

May 9, 1933.

J. W. HUGHES
MECHANICAL GOLF GAME

1,908,359

Filed Dec. 4, 1929

3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

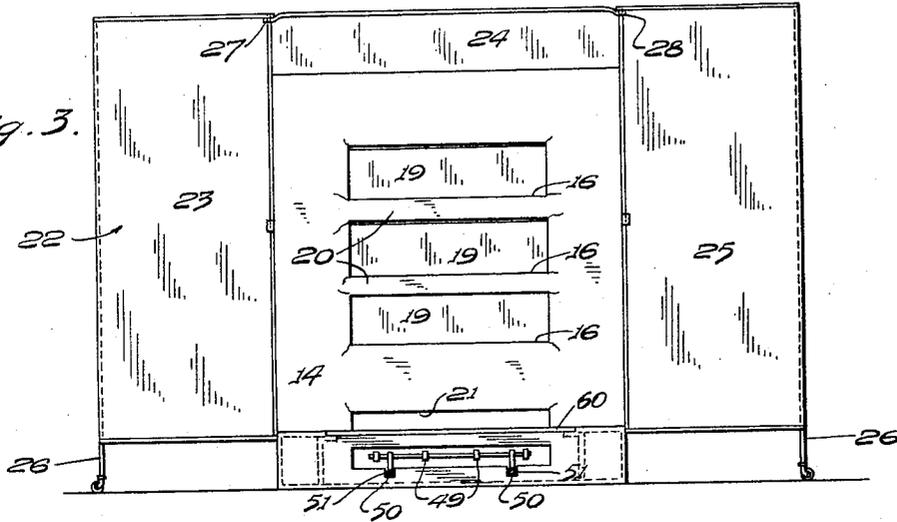


Fig. 6.

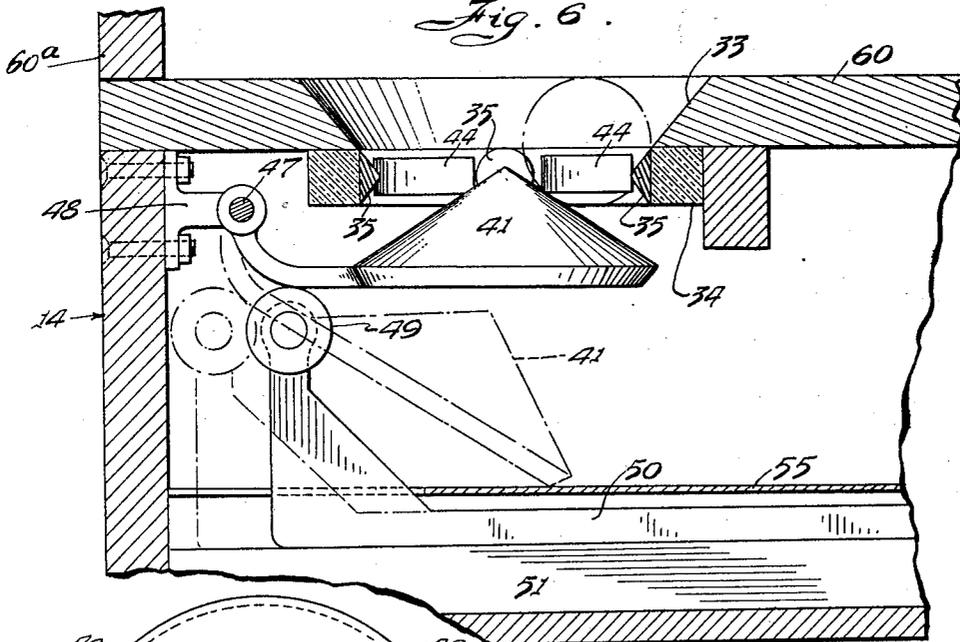
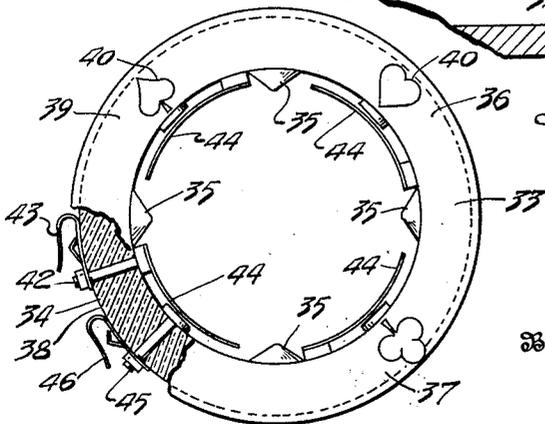


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 4.

