July 7, 1925. 1,545,329

A. L. JOHNSTON, JR

GOLF GAME

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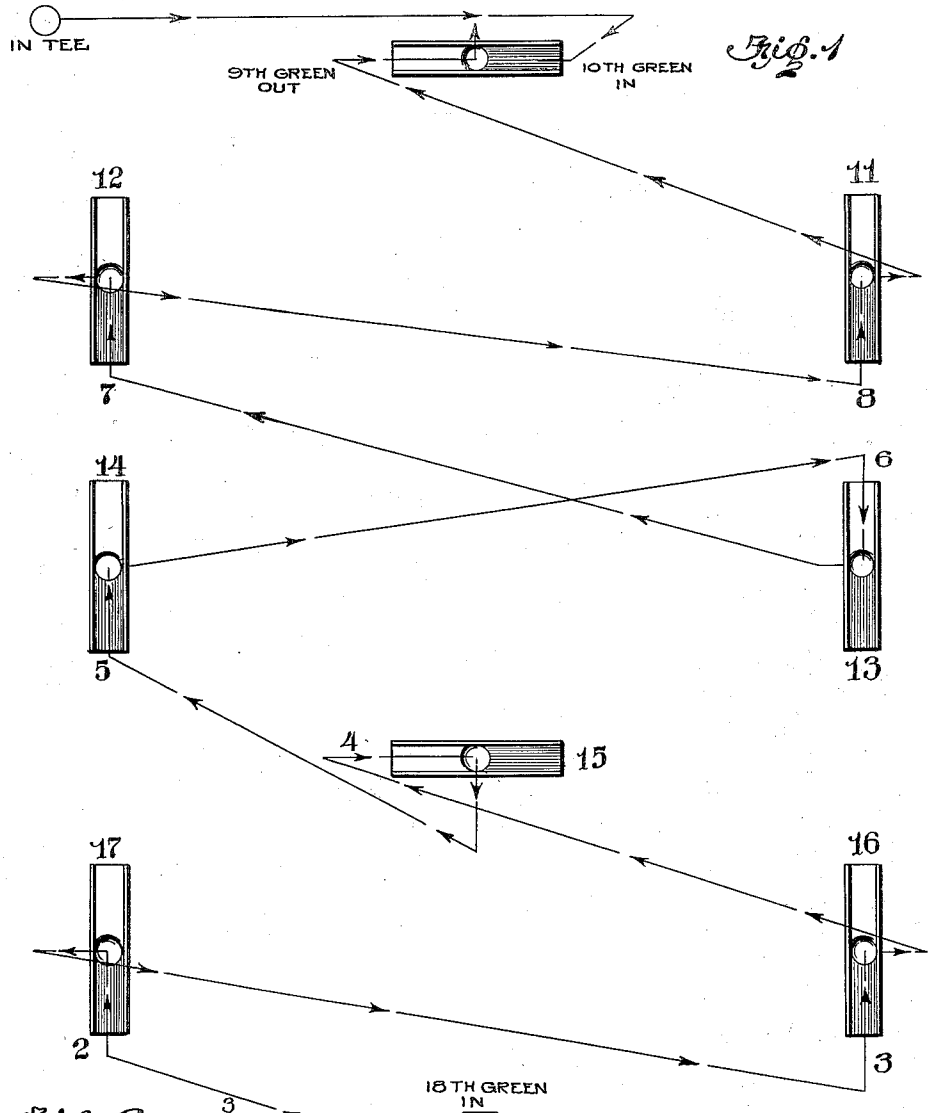


Fig. 1

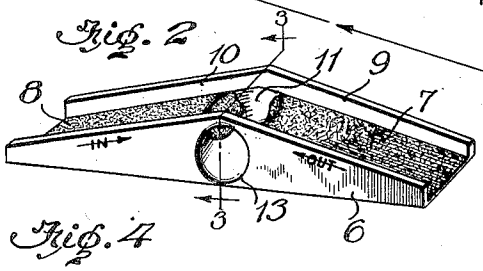


Fig. 2

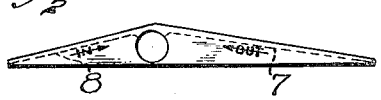


Fig. 4

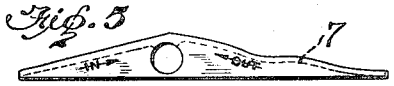


Fig. 5

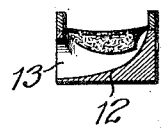


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOLF GAME.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW LANGSTAFF JOHNSTON, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Golf Games; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to improvements in games and relates more particularly to a golf game.

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved game which may be played with the usual golf ball and a golf putter or other appropriate club in which skill in the use of this club will be developed and in which interest and amusement will be had from the playing of the game.

