United States Patent

[11] 3,547,437

[72] Inventor Gerald P. Andersen
4926 Evergreen, Houston, Tex. 77036

[21] Appl. No. 792,339
[22] Filed Jan. 21, 1969
[45] Patented Dec. 15, 1970

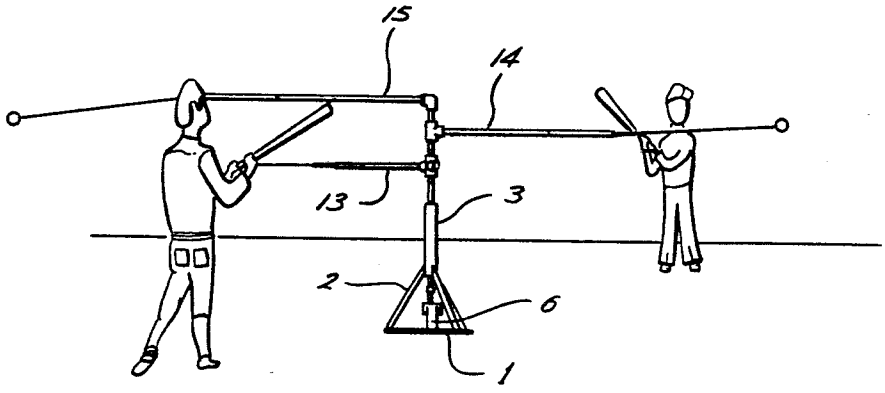
[54] BATTING PRACTICE DEVICE
5 Claims, 3 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl. 273/26
[51] Int. Cl. A63b 69/00
[50] Field of Search ..... 273/26, 29, 58(5), 95(1)

[56] References Cited
UNITED STATES PATENTS
3,408,070 10/1968 Gonzales et al. 273/26

Primary Examiner—Anton O. Oechsle
Assistant Examiner—Theatrice Brown
Attorney—Ranseler O. Wyatt

ABSTRACT: A device for baseball player's batting practice having a rotatable vertical shaft on which multiple adjustable horizontal arms are mounted in counterbalancing relation to each other, and on the extended end of each of said arms is mounted a cord having a baseball secured to the free end, said cord being of a predetermined length.



