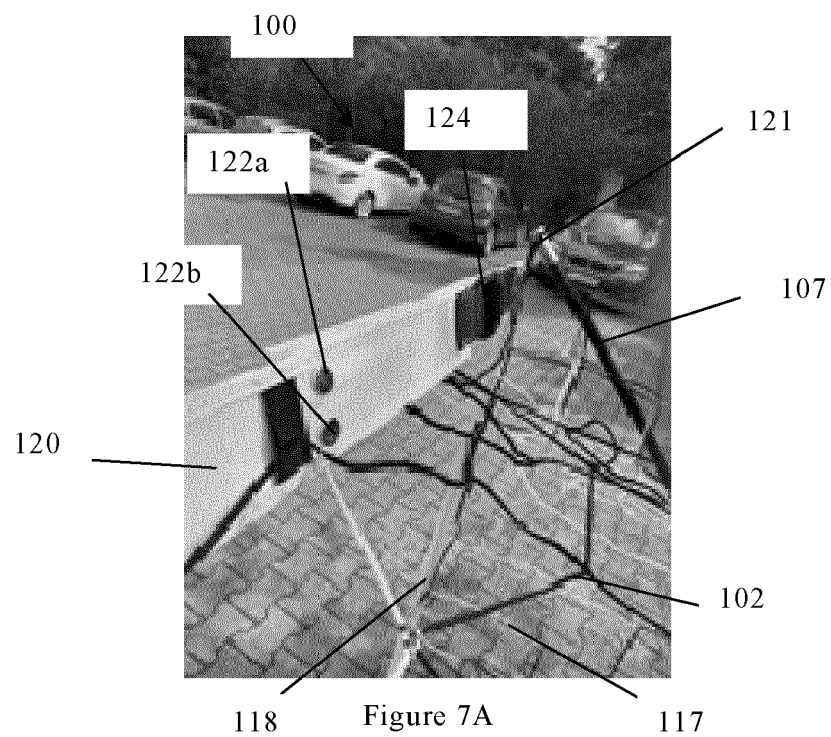


Figure 7A

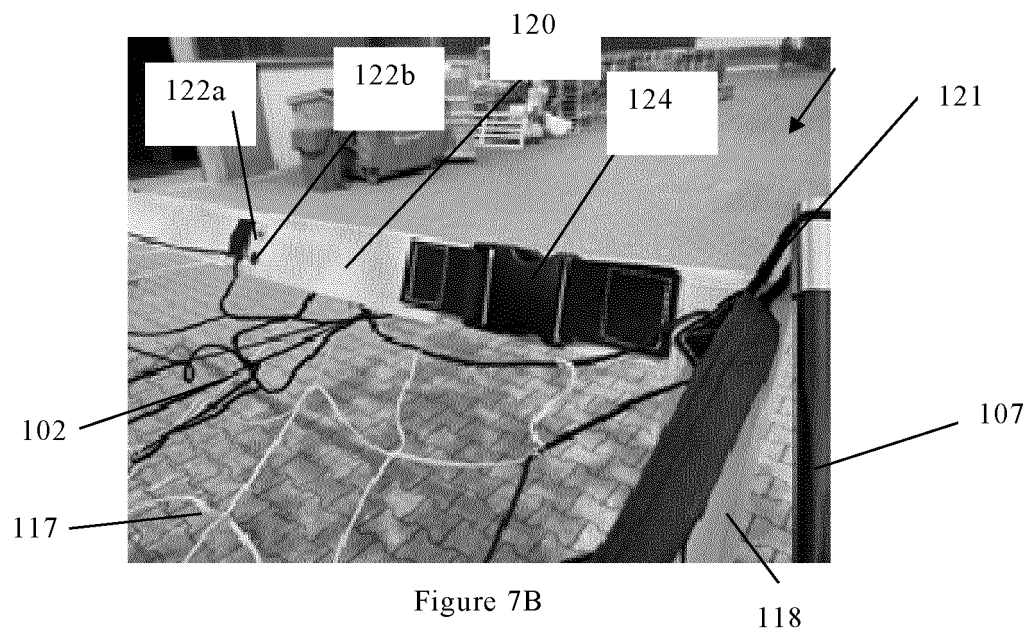


