

J. G. LOBSTEIN, JR.
 RETURN CHUTE FOR POOL TABLES.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 14, 1912.

1,054,780.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

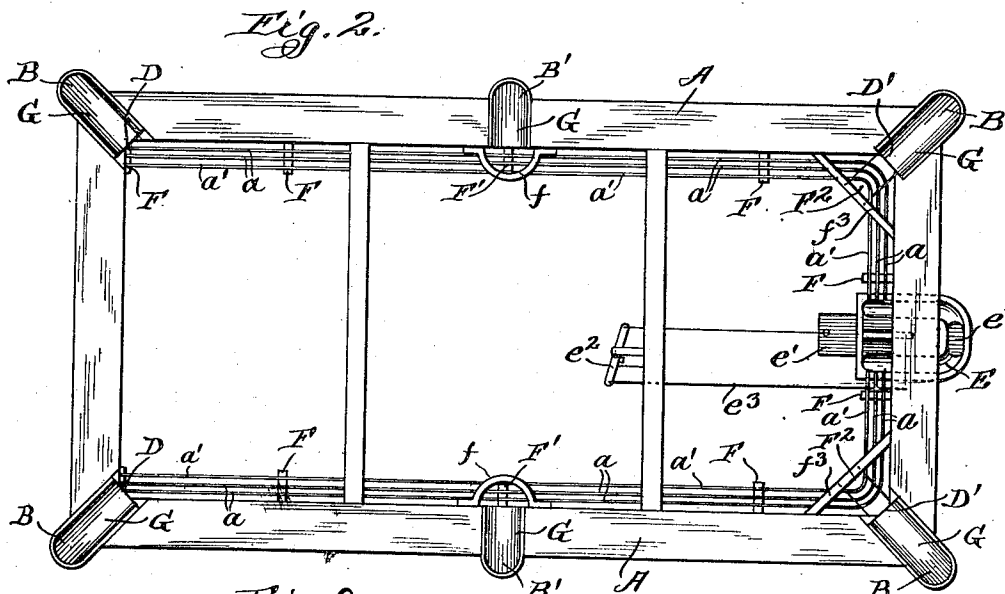
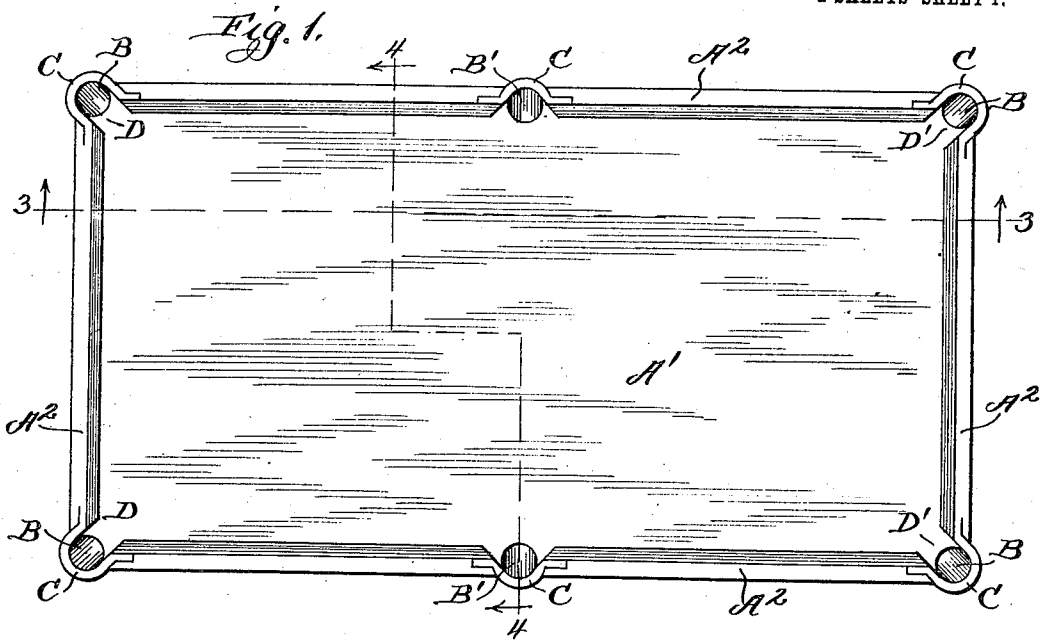
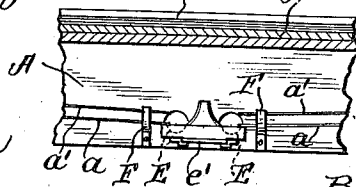


Fig. 2a.



