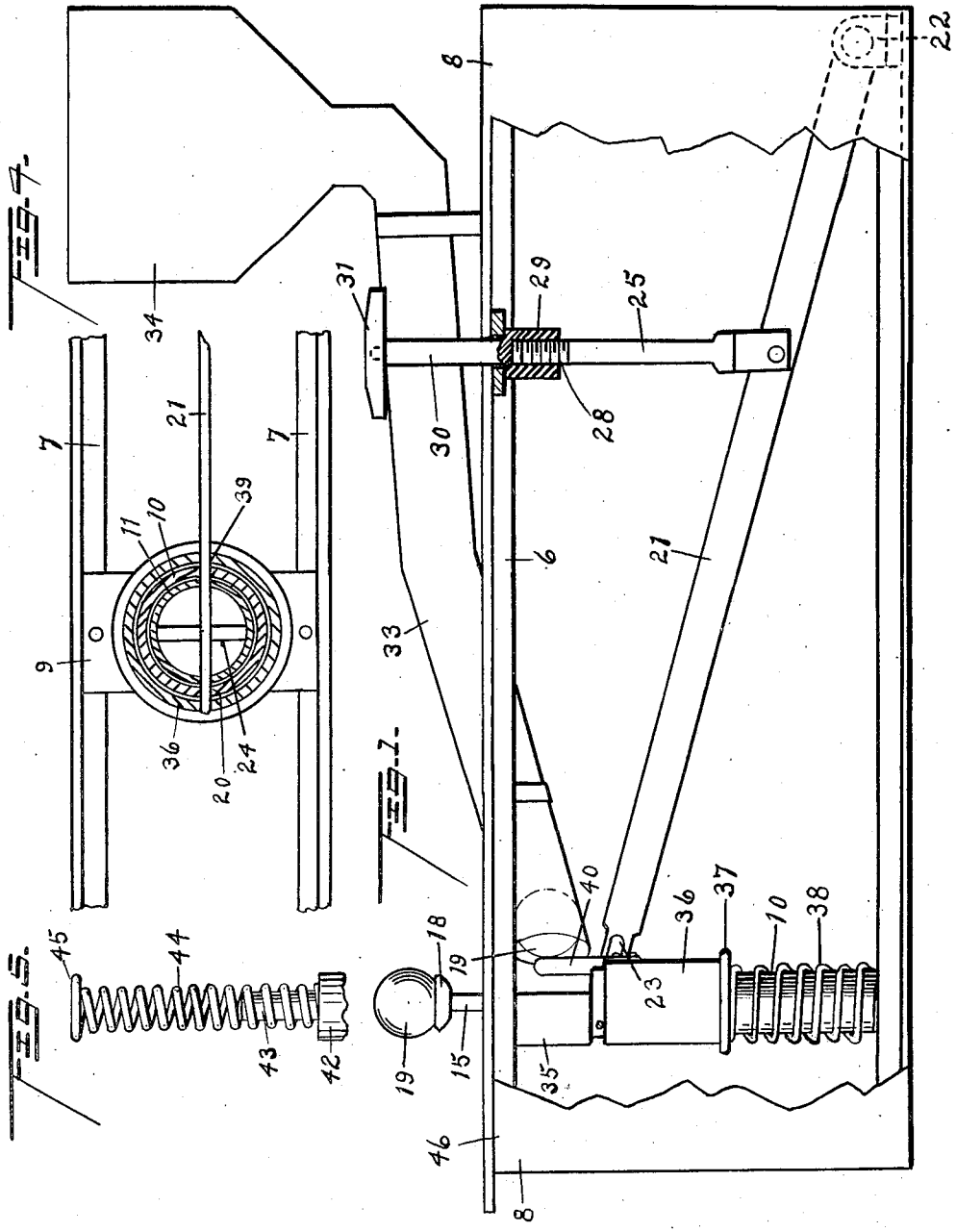
Sept. 28, 1948. J. F. SHOUSE 2,450,206

GOLF TEEING APPARATUS

Original Filed April 15, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
James F. Shouse.
BY Walter N. Haskell.
his Attorney.