Figure 7B

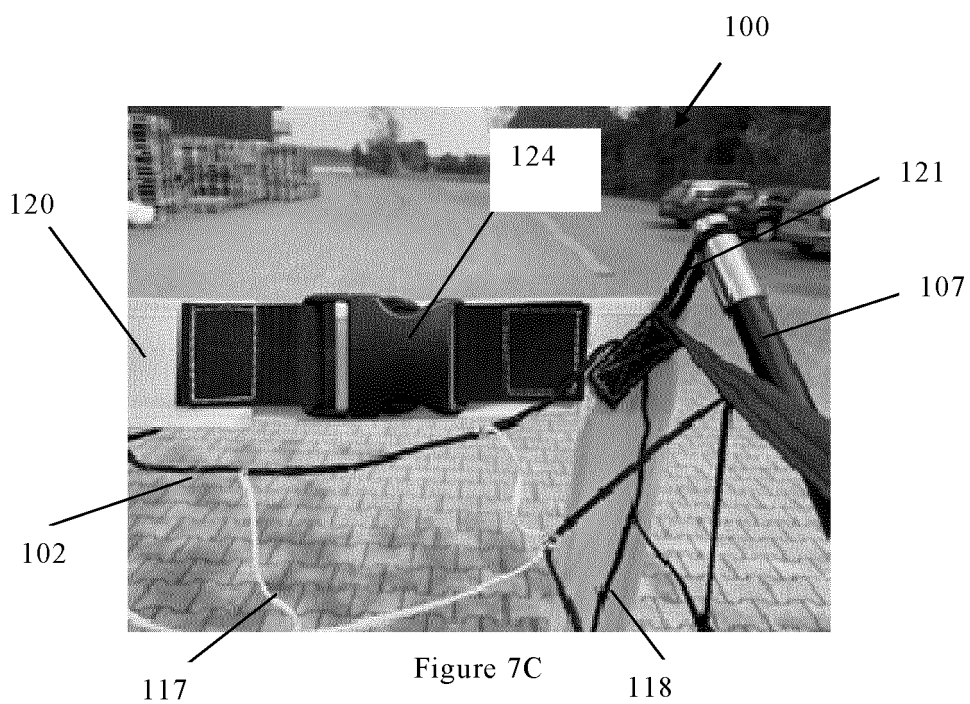
