July 10, 1928. 1,676,804

C. W. SCHECK

GOLF GAME APPARATUS

Filed March 9, 1927

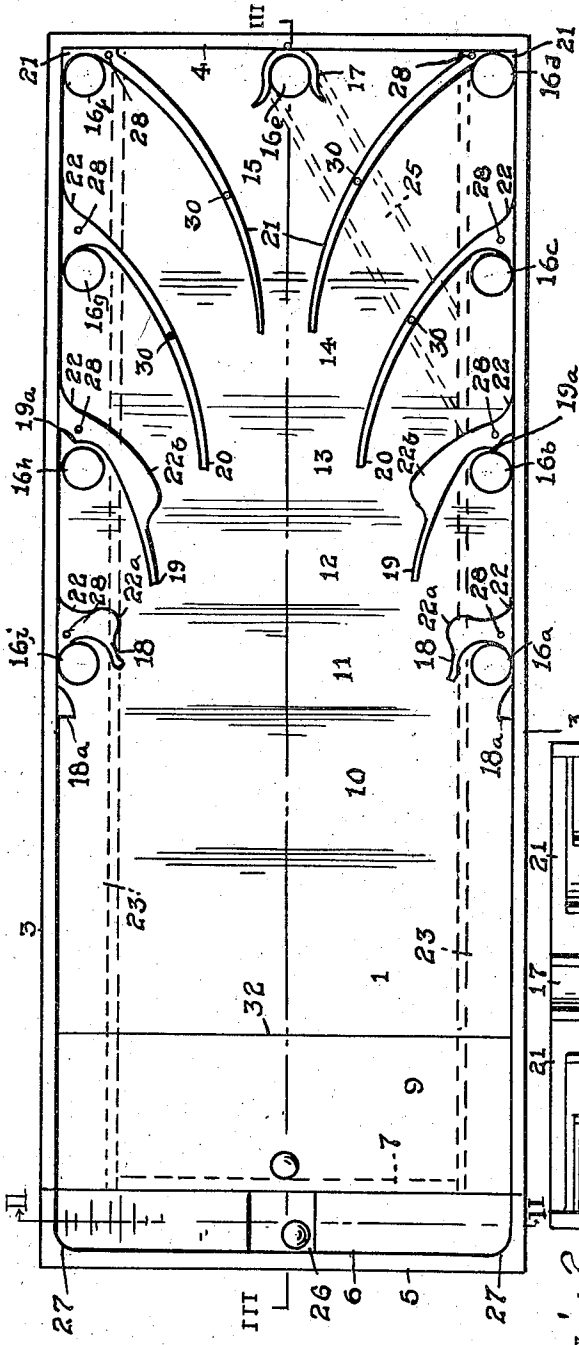


Fig. 1

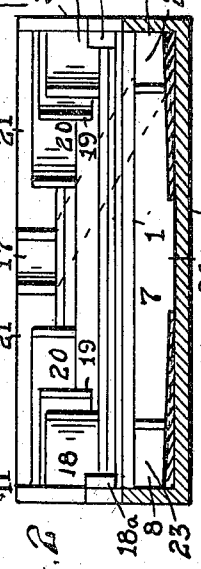


Fig. 2

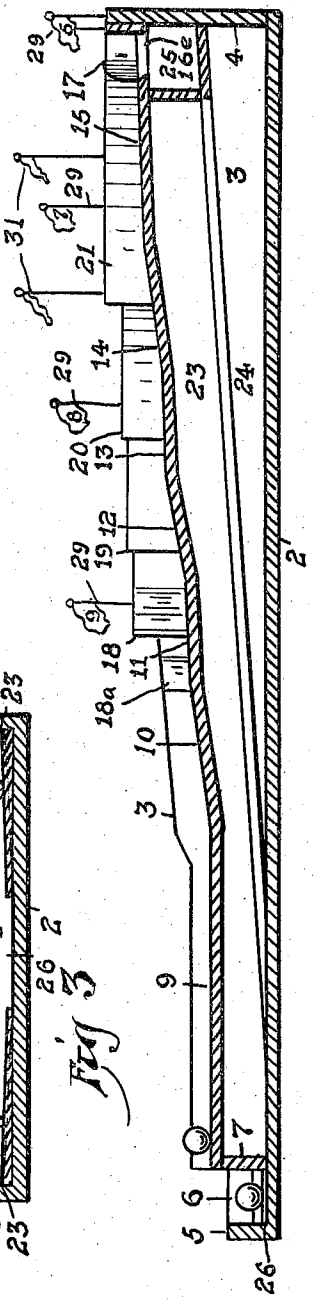


Fig. 3

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Patented July 10, 1928. 1,676,804

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOLF-GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed March 9, 1927. Serial No. 173,920.

The object which I have in view is the provision of a new and improved portable means adapted for indoor use and which will provide for putting practice or putting contests.

For this purpose I have provided a golf putting apparatus comprising a putting surface characterized by a rising elevation in the direction of the intended travel of the ball when putted, the surface however being preferably characterized by variations in the angle of the inclination. The surface is provided with a plurality of holes into which the balls are intended to be putted, as in regular golf, such holes being preferably nine in number to simulate a nine hole golf course, and the holes being provided with baffled walls so arranged as to increase the difficulty of putting the balls into the holes and which also act to direct properly putted balls into the holes.

The baffle walls associated with the several holes are so related as to complicate the putting access to adjacent holes.

The preferable form of my putting surface is a substantial rectangular oblong, and one of the holes is preferably placed at the center of the upper and rear end of the surface with the other eight holes arranged in equal number along each side wall of the surface, the surface being provided with side and rear end walls to prevent the balls jumping from the same in normal circumstances.

Means are provided for returning the balls which have been putted into holes to the front or lower end of the surface where they may be received in an open trough or receiving well.

The apparatus may be made for floor use and of proper dimensions so that the players may use ordinary golf balls and putters to play the game, or it may be made of smaller dimensions for table use with smaller balls which may be adapted to be putted as with the player's finger.

