Aug. 30, 1932. J. H. BOYE 1,874,873

PUTTING GAME APPLIANCE

Filed Oct. 15, 1930

Fig. 1.

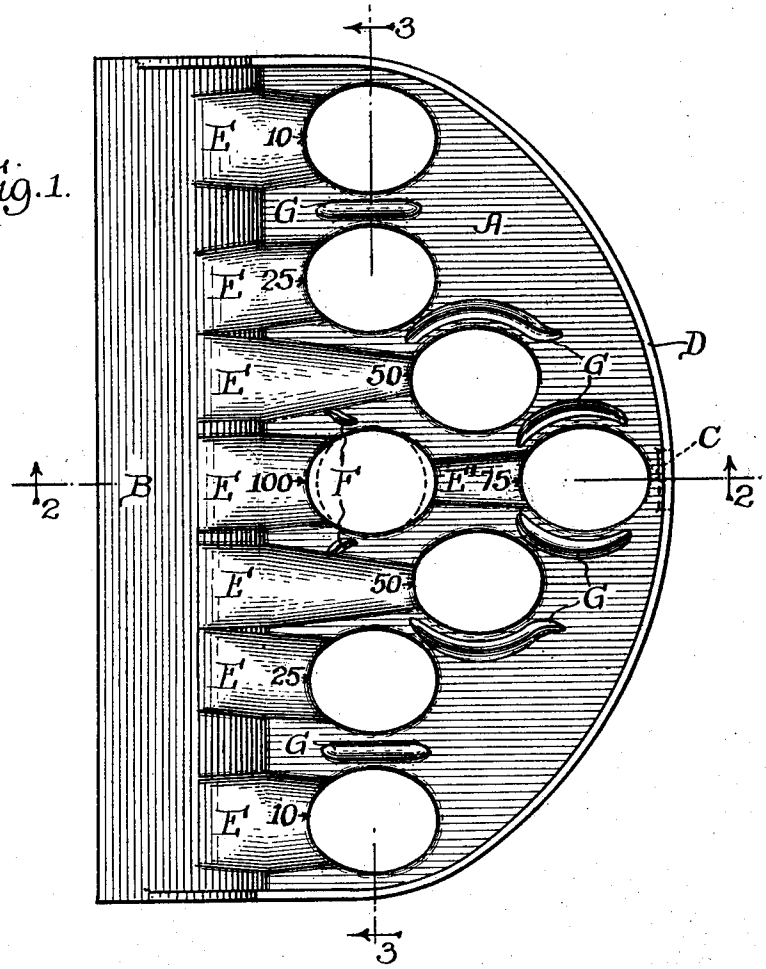


Fig. 2.

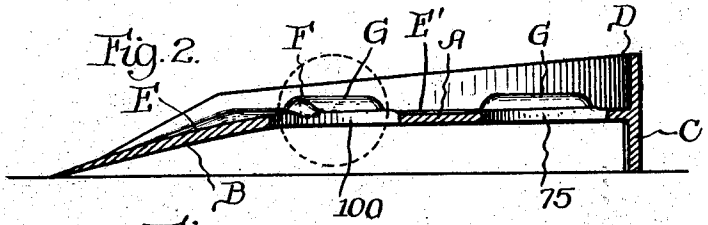
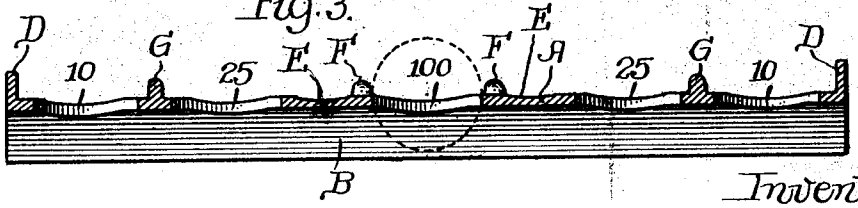


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PUTTING GAME APPLIANCE

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This invention relates to a putting game appliance, and the invention has a two-fold object, first, to provide a device well adapted for golf putting practice, both indoors and outdoors, and second, to provide a device which provides the principal physical equipment for a competitive game for two or more players, serving to test the skill and accuracy of the players in making putting shots. Further objects of the invention are to provide a device of the character above outlined so constructed that when a player makes an accurate shot, putting the ball over the hole or seat intended by the shot, he will not be penalized by a rebound of the ball out of its seat or hole so long as the force of his stroke has been approximately correct, and, further, so constructed as to prevent spinning and rolling of the ball on the edge of the hole when the ball strikes the latter slightly eccentrically. Still another object of the invention has been to provide an appliance of the nature indicated having a plurality of ball holes or seats of differing play values and equipped with means so formed and located relatively to the holes or seats as to both aid a ball approach to a high value hole and oppose overrunning of the ball from a lower value hole into a higher value hole.

The device of the invention, its manner of use and capabilities, and its utility as both a practice device and a game device will all be understood and appreciated by persons familiar with devices of this class from the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which I have illustrated one simple and practical embodiment of the invention, and wherein—

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The appliance, in the form herein shown, is a one piece or integral casting, comprising a horizontal plate A formed with an inclined front platform or approach B of the full width of the plate, a central leg C which, with the bottom edge of the approach B, constitutes a stable support for the plate A, and an upstanding guard wall D on the front edge of the plate, said wall preferably extending down the opposite sides of the plate and approach, and having the curved or rounded form shown.

