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L. L. MEYER

INDOOR GOLF GAME

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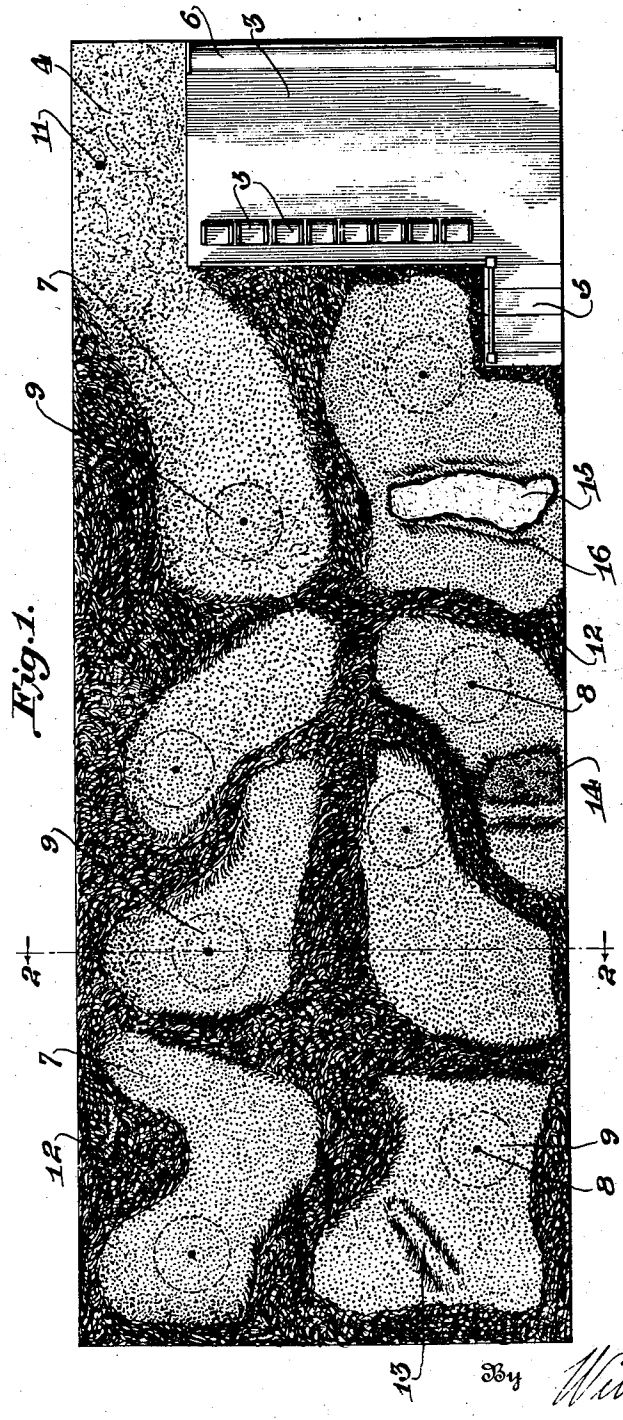


Fig. 1.

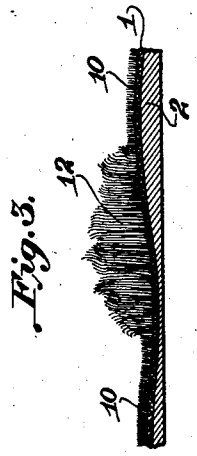


Fig. 3.

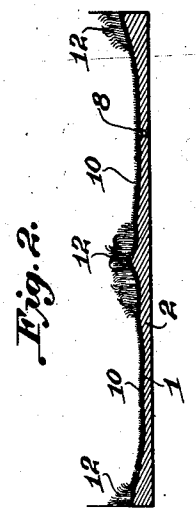


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDOOR GOLF GAME.

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This invention relates to improvements in amusement devices, especially, to improvements in the game of golf, having for an object to provide a novel and realistic form of indoor golf course and game of such size, construction and arrangement as will permit of its installation within the room of a building of comparatively confined or limited area, the course when finished, simulating in its general "layout" the usual outdoor regulation golf course, in that, it comprehends a novel formation of material giving an effectual and faithful reproduction of the rough, fairways, putting greens, hazards and traps of a regulation course and hence, permits players thereupon to perfect their skill at playing the game to a marked degree in addition to affording them with an absorbing and sportive amusement device.

Another and equally important object of the invention is to provide an indoor golf course of the character described, wherein a rug-like material is employed to constitute the course proper, the same being provided with nap, fibers or similar surfacing of different lengths throughout its area, simulating the rough, hazards, putting greens and like features of a regulation outdoor golf course.

