# United States Patent [19]

**Shockley**

[11] **3,895,809**

[45] **July 22, 1975**


[54] **BALL RETURN DEVICE**


[75] Inventor: **Charles Glenn Shockley**, Peekskill, N.Y.

[73] Assignee: **Lawrence Peska Associates, Inc.**, New York, N.Y., a part interest



[22] Filed: **Aug. 19, 1974**

[21] Appl. No.: **498,437**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/182 R**; 273/105 A

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] ..... **A63B 69/36**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 273/181, 182, 184, 185, 273/176, 103, 105



[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1,173,262 | 2/1916 | Gunzburg | 273/181 D |
| 1,218,390 | 3/1917 | Gates | 273/182 A |
| 1,965,838 | 7/1934 | Hofflund | 273/182 A |
| 2,041,678 | 5/1936 | Hirschauer | 273/182 A |
| 2,936,179 | 5/1960 | Thurston | 273/182 R |
| 3,081,633 | 3/1963 | Von Soden | 273/181 D |



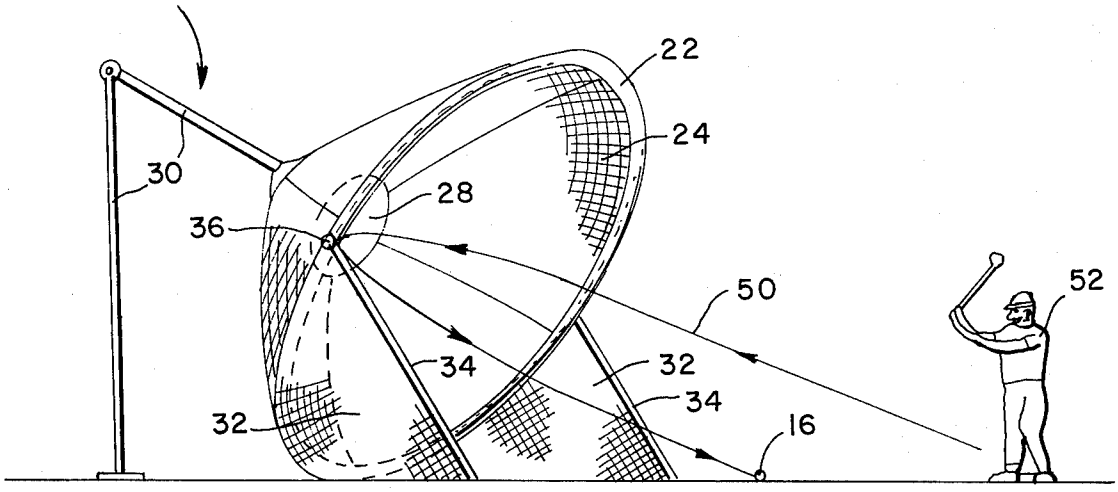
*Primary Examiner*—George J. Marlo

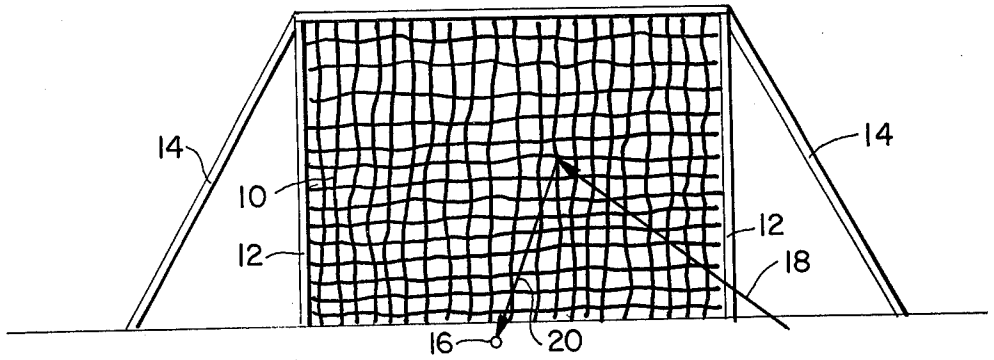


[57] **ABSTRACT**

A ball return device which comprises a generally concave assembly for receiving a ball such as a golf ball and for directing it back in the general direction from which it came.