Other novel features of construction, and also of arrangement of parts will appear from the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein I have illustrated the best embodiment of the principles of my invention now known to me, Fig. 1 is a plan view of the apparatus; Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along the line II—II in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken along the line III—III in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents a platform which may be made of wood and which is properly supported in spaced relation above the horizontal base 2. Any convenient means may be provided for supporting the platform stoutly from the base. The front end of the platform stops short of the front end of the base. The base is provided with vertical side walls 3 and a rear end wall 4 which extend up above the platform to a sufficient degree to keep the balls from jumping from the platform under normal conditions. The side walls 3 are extended forwardly beyond the platform 1 to meet the relatively low front wall 5, thus forming an open trough 6 at the front end of the platform 1. The space under the front end of the platform is closed by a wall 7, which however stops short of the side walls to provide the ports 8 which form the front ends of the return chutes to be later described.

The general incline of the platform is upwardly towards the rear wall 4, but the top surface of the platform is preferably not a continuous plane but it comprises alternately arranged surfaces of greater and less angularity to the horizontal.

At the front end of the platform is a horizontal surface 9 which forms the surface from which the balls are putted by the players. The putting surface 9 is followed by an inclined surface 10 which in turn is followed by a surface 11 of less inclination, an inclined surface 12 of greater inclination, a horizontal surface 13 of less inclination, a surface 14 of greater inclination and the rear end surface 15 of less inclination. I thus simulate the irregular surface of a terraced putting green.

The surface 9 is that from which the ball is putted by a player in putting for a given hole, and in the larger floor embodiment of my apparatus wherewith regular golf balls and putters are used the player may stand on the surface 9 when putting. A putted ball which fails to "hole-out" rolls back to the front of the board.

