

No. 883,058.

PATENTED MAR. 24, 1908.

A. R. SPRAGUE.  
APPARATUS FOR GOLF PRACTICE.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 19, 1907.

*Fig. 1.*

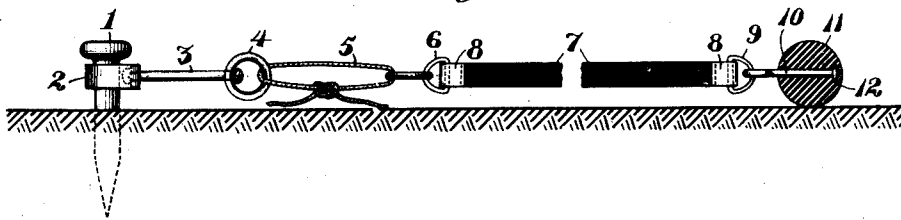


*Fig. 2.*

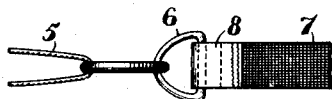
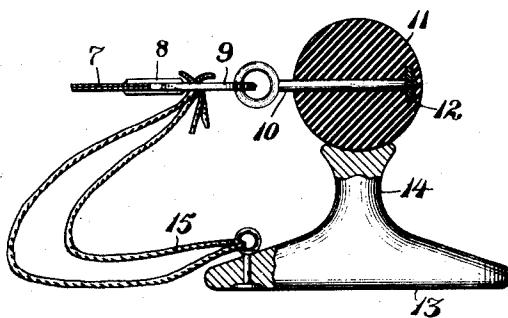


*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



WITNESSES:

*F. C. Griedner*

*F. M. Bartel*

INVENTOR

*A. R. Sprague*

BY

*Spear & Seely*  
ATTORNEYS

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

## APPARATUS FOR GOLF PRACTICE.

No. 883,058.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 24, 1908.

Application filed April 19, 1907. Serial No. 369,121.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE, citizen of the United States, residing at Sacramento, in the county of Sacramento, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Golf Practice, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates generally to exercising apparatus, and more particularly to a device by the use of which expertness can be acquired in different strokes employed in the game of golf, in far less time than is possible by practice on the links.

It is especially adapted to enable beginners to acquire the art of hitting the ball with the different clubs without the waste of time required in following up the ball after each stroke. Upon the open links the learner can make comparatively few strokes in a long afternoon of practice; while by the use of my invention, in which the ball is confined to certain limits, the strokes can be repeated in quick succession.

My invention will be readily understood from the following description, which is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings, which show one practical form in which such invention can be embodied.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the entire apparatus. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail elevation of the connection between the elastic part of the device and the means for changing the radius of action. Fig. 3 is a plan view of part of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a section of the ball showing a means for connecting it to the remainder of the apparatus.

In any convenient place a stake or pin 1 forming a pivot, is driven firmly into the ground nearly to its head. Encircling the stake just above the ground is a loose ring 2 in which plays freely one end of the swivel bolt 3, the other end of which is swiveled in a ring 4. An adjustable and flexible connection extends from ring 4 to a bail or clevis 6. This connection is shown as a strong cord 5 adjustable as to length by having its ends tied at any point desired; but a strap adjustable as to length by an ordinary buckle can be substituted for the cord as will be readily understood. The cord or strap can be connected to the clevis 6 either directly or by means of the intermediate ring shown.

To the clevis 6 is secured another flexible connection which is wholly or partially

elastic. I have shown a length of elastic webbing 7, the ends of which are preferably stitched firmly to leather loops 8 through one of which passes the clevis 6, and through the other a similar clevis 9. For the full length of elastic webbing shown can be substituted a cord of elastic rubber, as well as a length of non-elastic material containing an elastic section. For the elastic part of the connection, I have also used a heavy endless rubber band with good results. To the clevis 9 is connected an eyebolt 10 which is embedded in the ball 11, and is shown as having its farther end upset over a washer 12, and preferably recessed in the ball, which makes a secure fastening.

I have shown in Fig. 4, as part of the apparatus a tee to support the ball when certain strokes are being practiced. This can be made of any suitable material, soft rubber being preferred, and it comprises a sufficiently wide base 13, from which rises a short standard 14, the upper end of which is slightly cup-shaped to receive the ball without interfering with the stroke. This tee is connected to some convenient part of the apparatus, such as the clevis 9, by a short cord 15, and can be detached if desired. When attached, it follows the motion of the rest of the apparatus, and forms a convenient attachment, especially when the apparatus is used indoors.

In using this apparatus, the connection between the stake and ball is adjusted to give the desired radius of action, a longer radius being used for the heavier strokes, such as the driving stroke. The ball is placed in proper position for the stroke to be practiced as directly upon the ground or upon a tee. It is then struck with the proper club, causing it and the parts in connection with it, to make one or more revolutions around the stake. Of course the stroke can be obtained in a short time. The elastic part of the flexible connection takes up the jar caused by the stroke, relieves the connection of much of the strain which a non-elastic connection would permit, and thus prolongs the life of the apparatus. The double swivel joint, which permits all the parts to rotate upon their longitudinal axis, prevents any twisting of the cord or of the elastic, and the same facility of rotation, with special reference to the ball, permits some strokes such as the lofting stroke to be

practiced, which could not be easily done without a free rotary motion being allowed to the ball.

I do not limit myself to the precise construction and arrangement herein described and shown in the drawing.

What I claim is:

1. In an apparatus of the class described, a stake having an enlarged head, a ring loosely embracing the stake below the head, a bar 3 having a swivel connection with the ring, a ring 4 swiveled on the bar 3, a clevis 6, an adjustable and flexible connection between the clevis 6 and ring 4, a piece of elastic webbing 7, leather loops secured to each end thereof one of which is connected

to the clevis 6, a clevis 9 connected to the other loop, a ball and an eyebolt secured therein and connected with the clevis 9.

2. In an apparatus for golf practice, the combination with a stake, a ball, and a flexible connection between them, of a ball-support or tee adapted to be detachably secured to said connection.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses this 22nd day of March 1907.

ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE.

Witnesses:

CLARA GRIGGS,  
R. L. SHINN.