**5 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures**






PRIOR ART

Fig. 1

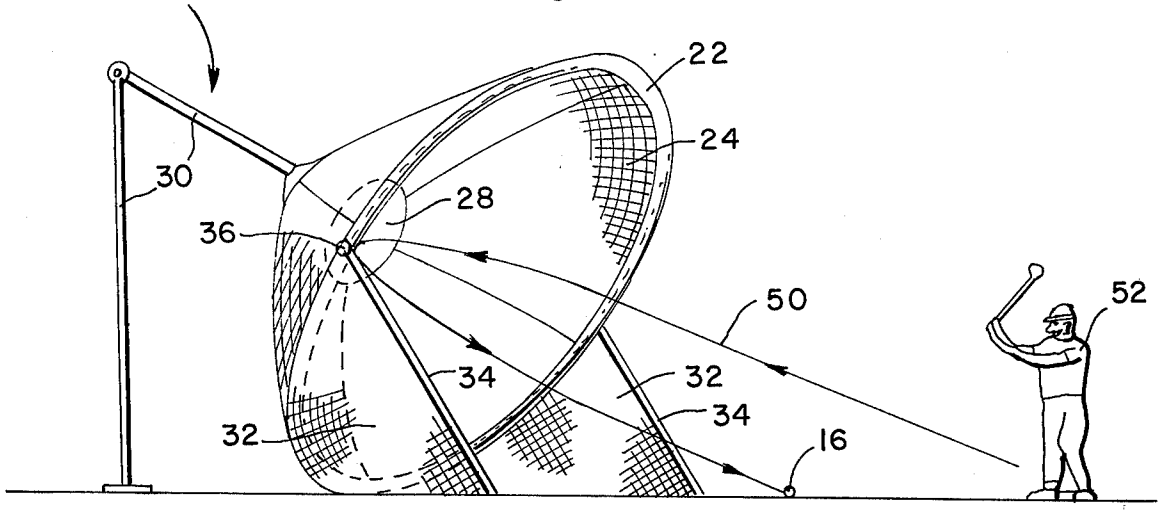



Fig. 2

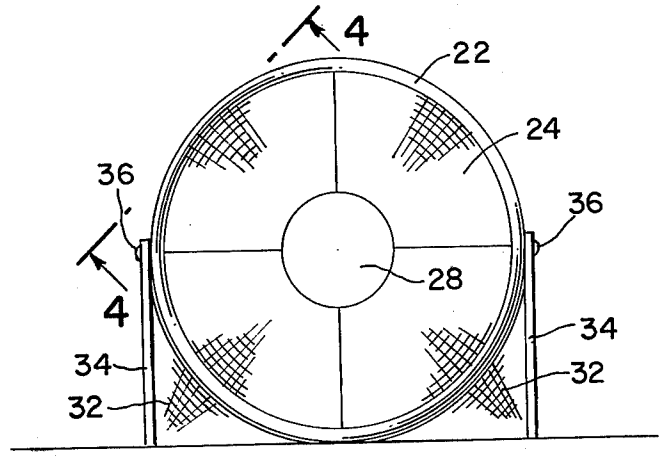



Fig. 3

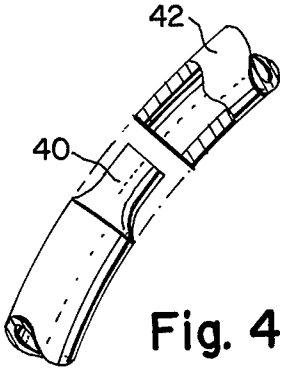



Fig. 4

# BALL RETURN DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention relates to an arrangement for providing a net in a generally upright position for stopping the flight of balls. The prior art includes the apparatus shown in Respini, U.S. Pat. No. 3,195,898 issued July 20, 1965. The apparatus shown therein includes a net which hangs from a frame and is rectangular in shape. Such apparatus is primarily as stated in a patent a means for impeding the further movement of a ball such as a golf ball. The shape of the net therein does not assist in the return of the ball to the player.