PATENTED DEC 15 1970

3,547,437

Fig. 1

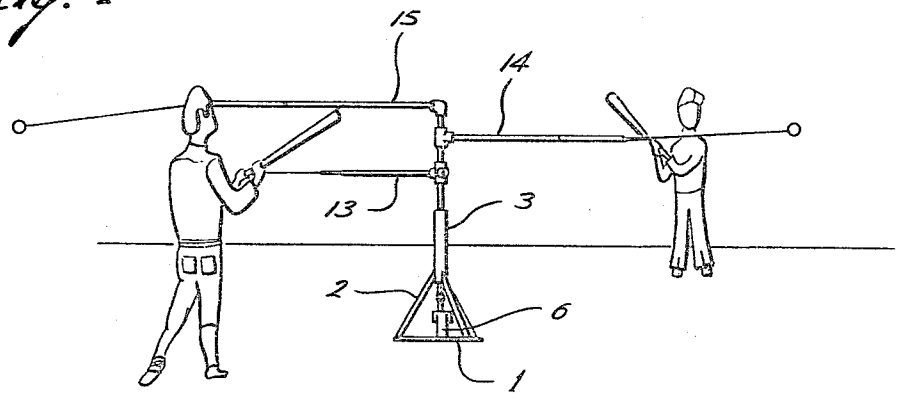


Fig. 2

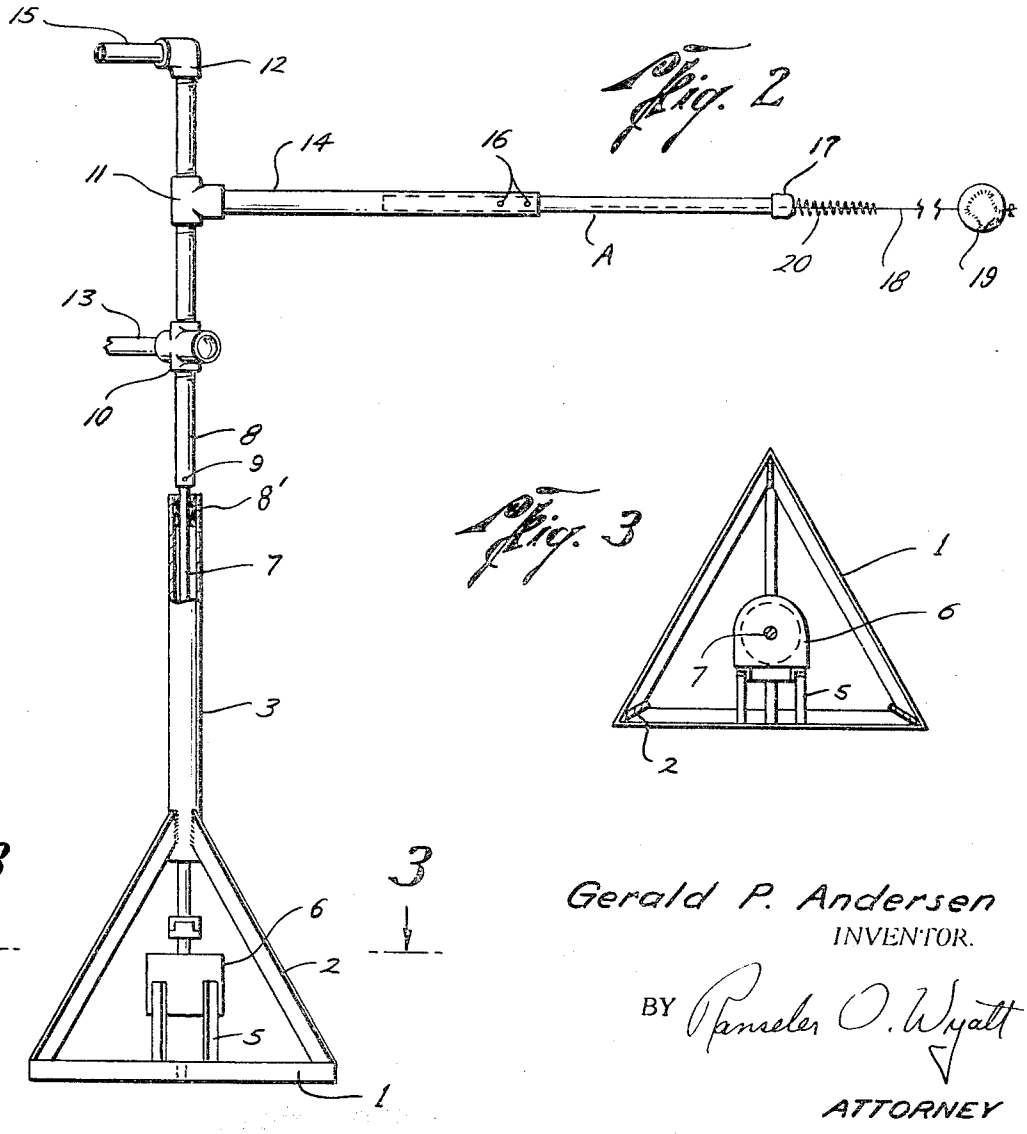


Fig. 3

Gerald P. Andersen
INVENTOR.

BY Ransler O. Wyatt
ATTORNEY

BATTING PRACTICE DEVICE

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A baseball batting practice device having a base member supporting a motor and a housed shaft extending from said motor vertically, and having horizontal arms laterally extended therefrom in staggered relation, a cord mounted on the end of each of said horizontal arms, said arms being adjustable horizontally, and stabilizing means for stabilizing the cord while the shaft is rotating.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the device in operation.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged front elevational view, showing parts of the device broken away, and

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional end view taken on the line 3–3 of FIG. 2.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a base formed of suitable rigid material such as angle iron, and having upwardly directed brace members 2, 2 welded, or otherwise secured thereto, and having their upper ends secured to the housing 3. A cross brace 4 extends across the base member, and U-brackets 5, 5 support the motor 6.