Other objects of the invention will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

In order that the invention and its mode of operation may be readily understood by persons skilled in the art, I have in the accompanying illustrative drawings and in the detailed following description based thereon, set out one practical embodiment of the invention.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved golf course,

Figure 2 is a transverse section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 looking in the direction in which the arrows point, and

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary detail in section showing the arrangement of the outer surface of the rug-like covering of the floor with its nap or fibers of different lengths, thus constituting the putting green and the rough.

Having more particular reference to the drawings in connection with which like characters of reference will designate corresponding parts throughout, it is to be understood that my improved game is especially adapted for installation in a single rectangular room or hall having greater length than width, although manifestly, the game may be successfully installed in various places of a confined or limited nature whether roofed or unroofed.

The course proper is constituted by means of a rug-like covering indicated in its entirety at this time by the numeral 1, said covering being of fabric or of other suitable material, such as conditions or preference may dictate, being laid smoothly over an irregular supporting surface 2, built or otherwise provided for within the room or other area to receive the game, thus giving to the course, the usual rolling "layout" commonly found in the regulation outdoor golf course.

If desired, a platform 3 may be used, arranged adjacent one end of the course 1, adjacent the "tee-off" position 4 thereon; steps 5 leading from one side of the course onto said platform while chairs 5′ may be arranged adjacent the forward side thereof and a bench 6 adjacent the rearward portion thereof. Of course, it is to be quite fully understood in this connection, that various arrangements of chairs benches or similar devices may be effected upon the platform 3 as conditions or preference may require.

A plurality of juxtaposed or comparatively adjoining fairway areas generally indicated at this time by the numeral 7 are formed throughout the complete area of the course or covering 1 and within each of these juxtaposed areas 7, holes or putting cups 8 into which the ball is to be played, are arranged, as is clearly shown in the Figure 1, said areas 7 being of irregular and different formations throughout, thus simulating the corresponding portions of a regulation outdoor golf course. Putting greens 9 are also provided upon each of these areas 7 about the holes or putting cups 8. The complete game is preferably installed in a relatively long room or hall so that the various fairway areas 7 may be of greater length than width. The length of these areas 7 may vary, but do not overlap so that more than one player or groups of players may make use of the game at the same time the same as in a regular golf course played in the open.

These areas 7, together with their respective putting greens 9 are formed upon the

surface of the covering 1 of relatively closely arranged short fibres, nap or similar means designated at 10, those fibres or the nap adjacent the putting greens 9 being so arranged as to give an effect simulating that of the regulation outdoor putting green, and of course being formed with a plane and substantially level surface. The remaining portions of these areas 7, that is, without the putting greens 9 may be formed of similar fibers, that is, fibers of comparatively short lengths and rather stiff formation in order that a golf ball played in the game may be putted or propelled thereover with a certain degree of accuracy, yet with sufficient hazard to simulate of the playing of a regulation outdoor game, of this character. However, if desired, the fibers upon those portions of the areas 7 without their respective putting greens 9 may be slightly longer or may be of a slightly more flexible nature whereby to offer greater impedance or difficulty to the advancement of the ball being played thereover onto the desired putting green. At this point, it is to be noted that with start of playing of the indoor game, that portion of the area 7 designated by the numeral 4 is employed as a "tee-off" or start, the starting tee being designated herein for the purpose of convenience by the numeral 11. Likewise, it is to be noted that the various areas 7 are arranged in approximately adjoining relation so as to permit the playing of the ball from one to the other in sequestial order until the full number of holes represented in the course have been properly played. Those portions of the covering or course 1 without the areas 7 constitute the so-called "rough" of the course and to effectually simulate this rough with respect to the rough of a regulation out-door course, fibers, nap or similar matter 12 is formed upon the outer surface of said covering 1 in the manner as well shown in the Figure 3, these fibers or similar material being of lengths greater than the lengths of the aforesaid fibres 10 and naturally, of greater flexibility. In this connection, it is to be noted with interest, that the fibers 12 are upstanding or approximately upstanding and by reason of the fact that they are of greater length and consequently, give greater flexure, it will be appreciated that with the playing of a ball into this "rough", greater impedance will be offered to its successful playing or advancement over the course, thereby affording the player with those difficulties experienced at times when a ball upon an open regulation outdoor course is played into the rough or into hazards. In this connection, it will be noted that the longer fibers 12, termed herein the "rough" are arranged between each of the areas 7 utilizing the shorter fibers 10, and thus, upon the skill of a player of the game, will depend the expediency upon which the play be performed.

