Dec. 16, 1941. L. J. SEIGENBERG 2,266,337

PRACTICE PUTTING DEVICE

Filed Feb. 19, 1941

Fig. 1

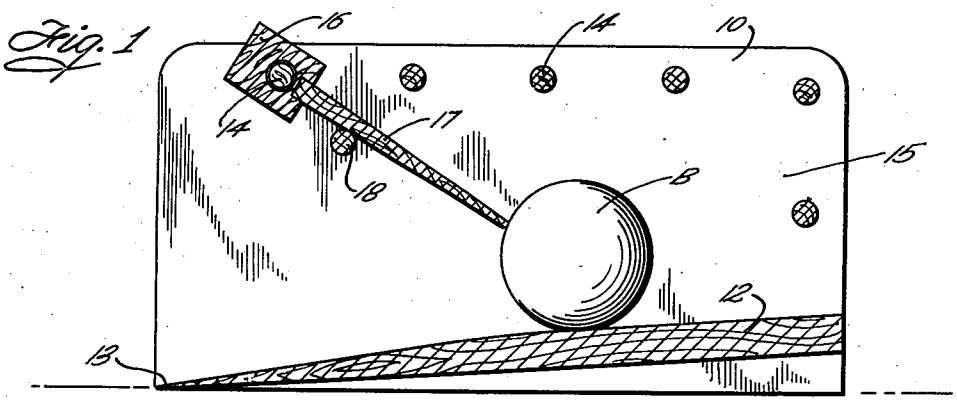


Fig. 2

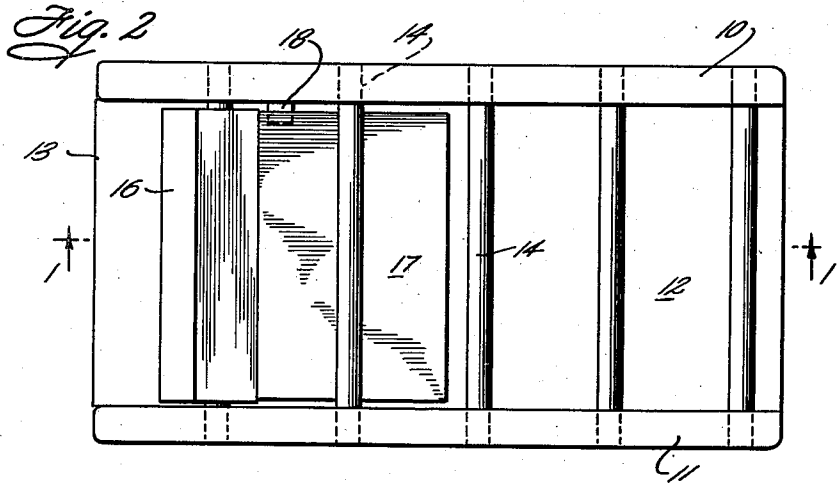
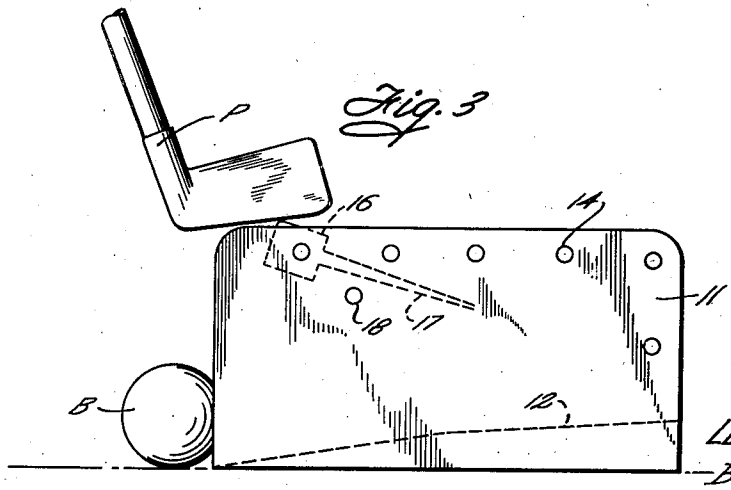


Fig. 3



Inventor
LEO J. SEIGENBERG
By Hazard & Miller
Attorneys

Patented Dec. 16, 1941 2,266,337

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,266,337

PRACTICE PUTTING DEVICE

Leo J. Seigenberg, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application February 19, 1941, Serial No. 379,609

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to a golfer's practice putting device.