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By John N. Whipple

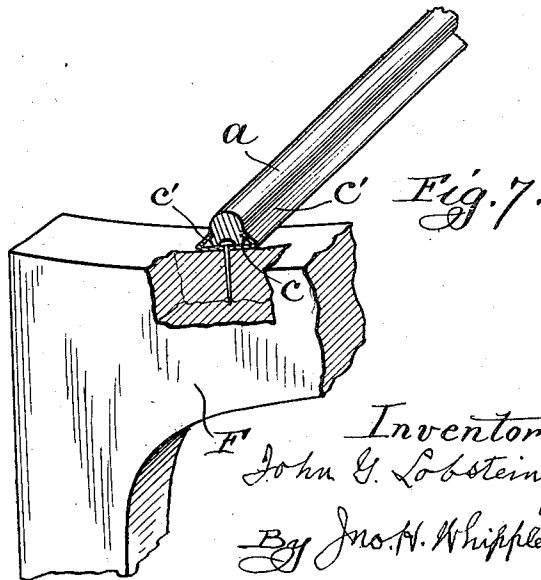
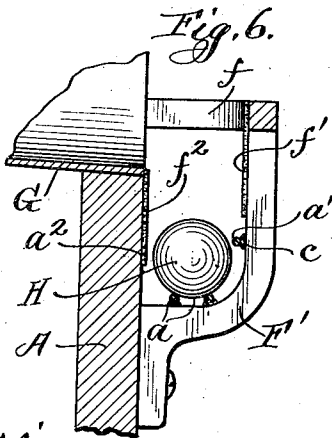
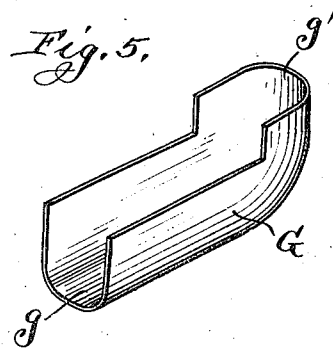
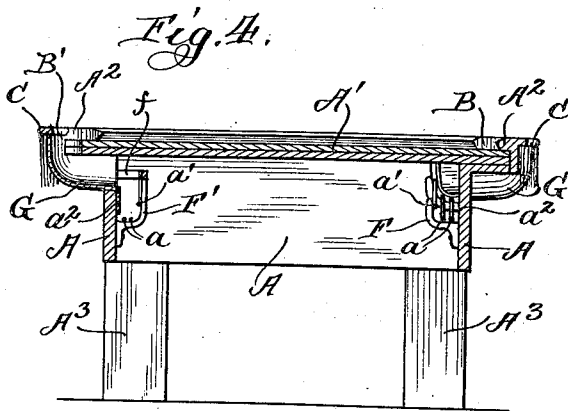
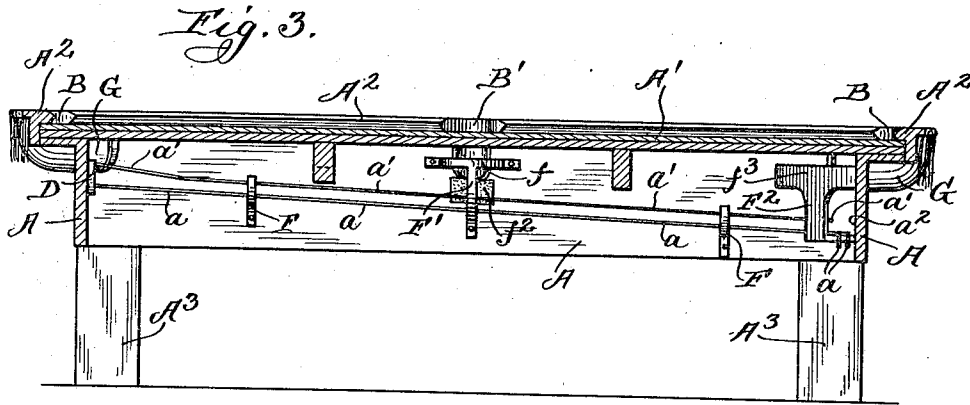
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RETURN-CHUTE FOR POOL-TABLES.

1,054,780.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN G. LOBSTEIN, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Return-Chutes for Pool-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to return chutes for pool tables in which the balls are shot into the pockets of the table and pass down into chutes which conduct them into a basket or large receptacle beneath and at the foot of the table; and among the objects of my improvements are, first, to provide a lighter or less bulky construction of chute than heretofore; second, to provide brackets for the chute tracks suitably disposed to support the tracks and to direct the balls to the chute tracks as they pass from the pocket-shoe; third, to provide a guard rail in connection with the chute tracks for retaining the bounding balls upon the chute tracks; fourth, to dispose of the chutes along at the two sides and foot end of the table and within the inclosure formed by the union of the side and end pieces of the table frame; fifth, to make a cheap, simple, durable and effective device and to improve other features as will become apparent from the description to follow.