Another object of the invention consists in providing a game which may be played either in doors or outdoors and in which the pieces for the game will be few, simple and inexpensive and capable of being packed in relatively small space.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the drawings, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts throughout the several views,—

Figure 1 shows a plan view of a golf course laid out in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the game pieces.

Figure 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3—3 in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a side view of a modification, and

Figure 5 is a similar view of a further modified form.

Referring more particularly to the drawings and for the present particularly to Figures 2 and 3, 6 represents generally one of the game pieces which may consist of a block of wood or other appropriate material, the block being made up of one or more pieces and being relatively high at its central portion with inclined runways 7 and 8 sloping from the high central part downwardly and divergently to a point where the runways are at approximately the floor or ground line. The block is elongated in the direction of the runways, the runways being in alinement and there preferably being flanges 9 and 10 at the sides of the runways, the flanges being of any desired height necessary to retain the golf ball upon the runways, and to avoid its escape over either side of the block. At the high intermediate portion of the block is the golf cup or hole 11 having opposite half portions extending into the two runways so that a ball coming up either side of the block will have an equal tendency to drop in the hole or cup 11. This hole or cup opens out at right angles or through the side wall of the block as shown in Figure 3 and a sloping or curved bottom 12 is provided to guide the ball to the exit opening 13. The exit opening is substantially at ground or floor level so that the ball is given an impetus away from the game piece.

In Figure 4 the parts are the same and are similarly numbered except that the high point of the block is not in the center thereof but is off set to one side of the center so that the runway 8 is considerably shorter, and incidentally steeper, as compared with the companion runway 7.

In Figure 5 the same general arrangement is preserved except that the runway 7 at one side is given a wave-like form to resemble the sloping character of many golf greens.

The game may be played in the manner indicated in Figure 1 in which nine of the game pieces are provided. The players begin at the lower right hand corner of the drawing at the place marked "Out tee." The ball is placed on the floor or grass at this point and a usual golf putter or other golf club may be used to propel the ball in the direction shown by the line and toward the end of game piece number one marked "1st Green out." It will require at least one stroke to drive the ball from the first tee to a point in line with the first runway of the game piece and another stroke to drive it up this runway so that the par for this first hole might be considered two. When the ball falls in the cup or hole it will be diverted to the right as shown by the arrow. Thereafter the player is required to put the ball into that side of the game piece marked two which is connected with the first game piece by the line. The player then

proceeds according to the line connecting the second game piece or green with that marked number three and thence on up to the ninth game piece at the top part of the drawing. In coming in the player tees off at the point at the upper left hand corner of the drawing marked "In tee" and the opposite runways are used in coming in. These runways are indicated as 10 to 18 so that with nine game pieces an eighteen hole course is provided.

It will be appreciated that the lay-out of Figure 1 is merely by way of example. The game pieces might be arranged in many other relative positions and they might be placed closer to or farther from each other. As the experience and skill of the player dictate, the game pieces may be placed in more difficult positions. The playing of this game is found to be highly interesting and it is also instructive in the use of golf clubs particularly the putter. For more advanced students of the game some such forms as shown in Figures 4 and 5 may be used, the "roll" on the green varying in inclination and steepness on the runways and in the length of the runways offers tests of skill. Of course if the ball is driven too hard it will jump over the hole just as an ordinary golf ball will hop over the cup unless it is given top spin or unless its force is substantially spent when it arrives at the hole. In the same manner the wave-like character or the other differences in the runways will present tests for the skill of the golfer in driving the ball so that it will drop into the hole 11 without jumping across the same and rolling down the opposite runway.

It will probably be desirable to cover the runways with felt or some such material as indicated in Figures 2 and 3. The felt will bear a closer similarity to an actual golf putting green. The felt will probably also overlap the rim of the hole 11 as shown in order to deaden the shock of the ball in entering the same and to prevent it from richochetting out. The arrangement of felt also helps in making the ball roll free from the hole. The bottom of the hole is not covered with felt as a better rolling surface is obtained on the hard wood. Arrows are preferably put upon the side of the block as shown in Figure 2 and the words "In" and "Out" are preferably associated with the arrows as appears so that one can follow the course as shown in Figure 1.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. A game piece comprising a block having a centrally disposed elevated portion, inclined runways extending therefrom, said runways being provided with a hole opening downwardly, and said hole having an inclined bottom communicating with an opening in the side of the block.

2. A game piece comprising a block having a centrally disposed elevated portion, inclined runways meeting at said elevated portion and provided with a hole at their meeting point, the block being further provided with a hole in one of its side faces intermediate the elevated portion and its base, the holes being connected by a common inclined wall serving to eject a ball deposited in the first mentioned hole laterally from the block in a predetermined direction.

3. A golf game comprising a number of game pieces each having sloping runways provided with holes at the upper portions of the runways, said holes opening downwardly and communicating with holes through the sides of the game pieces and an inclined wall connecting the holes for directing the golf ball away from the game piece after it falls in the hole.

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