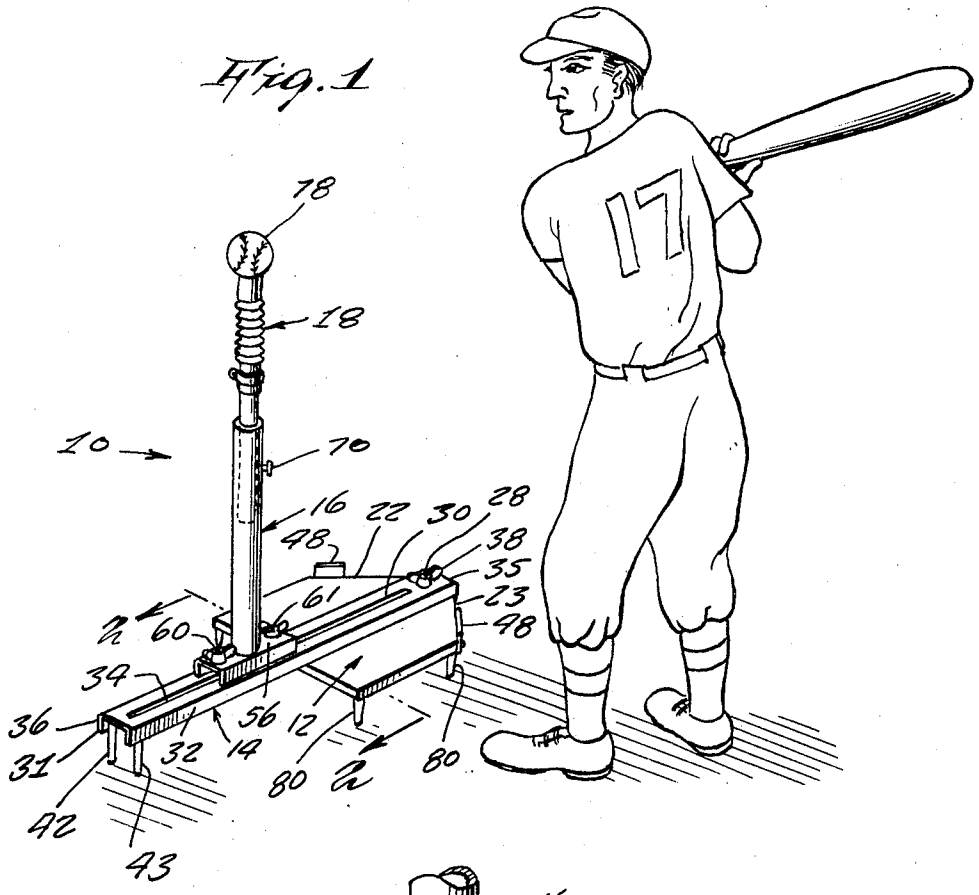
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COACHES BATTING AID

