

July 1, 1941.

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2,247,501

GOLF PRACTICE SCORING DEVICE

Filed June 6, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

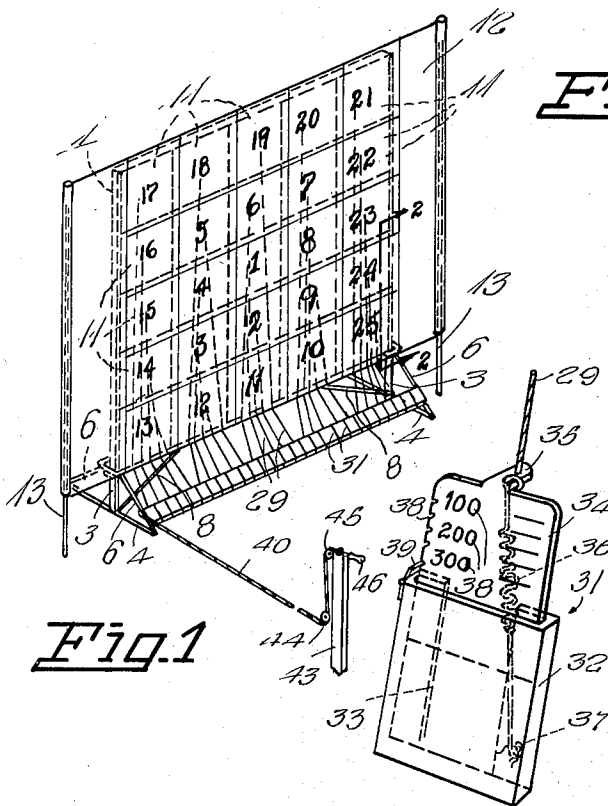


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

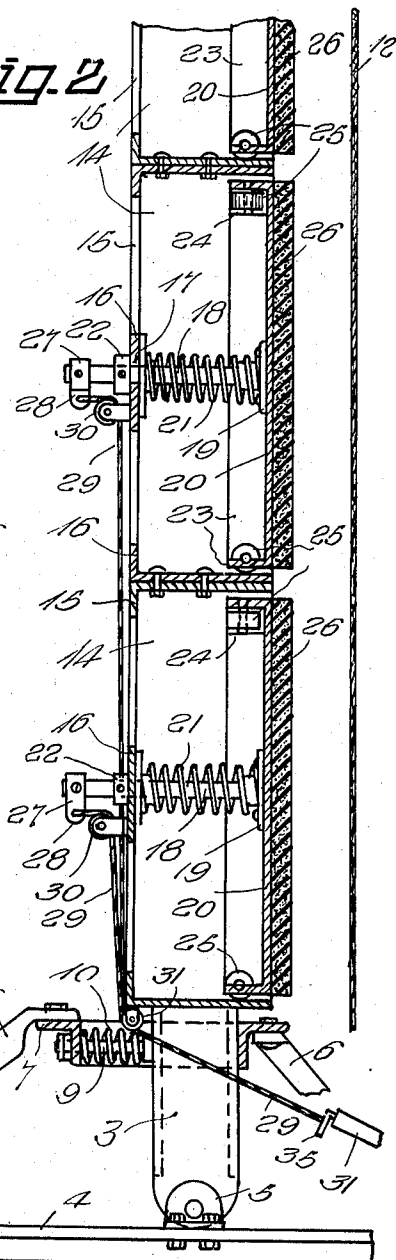


Fig. 3

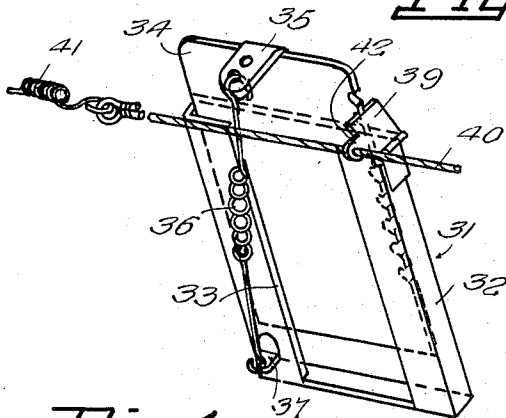


Fig. 4

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

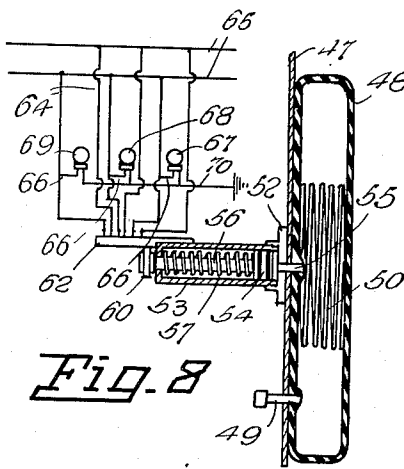


Fig. 8

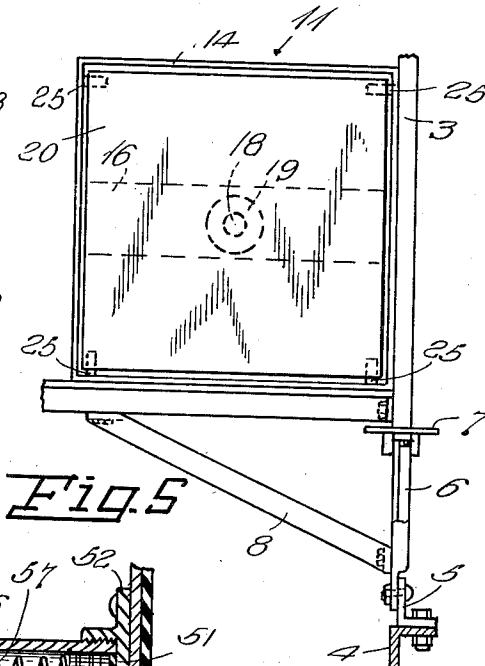


Fig. 5

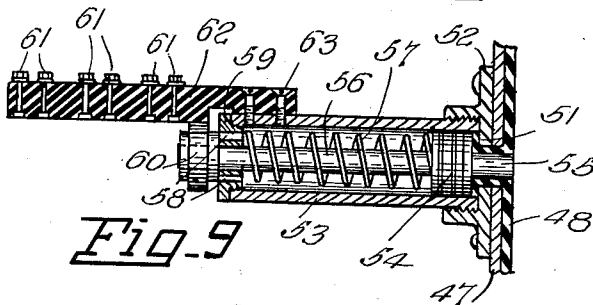


Fig. 9

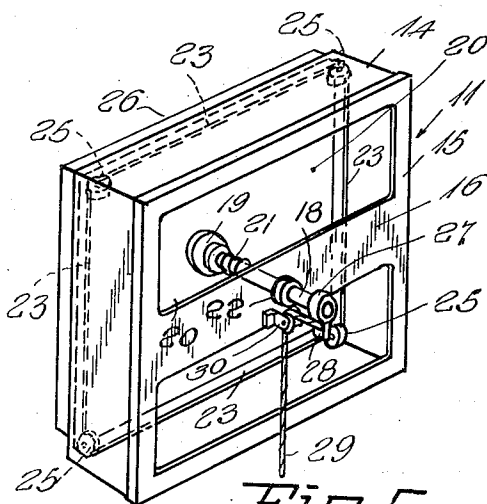


Fig. 6

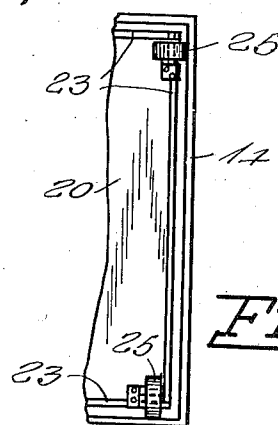


Fig. 7

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GOLF PRACTICE SCORING DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273-35)

This invention relates to a game apparatus and more particularly to a golf practice scoring device, it being one object of the invention to provide a device of this character adapted to be set up at a predetermined distance from a driving station and constitute a target at which golf balls are driven, the target being of such construction that when it is hit by a golf ball it will be actuated to indicate the distance the golf ball would have been driven in actual play.