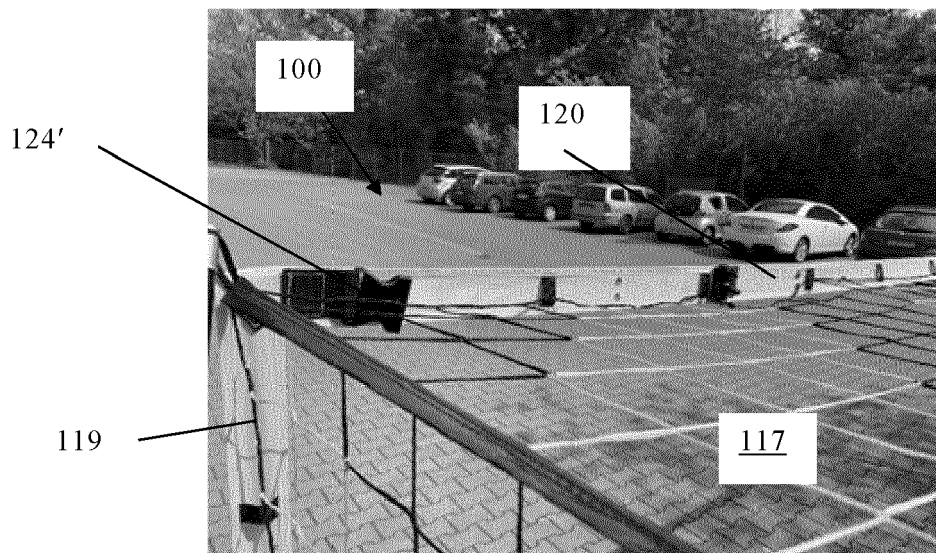
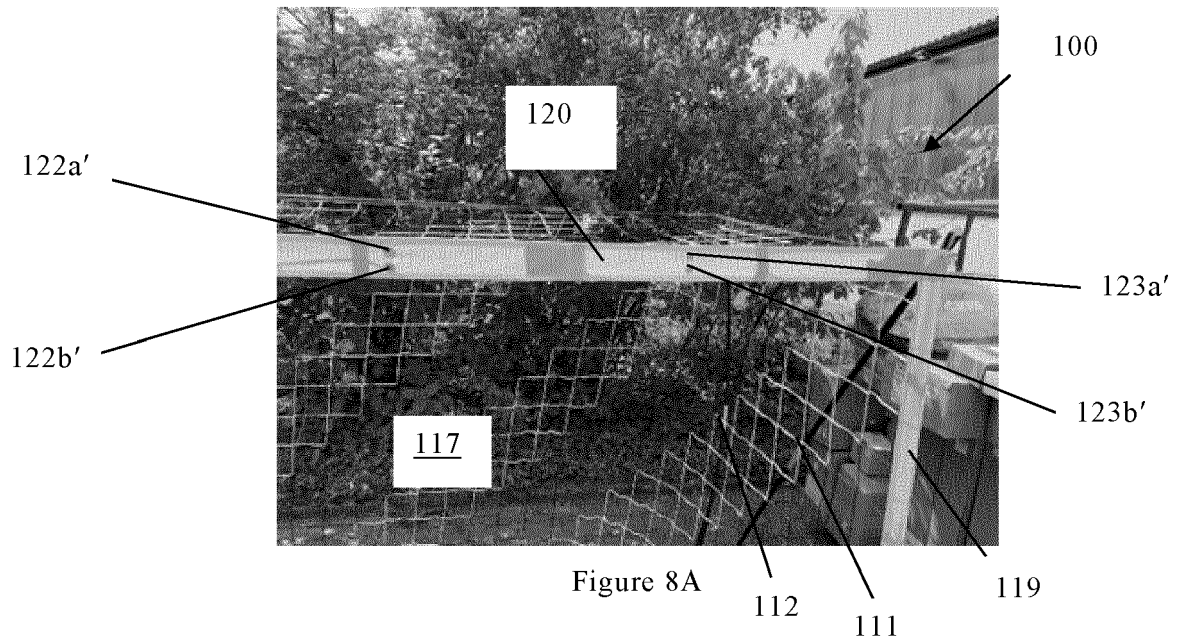


