Nov. 2, 1965 E. L. KRYSIAK 3,215,434

BOWLING PRACTICE GAME DEVICE

Filed Aug. 8, 1963

Fig. 1

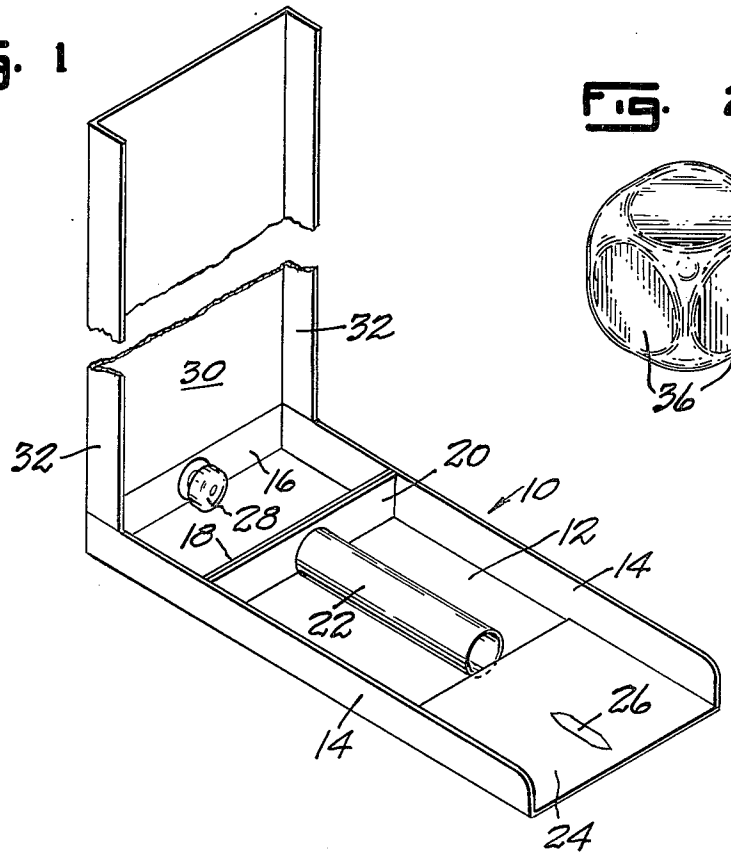


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

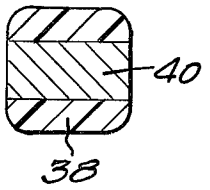
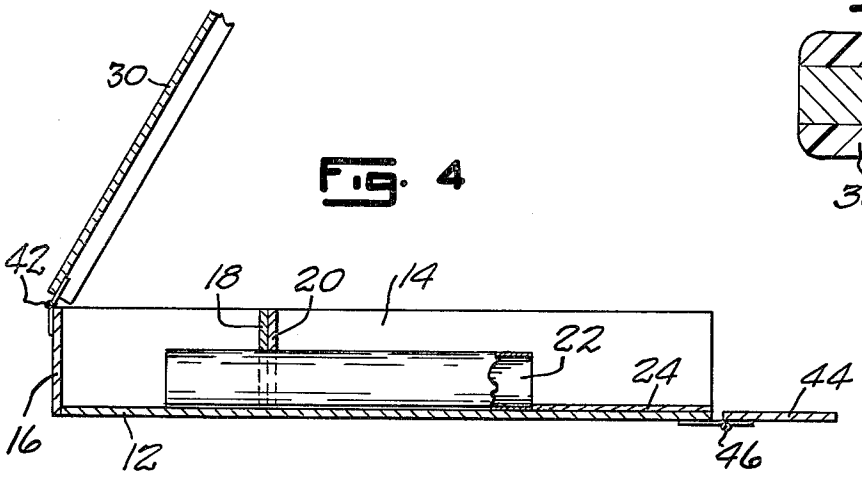


Fig. 4



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BOWLING PRACTICE GAME DEVICE

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This invention relates to a bowling practice game device. More particularly, it relates to a game device which can be used either for amusement purposes or for purposes of practicing "spot" bowling, namely, throwing a ball or other object in the fashion in which a bowling ball is thrown toward a "spot" or target in a manner simulating the practice known in bowling as "spot" bowling.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a novel, simple, inexpensive device of this character which will have both entertainment value and teaching value.

A further object is to provide a device of this character with novel goal or target means and with means for recording or indicating a successful use of the device for achievement of a desired aim or goal.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which is compact, collapsible, readily set up and used, and which is adapted to receive and confine a game piece in both successful and unsuccessful throws thereof.

