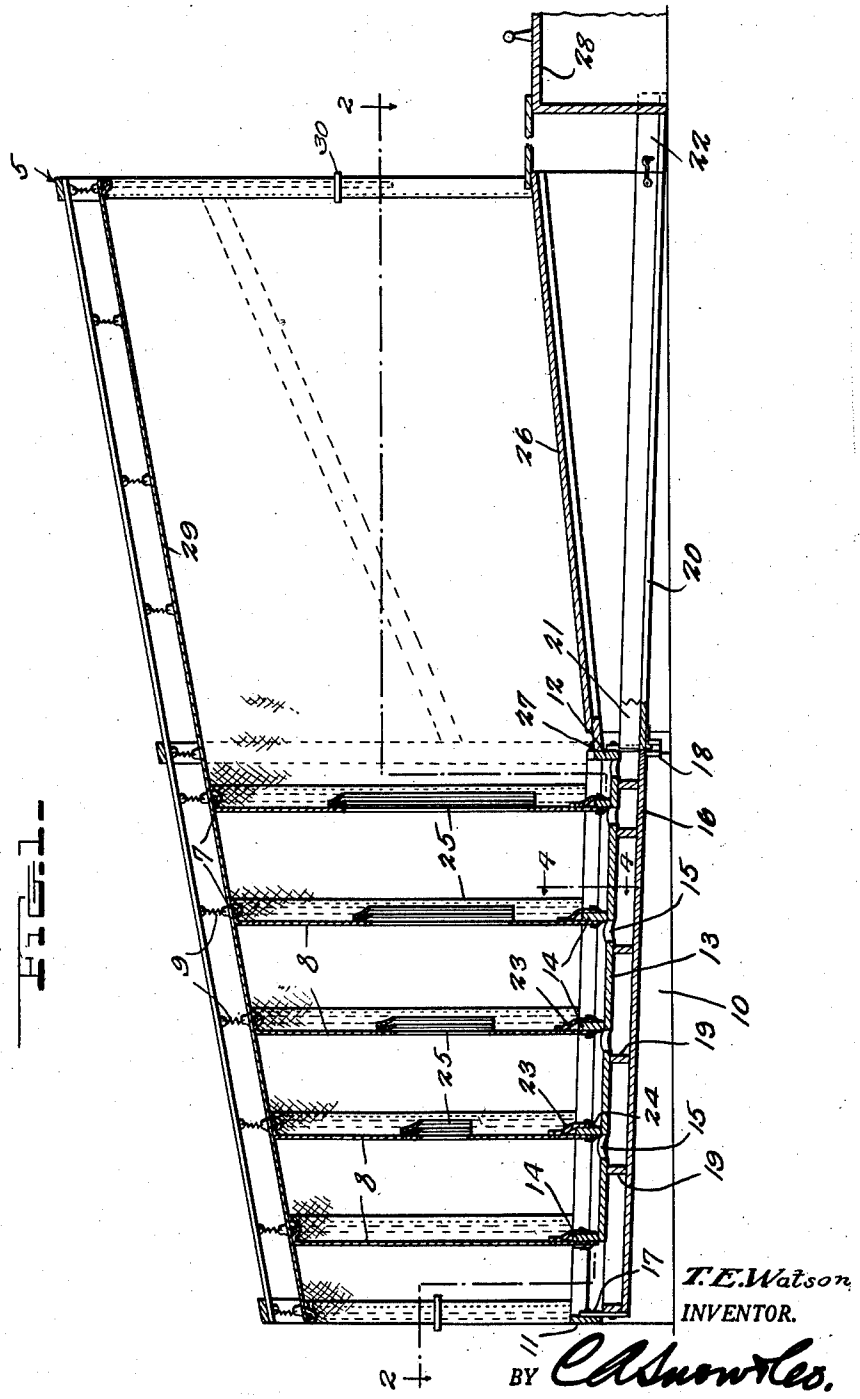
May 1, 1945. T. E. WATSON 2,374,906

GOLF TARGET

Filed Dec. 1, 1944 3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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GOLF TARGET