An object of the invention is to provide a simple, neat, and attractive practice putting device that may be positioned on any suitable surface simulating a golf green and which will adequately serve to represent the conventional golf cup in the center of the green of a conventional golf course whereby golfers may practice putting by putting a golf ball into the device and have it temporarily retained therein prior to release to indicate that the practice putt has been satisfactorily performed.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device having the above-mentioned characteristics which is so designed that when the ball is entrapped in the device it may be conveniently released and automatically returned to the practicer for succeeding attempts.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be made manifest in the following detailed description and specifically pointed out in the appended claims, reference is had to the accompanying drawing for an illustrative embodiment of the invention, wherein:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section through the practice putting device embodying the present invention and may be considered as a sectional view taken substantially upon the line 1—1 upon Fig. 2;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device shown in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a view in side elevation of the device shown in Fig. 1 illustrating the manner in which a release of the entrapped ball is accomplished.

Referring to the accompanying drawing wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout, the practice putting device embodying the present invention comprises a parallel pair of spaced side walls 10 and 11, spaced from each other a sufficient distance so that the distance between their opposed side surfaces is substantially equal to the diameter of the conventional cup used on the greens of conventional golf courses. The side walls 10 and 11 are connected to each other by a bottom 12, the top surface of which inclines downwardly toward the entrance to the device and preferably tapers to a very thin edge as indicated at 13 which may be positioned against any suitable supporting surface on which it may be desired to practice putting. The side walls are also connected by suitable cross bars extending across the top and the back, such cross bars being indicated at 14. These cross bars together with the bottom and the opposed sides 10 and 11 provide a form of cage 15 within which the ball B may be rolled as in conventional putting. On the forward cross bar 14 there is pivotally mounted a door and in the preferred form of construction this door comprises a top bar 16 rectangular in cross section which is rotatably mounted on the cross bar 14. This top bar serves to suspend the body of the door 17 which may be tapered as shown, and made of relatively light material so that it can be easily lifted by the ball B as it rolls into cage 15. If desired, the bore through the top bar 16 may be positioned below the center thereof as shown so that part of the top bar 16 in effect serves to partially counterbalance the weight of the door 17. Downward swinging movement of the door is limited by a stop 18 mounted on the inner face of one of the side walls and engageable by the underside of the door body 17. This stop limits the door in a position so that it will engage the ball B and temporarily prevent the ball from rolling forwardly down the inclined surface of the bottom 12. In this position the swinging or lower edge of the door when in its fully closed position is disposed in a position so as to be engageable with the surface of the ball B at or slightly above a horizontal diameter extending therethrough as clearly shown in Fig. 1 so that when the door is opened it has little or no tendency to throw the ball toward the back of the cage.

As shown on Fig. 1, the top edge of the top bar 16 preferably extends up above the top edges and sides 10 and 11 so as to be readily engageable by the head of a golf putter P.

The operation and advantages of the practice putting device are as follows. The device may be positioned on a floor or on a carpeted surface and serve to represent a golf cup. The ball B may be putted with the putter P toward the entrance to the device. On successful strokes the ball rolls up the slight incline of the bottom, rolling beneath and lifting the door 17. As soon as it passes the door the door drops against the stop 18 entrapping the ball in the cage 15, thus indicating that a successful putt has been made. When it is desired to release the ball this can be readily accomplished by touching the top edge of the top bar 16 with the head of the putter P as shown on Fig. 3. This lifts the door sufficiently to permit the ball to roll forwardly down the inclined surface and thus return the ball to the practicer for a succeeding practice putt.

From the above-described construction it will be appreciated that the improved practice putting

device has a very simple, neat, and attractive appearance and may be advantageously used to facilitate practicing putting.

Various changes may be made in the details of construction without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A practice putting device comprising means providing a cage having a downwardly and forwardly inclined bottom, a trap door pivotally suspended at the entrance to the cage, there being means associated with the trap door extending above the axis of rotation of the door to which a force may be applied to swing the door open to release a ball entrapped in the cage.

2. A practice putting device comprising means providing a cage having a downwardly and forwardly inclined bottom, a trap door pivotally suspended at the entrance to the cage, there being non-circular means associated with the trap door extending above the axis of rotation of the door to which a force may be applied to swing the door open to release a ball entrapped in the cage.

3. A practice putting device comprising means providing a cage having a downwardly and forwardly inclined bottom, a pivotally suspended trap door at the front of the cage and means limiting downward and forward closing movement of the trap door to a position wherein the door when closed is downwardly and rearwardly inclined and has its swinging edge engageable with the ball in the cage at approximately a horizontal diameter therethrough.

4. A practice putting device comprising means providing a cage having a downwardly and forwardly inclined bottom, a pivotally suspended trap door at the front of the cage and means limiting downward and forward closing movement of the trap door to a position wherein the door when closed is downwardly and rearwardly inclined and has its swinging edge engageable with the ball in the cage at approximately a horizontal diameter therethrough and means associated with the door to which a downward force may be applied to swing the door into open position.

LEO J. SEIGENBERG.