Another object of the invention is to provide a target consisting of a plurality of sections adapted to be shifted out of their normal positions when struck by a golf ball and actuate a scoring device to indicate the number of yards the golf ball would have traveled without striking the target.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this character wherein the sections of the target are arranged in rows extending horizontally and vertically in an upright frame and each includes in its construction a housing and a face plate urged forwardly to its normal position and adapted to be shifted rearwardly when struck by a golf ball and exert pull on a line for shifting a scoring card to a position indicating the length of a drive.

Another object of the invention is to so mount the face plates that they may move easily in their housings when struck by a golf ball and returned to their normal positions after shifting a scoring card to an adjusted position.

Another object of the invention is to so mount the frame in which the target sections are mounted that it will be yieldably held upright but may be shifted rearwardly to absorb shocks when one of the target sections or members is struck by a golf ball.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved scoring device wherein a score card is shifted vertically in a box-like frame carrying a latch for releasably holding the card in adjusted position when shifted upwardly to indicate the length of a drive, means being provided for releasing the latch from a distance and there also being provided means for returning the card to a lowered position when released.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this character wherein electrical means may be provided for indicating the distance a golf ball is driven.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved device.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale taken vertically on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view looking at the front of the score card and its housing.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view looking at the rear of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a view showing a fragment of the target in front elevation.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view looking at the back of one of the target members.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view showing a side portion of Fig. 6 with the rear wall removed.

Fig. 8 is a view partly diagrammatic and partly in section, of a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged sectional view of the modified form of the invention.

This improved registering device is for use on a practice golf course or at an amusement resort, and includes in its construction a frame 1 having side bars, and upper and lower cross bars, the lower cross bar 2 being spaced upwardly from lower ends of the side bars so that the lower portions of the side bars constitute legs having base bars 4 at their lower ends with which they are pivotally connected by brackets 5 located midway the length of the base bars. Bracing bars 6 extend at an upward incline from front and rear ends of the base bars and, at their inner ends, are secured to ends of an elongated yoke 7 extending horizontally about the frame 1 and of such dimensions that the frame may have tilting movement within the yoke. Other braces 8 extend diagonally between the legs and the lower cross bar. Resilient means has been provided for yieldably holding the frame in upright position but permit rearward tilting thereof and return of the frame to its initial upright position. In order to do so, there is provided at each end of the yoke a plunger 9 in the form of a bolt which slidably passes through the rear bar of the yoke and is held against the adjacent leg of the frame 1 by a spring 10. It will thus be seen that when the targets carried by the frame are struck by a golf ball the frame may swing rearwardly to a limited extent and then return to its initial position. Therefore, the target will not be damaged by the force of blows delivered by a hard driven golf ball.

Within the frame are mounted a number of targets 11 which are arranged in rows extending horizontally and vertically in the frame and in front of the frame is disposed a screen 12 formed of canvas and rods or posts 13 which are disposed vertically with their lower portions embedded in the ground. Portions of the screen in front of

the targets are marked with consecutive numbers extending in a circular path from the center of the screen and the frame to a lower corner of the frame. The screen covers the target, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and a person at the driving station attempts to hit the target "1" at the center of the screen as a golf ball so driven would go straight down the fairway toward the green and at the proper angle for a long drive. The screen and the target carrying frame back of it are preferably set up about twenty feet from the driving station but it is to be understood that this distance may be varied if desired.