Filed Dec. 1, 1944 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

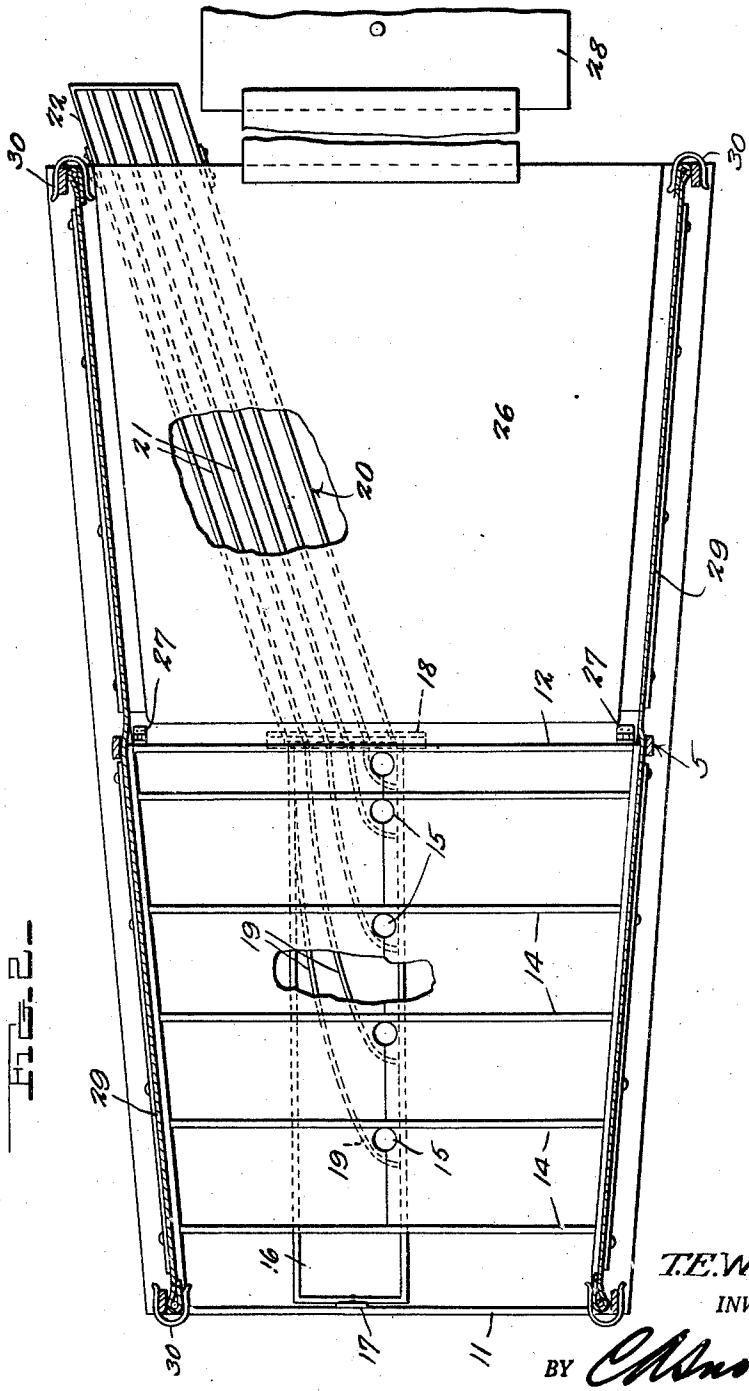

FIG. 2.