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Fig. 1



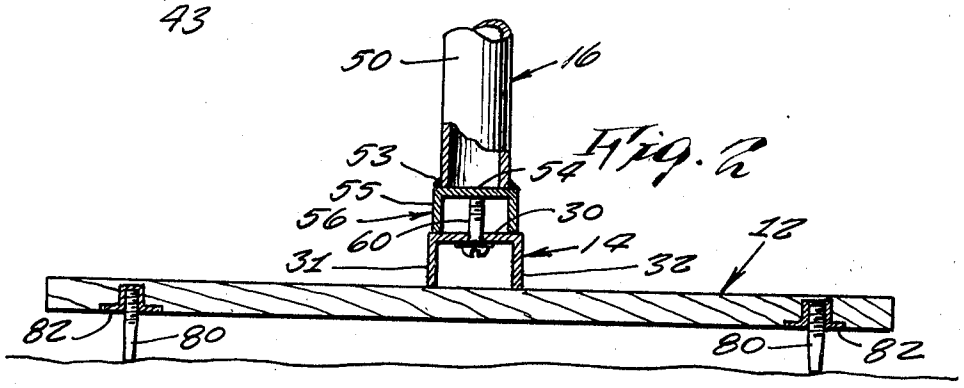


Fig. 2

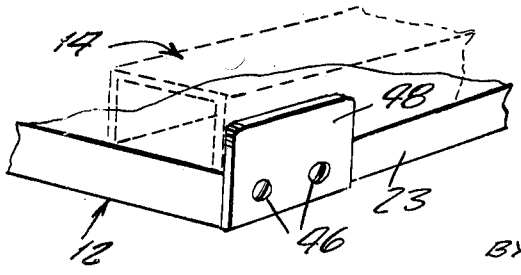


Fig. 3

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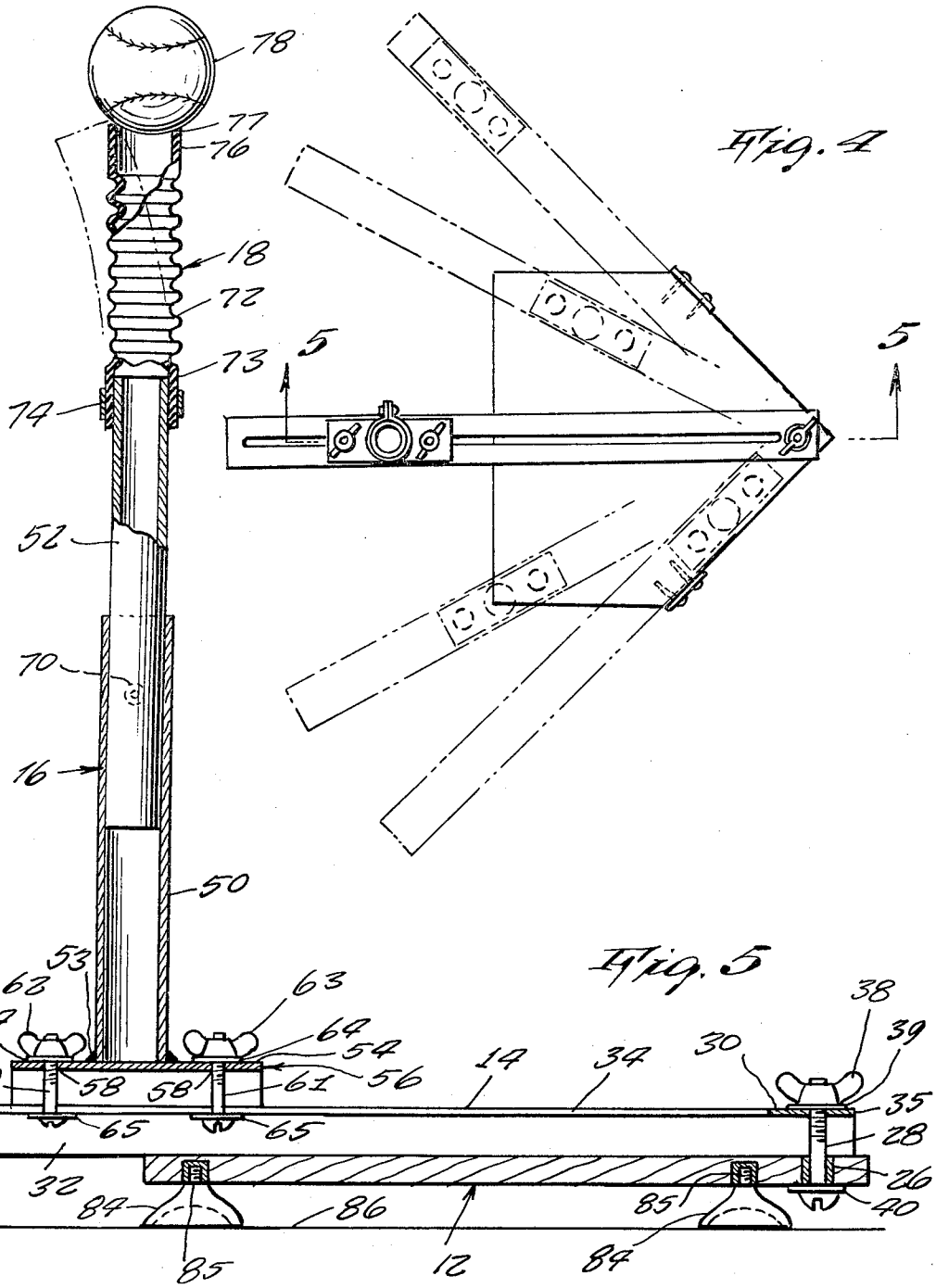


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

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COACHES BATTING AID

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Int. Cl. A63b 69/00
U.S. Cl. 273—26 8 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A batting teaching device for baseball batting practice having a base and an elongated support horizontally positioned on the top side of the base. The horizontal support carries a vertical telescoping tubular pedestal which is vertically adjustable and which also is horizontally adjustable lengthwise of the support. The upper end of the tubular pedestal has affixed thereto the lower end of a co-axial flexible hose which at its upper end is adapted to support a baseball. The horizontal support is angularly adjustable on the base. The underside of the base is provided either with spikes for outdoor use or suction cups for indoor use.

This invention relates to a baseball batting practice device and as its primary object serves as a tracking aid to baseball coaches in giving practice to players in hitting the ball out in front of the plate and on the inside and outside corners of the plate.