Sept. 28, 1948. J. F. SHOUSE 2,450,206

GOLF TEEING APPARATUS

Original Filed April 15, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.

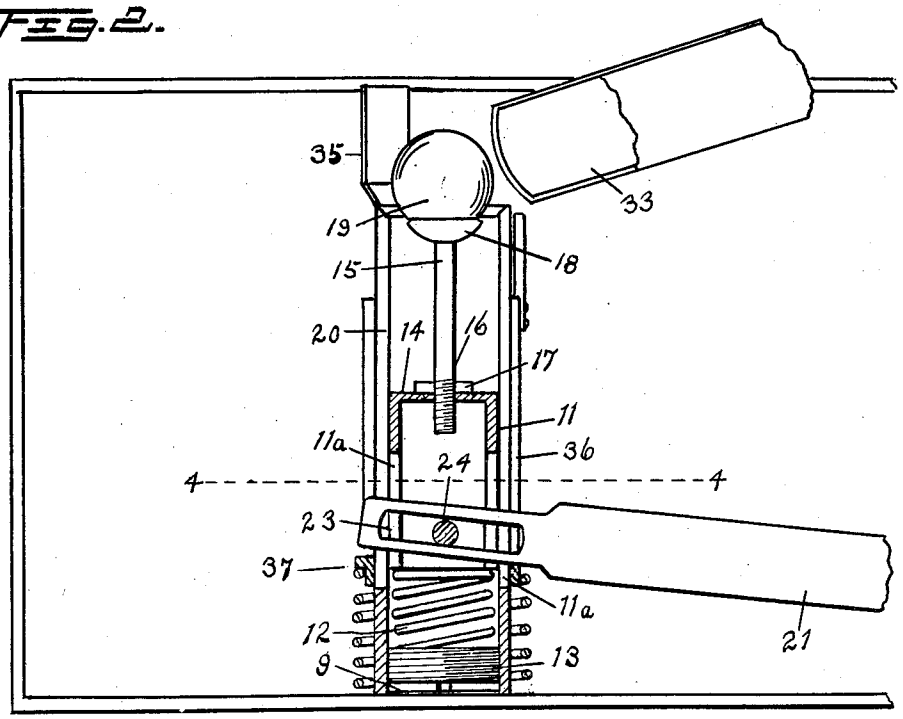
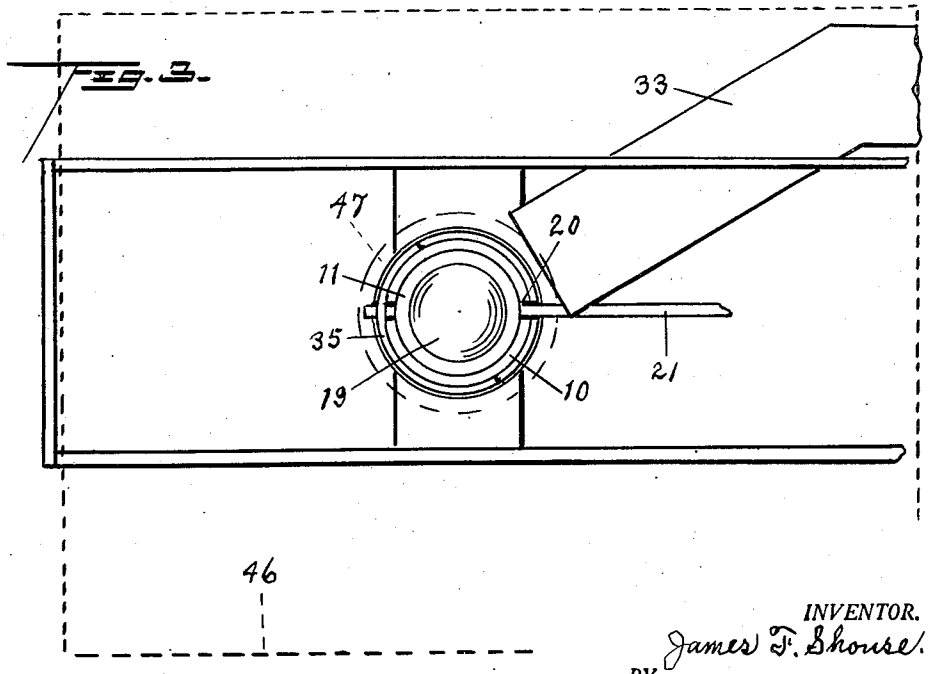


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.
James F. Shouse.
BY Walter N. Haskell.
his Attorney.