A vertical, rotatable shaft 7 extends upwardly from the motor 6 through the housing 3, and suitable bearings as 8 are mounted in the housing 3 to maintain the shaft in alignment in the housing, being mounted at the top of the housing, and a similar bearing (not shown) in the bottom of the housing. The tubular shaft 8 is adjustably mounted on the shaft 7, a set screw as 9 anchoring the shaft 8 at the desired position, and a series of lateral connections, such as the tees 10, 11 and elbow 12, are mounted in the member 8, and from which the lateral arms 13, 14, 15 extend.

Each arm 13, 14, 15 is horizontally adjustable, having the subsection A telescoping within the other section, and having set screws as 16, 16 for anchoring the subsection A in the desired position. The end of the subsection A is closed with a cap 17, said cap having a perforation (not shown) through which the cord 18 extends, which cord is secured inside of the subsection A, such as by knotting same with a knot of greater diameter than the perforation, to permit the desired length of cord to extend from said cap, and a ball, as 19, is anchored to the extended end of said cord.

A stabilizer spring 20 is mounted on the cap 17, and extends outwardly therefrom, and is coiled around the cord 18, so that the cord will be urged into a steady horizontal plane as the shaft 8 rotates. The length of the cord 18, extending outwardly from the cap 17, should be just short of the length of the combined members 14 and subsection A.

In use, the shaft 8 is adjusted to the desired height and the subsections A are adjusted to the desired position, so that the length of the cord 18 extending from the cap 17, horizontally, will be less than the length of the combined member and subsection A as adjusted. The motor is adjusted to the speed desired, and as the shaft 8 rotates, the balls 19 on the respective cords will be swung in a large circular path, and at three levels, and the user may take his stance and attempt to hit the respective balls as they pass. When a ball 19 is struck, the length of the cord extending from the cap 17 is such that the ball will rotate in a circular path, with the cap 17 as the pivot point, and the shaft 8 will be missed by the ball. The rotation of the shaft 8 and the stabilizer 20 will urge the cord 18 back into horizontal position, and will rotate the ball on a path simulating a pitched ball. The respective arms will counterbalance each other and will provide moving balls at varied levels. The variable speed motor permits the adjustment of the speed of the rotation of the balls, permitting faster balls for older players, and slower balls for younger players, and the adjustability of the shaft 8 on the shaft 7 provides means for use by all sizes of players.

If desired, the connection used in the shaft 8 may be of the type shown as 10, which will permit connection of another arm, and the elimination of the uppermost arms, permitting two balls to be rotated and counterbalanced.

As many users as may be desired may engage in batting practice with this device, and the rotation of the balls on different levels will afford practice of keeping an eye on the approaching ball and gauging its path of travel, and the path may be varied by varying the speed of the motor, the centrifugal action on the ball determining the plane of the cord, until a maximum of true horizontal is reached, and the speed of the travel of the ball also being varied by the length of the arms 14 and the length of the cords 18. When the arms are extended to the maximum, and the cords similarly extended to their maximum, very high speeds of travel may be attained by the balls.

While the above description pertains to baseball practice, the device is not limited to that particular sport. By changing the nature of the ball, tennis practice may be engaged in, the players learning the art of playing the ball. Similar games may be practiced by substituting the proper ball for the baseball shown.

I claim:

1. In a batting practice device, a base member on which is mounted an upstanding housing, a rotatable shaft mounted in said housing and extending therethrough, means on said base member for rotating said shaft, an upper shaft mounted on said rotatable shaft and rotated thereby, arms extending laterally from said upper shaft, a cord mounted on the extended end of each of said arms and a ball secured to the free end of said cord.

2. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said upper shaft is vertically adjustable on said rotating shaft.

3. The device defined in claim 1 wherein the arms extending laterally from said upper shaft consist of a pair of telescoping members and means for anchoring said members in the desired position.

4. The device defined in claim 1 wherein a cap is provided on the extended end of each arm, a stabilizer is mounted on each of said caps and extends outwardly from said caps on a horizontal plan, and consists of a coiled spring tapered from said cap to its free end, the coils of said spring being wound around said cord, and the end of each cord opposite to the ball being secured in a cap.

5. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said cord is secured in said cap after the adjustment of said members of said arm, so that the length of the cord is less than the length of the adjusted arm allowing the ball to clear the upper shaft when struck by a user.