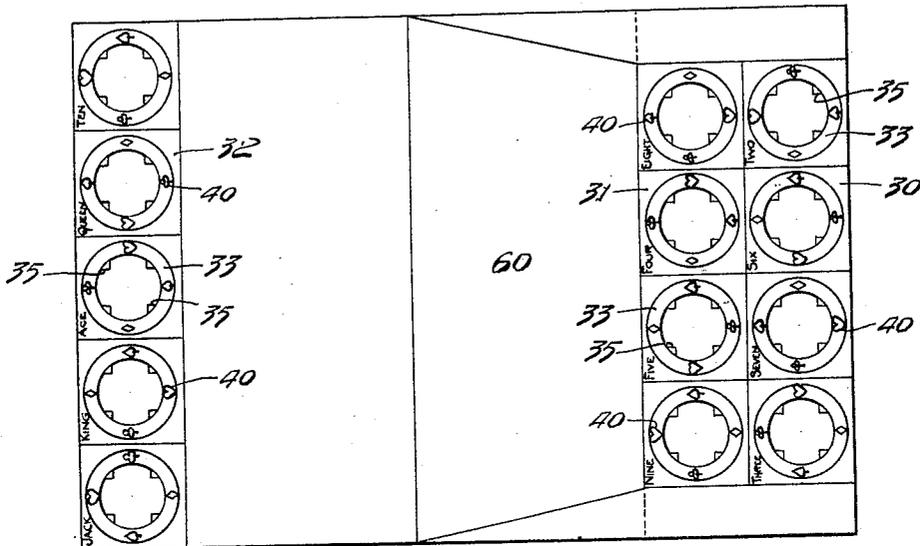


Fig. 8.

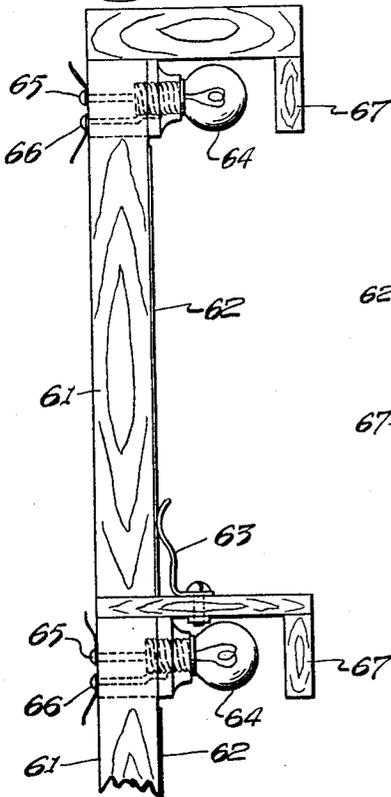
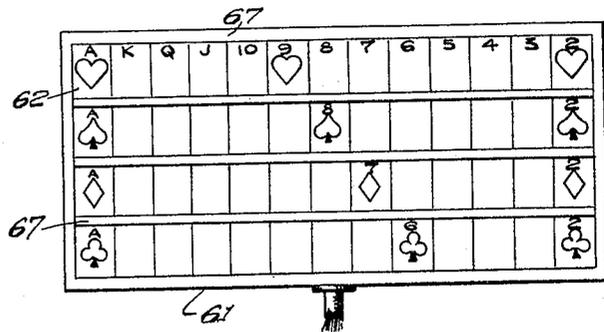


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MECHANICAL GOLF GAME

Application filed December 4, 1929. Serial No. 411,583.

This invention relates to improvements in game apparatus, and more particularly to a novel game for one or more players, and requiring for its playing, both skill and chance.

Another object is to provide an apparatus for playing or practicing golf, either indoors or within a relatively small area.

A further object is to provide an indoor practice game for improving ones ability in golf, while at the same time, providing entertainment by chance of obtaining different combinations of playing cards to make up hands in popular card games.

Another object is to furnish a game apparatus of this character in which golf balls struck by a player may lodge in various pockets or stations which accord with the cards of a deck of playing cards; these stations being combined with an electrically operated board or indicator, so that a card on the indicator corresponding with the station in which the ball is lodged, will be illuminated.

Another object is to provide a game apparatus including a board provided at one end with a compartment provided with windows, in the rear of which are chutes for directing balls driven through the windows on to the board, so that the ball may lodge in one of the stations and cause a playing card on the indicator corresponding to that station, to be illuminated.

With the foregoing objects outlined and with other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel features hereinafter described in detail, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the playing board portion of the apparatus.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same with certain parts omitted to facilitate illustration.

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the same, viewed from the playing end of the board, and with the guards in position.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged top plan view of the

pocket slide or drawer which forms part of the board.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged top plan view of one of the pockets, and showing the manner in which the same is divided into four segments, each of which is furnished with an electric contact.

Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view of a detail, and illustrating the means by which the dump plates of the pockets are retained in position or permitted to dump.

Fig. 7 is an elevation of the score board or indicator.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of a detail of the score board.

In the drawings, 10 indicates the playing board which is adapted to be arranged on a floor surface, and as this board preferably is at least four feet wide and sixteen feet long, I prefer to form the same in sections 11, 12 and 13, that may be connected together by any suitable means. This sectional construction facilitates transportation, handling or storage. The upper surface of the board is inclined downwardly from its rear end to its front end, and at the rear end, this surface should be about eight inches above the floor line, while at the front or player's end, it is preferably about four inches above the floor line.

With such board, I combine a cabinet 14 which is arranged at the rear end of the board, and has a front padded wall 15, in which three windows 16 are positioned. The cabinet may be about four feet high, four feet in length, and one foot wide, and it extends lengthwise across the board, and if such dimensions are followed, each window 16 will be about thirty-two inches in length, and eight inches high, and of rectangular shape, as shown in Fig. 3.

The padded front wall of the cabinet prevents damaging of the same by a driven golf ball, and also prevents such a ball from rebounding, but any ball which passes into one or the other of the windows, strikes against partitions 17 which form chutes that direct the balls into a compartment 18 in the rear enlarged base portion of the cabinet. To dampen the force of the struck ball, each

chute is provided about two inches from the front wall of the cabinet with a suspended canvas or flexible curtain 19.

As shown in Fig. 3, the windows 16 are spaced apart by strips 20, and the front wall of the cabinet below the windows is cut away or recessed, as at 21, to permit a ball driven along the upper surface of the board to pass into the compartment 18.

For protection purposes, I combine with the cabinet, a shield 22 (Fig. 3) which preferably is made up of pieces of canvas 23, 24 and 25, mounted on pipe frames 26 that are preferably hinged together at 27 and 28 to facilitate transportation, storage, etc.

The portions of the cabinet at opposite sides of the windows 16, may form compartments 16a for the storage of golf clubs, and the compartment 29 of the cabinet above the upper one of the partitions 17, may be used for the storage of golf balls.

Balls driven by the player or players, whether they enter any one of the windows 16, the recess 21, or simply roll along the upper surface of the board, are to drop into pockets which are arranged in rows, the front row being designated 30, the intermediate row 31, and the rear row 32. It will be noted that there are 13 pockets, or that the number of the pockets correspond with the number of playing cards in a suit, and furthermore, the five pockets in the row 32 are staggered relatively to the pockets in the rows 30 and 31.

These pockets are of uniform construction, and as best shown in Figs. 5 and 6, wherever a pocket occurs, the board is cut to provide a frusto-conical aperture 33, the surface of which inclines downwardly. The upper end of each aperture may be about five and one-half inches in diameter, while the lower end may be about four inches in diameter. A ring 34 of di-electric material is secured to the under side of the board concentric with the aperture forming the pocket, and this ring carries four equally spaced rubber bumpers or partitions 35, which divide the wall of the aperture into segments 36, 37, 38 and 39, each bearing the indicia 40 of a card suit. As there are thirteen pockets, and each pocket is divided to correspond with the four suits of cards, it will be understood that the symbols 40 will be fifty-two in number, to correspond with the cards of a deck.

Each pocket is provided with four electric switches to correspond with the symbols 40, and each of these switches may be of any suitable type capable of being actuated by a golf ball when the latter rolls into the pocket and comes to rest on the conical dump bottom 41 of the pocket. As an example of such a switch, the di-electric ring 34 may be provided with bolts 42, each having at its outer end a connector 43 to facilitate the joining of an electric circuit wire to the same. The inner end of each bolt carries a resilient

metal contact 44 which is normally spaced from a contact pin 45 that is secured to the ring 34 and has an electric connection 46 at its outer end. By means of a suitable electric circuit or circuits, the connections 46 are operatively connected to a suitable score board, hereinafter described.

The dump plates 41 of the pockets have conical bodies so that a ball dropping into the pocket, will roll toward the ring 34, and come into engagement with one or the other of the spring contacts 44 for the purpose of indicating the score. These plates are pivotally mounted at 47 on suitable brackets 48, 48a, 48b, which are fixed within the playing board, and are arranged below the upper surface of the same, and these dump plates are normally held in elevated position by means of rollers 49 carried by sliding bars 50. These bars have their main portions housed within guides 51, and as best shown in Fig. 1, the forward ends of these bars are connected together by a cross bar or brace 52 which is joined to one end of a coil spring 53, whose other end is secured to the board at the point 4. This spring acts to normally retain the bars 50 in their forwardmost position, so that they support the dump plates 41. To permit the bars to be moved rearwardly so as to displace the roller 49 from beneath the dump plates and cause the same to fall, so that the balls may roll into a runway 55 within the playing board, the bars 50 are connected at their forward ends by means of cranks 56 to a rock shaft 57 having operating handles 58 at its opposite ends. When a player at the playing end of the board moves either handle 58 in the proper direction, the rock shaft will cause the cranks 56 to force the bars 50 rearwardly against the action of the spring 53, and thus cause the balls to fall into the runway 55. As this runway has a bottom surface which inclines toward the playing end of the board, the balls will roll forwardly into branches 59 of the runway, which will feed the same forwardly into position to be extracted by the operator at the playing end of the board.

