

Buzz Saw

The buzz saw was also known as the “cut-water.” It could be made of a button, a coin or a piece of wood with two holes in the center with a string through the holes.

The following quote was found in both the *Every Boy’s Book: A Complete Encyclopedia of Sports and Amusements* edited by Edmund Routledge (1855) and *The American Boy’s Book of Sports and Games* (1864).

“The Cutwater.

The Cutwater is a circular piece of sheet lead, notched like a saw round the edge, and having two holes pierced in it at some distance from each other, through which is passed a piece of string, the two ends being tied together. The annexed figure shows this toy, and way it is to be held by the player. The set the Cutwater in action, the double string must be alternately pulled and slackened. Every time the string is relaxed the disc revolves, in consequence of the impetus it has acquired from the previous pull; and every time the string is tightened, it whirls round in an opposite direction, as the double string is then untwisted. If the edge of this toy be dipped in water, it may be made to sprinkle the bystanders and the player; hence its title, ‘Cutwater.’”