Figure 7C



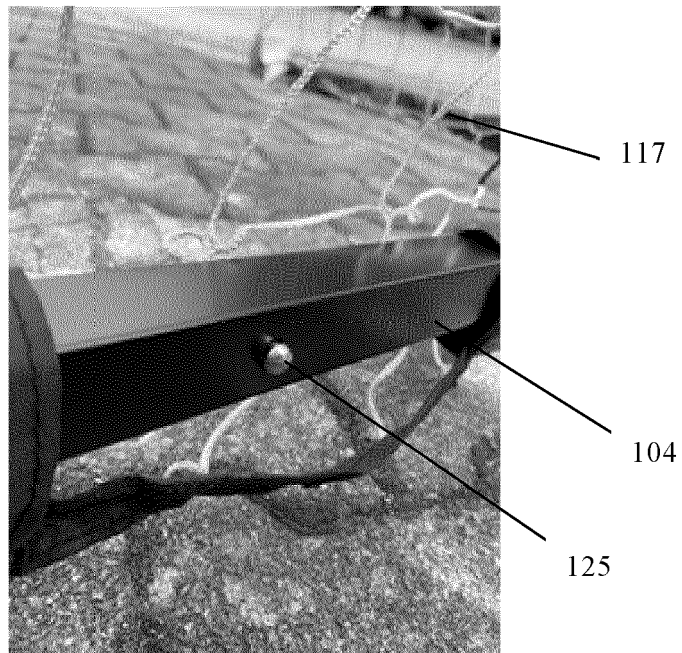


Figure 9A

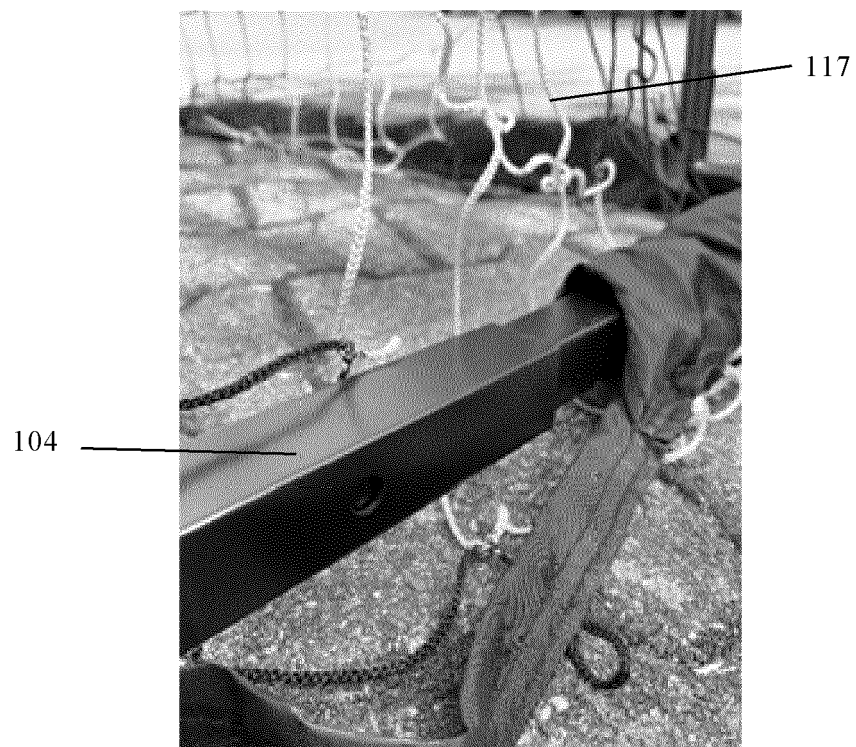


Figure 9B

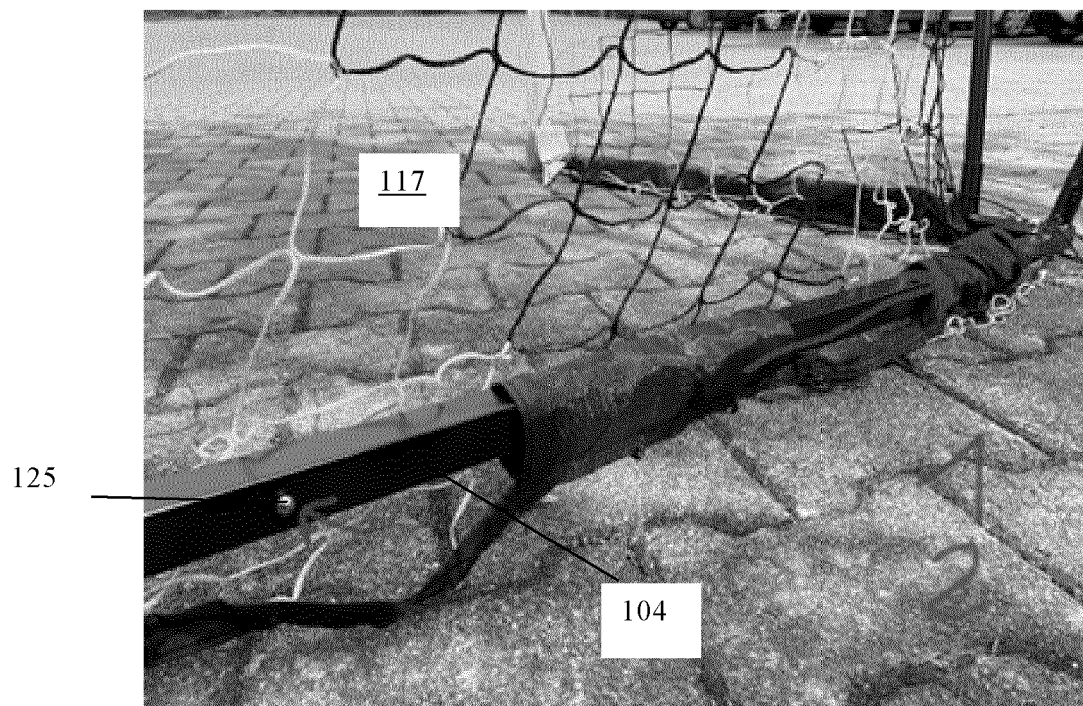


Figure 9C

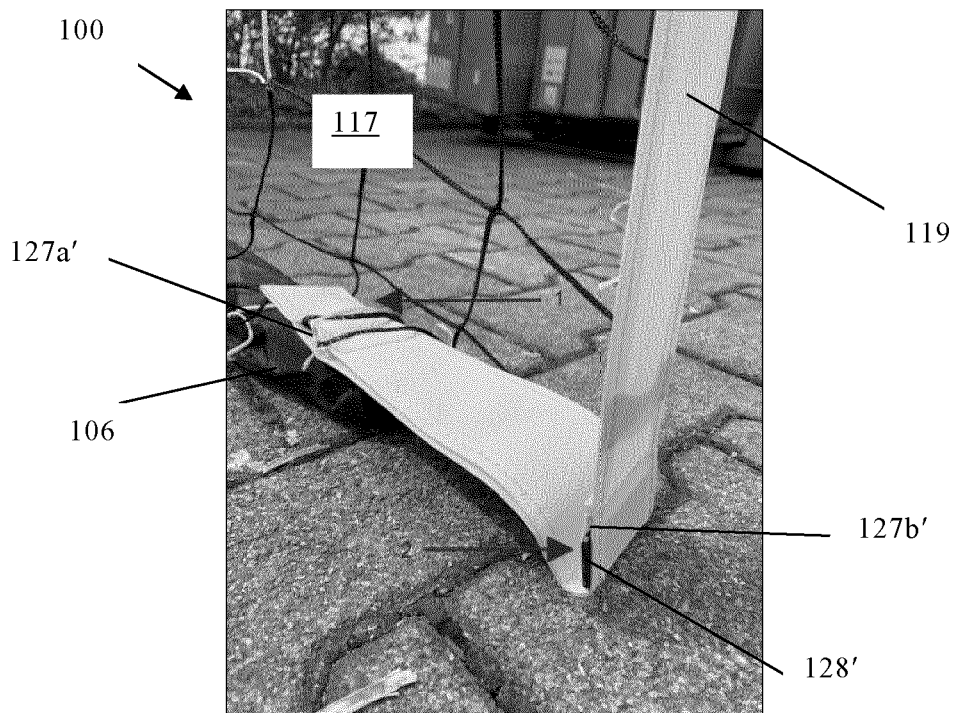


Figure 10A