I am aware that ball returning chutes for pool or similar tables as heretofore made have required considerable and careful construction work beneath the table top; have been complicated and expensive; have not always prevented clogging of the balls, and have had other objectionable features, all of which are eliminated by the use of my invention, which consists in providing chutes of solid rubber rods or cords mounted on the two sides pieces and one end piece of the frame of the table by means of suitable brackets spaced apart as desired.

To describe my invention so that others versed in the art to which it pertains can make and use the same I have illustrated it on the accompanying two sheets of drawings forming a part of this specification in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a pool table having my invention applied thereto; Fig. 2 is a plan section of the same taken on a horizontal line just below the top board of the table frame; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional

view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of a detached part; Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail, sectional view showing one of the brackets employed to support the chute tracks, and, Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail perspective view partly broken away showing the construction of the chute track and the manner of its connection to the brackets. Fig. 2^a is a fragmentary detail of the foot piece of the table frame at its mid length showing an interior view in elevation as seen when looking toward the foot piece at the junction of the terminal points of the chutes therewith.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The table is composed of the usual rectangular frame A, the top A¹, cushion rails A², and legs A³, and is provided with the usual corner pockets B and side pockets B¹. The pockets are provided with the usual leather covered pocket irons C and the molded leather shoes G.

The ball chutes comprise two bottom tracks *a*, *a*, and the side or guard rails *a*¹. The tracks *a* *a* and rail *a*¹ extend and incline downward from the corners D at the head end of the table along the inner side of the side frames A to the opposite corners D¹ where they turn at right angles and thence extend in parallel relation to the foot end of the table, terminating at and communicating with the higher end of the U-shaped trough E which is rigidly secured to the under side of the foot end of the table. That part of the trough E corresponding to the bottom of the U lies in a lower horizontal plane than the other part so that any balls delivered at the high ends of said trough E will by force of gravity roll to the middle or lower end of the same, where said trough E is provided with an elongated discharge opening *e*, which is preferably made sufficiently large to permit two balls to pass through together to prevent two meeting balls from clogging the way. The opening *e* is normally closed by a spring-actuated gate or slide *e*¹, adapted to be opened by means of a lever *e*² which is worked by a pull cord *e*³.

The tracks *a* *a* and rail *a*¹ may be made of any suitable material but I prefer to construct them as shown of a solid rubber bar

or cord, cylindrical in cross section, which is held in place by a continuous strip of sheet metal formed into a channel *c* which has its two edges *c*¹ bent or crimped toward each other and thus tightly gripping the bar or cord of rubber. The track thus made can conveniently and quickly be secured to the brackets by simply nailing with small nails or brads as indicated in Fig. 7.

The surface of the frame piece A at *a*² serves as a guard for the ball along the opposite side of the chute from the guard rail *a*¹, so that the ball H is prevented from rolling off of the tracks *a a* at either side of the chute.

The pocket-shoe G, as shown in Fig. 5, is composed of stiff leather molded or pressed into proper shape having an open end *g* which is placed over the tracks *a a* at the head of the table as shown at D in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, and its upper end *g*¹ is connected with the depending leather of the pocket iron in a well known manner; so that the ball rolling from the table passes into the pocket-shoe and thence on down upon the tracks *a a*.

The tracks *a a* and rail *a*¹ may be secured in their proper positions by any suitable means, but I prefer to employ a plurality of brackets F secured to the inner sides of the frame A of the table, and of the proper shape as seen at the right hand side in Fig. 4, to support the tracks *a a* and the guard rail *a*¹ in parallel relation to the surface *a*² of the frame piece A.

At the side pockets B¹ the brackets are formed as seen at F¹ (Fig. 6), with an upward extension provided with the semi-circular pocket guard *f*, which preferably extends to the frame piece A at either side of the pocket and is securely fastened by screws or otherwise for the purpose of adding rigidity to the structure.

A cushion *f*¹ of felt or other suitable material is secured to the bracket F¹ directly opposite the pocket-shoe G to take the impact of the ball rolling from the pocket-shoe G, and a similar cushion *f*² is secured to the frame A just below the level of the open end of the pocket-shoe G to take the impact of any balls which may rebound after striking the cushion *f*¹.

At the corner pockets B at the foot end of the table the brackets F² are provided at their upper end with a straight cross piece *f*³ which has its extremities rigidly secured to the side and end pieces of frame A. The brackets F² and the adjacent parts of the frame A are provided with cushions *f*¹ and *f*² similar to those described in connection with brackets F¹.

At the corner pockets B at the head end of the table no brackets are required since the chute tracks are elevated sufficiently to have the guard rail *a*¹ at a level with the

open end of the pocket-shoe G, and said rail *a*¹ takes the impact of the ball rolling from the shoe G. If found necessary a bracket may also be provided at the corner pockets B at the head end of the table.

