Nov. 17, 1925. 1,561,881

C. T. OSTERBERG

POCKET GOLF

Filed March 7, 1921

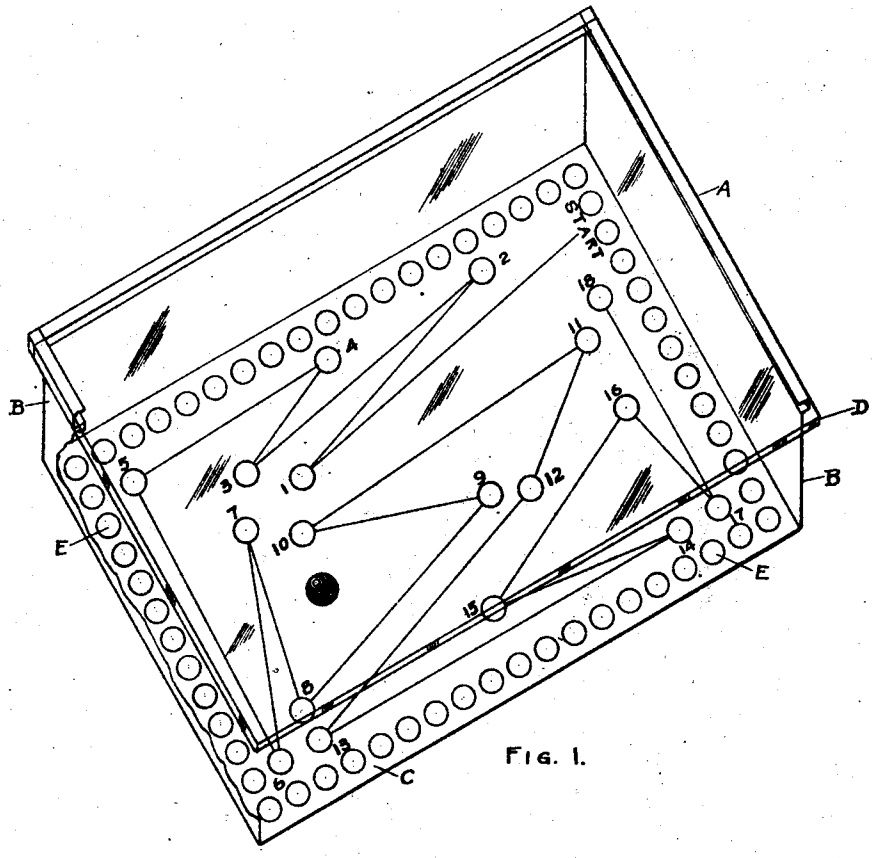

FIG. 1.

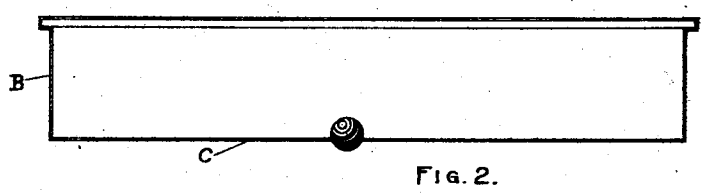

FIG. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL THEODOR OSTERBERG, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

POCKET GOLF.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL THEODOR OSTERBERG, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Milwaukee, county of Milwaukee, and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pocket Golf; and I do declare the following to be a clear, exact, and complete description thereof, such as will enable persons skilled in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, as showing a practical embodiment of my invention.

My invention relates to indoor games, and is particularly designed for use as a game of golf.

The invention comprises a miniature golf course of eighteen holes, which notwithstanding the compactness of the device, are so arranged that the courses do not cross at any point, the game in this particular following the regular game.

The invention resides in a small closure, which may be readily carried in the pocket of the player. The course is laid out on a rectangular plate, which forms the bottom of the closure, which latter is surrounded by confining walls, so as to retain the golf ball at all times upon the course. A transparent cover may be applied to the top of the closure, which cover will further serve to retain the golf ball upon the course, and through which the player may observe the effect of the strokes made by him.

The details of construction and the manner of playing the game will be hereinafter pointed out.

In the accompanying drawing,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved golf game, partly broken out so as to show the formation of the bottom of the closure upon which the course is laid.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view through the same showing the arrangement whereby the next shot may be made after the ball has been holed.

In the drawing the device as a whole is indicated by the letter "A". Such device is formed as a suitable box closure, the walls "B" of which are built about a rectangular bottom plate "C", and which may be covered, if desired, by a transparency "D".

The eighteen holes comprising the course may be laid out on the base or bottom plate "C" in any desired manner, but I have found it convenient to follow the arrangement shown, in which the lines of travel do not cross at any point. The eighteen holes constituting the course are formed as perforations in the base plate "C". In playing the game I employ a quarter-inch steel ball, and the several holes in the plate will have a diameter which is slightly less than that of the said ball, so that while the ball may rest therein and extend partially therethrough, the constricted openings will serve at all times to retain the ball within the closure.