The platform 1 is covered with green felt or similar material to simulate the turf of a putting green.

16^a, 16^b, 16^c, 16^d, 16^e, 16^f, 16^g, 16^h and 16^i represent the nine holes in the platform 1, the holes 16^a, 16^b, 16^c and 16^d being alined along one side wall 3 of the platform, while the holes 16^f, 16^g, 16^h and 16^i are alined along the opposite side wall of the platform, and the hole 16^e being in the center adjacent to the rear wall 4 of the platform. The holes 16^d and 16^f are at the rear corners of the platform.

The central hole 16^e is guarded by an arcuate baffle wall 17 which guards the rear and sides of the hole and flares outwardly in either direction at the front.

The two front holes 16^a and 16^i are provided with arcuate baffle walls 18 which extend from the side walls 3 of the platform and surround the rear and outer side of the holes, leaving the holes accessible for the entrance of the balls from their fronts only. The front hazards 18^a are impediments built against the side walls 3 at the front of the holes 16^a and 16^i to prevent the balls being putted along the side walls 3 directly into the holes.

The next opposed pair of holes 16^b and 16^h are provided with baffle walls 19 which extend outwardly and forwardly from the side walls, guarding the holes from the rear and sides, the outer ends of the baffle walls 19 being extended sufficiently to cause said walls to be engaged by a ball putted past the outer ends of the walls 18, so that such balls will be deflected by the baffle walls 19 towards the hole 16^b or 16^h as the case may be.

At the rear of the holes, the baffle walls 19 are cut away to form projections 19^a which, when struck by the ball hugging the baffle wall 19 too closely, will deflect the ball and cause it to "rim" the hole.

The next two opposed holes 16^c and 16^g are guarded by the arcuate baffle walls 20 which extend from the side walls 3, surrounding the rear of the holes and extending forwardly and outwardly sufficiently beyond the lines of the outer ends of the baffle walls 19 so that said baffle walls 20 will be engaged by balls putted past the ends of the walls 19 and will deflect such balls toward the hole 16^c or 16^g as the case may be. The corner holes 16^d and 16^f are each provided with an arcuate baffle wall 21 which extends outwardly and forwardly substantially as shown so as to be engaged by and to deflect the balls putted past the ends of the baffle walls 20 towards the hole 16^d or 16^f as the case may be.

The free ends of the baffles 21 are sufficiently spaced apart to permit the passage of a ball properly putted from the surface 9 toward the center hole 16^e.

The baffle walls 18, 19, 20 and 21 merge into the side walls 3 and are provided with arcuate rear surfaces 22 merging into said walls to prevent the formation of pockets.

The baffle walls may be made of wood and are preferably covered with felt or some other material.

The baffle walls also serve as guides for skillfully putted balls, directing the latter into the holes.

To prevent straight putts from the surface 9 into the holes 16^b and 16^h I provide the baffle guides 18 on their rear sides with projections 22^a which act as bunkers for the holes. Likewise the baffle-guides 19 are provided with the bunkers 22^b to guard the holes 16^c and 16^g.

Beneath the platform 1 and along each of the side walls 3 is provided a chute 23 which runs beneath the platform 1 under the holes alined along the side walls. The front end of each of said chutes is connected to one of the ports 8 at the end of the wall 7 and the floors of said chutes are downwardly inclined toward the trough 6 as indicated at 24.

A short chute 25 runs from beneath the central hole 16^e to one of the chutes 23 as indicated in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2.

The trough 6 has a slightly depressed well 26 at its center into which the balls roll. The front corners of the trough are rounded at 27 to prevent returning balls from lodging therein.

Each of the baffle walls is preferably provided at the rear of the corresponding hole with a socket 28 in which may be stepped a flag or target 29, as indicated in Fig. 3, bearing the number of the hole. Points on certain of the baffle walls, such as 20 and 21, where the wall if struck by a properly putted ball will direct the ball into the corresponding hole, are provided with sockets 30 into which "direction flags" 31 may be stepped.

