A basketball training apparatus includes a flat table portion including ball holders that are circular holes through the table portion dimensioned to hold a basketball; and legs that extend from the flat table portion and keep the table portion substantially level.
FIG. 1 (Prior Art)
BASKETBALL TRAINING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND

[0001] In basketball, like golf, the best way to improve a shot is by repetitive practice using proper technique. One of the challenges in basketball shooting practice is that shooting off the dribble is different from shooting after catching or being passed a basketball. The former way of shooting can be practiced alone, as the shooter can just dribble to a spot and shoot. The latter requires a partner, ball delivery device, or stationary ball rack.

[0002] A partner is a good option but not always available and if the partner is a coach, the option can be expensive. Another drawback of the partner is that if the goal is consistent repetition, the partner’s pass will never arrive at the same height for the shooter to start their shot. This may simulate real passing situations but it may not be good for a teaching environment where consistency of repetitions is vital.

[0003] A ball delivery or passing machine like a JUGSTM machine for basketballs would be an interesting option but such devices are expensive and do not give the shooter a chance to reset his feet or wait for a previous shot to fall if it is bouncing on the rim.

[0004] The final option is the tradition basketball rack 80 shown in FIG. 1. The challenges of the traditional rack are several: (1) It is not portable or foldable. To transport such a rack, requires a large vehicle and carrying it is not convenient; (2) The side pieces 90 block easy access to balls; (3) The top rack only holds 4 balls and they can move along their support rails such that the shooter may reach for a ball that is not there; and (4) The lower racks 95 are not at a shooting level convenient for the shooter.

[0005] The present invention seeks to address the shortcomings of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0006] A basketball training apparatus includes a flat table portion including ball holders that are circular holes through the table portion dimensioned to hold a basketball; and legs that extend from the flat table portion and keep the table portion substantially level with respect to a surface on which the legs engage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 shows a basketball rack of the prior art.

[0008] FIGS. 2A and 2B show perspective top views of the basketball training apparatus, partially unfolded, with FIG. 2B showing a view through a transparent table portion thereof.

[0009] FIGS. 3A-3C show top perspective views of the basketball training apparatus, showing the legs at different lengths of extension and the table portion shown transparent.

[0010] FIGS. 4A-4C show an isolated side view of the legs in different lengths of extension.

[0011] FIG. 5 shows a top view of the basketball training apparatus with certain dimensioning in meters.

[0012] FIGS. 6A-6D show different material choices for the table portion of the basketball training apparatus.
FIG. 6C shows a textured material that may prevent slippage and FIG. 6D shows a smooth surfaced material. The table portion and/or legs may be made from aluminium, PVC, vinyl, or other material suitable for resisting wear in an athletic training environment but maintaining a light weight for transport.

While the invention has been described with reference to the embodiments above, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that various changes or modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the claims.

1. A basketball training apparatus comprising:
   a flat table portion including ball holders that are circular holes through the table portion dimensioned to hold a basketball; and
   legs that extend from the flat table portion and keep the table portion substantially level with respect to a surface that the legs engage.

2. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the legs extend from the table portion from a pivot, such that the legs have two positions, an extended position and a folded position.

3. The basketball training apparatus of claim 2, wherein in the folded position, the legs are beneath the table portion.

4. The basketball training apparatus of claim 3, wherein the table portion has a pivot about which the flat table portion can fold.

5. The basketball training apparatus of claim 4, wherein the table portion comprises two halves rotatable about the pivot.

6. The basketball training apparatus of claim 5, wherein the table portion halves each include a portion of a closure mechanism that when engaged, holds the table in a closed position.

7. The basketball training apparatus of claim 4, wherein the table portion includes a storage area into which the legs fold in their folded position.

8. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the legs are height adjustable.

9. The basketball training apparatus of claim 8, wherein the legs include telescoping inner and outer legs engaged to one another through a spring loaded button extending from the inner leg and holes in the outer leg.

10. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the legs include wheels.

11. The basketball training apparatus of claim 10, wherein the wheels include a locking mechanism to prevent the wheels from moving.

12. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the table portion further includes handles.

13. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the table portion further comprises weight reduction holes.

14. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ball holder holes have a diameter of 0.2 meters.

15. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1 where in the ball holder holes are separated by 0.07 meters.

16. The basketball training apparatus of claim 1, wherein the table portion measures 1.4 meters by 0.6 meters.

* * * * *