The idea involved in my improved game is to make the course with the smallest possible number of strokes. The bottom plate upon which the course is laid out is level, and the ball when on the field is to be rolled toward the particular hole which it is desired to reach. The facility with which this may be done by changing the level of the course will depend upon the skill of the player. The surrounding margin of the bottom plate, outside of the course, is provided with a border of perforations "E" constituting pockets, in one of which the ball may lodge after a wild stroke. The holes constituting the course are successively numbered from 1 to 18.

Starting from a given point, the device is manipulated so as to change the level of the course and roll the ball into hole 1. Should the ball reach hole 1, even after wandering around over the course, without being seated in any other numbered hole or pocket "E," hole 1 will be considered as having been made in one stroke. But should the ball in its quest of hole 1, find lodgment in any other numbered hole or pocket "E," this will count one stroke, and from its place of lodgment the ball must be again started upon its way toward hole 1. Every lodgment of the ball in other than the hole desired counts as a stroke, and note should be taken of the number of such strokes made while trying to properly hole the ball.

After having been holed, either correctly or incorrectly, the ball may be dislodged from the particular numbered hole or pocket "E" in which it is lodged, by a tap of the finger upon that portion of the ball which projects at the bottom of the closure. This ejection of the ball from its position of rest will again place it upon the field, and its movement toward the next hole in the course will be commenced. The rule mentioned in

connection with the directions as to reaching hole 1 will be followed in the subsequent movements of the ball toward the different numbered holes of the course in succession, as will be understood by those playing the game.

I have found it convenient to form the bottom and side walls of the box closure from sheet metal of a gauge sufficient to lend rigidity to the structure and preserve the level of the field. However, I do not limit my invention to the use of the material stated, but may use any other suitable material instead. The transparency "D" may be of glass or other material, and while such transparency is not essential to the successful use of my invention, it is desirable as a means for retaining the ball upon the field and preventing its loss. For the use of more highly skilled players, I may place bunkers or other forms of obstruction in the course, so as to divert the ball from a direct movement and render the attainment of the goal more difficult.

The numbered holes constituting the course and the pockets "E" formed in the bottom plate "C" will permit the ball to project an appreciable distance therethrough. The purpose of this arrangement is to enable the player to strike the ball from underneath at an angle which will drive the ball toward the desired hole. This provision greatly enhances the value of the game in the hands of a skillful player. I have produced a novel game which is easy to play and which affords much entertainment to individuals either singly or in competition. My invention differs from others of this general class in that the goal to be sought is a particular hole, the attainment of which enables one to exercise skill, and is not dependent upon mere chance, as in games where the seating of the ball in any one of a plurality of recesses counts something in favor of the player.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A pocket golf game constituted as a box closure and comprising a ball and an enclosed field on which is laid out a golf course embracing a plurality of consecutively numbered holes, the said holes constituted as perforations in the bottom of the box to permit a portion of the ball to project therethrough to enable the ball to be dislodged from a hole by a stroke by the finger of the player from the underside.

2. A pocket golf game constituted as a box closure and comprising a ball and an enclosed field in which there are a plurality of consecutively numbered holes constituting a golf course, the line between any two of such holes being free from intersection by a like line between any other holes, the said holes being formed as perforations in the bottom of the box to permit a portion of the ball to project at the underside of the enclosed field, so as to enable a stroke to be made by the finger of the player striking the projecting portion of the ball.

3. A pocket golf game constituted as a box closure and comprising a ball and an enclosed field at the bottom of the box and having therein a succession of numbered holes defining a golf course and a row of perforations surrounding the field into which stray shots are received, the said holes and perforations being of less diameter than that of the ball so that the latter may partially project therethrough and be driven by a stroke by the finger of the player from the underside.

4. A game board constituted as a box closure and comprising a ball and an enclosed field in which a plurality of holes are arranged in progressive order, the said holes being formed as perforations through the bottom of the box to permit the ball to partially project therethrough and be driven from one hole to the next by a stroke by the finger of the player upon the projecting portion of the ball.

5. A game board constituted as a box closure and comprising an enclosed field at the bottom of the box and in which a plurality of holes are arranged in progressive order to form a course, the said field being surrounded by pockets for the reception of stray shots, in combination with a ball adapted to project partially through said holes and pockets so as to be dislodged therefrom by a stroke by the finger of the player upon the projecting portion of the ball.

6. A game board constituted as a box closure and comprising an enclosed field at the bottom of the box and provided with a plurality of holes therein, in combination with a ball adapted to partially project at the underside when seated in a hole and to be driven from one hole to another by a stroke by the finger of the player applied to the projecting portion of the ball.

7. A pocket golf game constituted as a box closure having a bottom, side walls and a transparent cover, the bottom being provided with a plurality of perforations serving to outline the golf course, and a ball enclosed in the box and adapted to partially project through the said perforations, whereby the ball may be struck by the finger of the player and directed over the golf course.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name at Milwaukee this 4th day of March, 1921.

C. THEO. OSTERBERG.