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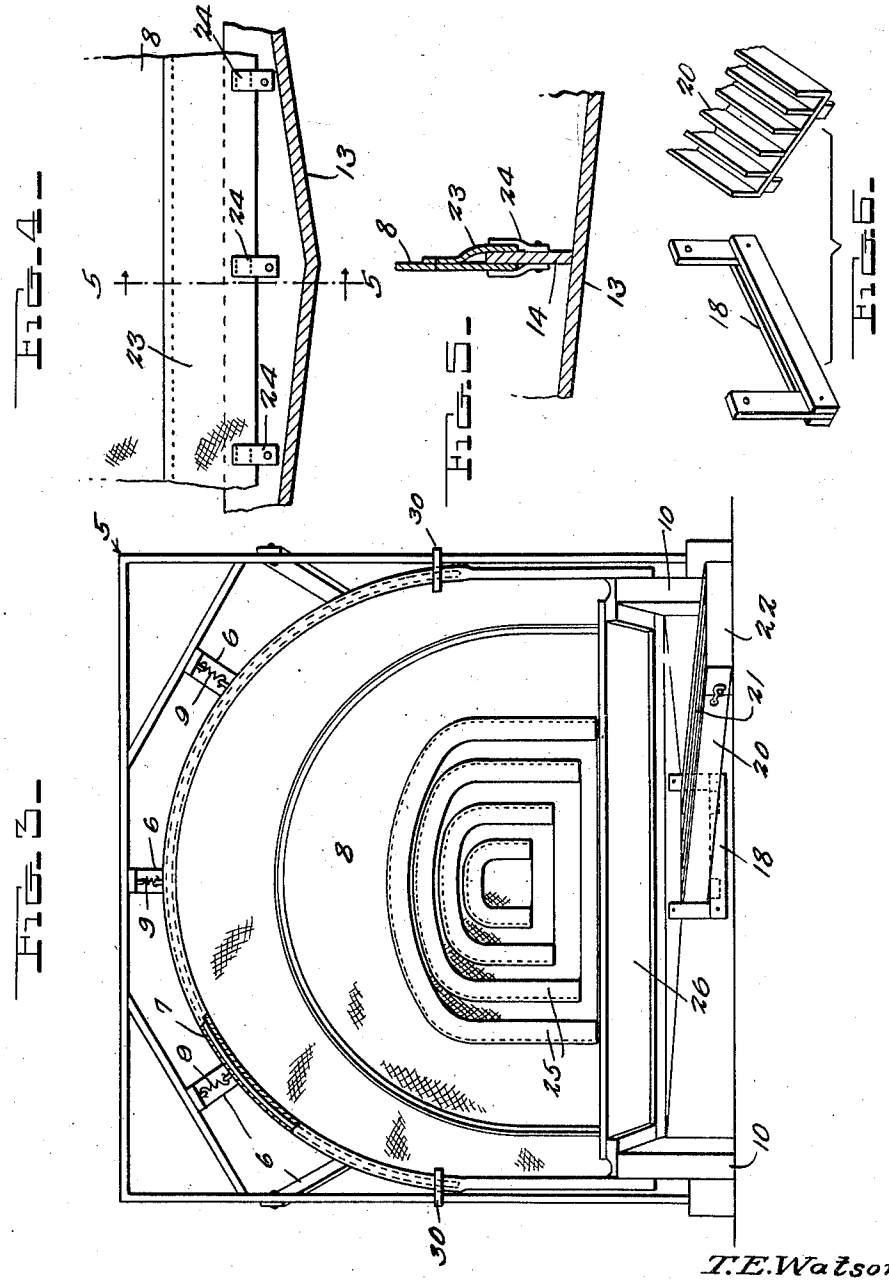

T. E. Watson,
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Patented May 1, 1945 2,374,906

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,374,906

GOLF TARGET

Talmage E. Watson, Simsboro, La.

Application December 1, 1944, Serial No. 566,194

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to a game designed primarily for use by people practicing the golf swing, the game at the same time affording means to test the skill and accuracy of the players.

An important object of the invention is to provide a game of this character wherein golf balls are teed up and struck with golf clubs in the hands of the players, the balls being directed at targets, so that the accuracy of the shot may be readily determined.

Another important object of the invention is to provide means wherein golf balls which are directed at the targets, will be directed to a scoring box, so that the scores of the game may be determined.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein described, may be made within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view through a device constructed in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the device.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a view illustrating the supporting bracket for the sectional channel member through which the balls are delivered to a scoring box.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the device comprises a body portion or frame including a plurality of arches 5 arranged in spaced relation with respect to each other, the arches decreasing in height from the front end of the frame of the device, to the rear end thereof.

The arches 5 have their lower ends secured, so that the arches are supported in upright positions. The arches 5 are connected, by means of the strips 6 which extend in parallel spaced relation with respect to each other, throughout the length of the frame of the device. These strips also assist in supporting the arches in upright positions and provide supports for the bows 7. As shown, these bows are arranged in spaced relation with respect to each other, and provide supports for the canvas partitions 8 so that the partitions will be maintained in a stretched position at all times.

Coiled connecting springs 9 connect the bows 7 with the strips 6, and provide means for permitting the partitions and bows supporting the partitions, to move under the impact of a ball striking the partitions, thereby insuring against the partitions being torn from their supporting bows, while the device is in use. The base of the device includes side boards 10 which are wide at their rear ends and narrow toward the front thereof. A bar 11 connects the side boards at the rear of the base while the front ends of the side boards 10 are connected by the bar 12, which also provides a stop to prevent balls which may fall into the first compartment of the base, from passing from the base, directly over the front end of the base.

The bottom of the base is indicated by the reference character 13 and is supported between the side boards 10, at points near the upper edges of the side boards, as clearly shown by Fig. 1 of the drawings. The base bottom is inclined towards the center of the base, so that balls dropping into the base, will be directed inwardly towards the center thereof.