In playing the ball is placed in line longitudinally of the platform, with the hole into which it is to be putted and is putted in the usual manner toward said hole. In case the ball is not "holed-out", it is returned to the well 26 and the player again putts it from the surface 9 on his next play. A line 32 is drawn on the surface 9 and the ball must be putted from in front of the same. The holes are given their proper number in sequence in simulation of the regular game of golf. Thus hole 16^a may be designated as by its flag or target as "No. 1 hole" and 16^b as "No. 2 hole" and so on. A player thus in turn places his ball on the surface 9 and in front of the line 32 and puts in the direction of the hole. The side walls 3 along the putting surface 9 are lowered so as not to interfere with the player's stance or putting swing. The player succeeding in "holing out" his ball in the lowest number of strokes wins the hole. The provision of the baffle walls complicates the "holing out" of the ball and unless the ball is caused to

travel accurately towards the hole at the right speed and is caused to impinge on the baffle wall at the proper point, difficulty is encountered in holding out the ball as in the regular game of golf. The irregular surface of the platform 1 also adds to the complication. When a ball drops into a hole it immediately is returned by the proper chute to the trough 6.

What I desire to claim is:—

1. A golf putting game apparatus comprising a playing surface provided with side and rear walls and having a level putting surface at one end a plurality of holes arranged along the side walls, and a baffle-guide extending outwardly from the side wall at the rear of each of said holes and extending forwardly toward the putting surface, said guides being progressively prolonged toward the rear end of the board.

2. A golf putting game apparatus comprising a playing surface provided at one end with a level putting surface and with side and rear walls and having a plurality of holes arranged along the side walls, and a baffle-guide extending outwardly from the side wall at the rear of each of said holes and extending forwardly toward the putting surface and a hole in the center rear of said playing surface.

3. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side and rear end walls, said playing surface having a level putting surface at its front end and being provided with holes arranged along the side walls, and arcuate baffle-guides extending from the side walls around the rear of said holes and extending toward the putting surface.

4. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side and rear end walls, said playing surface having a level putting surface at its front end and being provided with holes arranged along the side walls, and arcuate baffle-guides extending from the side walls around the rear of said holes and extending toward the putting surface, said baffle-guides extending forwardly and inwardly toward the longitudinal center line of the surface.

5. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side and rear end walls, said playing surface having a level putting surface at the front end and being provided with holes arranged along the side walls, and arcuate baffle-guides extending from the side walls around the rear of said holes, said baffle-guides extending forwardly and inwardly toward the longitudinal center line of the playing surface and said baffle-guides being of increasing length toward the rear of said playing surface.

6. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side walls and rear end wall and a plurality of holes in said surface arranged in opposed pairs adjacent to the side walls, and baffle-guides extending outwardly and forwardly from the side walls at the rear of each opposed pair of holes, and the openings between the ends of each pair of baffle-guides diminishing progressively toward the rear end of the surface.

7. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side walls and rear end wall and a plurality of holes in said surface arranged in opposed pairs adjacent to the side walls, and baffle-guides extending outwardly and forwardly from the side walls at the rear of each opposed pair of holes, and the openings between the ends of each pair of baffle-guides diminishing progressively toward the rear end of the surface, and said surface being provided with a hole at the center of its rear wall.

8. A golf putting apparatus comprising a playing surface having upwardly extending side walls and rear end wall and a plurality of holes in said surface arranged in opposed pairs adjacent to the side walls, and baffle-guides extending outwardly and forwardly from the side walls at the rear of each opposed pair of holes, the openings between the ends of each pair of baffle-guides diminishing progressively toward the rear end of the surface, said surface being provided with a hole at the center of its rear wall, and said last named hole being provided with a baffle-guide guarding its sides and flaring outwardly at its ends.

Signed at Pittsburgh, Pa., this 5th day of March, 1927.

CLARENCE W. SCHECK.