

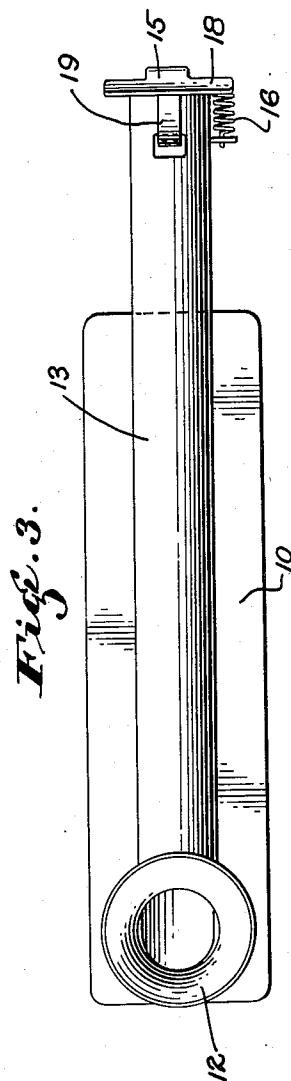
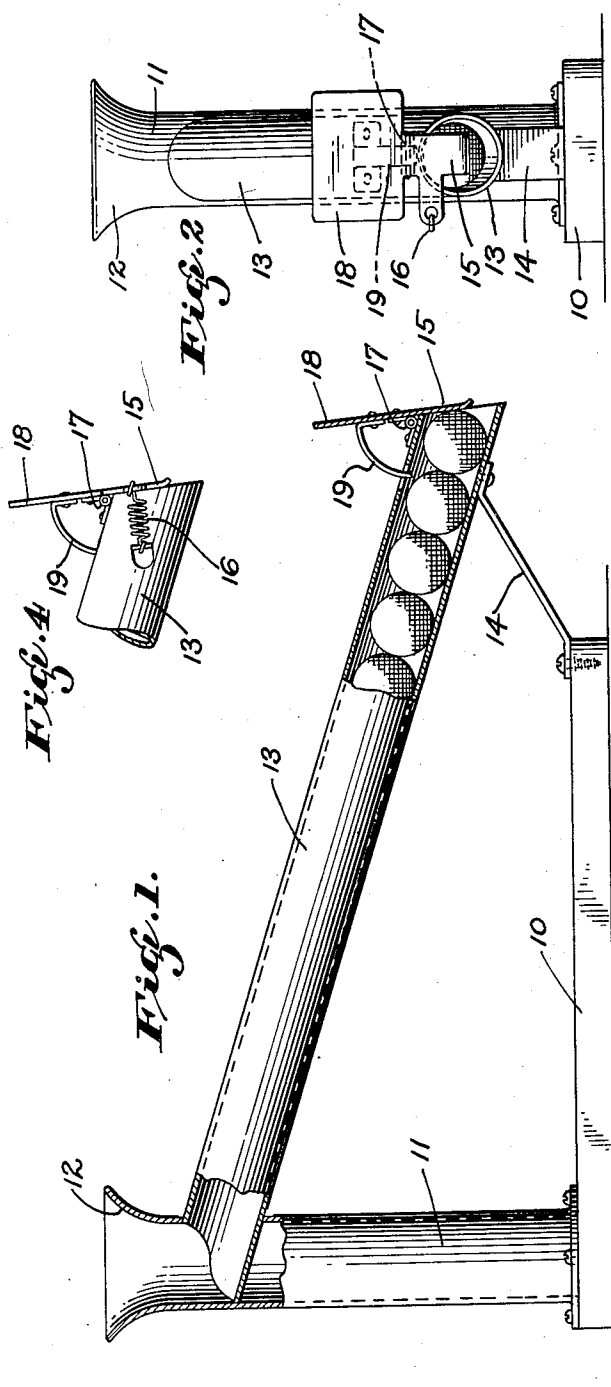
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GAME APPARATUS

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GAME APPARATUS

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My present invention relates to game apparatus and more particularly to a game-ball retaining and delivering device.

An object of my invention is to provide a receptacle which is adapted to hold a number of game balls and from which the balls may be discharged, as desired, one at a time.

In the playing of games, wherein balls are used as the playing pieces, it is often desirable to have the balls available where they can be readily obtained when needed. One game in which my proposed device will find a large demand is in connection with the game of golf and particularly in connection with driving practice. In the teaching of golf, professionals very often supply the student with a large number of balls which he is required to drive from a suitable tee, the instructor observing the form and various faults so that he may correct the same. Under these conditions, the balls are usually placed on the mat and the player drives them off, one at a time, and it is therefore desirable that the balls be readily available so that the placing of the balls will be simplified. As an appliance for this particular use, I propose to provide an inclined receptacle from which the balls will roll, one at a time by gravity when released therefrom. The particular ball releasing means contemplated by me is of such a nature that the balls can be released one at a time by merely touching the discharging means with the head of the golf club so that the player does not have to stoop over in discharging the balls therefrom.