To facilitate inspection, repair, etc., the top of the portion of the board which carries the pockets is in the form of a slide 60, which may be removed rearwardly from the section 11 of the board.

To allow for this, the rear of the casing 14 is provided with a double hinged door 60a, 60b, which, when lifted upwardly, will expose the board or slide 60. Of course, when the door is closed, it will be secured by a suitable latch (not shown).

With this playing apparatus, I preferably combine a score board of suitable construction, as illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8. This board may comprise a backing 61 against which playing cards 62 may be held by leaf springs 63, and the board is preferably of

such construction as to hold and exhibit a complete deck of playing cards. These cards should be arranged in four rows corresponding to the card suits, and there will be thirteen cards in each row. At each point where a card is located, the board is provided with an electric lamp bulb 64, having suitable connections 65 and 66 on its socket, to permit the joining of each lamp to the connections 43 and 46 of the pocket 33 with which the particular lamp corresponds. Consequently, when the electric connections are properly made, when a golf ball rolls against any one of the contact springs 44, the corresponding lamp 64 will be illuminated and in turn, will illuminate the card 62 with which the lamp corresponds. The score board is also provided with depending shield strips 67 which substantially conceal the bulbs 64 and may act as reflectors to direct the light rays on to the cards.

Instead of placing playing cards directly on the backing 61, the score board may have a transparent front bearing pictures of the cards through which the light from the lamps 64 may shine.

The playing board portion of the apparatus may be used for practicing golf without using the scoring part of the apparatus, if desired, but whether the cards are used or not, the operator will place the ball on the section 13 of the board, and drive the same toward the cabinet with the view of directing the ball through one or the other of the windows 16. On the other hand, if putting is practiced, the ball will be forced to roll along the upper surface of the board toward one or the other of the pockets.

In playing a combined golf and card game with the apparatus, let us assume that each ployer uses five golf balls. The first player, by means of a golf club, will move the balls in succession into some of the pockets 33, and they will lodge against five of the contact springs 44. This will cause five of the lamps 64 to be illuminated, and from such indication, the players may note the hand of cards which has been obtained. Now the first player operates one of the handles 58 to return the five balls to him or the other player, and the second player drives five balls into the pockets, and notes his score on the score board. The player securing the best hand in this way, wins the game. Of course, the game may be played in many ways and this is just an example of the use of the apparatus.

While I have disclosed what I now consider to be a preferred embodiment of the invention in such manner that the same may be readily understood by those skilled in the art, I am aware that various changes may be made in the details without departing from the spirit of the invention, as expressed in the claims.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In an apparatus of the character described, a playing board provided with a pocket divided by bumpers into a plurality of segments, and an electric contact switch arranged on each segment. 70

2. In a game apparatus of the class described, a playing board provided with a pocket having a conical bottom, means dividing the pocket into a plurality of segments, and an electric contact switch mounted on each segment. 75

3. In a game apparatus of the class described, a playing board provided with a pocket having a dump bottom provided with an upwardly extending conical face, means dividing the wall of the pocket into segments, and an electric switch arranged on each of said segments. 80

4. In a game apparatus of the class described, a playing board provided with a number of pockets having dump bottoms, rollers normally holding said bottoms in elevated position, slide bars carrying said rollers, a spring connected to said bars for holding the latter in such position that the rollers maintain the bottoms in elevated position, and manually operated means for moving the bars to cause the rollers to permit the bottoms to dump. 85

5. In a combined golf and card game, a score board provided with a series of playing card indicators, a playing board having pockets into which balls are adapted to lodge, plurality of electric contact switches on each of the pockets and corresponding to a like number of the playing card indicators, and means for electrically connecting the switches to said indicators. 90

6. In game apparatus of the character described, a score board provided with rows of playing cards, indicators on the score board corresponding in number to the number of playing cards, a playing board provided with a plurality of pockets, means dividing the pockets into segments, contact switches in the segments corresponding in number to the indicators, and means electrically connecting the switches to said indicators. 95

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
JAMES WILLIAM HUGHES.

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