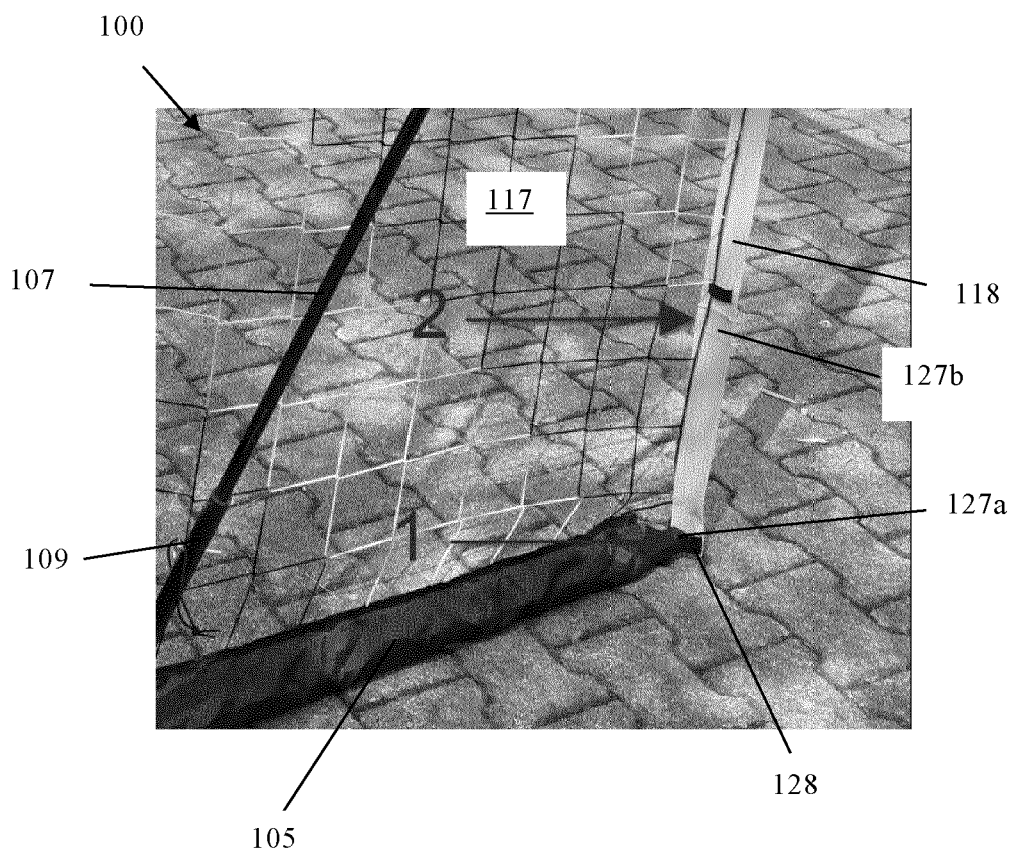
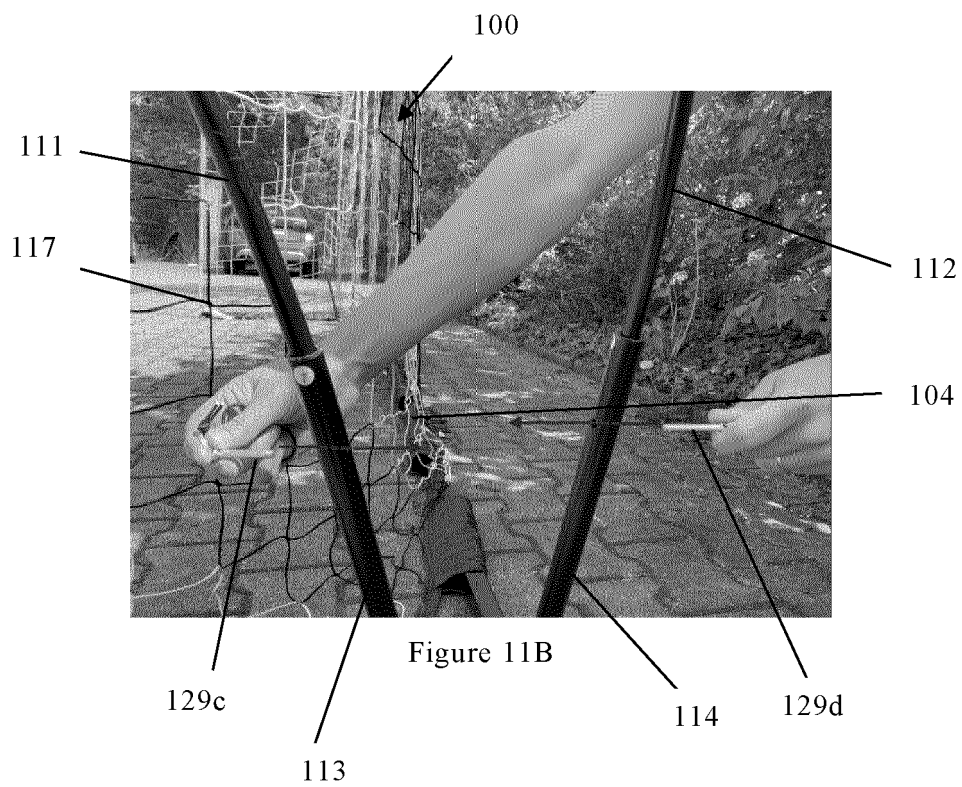
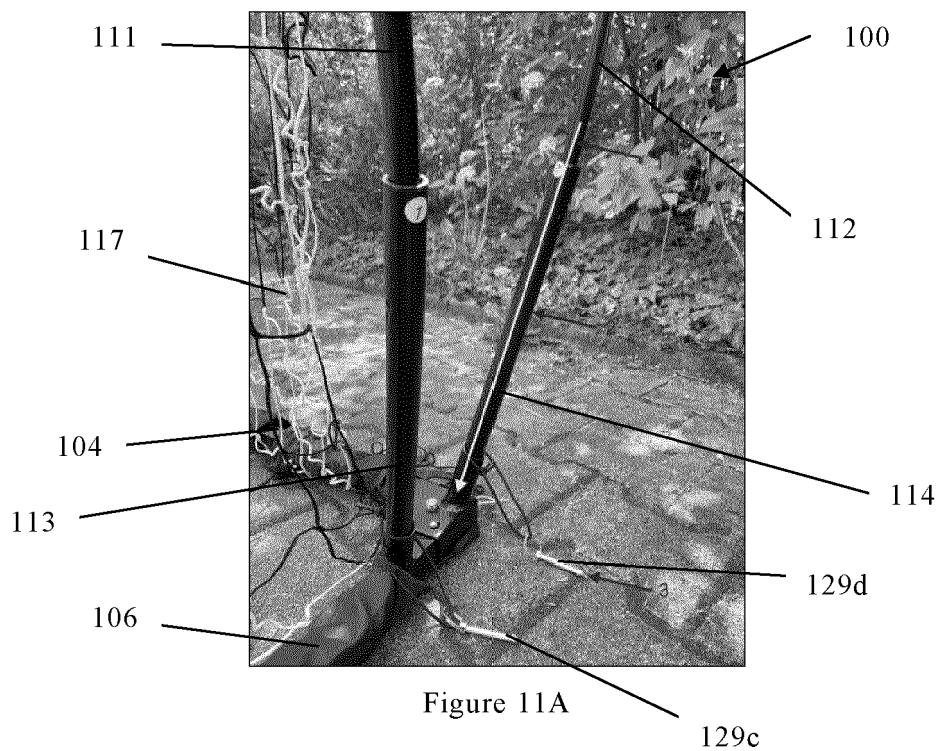
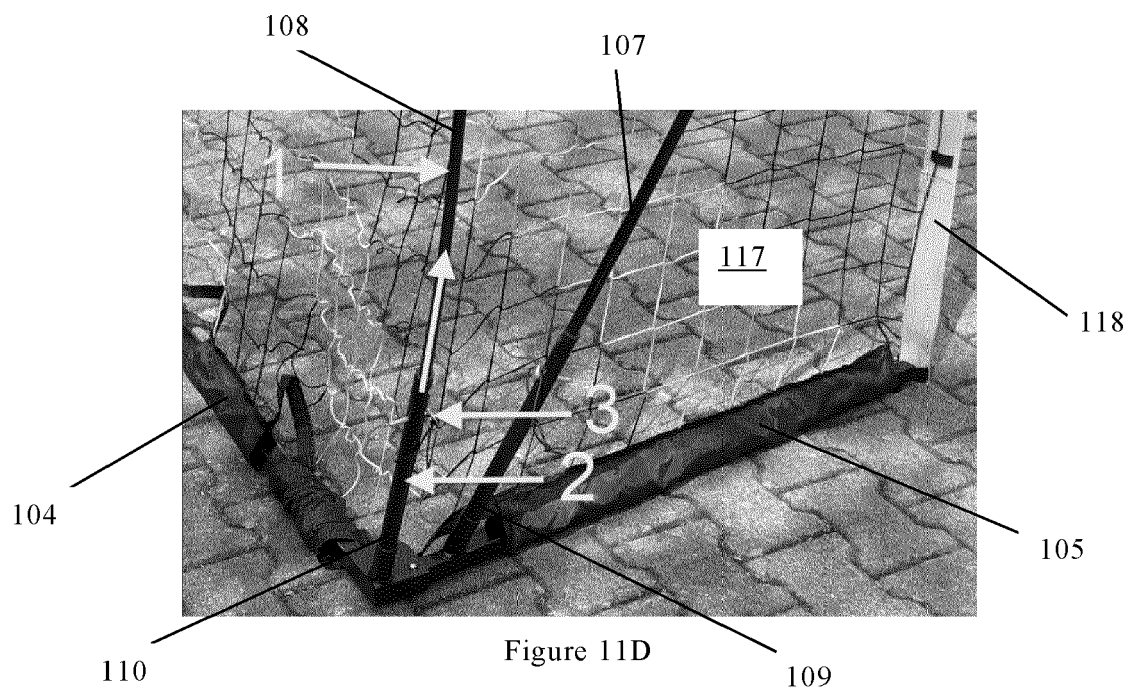
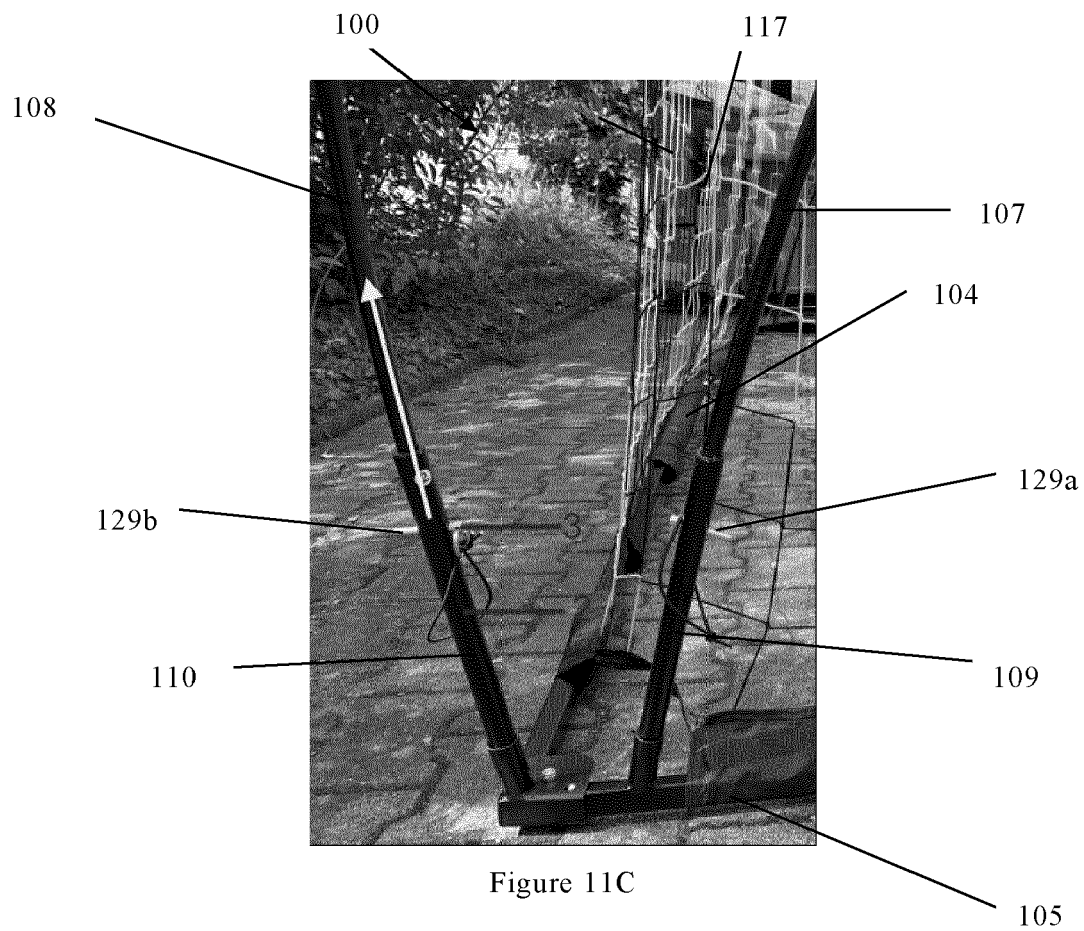


Figure 10B







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Application Number

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A	----- CN 203 816 167 U (LI MING) 10 September 2014 (2014-09-10) * paragraph [0008] - paragraph [0013] * * paragraph [0027] - paragraph [0028]; figures *	1-15	
A	----- US 2017/080312 A1 (DICKERSON RYAN L [US]) 23 March 2017 (2017-03-23) * figures * * paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0026] * * paragraph [0030] - paragraph [0031] * * paragraph [0052] - paragraph [0061] * -----	1-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A63B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 December 2022	Examiner Lundblad, Hampus
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	

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