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(54) Title: HANDLE PALLET FOR IMPLEMENTS SUCH AS SPORTS RACQUETS

(57) Abstract

A sports racquet, e.g. a tennis racquet, has an elastomeric pallet that slides onto the racquet shaft. The pallet is formed preferably with a pair of opposed axially extending guides (46) formed on opposed interior surfaces of the pallet. Each guide defines a pawl member (47). The racquet shaft includes a pair of guide grooves (58), to receive a respective guide and pawl member, and each groove contains a mating ratchet member. When the pallet slides on the shaft, the guides slide along the guide grooves, until the pawl members and ratchet members engage, which locks the pallet at a predetermined position on the shaft against reverse movement. Due to the fact that the pallet can be easily mounted on the shaft, without the need for adhesive or mechanical fasteners, retailers can carry separate inventories of pallets and racquet, and the customer can select the desired pallet model and handle size at the time of purchase.