Each of the targets 11 consists of a housing 14 formed of metal or other suitable material and having a rear wall 15 which is open, as shown in Fig. 6, and has an integrally formed cross strip 16 midway of its height. This strip or bridge 16 is formed with a center opening 17 through which passes a plunger 18 carried by a socket 19 at the center of the front wall 20 of the housing. A spring 21 which is coiled about the plunger, urges the plunger and the front wall forwardly to the normal position shown in Fig. 2, and in order to limit this forward movement of the wall and the plunger there has been provided a stop collar 22 which is fixedly secured about the plunger back of the bridge strip 16. By properly setting the collar on the plunger, forward movement of the front wall may be limited and the front wall caused to assume predetermined relation to the front of the housing. Flanges 23 extend rearwardly from margins of the front wall and are formed with openings 24 through which extend rollers 25 which bear against side walls of the housing and cause the front wall to slide easily in the housing. The front walls of the targets are shifted rearwardly into their housings and, in order to protect them from damage by the force of balls driven against them, each front wall carries a facing pad 26 formed of sponge rubber or the like, which absorbs the force of blows and prevents the front wall from being dented and bent out of shape. A bracket 27 is secured at the rear end of each plunger and is formed with a depending ear 28 to which is secured one end of a cable 29. The cables are trained about pulleys 30 carried by the strips 16 and are then carried downwardly for engagement with pulleys 31, after which they are brought forwardly and connected with recording devices 34 which are arranged in a row in side by side relation to each other between the braces 6 extending between the yoke 7 and the front ends of the base bars 4.

The recording devices are of duplicate construction and each is of the construction shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Referring to these figures, it will be seen that each scoring device has a box-like casing or housing 32 which is formed of sheet metal. The case 32 is open at its top and formed with a rear opening 33. A score card 34, which is also formed of sheet metal, is slidably received in the case 32 and, at its upper end, is formed with a rearwardly extending ear 35 to which the companion cable 29 is secured. A spring 36, formed from a strand of resilient wire, has one end secured to the ear 35 and its other end anchored to a bracket 37 carried by the case 32 adjacent the lower end of the rear wall thereof. This spring exerts downward pull on the score card and yieldably holds the card in retracted position within the case but permits the card to be drawn upwardly out of the case and expose scoring marks 38 upon the front face of the

card, as shown in Fig. 3. When the ball strikes a target and drives the front wall inwardly or rearwardly, the plunger of this wall moves rearwardly with it and exerts pull on the companion cable 29 so that the card of the companion recording device will be shifted upwardly a distance sufficient to expose either the 100 yard mark, the 200 yard mark, or the 300 yard mark, according to the force with which the ball strikes the target. A side edge of the card is notched to form a rack 39 which is engaged by a pawl 39 pivoted to a side edge wall of the case 32 and as the card is shifted upwardly, it will be held in raised position by the pawl until the pawl is moved to releasing position. As each scoring device is connected with a companion target by a cable 29, a player may drive a number of balls from the driving station and the distance each ball would have traveled will be shown on the cards of the recorders associated with the targets struck by the balls. After all the balls have been driven and the scores noted, the score cards are to be returned to their retracted positions within the cases. To accomplish this, there has been provided a pull cord or cable 40 which extends back of the recorders and has one end secured to a spring 41. The pull cord passes through ears 42 of the pawls 39 and when pull is exerted on this cord or cable, the pawls will all be moved to releasing position and the score cards will be drawn downwardly into the cases by the springs 36. Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that the pull cord extends forwardly from the end recorder to a post 43 where it is carried upwardly in engagement with pulleys 44 and 45 and connected with a handle 46 by means of which pull is exerted when the latches are to be moved to releasing position. The post is located near the driving station where the handle may be easily reached by the player or an attendant.

In Figs. 8 and 9 there has been illustrated a modified form of target. In this embodiment, the targets each has a back plate 47 carrying a bag 48 formed of rubber and inflated through a valve controlled inflating stem 49 of the type used on bicycle tires. This bag is of comparatively flat rectangular form corresponding in dimensions to the targets 11. A spring 50 is mounted in the bag centrally thereof to aid in holding the bag distended and, at its center, the rear wall of the bag is formed with a neck 51 extending rearwardly through an opening in the rear wall 47 and through a socket 52 carried by the rear wall. This socket carries a cylinder 53 which has a piston 54 operating therein and the bore 55 of the neck establishes communication between the bag and the front end of the cylinder. When the bag is struck by a golf ball, air is forced through the neck into the cylinder and the piston 54 and its rod 56 are forced rearwardly in opposition to action of the spring 57 which normally holds the piston at the front end of the cylinder, as shown in Fig. 9. Openings 58 are formed through the cap 59 closing the rear end of the cylinder in order to allow the piston to slide rearwardly without interference by an air cushion in the rear end portion of the cylinder. A collar 60 constituting a movable bridging contact, is secured about the outer rear end portion of the piston rod 56 for bridging pairs of stationary contacts 61 mounted through a block of insulation 62 which is secured to the cylinder by screws 63 and projects rearwardly from the cylinder. Pairs of conductors 64 lead from power lines 65 to the pairs of terminal contacts 61 and one of

