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APPROATUS FOR PLAYING CROQUET

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FIG-1

FIG-2

FIG-3

FIG-4

FIG-5

FIG-6

FIG-7

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This invention relates to apparatus for playing croquet, more particularly where the game is to be played indoors, for example, on a carpeted floor. The particular improvement resides in the form and construction of base blocks for holding the wickets and stakes in an upright position and affording the wickets and stakes the needed stability, without impeding the balls as they pass through the wickets or are driven to the stakes.

I shall describe my invention with the assistance of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a wicket supported by base blocks of my improved form;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a wicket supported by my improved base blocks;

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the wicket as it would appear to an observer standing in a position obliquely removed from the wicket, instead of squarely in front of the wicket as the observer is supposed to be in viewing the wicket shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a modified form of base block;

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a stake supported by one of my improved base blocks, the observer standing at one side of the stake;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the base block of the stake. Save that the hole is larger in this block it is the same as the blocks seen in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 7 illustrates a spud which may be driven in the ground and used instead of the base block to support the stake when the game is played outdoors.

My improved base block is V-shape in form and has a hole bored near the apex of the V, adapted to serve as a socket for the leg 11 of a wicket 12. As is plainly seen by reference to Fig. 2, the portion of the block corresponding to the top of the V, indicated at 13, is broad enough to give the wicket the required stability. Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that the dotted circle, representing a croquet ball, touches the wicket but not the base. This means that a ball passing squarely through the wicket and just clearing one leg of the wicket will not be impeded by the base. In Fig. 2 the dotted parallel lines indicate the maximum obliquity at which the ball can pass through the wicket. It will be observed that the sides of the base are parallel to these lines. Then referring to Fig. 3, where the observer views the ball along a line parallel to the dotted lines in Fig. 2, it is seen that in passing through the wicket at the greatest possible obliquity the ball clears the sides of the base by a safe margin.

The same idea is carried out in the base 20 for the stake 21, this being shown in Fig. 5, where the dotted circle, representing the ball, can strike the stake without touching the base 20. In Fig. 6 the base is seen to have an angularity corresponding to that of the base 10. The stake 21 is provided with a tenon 22 to fit in the socket 23 in the base 20. When the stake is to be set up outdoors, the spud 25 shown in Fig. 7 may be used instead of the base 30. The spud is driven into the ground, and is provided with a socket 26 to receive the tenon 22. If desired the spud may be left in the ground. For outside playing the bases 10 may be removed from the wickets and the wickets pressed into the ground.

In Fig. 4 I show a modified form of base. This base is in fact simply one-fourth of a disc, and is provided with a hole 27 to receive the leg of a wicket.

Having shown and described what at the time I regard as the preferred embodiment of my invention, I make the following claims:

1. A croquet wicket provided with a base for each leg adapted to stand on a bare or carpeted floor, said base having a spread sufficiently large to afford the necessary stability to the wicket, said spread being so disposed that a croquet ball having a diameter appropriate to the distance between the legs of the wicket passing through the wicket in any direction may touch a leg of the wicket, but will not touch the base.

2. A base block for a croquet wicket, adapted to stand on a bare or carpeted floor, and having a hole to receive a leg of the wicket, said block being of such shape and the hole so placed that a croquet ball having a diameter appropriate to the 90 distance between the legs of the wicket passing through the wicket in any direction will not touch the block.

3. A V-shape base block for a croquet wicket adapted to stand on a bare or carpeted floor, and having a hole adapted to serve as a socket for one leg of a wicket, said hole being near enough to the apex of the V to insure a ball of a given diameter clearing the apex as it passes squarely through the wicket while just clearing the leg thereof, the included angle of the V being such that said ball will clear the sides of the block in passing through the wicket at the maximum possible obliquity.

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