Another object of this invention relates to providing a home plate base which carries a pivoted horizontal support that is angularly adjustable and on which is mounted for longitudinal adjustment therealong an upstanding telescoping tubular pedestal having affixed to its upper end a flexible hose adapted to seat a baseball on its uppermost free end.

A further object of the invention relates to having the pedestal adjustable as to its height and the provision of limit stops at each side of the home plate for limiting the angular adjustment of the horizontal support.

A still further object of the invention relates to provide the under side of the home plate base with removable spikes for securing the base on the ground when the device is used outdoors which spikes may be replaced with suction cups for securing the base on a floor surface when the device is to be used indoors.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, our invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that change may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view showing the batting device in position for use.

FIGURE 2 is a partial cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2, FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a detail view of a limit stop.

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of the home plate base with angularly adjustable horizontal pedestal support thereon.

FIGURE 5 is a vertical elevational view partly in section of the batting device.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the batting device **10** is shown in its entirety in FIGURE 1 and is seen to consist of a base **12**, a horizontal support **14**, and a pedestal **16** topped by a flexible baseball carrier **18**.

The base **12** may be made of plywood or metal in the shape and dimensions of a home plate having parallel

sides **20**, **21**, rear inclined sides **22**, **23** and front side **24**. The rear point **25** of the base **12** lies in the longitudinal medial axis of the base. Inwardly of the rear base point **25** there is provided in the base **12** a bushing **26** that is suitably fixed therein for the reception of a bolt **28**, see FIGURE 5, for a purpose to be hereinafter described.

The horizontal support **14** is a metal channel member, preferably aluminum, disposed with its web **30** uppermost and with the edges of its legs **31**, **32** engaging the upper surface of base **12**. The horizontal support **14** is of a length considerably greater than the longitudinal length of base **12** and is provided in its web **30** with a longitudinal slot **34** the ends of which terminate adjacent the ends **35**, **36** of the support. Provided in the web **30** adjacent end **35** is an opening **37** through which bolt **28** extends. A wing nut **38** on the projecting end of bolt **28** seats on washer **39** to clamp the horizontal support **14** in fixed adjusted position on the base **12**. A like washer **40** is provided under the head of bolt **28**. A pair of legs **42**, **43** depend from the inside of web **30** adjacent end **36** and are rigidly secured thereto in any desired manner. The legs **42**, **43** are of a length such as to support the front end of the horizontal support **14** on the surface on which the base **12** rests. The angular position of the horizontal support **14** may be adjusted to that desired by loosening wing nut **38** and swinging the support **14** about bolt **28** to the selected position, at which it is clamped in place by tightening the wing nut **38**. Secured as by screws **46** to each of the inclined sides **22**, **23** of the base **12** is an upstanding limit plate or stop **48** which as shown in FIGURES 3 and 4 serves to limit the outward angular adjustment of the horizontal support **14**.

The pedestal **16** consists of a lower metal tube **50** and an upper metal tube **52** telescoping therewithin. The lower end of tube **50** is rigidly secured as by welds **53** to the upper surface of web **54** of an inverted channel member **55** providing a pedestal base **56**. The channel member **55** is of a width slightly less than the width of horizontal channel support **14**, see FIGURES 1, 2 and 4, so as to insure that the edges of its legs will wholly engage the web **30** of horizontal support **14**. The lower tube **50** extends vertical upwardly from the pedestal base **56**. Provided in the web **54** adjacent each end thereof is a bolt receiving opening **58**. Extending upwardly through slot **34** and through openings **58** are a pair of bolts **60**, **61**, carrying on their outer ends wing nuts **62**, **63** and washers **64**. Like washers **65** are disposed under the heads of bolts **60**, **61**. As is apparent, the pedestal base **56** is movable along the horizontal support **14** and is locked in its selected adjusted position by the wing nuts **62**, **63** and bolts **60**, **61**.

The lower tube **50** carries a set screw **70** for locking the upper telescoping tube **52** in selected vertical position relative to tube **50**.

The flexible baseball carrier **18** is preferably a rubber corrugated hose **72** the lower end **73** of which is slipped over the upper end of upper tube **52** and is secured thereto as by a conventional hose clamp **74**. The terminal edge of the upper end **76** of hose **72** lies in a plane normal to the axis of the hose and may be chamfered to provide a seat **77** for a baseball **78**. The rubber hose **72** will flex when the baseball **78** is hit acting as a shock absorber, and will also give in the event the player misses hitting the baseball and hits the hose thereby preventing damage to the batting device.