For a better understanding of my invention, reference should be had to the accompanying drawing, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a view in elevation with parts broken away, showing the details of construction of my improved device,

Fig. 2 is a front end elevation of the device shown in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the device shown in Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing the discharge end of my device with its gate.

In the drawing, 10 designates a suitable base or foundation plate which may be of any

suitable shape and size, and extending upwardly from the rear end of the base 10 there is shown an upright tubular member 11 which has a flared or funnel-shaped end into which balls may be placed. Projecting into the member 11 and communicating with the upper or funnel-shaped end 12 thereof, I show an inclined receptacle or tubular member 13 which is of sufficient length in the present instance to hold approximately one dozen golf balls. The lower end of this tubular member 13 is supported upon the base 10 by means of a bracket 14. At the outer or discharge end of the tubular receptacle 13 I show a hinged gate 15 which is normally held in its closed position by means of a spring 16, as shown in Fig. 4. The gate 15 is hinged along the top side of the receptacle 13 by means of a hinge 17 and projecting beyond the hinge 17 and formed as a part of the gate 15, I show a member or plate 18 by means of which the gate 15 may be opened and closed, as will hereinafter appear. Associated with the gate 15, I also provide a rearwardly projecting arcuate member 19 which cooperates with the gate 15 when the latter is open to prevent more than one ball being discharged from the receptacle 13 upon each opening of the gate, the member 19 in this instance being arranged concentric with the pintle of the hinge 17 and adapted to project downwardly through the top of the receptacle 13 at a point where it will engage the ball next to the lowermost one and retain it and the other balls in the retainer as the lowermost ball is discharged.

The operation of my device is as follows: It will be assumed that the device has been placed upon a suitable tee or mat from which it is desired to practice driving, as in the game of golf. Under these conditions, the receptacle will be placed on the mat opposite the player or at any other convenient spot and the player will then engage the member 18 with the end of his golf club and by pressing thereupon open the gate 15 and permit the discharge of one of the balls retained in the receptacle 13. This ball will naturally roll out upon the mat, and the player can then either drive the ball from this position, or move it around to suit his particular wishes to

any desirable point upon the mat. After he has driven this ball off the mat, he can set up another ball for a repetition by merely touching the member 18 again with the head of his club and discharging a second ball. In this manner a player, particularly in practice of this nature, may after filling the receptacle 13 with balls, stand off on the mat and drive the balls one at a time in a very rapid and convenient manner without having to stoop over to pick up or place the balls and, in fact, he might even do this without changing his stance, this latter feature being particularly valuable during the course of instruction as a person might want to observe just what the effect of the stance is in his driving.

While I have shown the preferred form of my invention as now known to me, it is to be understood that various changes may be made in its construction without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A game-ball apparatus comprising an inclined receptacle adapted to receive a plurality of balls, a gate at the lower end thereof adapted to close the same, an enlarged member adapted to be struck by a game piece to open said gate and means associated with said gate whereby when said gate is opened only one of said balls will be discharged from said receptacle and allowed to roll free of the apparatus upon each opening of the gate.

2. A golf ball retainer and delivery device comprising a base, an upwardly extending tubular portion having a flared end into which the balls may be placed, an inclined receptacle associated with said flared end so as to receive the balls placed therein, a normally closed gate at the lower end of said inclined receptacle, whereby the balls may be released from said receptacle one at a time, and means having a surface area greater than the area of said gate carried by said gate adapted to be engaged by the head of the golf club to open the gate, said means being disposed above the gate so that the balls may roll from the tube free from interference by the club.

3. A game-ball receptacle comprising an inclined tube adapted to receive a plurality of balls, a gate at the lower end of said tube adapted to close the same, means for holding said gate normally closed, a stop cooperating with said gate for preventing more than one ball being discharged from said tube when said gate is opened, and an enlarged member disposed above and carried by said gate adapted when engaged to open the same and permit the discharge of a ball.

4. In a device of the character described an inclined tube being open at its upper end for the reception of balls and having a clo-

sure at its lower end, said closure comprising a plate hinged to the tube and being resiliently mounted in a closed position, an upwardly extending portion adapted to be pressed toward the tube for opening said closure and allowing one ball to roll from the tube, and an arcuate member carried by said upwardly extending portion and adapted to extend into the tube and prevent other balls from rolling therefrom when the closure is opened.

5. In a device of the character described, an inclined tube being open at its upper end for the reception of balls and having a closure at its lower end, said closure comprising a plate hinged to the tube and being resiliently mounted in a closed position, a striking plate secured to the closure and extending upwardly therefrom to be struck by a playing piece to open the closure, and an arcuate member carried by the closure and adapted to extend into the tube and prevent other balls from rolling therefrom when the closure is opened.

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