It will be noted that the balls falling into any of the three pockets on one side of the table will roll down the chute provided on the corresponding side of the table, and furthermore that it is impossible for any number of balls becoming clogged at any pocket along the line of travel in the chute because the balls enter the chute from above and not from one side. The parts *f* on brackets F¹ and parts *f*² on brackets F² are a sufficient distance above the chutes to permit a ball H on tracks *a a* to clear the parts *f* and *f*² as shown in Fig. 6.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a ball chute consisting of a pair of parallel rails arranged adjacent to one side and one end of the table within the inclosure formed by the side and end pieces of the table frame and parallel therewith, open-ended pocket-shoes extended through openings in the table frame and presenting their open ends toward the chute rails and means arranged opposite to the pocket shoes for preventing the balls from crossing said rails.

2. In a device of the class described, a ball chute consisting of a pair of rubber track rails arranged adjacent to and parallel with the sides and foot end of the table frame within the inclosure formed by the side and end pieces thereof and inclined downwardly along the sides and to the mid-length of said foot end of the table frame, open-ended pocket-shoes extended through the frame side and end pieces, and presenting their open ends within the interior of the table frame above and in a direction toward said track rails, and guide rails arranged above the track rails and parallel therewith on the opposite side thereof from the pocket-shoes.

3. In a device of the class described, a ball chute comprising open-ended pocket-shoes G extended from the pockets inwardly through the side and end rails of the table frame and presenting their open ends within the inclosure of the table frame, two track rails arranged adjacent to and parallel with one side and one end of the table frame below the pocket-shoes the distance of the track rails from the frame being such as to afford clearance therewith of the balls when rolling on the tracks.

4. In a device of the class described, a U-shaped ball receiving trough arranged on an incline below one end of a table and provided with a ball discharge opening at its lower end, a gate to normally close said

discharge opening, means to operate the gate and a ball chute comprising two solid rubber parallel tracks arranged adjacent to either side of the table terminating at and
 5 communicating with said ball receiving trough.

5. In a device of the class described, a ball chute arranged adjacent to the side frame of the table a short distance below
 10 a pocket discharge opening, and a suitable supporting bracket for the chute secured to the table frame at the pocket discharge opening provided with an upward extension arranged directly opposite the pocket
 15 discharge opening to take the impact of the ball rolling from the said pocket discharge opening.

6. In a device of the class described, a ball chute comprising two solid rubber parallel tracks arranged adjacent to the side
 20 frame of the table so that the table frame serves as a guard along one side of said ball chute, the ball chute arranged a short distance below a pocket discharge opening
 25 and a suitable supporting bracket for the chute secured to the table frame at or near the pocket discharge opening provided with an upward extension arranged directly opposite the pocket discharge opening to take
 30 the impact of the ball passing from said pocket discharge opening.

7. In a device of the class described, a U-shaped trough arranged on an incline provided with a ball discharge opening located
 35 at a point corresponding to the bottom of the U.

8. In a device of the class described, the track rails consisting of a solid rubber bar or cord cylindrical in cross section in combination with a continuous narrow strip of
 40 sheet metal and series of supporting brackets the latter adapted to be mounted on the interior of the table frame, the metal strip being secured along its central line to
 45 the brackets and having its adjacent parts

turned up to form a longitudinal channel *c* with its extreme edges *c*¹ crimped toward each other and embedded in the rubber cord on opposite sides and at or below the level of its axis.

9. In a device of the class described, a ball chute comprising a series of open-ended pocket-shoes *G* extended through the side and end pieces of the table-frame, two parallel tracks *a a* and a guard rail *a*¹ of solid
 55 rubber arranged within the inclosure of the frame below the level of said pocket-shoes and parallel with the frame, and brackets *F* having a horizontal member for supporting the tracks and a vertical member for supporting
 60 the guard-rail above and lateral to the tracks.

10. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination with a table frame of return-ways comprising ball tracks *a a* placed
 65 within the inclosure of the table frame, one portion of said tracks extended parallel with the side pieces and inclined downward from the head of the table to the foot piece, and another portion of said tracks extended
 70 parallel with the foot piece and inclined downward from the side pieces to a median line dividing the table frame lengthwise, and a U-shaped trough adapted to receive the balls from the return-ways.

11. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination with a table frame of return chutes comprising two tracks *a a* and a guard rail *a*¹ and suitable brackets mounted on the table frame to support the said
 80 tracks *a a* and guard rail *a*¹ in parallel relation with the table frame piece so that the table frame piece serves as a guard for the balls along the side of the chute opposite the guard rail *a*¹.

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