Other objects will be apparent from the following specification.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the device in its use condition;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a game piece which may be used in playing with the device;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of a game piece;

FIG. 4 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the game device, illustrating a modified construction thereof.

Referring to the drawing, and particularly to FIG. 1 thereof which illustrates one embodiment of the invention, the numeral **10** designates the lower or base portion of the game device which may be formed of wood, metal, plastic, paper, corrugated paperboard, or any other material found suitable. The device has a bottom panel **12** of elongated rectangular form and shallow longitudinal side walls **14** which extend substantially full length thereof. A back wall **16** connects the rear ends of the side walls **14**. A partition **18** extends transversely between the side walls **14** spaced from the rear wall **16**. The partition **18** is preferably provided with a cushion or pad **20** covering the surface thereof opposite that which confronts the end wall **16**. Partition **18** and the cushion or pad **20** have an opening therein at the center thereof within which is mounted one end of an elongated tube **22** which may be formed of metal, plastic, paper or any other suitable material. The elongated tube **22** extends toward the open or front end of the device shown at the right in FIG. 1. Tube **22** is open at both ends thereof so that an object may pass therethrough to enter the space defined by the side walls **14**, the back wall **16** and the partition **18**.

A front bottom panel **24** is mounted upon the bottom panel **12** from the front or open end thereof to the front end of the tube **22**. Panel **24** is preferably cemented, stapled or otherwise secured to the bottom panel **12** and will have a flat top surface. Tube **22** will preferably bear upon the bottom panel **12** and will have a wall thickness not greater than the wall thickness of the front bottom panel **24**, so as to accept freely and without obstruction a properly directed game piece thrown thereto. The panel **24** has an indicia or mark **26** thereon spaced from the tube **22** and substantially aligned therewith. The mark **26** may be of any size or shape desired, and may be

located at any position desired and is to be considered in the nature of a "spot" or a target or guide. I prefer to have the mark **26** spaced from the end of the tube **22** as shown.

Upon the back wall **16** of the device is mounted a signal member **28**. The member **28** may be a bell, a push button or switch button, or any other object which will be struck by game piece which has passed through the tube **22**. Thus if the signal member **28** is a bell, the impact of a game piece thereagainst will cause a signalling sound to be generated. If the signal member **28** is an electrical switch button or the like, it may serve to energize a separate signal member (not shown) connected in an electrical circuit energized by closing of the signal member switch upon impact.

The device is preferably self-contained and may be provided with a panel **30** folded or hinged to the top of the back wall **16** so as to permit it to overlie and form a closure for the base portion **10** when collapsed for storage. The top panel **30** may be provided with longitudinal side flanges **32**. From a box-forming horizontal position when not in use, the top panel **30** and side flanges **32** may be swung to a vertical position for use of the device, in which case the flanges **32** serve to reinforce and strengthen the panel **30** and also to position the same, as by bearing of the end edges thereof upon the top edges of the side walls **14**, as illustrated in FIG. 1.

A game piece **34** is used in playing the game. This game piece may be of any desired character, size and configuration. I have chosen for purposes of illustration in FIG. 2 a construction of a game piece which is a modified sphere characterized by a plurality of flat surfaces **36**. As shown, the flat surfaces **36** are preferably six in number, are similar, and each is disposed at substantially right-angles to the flat surfaces adjacent thereto. It will be understood, however, that a freely rolling or spherical game piece may be utilized, or that a cubical game piece or a game piece of any other desired shape and configuration may be employed. The game piece will preferably be of a size substantially less than the diameter of the bore of the tube **22** so that it will be free to pass therethrough if properly directed thereat. The game piece may be constructed as illustrated in FIG. 3, wherein a cubical or modified cubical body **38** has a passage extending therethrough which is filled with a weight member **40**.

In the use of the device, it is set up upon the floor of a game room or recreation room, preferably adjacent a wall thereof which is engaged by the back wall **16** and the top panel **30** when that panel has been positioned substantially vertically, as illustrated. The player then takes a position at a selected distance from the free end of the device and uses the game pieces **34** or **38**. The game pieces are thrown with a motion similar to that used in bowling and are thrown toward the guide mark **26** by a player who stands in a position substantially aligned with the tube **22**. The object of the game is to develop accuracy and to practice a bowling swing. The accuracy desired is to so throw the game piece as to cause it to light upon the mark **26** or sufficiently close thereto so that the game piece will not bounce or rebound substantially and will continue to move in a direction to enter and pass through the tube **22**. It will be apparent that, where spherical game members are employed, the movement of the game member after it strikes the panel **24** may be predicted according to the trajectory of the throw and the position of contact with the game board laterally relative to the mark **26**. Lesser accuracy can be predicted where a game member of the character illustrated in FIG. 2 having flat surfaces **36** is utilized, and in such cases an element of luck is introduced in addition to the element of skill.