Patented Sept. 28, 1948 2,450,206

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,450,206

GOLF TEEING APPARATUS

James F. Shouse, Moline, Ill.

Substituted for application Serial No. 329,595, April 15, 1940. This application October 1, 1945, Serial No. 619,466

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—33)

1

My invention has reference to a golf tee apparatus, and it is specially designed for use on driving ranges and other practice fields where a number of balls are teed and driven off in succession by the same person. These practice operations call for a frequent bending over on the part of the player, in the continual setting of additional balls on the tee, which exercise becomes irksome to many players, and detracts from the pleasure of the sport. The invention consists of a semi-automatic device by means of which a number of balls may be fed from a hopper or other container and positioned in succession on a tee in position for being driven. By the use of the instrument a considerable portion of the labor attendant upon the driving of balls on practice ranges is done away with, and the mechanical operation also requires less time, with a consequent shortening of the period required for driving a given number of balls. This is a considerable advantage, especially on busy ranges, where some players may be waiting their turns to use the ranges.

The device is also capable of use by an instructor of the game of golf, who is required to frequently place a ball on a tee, in explaining to others the manner of playing the game. For such use, any number of balls can be successively positioned for driving, with the necessary explanations in connection therewith, and without the attention of the instructor being detracted by teeing the balls in the usual manner.

This application is filed as a substitute for applicant's previous application Serial No. 329,595, filed April 15, 1940.

The device is formed of metal throughout, is of simple construction, and can be produced at a relatively low cost.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 shows the invention in side elevation, with some parts in section to more clearly show the same.

Fig. 2 is a detail of the teeing mechanism, in vertical section, with the tee in retracted position.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view of the tee end of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a detail view of a modified form of the tee.

The invention embraces a frame, formed of upper side pieces 6, 6, and lower side rails 7, 7, enclosed within a casing 8. The side-rails are preferably formed of angle-plate, and are united

2

at their ends by similar pieces. The rails 7—7 are further connected near one end by a cross-bar 9, upon which is vertically mounted a tubular member 10, within which is vertically movable a plunger 11, held yieldably in elevated position by a compression spring 13 in the lower end of the tube 10. The upper end of the plunger 11 is provided with a head 14, perforated to receive the end of a stem 15, the opening being threaded for engagement with a thread 16 on the end of the stem, with an adjustment nut 17 on said threaded portion, to lock the stem in place; the upper end of the stem 15 is fitted with a cup 18, to receive and support a golf ball 19 in the usual manner.

The cylinder 10 is provided in its walls with diametrically opposed slots 20, for play therein of one end of a lever 21, the other end of which is pivoted on a cross-plate 22 fixed to the lower side pieces 7. The movable end of said lever is provided with a slot 23, engaged with which is a pin 24, fixed at its ends in the walls of the plunger 11. A vertical rod 25 is connected with the lever 21 by means of a coupling 26, having a pivotal connection with the lever at 27. The rod 25 is provided with a thread 28, engaging a similarly threaded socket 29 on the lower end of a rod 30, passing upwardly through a plate on the frame, and provided on its upper end with a disk 31, for operation of the rod by the foot of the player. Such movement pulls the plunger 11 downwardly, into the position shown in Fig. 2, with the top of the tee in position to receive a golf ball from the end of a chute 33, supported from one side of the frame, and provided at its outer end with a hopper 34, adapted to receive a quantity of golf balls, from which they are fed downwardly through the chute by force of gravity. Upon the lever 21 being released the power stored in the spring 12 carries the plunger and tee upwardly, with the ball in position for being driven. By turning the disk 31 and rod 30 in one direction or the other, as desired, the rod 25 is moved upwardly or downwardly, accordingly, carrying with it the lever 21, and giving variation to the height of the tee, and a corresponding change in the height of the ball supported thereby above the frame. The position of the ball can thus be adjusted to suit the wishes of different players. Fixed to the tube 10 so as to project upwardly on the side opposite to the end of the chute 33 is a guard 35, which prevents the ball from passing over the top of the tee.