Accordingly it is the primary object of the invention to provide apparatus which is simple and effective to manufacture and which will return a ball such as a golf ball in the direction from which it is first driven.

It is also an object of the invention to provide apparatus which will be durable and which may be disassembled for easy transport.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention in one form a circular hoop is provided having disposed thereon a concave fibrous surface. Means for holding the concave surface and hoop in a predetermined alignment with respect to the direction of which a golf ball or other ball is driven are provided.

In various forms the concave fibrous surface may be made of canvas or other fabric and may be contoured in a conical or in a paraboloid contour and the axis thereof may be tipped to urge the ball downwards.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

While the specification concludes with the claims strictly pointing out and definitely claiming the subject matter which I regard as my invention, it is believed the invention will be better understood from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing which:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the prior art apparatus showing the manner in which such upright apparatus tended to drop the ball which strikes it directly beneath it;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the novel apparatus in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of the apparatus in accordance with the invention; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken through the line 4—4 of FIG. 3.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to FIG. 1 there is shown a representation of the prior art apparatus which includes the net **10** which is carried by supports **12, 14** and which illustrates the effect of a ball **16** having an initial trajectory **18** which will impact on the net **10** and fall along the path **20** to a position adjacent to the net **10.**

Referring now to FIG. 2 there is shown apparatus in accordance with the invention which includes a circular hoop **22** which carries a concave canvas or fabric member **24** which in various embodiments may be conical or paraboloid and which at its centermost portion will have disposed a reflector plate **28** which will also preferably be manufactured of solid fabric or canvas. An adjustable stand generally designated by the numeral **30** attaches to an axial portion of the net **24.** Disposed on each side of the canvas or fabric member **24** are reflector plates **32** which direct balls into the interior of the concave member **24.** Supports **34** are disposed on alternate sides of the hoop **22** and are anchored thereto by bolts **36, 36.**

The preferred construction of the hoop **22** will preferably be similar to the other support members as shown in FIG. **4.** More specifically concentric interlocking members **40** and **42** engage each other for positive locking and which also permits ease of disassembly and storage as well as movement to alternate locations.

As shown in FIG. **2** the trajectory of a ball **16** is represented by the numeral **50** after it is struck by a player **52.** It will be seen that the trajectory is such that the ball is returned along a substantially controlled path toward the player. In various situations it may be desirable to use other adjustments for the hoop and the concave member **24.**

Various other alternatives will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the invention. It will be understood that the concave member **24** for example which is preferably manufactured of canvas or other fabric may also be manufactured of a relatively fine mesh netting without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having herein described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

**1.** A ball return device particularly adapted for use in practicing the game of golf comprising:

a. a circular loop fabricated from at least two sections of metallic tubing whereby each section represents a portion of the periphery of said loop, each section further including means for inserting one section into the other to form a composite circular loop when assembled,

b. a concave canvas member coupled to the periphery of said loop and extending therefrom to form a generally parabolic configuration dimensioned to cause a golf ball impinging thereon in a given direction to return to a point of origin, said canvas member further having a central portion serving as a reflector plate and adapted to return balls which impinge directly thereon.

**2.** The device according to claim **1** wherein said concave canvas member is fabricated from a nylon material.

**3.** The device according to claim **1** further including a support frame assembly coupled to said canvas member for orienting the same in a direction to maintain said circular loop relatively transverse to a path of a golf ball.

**4.** The device according to claim **1** further including a reflector plate disposed on two sides of said general concave member for directing a ball arriving outside said circular loop into the confines of said device.

**5.** The device according to claim **1** wherein said metallic tubing is fabricated from aluminum.

* * * * *