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(71) Applicants:
• **Wagner, James Lawrence**
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (US)

• **Discoe, Justin Miles**
Lee, NH 03861 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Wagner, James Lawrence**
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (US)
• **Discoe, Justin Miles**
Lee, NH 03861 (US)

(74) Representative: **Grünecker Patent- und**
Rechtsanwälte
PartG mbB
Leopoldstraße 4
80802 München (DE)

(54) **NOISE REDUCTION PICKLEBALL**

(57) A ball used for certain practice and sporting events for the game of pickleball where the ball comprises a plastic outer shell having at least one opening where the openings or coatings may include dampening properties that reduce the noise when the ball impacts a paddle, or the court surface/ground. The ball may be spherical, hollow shell ball with at least one opening. The ball may have at least one opening where the shape of the opening comprises a hole with a slot intersecting the hole. Also, the openings in the ball may have tapered edges, rounded and/or stair stepped edges. Also, the exterior of the ball may have a dampening tape or coating applied to the interior or exterior of the ball.

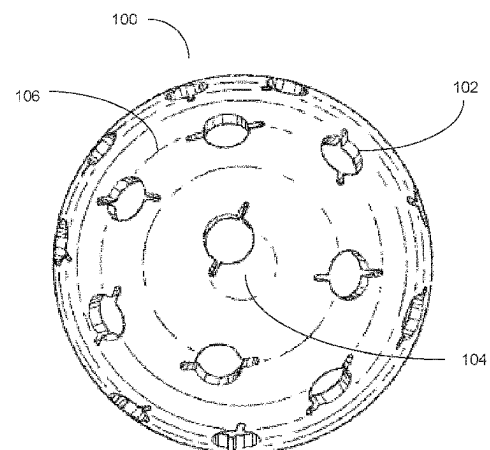


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 11 491 374 B1 (NEWCOMB CORKY F [US]) 8 November 2022 (2022-11-08)	15	INV. A63B37/00
A	* the whole document * * column 3, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3; figures 1-4 *	1-9, 11-14	A63B39/00 A63B37/12 A63B43/00
A	US 8 357 062 B2 (SINGABALL PTE LTD [SG]; LIM CHEE-AUN [SG]; NG ENG THAM-ENG [SG]) 22 January 2013 (2013-01-22) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	WO 2012/126442 A1 (20TEN SPORTS S R O [CZ]; BERGSTROEM JOACIM [SE]) 27 September 2012 (2012-09-27) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	GB 680 054 A (ALFRED THOMAS HILL) 1 October 1952 (1952-10-01) * the whole document *	1-9	
X	WO 2017/024427 A1 (LIN YUANHAO [CN]; LIN JIANHONG [CN]; WANG LUECHENG [CN]) 16 February 2017 (2017-02-16) * figures 1-10 *	10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A63B
T	KR 2023 0101998 A (VANCRAFT CO LTD [KR]) 7 July 2023 (2023-07-07) * the whole document *	11-14	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 January 2025	Examiner Schindler-Bauer, P
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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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION **SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 24 17 8025

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-9

A sound reducing ball, comprising: a spherical hollow shell having interior and exterior sides; and a plurality of holes in the spherical hollow shell where at least one of the plurality of holes further comprises an intersecting hole and slot feature formed by a centerline of the slot intersecting a center of the hole.

2. claim: 10

A sound reducing ball, comprising: a spherical, hollow shell; and a first hole and a second hole located in the spherical, hollow shell where a centerline of a slot intersects a center of the first hole and a center of the second hole.

3. claim: 11

A sound reducing pickleball, comprising: a spherical, hollow shell having an exterior side and an interior side; a plurality of holes in the hollow shell; and a dampening compound positioned as an outer coating to the exterior side of the spherical, hollow shell.

4. claims: 12, 13

A sound reducing pickleball, comprising: a spherical, hollow shell having an exterior side and an interior side; a plurality of holes in the hollow shell; and a dampening compound positioned as an interior coating to the interior side of the spherical, hollow shell.

5. claim: 14

A sound reducing pickleball, comprising: a spherical, hollow shell having an exterior side and an interior side; a plurality of holes in the hollow shell; and at least one dimple that is filled with a dampening compound.

6. claim: 15

A sound reducing pickleball, comprising: a spherical, hollow shell having an exterior side and an interior side; a plurality of holes in the hollow shell; and a plurality of grommets inserted into at least two of the plurality of holes.



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

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

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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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22-01-2025

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