In the plate A are formed a group of ball seating holes. The number and arrangement of these holes may be varied, within the purview of the invention, but they are preferably symmetrically grouped in transverse rows, with the holes of each row in staggered relation to the holes of an adjacent row. In the form illustrated, I have shown the front row as consisting of a central hole 100, side holes 25, and end holes 10; the second row as consisting of two holes 50 respectively located beyond and between the hole 100 and the holes 25, and a single hole 75 located beyond and between the holes 50 and in longitudinal alignment with the hole 100. The reference numerals by which the above holes are identified may also be taken as indicating the relative play values of the holes, it being observed that the object is to drive the ball as closely as possible along the longitudinal center line (indicated by the section line 2—2), with just the right force to place it in hole 100, but if slightly over-shot, to land it in hole 75. A slight variation is designed to land the ball in either of the holes 50; a wider variation places the balls in either of the holes 25; while a poor shot may land the balls in either of the holes 10. To hold the ball in line of approach to a hole and prevent side movement thereof under insufficient momentum of the ball, I preferably form shallow channels E in the upper surface of the approach B and extending into the plate A, each of these channels terminating at the front edge of a hole, and

between the rear edge of hole 100 and the front edge of hole 75 I may also form a similar channel E′ aimed to guide a ball rolling over the hole 100 into the hole 75.

So far as I am aware, game devices of this character have been formed with round holes or seats of somewhat less diameter than the diameter of the ball. I have found by experiment that when the holes are thus made perfectly round, a ball which may be accurately driven into substantially exact register with a hole will not come to rest in the latter unless its momentum dies just as it reaches the hole, but will strike the rear edge of the hole and bounce back out of the latter; or, if the direction is slightly off to one side, the ball will strike one side edge of the hole and spin or wabble around the latter, frequently rolling off. One important object shown by the present invention has been to design a form of ball seat that would reward an accurately directed shot on the part of the player by preventing this rebound or spinning and I have found that this object may be attained by making the holes of oval or ellipsoidal form with their major axes of somewhat greater length than the diameter of the ball and disposed parallel to the path of the ball, and their minor axes of a length slightly less than the diameter of the ball. As a result of this, as the ball enters the hole and tends to drop, it is caught at opposite sides by the side edges of the hole, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and, unless the momentum is too great, is held in that position so that the advancing side of the ball does not strike and rebound from the rear end wall of the hole, nor does the ball tend to spin or wabble on the edge of the hole. In other words, the ball, unless considerably over-shot, readily comes to rest and is held in the hole. If, however, on reaching the first hole 100, the momentum is sufficient to cause it to jump over that hole, the ball readily rolls along the channel E′ and comes to rest in the next lower value hole 75.

In the preferred form of the invention I also provide on the top surface of the plate A a number of ridges or bunkers F and G. The small ridges F located on opposite sides of the highest value hole 100 serve to direct a ball that is slightly to one side of the center line of approach into the hole 100, thus aiding the shot while the chief function of the longer ridges G is to prevent a poor shot, over-running one of the lower value holes such as 25 and 10, from putting the ball, by a rebound from the guard wall D or by a side wabble, into a higher value hole. To some extent, also, these ridges G aid a good shot in landing the ball in one of the higher value holes, such as 100, 75 and 50.

Manifestly the device may be employed either indoors on a carpet or rug, or outdoors on a smooth lawn or putting green; and it is also obvious that the appliance may be used simply for putting practice, or as a game between two or more players, that player making the highest score in a given number of shots, winning the game.

I claim:

1. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal plate formed with an inclined approach on its front edge and a group of ball seating holes beyond said approach, said holes being of oval form with their major axes of greater length than the diameter of the ball and parallel to the path of approach of the ball, and their minor axes of slightly less length than the diameter of the ball, whereby the ball, on rolling into a hole, is suspended by engagement with the opposed side edges of the hole.

2. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal plate formed with a curved upstanding guard wall on its rear edge, an inclined approach on its front edge, and a group of ball seating holes between said approach and guard wall, said holes being of oval form with their major axes of greater length than the diameter of the ball and parallel to the path of approach of the ball, and their minor axes of slightly less length than the diameter of the ball.

3. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal plate formed with an upstanding guard wall on its rear edge, an inclined approach on its front edge, and a group of ball seating holes between said approach and guard wall, said plate and its approach being formed with independent shallow channels leading into the front edges of said holes.

4. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal plate formed with an inclined approach on its front edge, and a group of ball seating holes beyond said approach having different play values, and ridges on said plate flanking certain of said holes and serving to both aid a ball approach to a high value hole and oppose over-running of the ball from a lower value hole into a higher value hole.

5. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal plate formed with an upstanding guard wall on its rear edge and an inclined approach on its front edge, and a plurality of transverse rows of ball seating holes between said approach and guard wall, said holes having different play values, and ridges on said plate flanking certain of said holes and serving to both aid a ball approach to a high value hole and oppose over-running of the ball from a lower value hole into a higher value hole.

6. A putting game appliance of the character described, comprising a horizontal

plate formed with a plurality of transverse rows of ball seating holes having different play values, a curved upstanding guard wall on its rear edge, and a rectangular inclined approach on its front edge formed with shallow channels leading into the respective holes of said plate, and ridges on said plate flanking certain of said holes and serving to both aid a ball approach to a high value hole and oppose over-running of the ball from a lower value hole into a higher value hole.

JAMES H. BOYE.