

They are now made from a substance called phenolic resin but were originally made from wood back in the 17th century. Later ivory was used, but with only 8 or 9 balls able to be made from one tusk and the conservation of endangered species gathering momentum, new substances or a lot more elephants, needed to be found. At the end of the 19th century a substance called Collodion was tried but abandoned when it was discovered that the balls had a tendency to explode on impact.