Slidable vertically upon the tubular member 10 is a cylinder 36, provided at its lower end with

an annular flange **37**, held yieldably in raised position by a coiled spring **38**, between the flange **37** and cross-bar **9**. The cylinder **36** is provided in its walls with vertical slots **39**, registering in position with the slots **20**, and accommodating the movement of the lever **21** in its up and down movement. Coinciding slots **11***a* are also provided in the walls of the plunger **11**, permitting free rocking movement to the end of said lever. Fixed to the upper end of the cylinder **36** is a blade **40**, extending upwardly into the line of movement of the golf balls and preventing such balls from crowding against the ball that is being positioned on the tee, and precluding the feeding of more than one ball at a time. As the lever **21** is moved downwardly the plunger **11** and golf tee carried thereby are also moved downwardly until the tee approaches a position to take on one of the balls. The end of the lever then comes in contact with the flange **37**, and forces the same downwardly, carrying the blade **40** with it, and releasing the first ball in the chute, which rolls upon the tee. At the first movement of the tee upwardly the blade **40** is moved in the same direction, passing between the first ball and the one next following, holding back the following ball and those behind it in the chute. There is thereby no interference by other balls with the one on the tee.

When a ball has been received on the tee and raised to a position for driving the player stands at the end of the machine, nearest the tee, and drives the ball to one side of the machine, by the usual operations. After the drive has been made the lever **21** is pushed downwardly by means of the foot of the player or an assistant, resting on the disk **31**, and another ball is positioned ready for use.

The stem of the tee is preferably formed of resilient material, such as rubber, so that in case of its being hit by the club of the driver it will bend over, and then spring back to its former position. In Fig. 5 the tee is shown replaced by one of a little different form, in which the top of a plunger is shown at **42**, fitted with a pin **43**, upon which is held the lower end of a spring **44**, of sufficient resiliency to readily bend over upon being struck, and return quickly to its upright position. The pin **43** is preferably provided with threads or corrugations, so that in turning the spring thereon it will be moved upwardly or downwardly, according to the direction of rotation. An additional adjustment can thereby be given to the tee and ball.

It is designed to have the main frame of the apparatus contained in a pit in the ground, with the upper plate of the casing about level with the ground, and the upper part of the tee and the disk **31** projecting upwardly for use. The upper coil **45** of the spring **44** is of greater diameter than the body of the spring, forming a rest for the golf ball.

That part of the cover plate at the tee end is covered by a rubber plate or mat **46**, having a central opening at **47** for the passage of the tee and ball thereon, such plate being secured to the frame, and providing a driving or striking plate, to receive blows delivered at a low point.

What I claim and desire to secure is:

A golf teeing apparatus, comprising a frame, a casing therefor, adapted to be sunk in the ground, a tubular member supported vertically in said frame, provided with a pair of vertically extending slots in its walls, diametrically opposed to each other, a plunger vertically movable in said tubular member, provided with a pair of slots in register with said first-named slots a compressison spring beneath said plunger yieldably supporting the same, a golf tee mounted on said plunger, a chute mounted in said frame for the delivery of a series of balls to a point to roll on to said tee, a sleeve on said tubular member, carrying a closure for the end of said chute, and provided with a pair of slots in register with the first-named slots, a coiled spring beneath said sleeve holding the same normally in elevated, chute-closing position, a lever pivoted at one end in said frame, with its free end having play in said slots, connections between the movable end of said lever and said plunger, and foot pedal connections with said lever, operable from above the casing.

JAMES F. SHOUSE.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,695,006	Brockhagen	Dec. 11, 1928
1,888,256	Baumgartner	Nov. 22, 1932
1,952,113	Beckett	Mar. 27, 1934
2,127,282	Beckett	Aug. 16, 1938