The device is so constructed as to retain and confine the game members thrown thereto with any reasonable degree of accuracy. Thus any game member thrown in such a manner as to pass through the tube **22** will be retained in the rear compartment of the device, that is, the compartment defined by the side walls **14**, back wall **16**, and partition **18**. A game piece which is thrown with less accuracy so that it does not enter the tube **22** will nevertheless be confined between the side walls **14** upon the bottom panel **12** in most instances. Game pieces which strike the pad **22** on the partition **18** have minimum rebound therefrom and will tend to be confined between the tube **22** and side wall **14** by virtue of the retaining property of the rear edge of the front bottom panel **24** if the game piece rebounds sufficiently to engage that edge.

It will be apparent that the device may be used as a game only for entertainment purposes, in which case scoring may be done by counting the number of times the signal **28** is energized by a game member passing through the tube. The device also has a bowling practice function particularly desirable for use by children to develop a bowling swing and also to develop accuracy, as previously mentioned.

When use of the device ends, the top panel **30** may be lowered to form a cover for the device. For this purpose it will be apparent that an end panel (not shown) may be provided upon the free edge of the top panel connecting side panels **32** so as to close the space at the open end of the base portion.

A slightly modified construction of the device is illustrated in FIG. 4, wherein parts similar to those shown in FIG. 1 bear the same reference numerals. In this instance the signal member **28** is eliminated, and the tube **22** will preferably extend into the rear compartment between the back wall **28** and the partition **18**. This construction is particularly well suited for use with wood or metal parts. Thus the top panel **30** may be connected to the back wall **16** by means of a hinge **42**. Likewise a shallow or narrow front panel **44** may be connected to the front end of the bottom panel **12** by means of a hinge **46**. In this construction, when the device is ready for use, the top panel **30** will be opened and held in upright or substantially upright position by any suitable means, such as a prop or support (not shown). The narrow front panel **44** will be lowered to the position shown in FIG. 4 and will form a continuation of the front bottom mark-bearing panel **24**. Use of this device is similar to that previously described. The device is self-confining when closed, in which event the top **30** is lowered and the narrow front wall **44** is raised.

While the preferred embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described, it will be understood that changes in the construction may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A bowling practice game device for use with a game piece comprising

an elongated substantially horizontal game board having elongated side panels and a back panel,

a partition extending between intermediate parts of said side panels spaced from said back panel and having a central opening and a pad on its front face, and

an elongated open ended tube adapted for passage of a game piece therethrough and extending longitudinally on said game board spaced from said side panels with its front end spaced from the front end of said game board and from said partition and its rear portion aligned with said partition opening.

2. A bowling practice game device for use with a game piece comprising

an elongated substantially horizontal game board having side panels and a back panel,

a partition extending between said side panels spaced from said back panel and from the front of said game board and having a central opening, and

an elongated open ended tube adapted for passage of a game piece therethrough and extending longitudinally on said game board spaced from said side panels with its front end spaced from the front end of said game board and from said partition and its rear portion aligned with said partition opening,

said game board having a target mark thereon aligned with said tube.

3. A bowling practice game device for use with a game piece comprising

an elongated substantially horizontal game board having side panels and a back panel,

a partition padded at its front face and extending between said side panels spaced from said back panel and from the front of the board and having a central opening, and

an elongated open ended tube adapted for passage of a game piece therein and extending longitudinally on said game board spaced from said side panels with its front end spaced from the front end of said game board and from said partition and its rear portion aligned with said partition opening,

the portion of said game board forward of said tube having a substantially horizontal top surface at higher elevation than the portion thereof adjacent said tube.

4. A bowling practice game device for use with a game piece comprising

an elongated substantially horizontal game board having side panels and a back panel,

a partition extending between intermediate parts of said side panels spaced from said back panel and having a central opening and a padded front surface,

an elongated open ended tube adapted for passage of a game piece and extending longitudinally on said game board spaced from said side panels with its front end spaced from the front end of said game board and from said partition and its rear portion mounted in said partition opening,

a top panel shiftable between a horizontal closed position spanning the upper edges of said side panels and a playing position extending upwardly from said back panel, and

front panel shiftable between an upright position cooperating with said top panel to protect said game board and a horizontal position forming a forward extension of said game board.

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