each pair of conductors 64 has a branch wire 66 leading to an electric light bulb, the bulbs being indicated by the numerals 67, 68 and 69 and all connected with the ground wire 70. It will be readily understood from an inspection of Fig. 9, that when the bag of a target is struck by a golf ball the piston will be forced rearwardly a distance controlled by the force with which air is forced from the bag into the cylinder of the target. As the piston and its rod move rearwardly, the collar 60 will successively bridge the pairs of contacts 61 and the light 67 will first be lighted, then the light 68 and then the light 69. Light 67 indicates a drive of 100 yards, light 68 a drive of 200 yards, and light 69 indicates a drive of 300 yards. It will thus be seen that an electric signal may be employed instead of the score card previously described.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. In a golf practice scoring device, a frame having side posts, a target carried by said frame, base bars, lower ends of the side posts being pivoted to the base bars intermediate ends thereof with portions of the base bars extending forwardly and rearwardly from the posts, an elongated yoke extending horizontally with the posts passing vertically through its end portions, bracing bars extending diagonally between the yoke and the base bars to hold the yoke stationary, means confined between the posts and the rear portion of the yoke for yieldably resisting rearwardly tilting of the frame when the target is struck by a driven golf ball, and means actuated from the target for indicating the approximate distance a driven ball would travel without striking the target.

2. In a golf practice scoring device, a frame, targets mounted in said frame, each target comprising a housing open at its front, a front wall for the housing slidable therein, a stem extending rearwardly from the front wall through the rear of the housing, a spring urging the front wall forwardly, recorders corresponding in number to the targets and each having a movable member for indicating the approximate distance a driven golf ball would travel without striking a target, cables connecting the movable members with the stems of companion targets for causing setting of said members when the front walls are shifted rearwardly by struck golf balls,

latches for releasably retaining said members in set positions, and means for shifting the latches to release said members and allow return thereof to their normal positions.

3. In a golf practice scoring device, a frame, targets mounted in said frame, each target comprising a housing open at its front, a front wall for the housing slidable therein, a stem extending rearwardly from the front wall through the rear of the housing, a spring urging the front wall forwardly, cables connected with rear ends of the stems of said targets and extending downwardly therefrom, a plurality of recorders corresponding in number to the targets and arranged in a row in front of and below the frame, each recorder comprising a casing open at one end, a score card slidable in the casing and movable through the open end thereof to an exposed position, each card having the cable of a companion target secured thereto for drawing the card to exposed position when the front wall of the target is struck by a driven golf ball, a latch carried by each casing for holding the score card in exposed position, and means for moving the latches to releasing position.

4. In a golf practice scoring device, a frame, targets mounted in said frame and each having a movable front wall yieldably held against rearward movement and a stem extending from the front wall rearwardly of the target, a plurality of scoring devices corresponding in number to the targets and arranged in a transverse extending row in front of and below the frame, each scoring device comprising a casing open at its upper end, a score card slidable in the casing and having a rack along one side edge, a latch carried by the casing and engaging the rack to releasably hold the card in exposed position, an ear extending rearwardly from the upper end of said card, a spring anchored to the casing and connected with the ear to return the card to retracted position within the casing, cables connecting the stems of said targets with the ears of the score cards of companion scoring devices, and a pull cord extending transversely of the scoring devices rearwardly thereof and connected with the latches for moving the latches to releasing position when the pull cord is pulled in one direction.

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