In the use of the batting device the pedestal **16** is adjusted so as to place the baseball **78** at the proper height and distance from the base **12** (home plate), in the manner readily apparent, by the respective movement to selected positions of upper tube **52** and pedestal base **56**. This will place baseball **78** in the desired location with relation to the player, see FIGURE 1, practicing on the

batting device. Also the pedestal **16** may be positioned by selectively varying the angular position of the horizontal support **14**, see FIGURE 4. The batting device when practiced thereon will teach the player to hit inside pitches, outside pitches as well as to hit the baseball out in front of the base (home plate). The batting device may be used either by a right or left hand player.

When the batting device **10** is used outdoors the base **12** is provided on its underside with a plurality of spikes **80** disposed at the corners of the base to penetrate into the ground so as to hold the base in fixed position. Provided in the base **12** at each corner thereof, see FIGURE 2, is a flanged internally threaded socket **82** secured in the base **12** in any desired manner. The upper ends of the spikes **80** are each threaded for engagement within an associated socket for ready attachment thereto or detachment therefrom.

When it is desired to use the batting device indoors, the spikes **80** are removed from sockets **82** and replaced with suction cups **84**, each having a threaded stem **85** for engagement within an associated socket. The vacuum cups **84** will securely hold the base **12** on a floor surface **86**, see FIGURE 5.

While certain novel features of my invention have been shown and described and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A baseball practice batting device comprising:
(a) a base,
(b) an elongated horizontal support seated on said base and pivoted at one end to a rear portion of said base,
(c) means at said rear portion of said base securing said horizontal support in selected fixed angular positions on said base and about which said horizontal support pivots,
(d) a pedestal longitudinally adjustable on said horizontal support and extending vertically upwardly therefrom,
(e) a flexible baseball carrier secured to the upper end of said pedestal,
(f) an annular seat on said flexible carrier for receiving a baseball thereon,
wherein:
(g) said base is in the form of a home plate having rearwardly inclined sides to provide a rear pointed end,
(h) said horizontal support is of a length exceeding the longitudinal length of said base such as to extend beyond the front side thereof,
wherein:
(i) said horizontal support is a channel member having its web uppermost,
(j) there being a longitudinal slot in said web terminating adjacent the forward and rear ends of said channel member horizontal support,
(k) said securing means being disposed adjacent the rear pointed end of said base and connected to the rear end of said channel member horizontal support, and

(l) bolt means extending through said longitudinal slot connected to said pedestal and providing with said slot the longitudinal adjustment of said pedestal to selected positions on said horizontal support.

2. The batting device of claim **1**, wherein said pedestal includes:
(a) a pedestal base seated on said channel member horizontal support,
(b) there being bolt receiving openings in said pedestal base through which said bolt means extend, and
(c) a wing nut on each bolt means coacting therewith to clamp said pedestal base to said channel member horizontal support.

3. The batting device of claim **2**, wherein:
(a) said securing means comprises a bolt member extending upwardly from said base and through the rear end of said channel member horizontal support, and
(b) a wing nut on said bolt member coacting therewith to clamp said horizontal support to said base.

4. The batting device of claim **3**, including:
(a) a stop member secured to each of the rearwardly inclined sides of said base and extending above the upper surface thereof for limiting the outward angular adjustment of the channel member horizontal support.

5. The batting device of claim **4**, wherein said pedestal comprises:
(a) a lower tube,
(b) an upper tube telescoping within the lower tube,
(c) said lower tube having its lower end secured to said pedestal base, and
(d) means carried by one of said tubes for locking said tubes in selected telescoping relation.

6. The batting device of claim **5**, wherein said flexible baseball carrier comprises:
(a) a flexible and resilient non-metallic hose member,
(b) a clamp fastener means securing the lower end of said hose member to the upper end of said upper tube, and
(c) the upper terminal end of said hose member forming said annular seat for the baseball.

7. The batting device of claim **6**, including:
(a) a plurality of socket means on the underside of said base, and
(b) a securing member connected to each socket means and readily attachable to and detachable therefrom.

8. The batting device of claim **7**, wherein:
(a) each said socket means is internally threaded, and
(b) each said securing member is a threaded spike, whereby
when said spikes are attached to the base the batting device may be anchored to the ground for outdoor use and when the batting device is to be used indoors, the spikes may be replaced by vacuum cups.

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RICHARD C. PINKHAM, Primary Examiner
T. BROWN, Assistant Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,489,411 Dated January 13, 1970

Inventor(s) DOMINICK J. MORELLI, ET. AL.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 1, lines 4, 5 and 6, cancel "assignors to Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nurnberg, Aktiengesellschaft, Augsburg, Germany, a corporation of Germany" .

Signed and sealed this 6th day of August 1974.

(SEAL)
Attest:

McCOY M. GIBSON, JR.
Attesting Officer

C. MARSHALL DANN
Commissioner of Patents