Various forms of hazards may be placed throughout the course, for example, upon the areas 7. For illustration, bunkers 13 may be arranged upon said areas 7 by raising the supporting device 2 therefor so as to give the necessary rise to the surface of the covering 1 or if not this, then the fibers upon the particular areas 7 receiving such bunkers may be lengthened to such an extent as to offer the desired hazard. Likewise, sand traps 14 may be incorporated in the course upon the areas 7 and if desired, may be surrounded or partly surrounded by "rough", "bunkers" or similar other hazards. A water hazard 15 is likewise preferably incorporated in the course by placing a suitable receptacle or forming a water retaining recess within the supporting surface 2, and like bunkers or similar hazards 16 arranged upon the opposite sides thereof, as through the rasing of the surface of the covering 1 upon its support 2 or by lengthening the fibres of the adjacent portion of this particular receiving area 7. In various ways, the difficulty of traversing the course may be increased or decreased, such as conditions or preference may dictate and by the irregular and somewhat interfitting arrangement of the separated yet juxtaposed areas 7, it will be appreciated that the course will give to the player, ample opportunity for the playing of the same in par and yet, sufficient area for the utilizing of strokes above par with the misplaying thereof. In this way, the skill and proficiency of a player of the game is materially increased in that his putting ability will be rendered more proficient by the driving of the ball over the areas 7, and likewise, that the ball must be lifted to be successfully played from one area 7 to another over the rough without going thereinto.

The steps 5 as will be noted are adjacent the finishing end of the course and offer an efficient way of egress therefrom.

It will be understood that in the playing of my improved indoor golf game, those rules, regulations or requirements incident to the playing of the regulation outdoor game are strictly adhered to, while of course, the driving of the ball for any material distance is precluded by reason of the confined nature of the course, the ball may be played over said course in a manner closely simulating the actual playing of the same upon an outdoor course. In fact, the game will offer a highly efficient means for permitting the bettering or improving of the putting skill of a player. Likewise, in playing the game, regulation equipment is utilized, that is, golf balls and clubs of regulation and recognized style and design

are employed. Thus, it will be understood that a player of the indoor course will be permitted to materially improve his skill in the game and such improvement will be had with regulation equipment rather than with special equipment used in some forms of indoor golf courses at this time.

Manifestly, the construction shown is capable of considerable modification, and such modification as is within the scope of my claims, I consider within the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. An indoor golf game comprising a covering having upstanding and approximately upstanding fibers on its outer surface, a supporting means for said covering being irregular throughout its area and adapted to have the covering smoothly arranged thereover, a plurality of juxtaposed fairway areas on the covering wherein the fibers thereof are of comparatively short lengths and comparatively inflexible, appropriately designated putting greens on such areas having ball playing holes therein, hazards formed on portions of said areas, and the remaining portion of said outer surface of the material between said areas being formed of fibers of greater lengths.

2. An indoor golf game comprising an irregular supporting means, a covering material smoothly arranged over said irregular supporting means, having upstanding and approximately upstanding fibers on its outer surface, a plurality of juxtaposed fairway areas thereon wherein the fibers of the same are of comparatively short lengths and approximately inflexible, portions of the fibers on these areas having greater flexure than other portions of the same, appropriately designated putting greens on such areas having ball playing holes therein, hazards on the areas, certain of said hazards being formed by raising the covering material upon its supporting means and others of said hazards being formed by lengthening the fibers of the adjacent portions of said areas of the covering material, and the remaining portions of said outer surface of the covering material between the aforesaid areas being formed with fibers of greater length and greater flexure.

3. An indoor golf game comprising a rectangular supporting base having an irregular surface, a covering arranged over said irregular surface having fibers projecting from the outer face thereof, a plurality of juxtaposed and irregular fairway areas upon said covering wherein the fibers of the same are of comparatively short lengths, said fairway areas being of greater length than width and completely separated from one another, and said covering having fibers of greater length than the first mentioned fibers extending about and between said fairway areas.

4. An indoor golf game comprising a rectangular supporting base having an irregular surface, a covering arranged over said surface having fibers of various lengths projecting from the outer face thereof, a line of fibers arranged upon the medial portion of and extending throughout the entire length of said covering, a plurality of irregular fairways arranged on each side of said line of fibers having fibers of shorter lengths, each fairway area having a starting tee, hazards, and putting green area therein and an elevated platform arranged at one end of said supporting base.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

LIONEL L. MEYER.