Partitions 14 extend across the open upper side of the base and divide the base into a plurality of compartments. An opening indicated at 15 is formed in the bottom of each compartment, the openings being disposed adjacent to the rear sides of the partitions, so that balls rolling towards the lower ends of the compartments, will find their way into the openings and fall from the compartments.

Disposed directly under the longitudinal center of the base, is a trough 16, which has its rear end secured to the bar 11, by means of the bracket 17, the front end of the trough resting on the hanger 18 that is secured to the bar 12 at the front end of the base. Curved partitions 19 are arranged within the trough and are disposed in spaced relation with respect to each other, providing channels which extend from points directly under the openings 15, to the front end of the trough. Balls dropping through the openings 15, will of course find their way into the channels, where they are directed to the front end of the trough. Associated with the trough, is an inclined member 20 which is provided with partitions 21 extending throughout the length of the member 20, the partitions forming channels which form continuations of the channels formed in the trough 16, so that balls pass-

ing through the channels of the trough, will find their way into certain channels of the member **20**. At the front end of the member **20**, is a removable score box **22** which is also provided with a plurality of channels that register with the channels of the member **20**, so that the balls may pass into the score box from the channels of member **20**. It will of course be understood that the channels or compartments of the score box will be supplied with members or combinations of members which may be added, in determining the score.

The lower ends of the canvas partitions **8** are supplied with strips **23** of cloth material, which strips are so arranged that they will fit over the front upper edges of the partitions **14**, as shown by Fig. 1 of the drawings. The partitions **8**, engage the rear surfaces of the partitions **14**, the canvas partitions **8** being held downwardly, or into engagement with the partitions **14**, by means of elastic tapes **24** that are secured to the canvas partitions **8** and strips near the lower edges thereof, the elastic tapes being secured to the partitions **14**.

Thus it will be seen that in the present showing I have arranged five partitions within the frame of the device, the partitions with the exception of the last partition, being provided with openings of various sizes, the opening of the first partition **8** being substantially large while the openings in the succeeding partitions **8** are reduced in size. The last partition **8**, provides a stop for a ball which may be directed through the openings of the partitions. Protecting flaps **25** surround the openings of the canvas partitions **8** and are designed to prevent tearing of the canvas partitions **8**, when struck by golf balls, directed into the device.

Mounted within the front end of the frame, is a vertically movable bottom **26** connected to the front bar **12** of the base, by means of the hinges **27**, so that easy access to the member **20** may be had, should it be desired to repair the member **20** or dislodge balls which may become wedged in the channels of the member **20**.

The bottom **26** is inclined toward the base, so that a topped ball may run along the bottom **26** and be directed into the first compartment of the device, where it will be returned to a point adjacent to the person driving the balls, through the channel directly under the opening of the first compartment.

The teeing platform is indicated by the reference character **28** and is arranged so that the surface thereof, is on a direct line with the bottom of the opening of the first partition **8** of the device.

The reference character **29** designates a canvas cover which is stretched over the bows **7**, and extends throughout the entire length of the frame of the device, the canvas covering providing means to prevent a golf ball from being directed through the side of the frame.

Spring clips **30** clamp the ends of the canvas covering **29** to the end bow **7** of the apparatus, in such a way that the canvas covering **29** may be readily removed and replaced, or drawn taut, should the covering **29**, for any reason, become loose.

In the use of the device, a person driving golf balls will direct the golf balls toward the partitions, in an effort to drive the golf balls through all of the openings of the partitions, since a ball falling in the last compartment of the base, will score higher than a ball dropping in any of the other openings. As the balls are driven at the partitions, they will strike certain partitions and fall downwardly into the compartments of the base, where they will be delivered to the score box of the base, through the channels. The score, as well as number of golf balls struck by each player, may be regulated by the persons playing the game.

While I have shown and described a device which may be used as a game, it will of course be apparent that a person may practice the golf swing in playing the game, thereby perfecting his golf swing.

What is claimed is:

In a device of the character described, a frame embodying a base, spaced rigid partitions rising from the base, arch members forming a part of the frame, longitudinal strips connecting the arch members, bows rising from the base and being disposed directly over said partitions, yieldable members connecting said bows and longitudinal strips, flexible partitioning members secured to the bows, the lower ends of the flexible partitioning members overlying said spaced partitions, flexible tapes secured to the said spaced partitions, and being connected with the flexible partitions, yieldably connecting the rigid partitions and flexible partitions, and said flexible partitions providing a target against which golf balls are driven.

TALMAGE E. WATSON.