W. D. LUKENS.

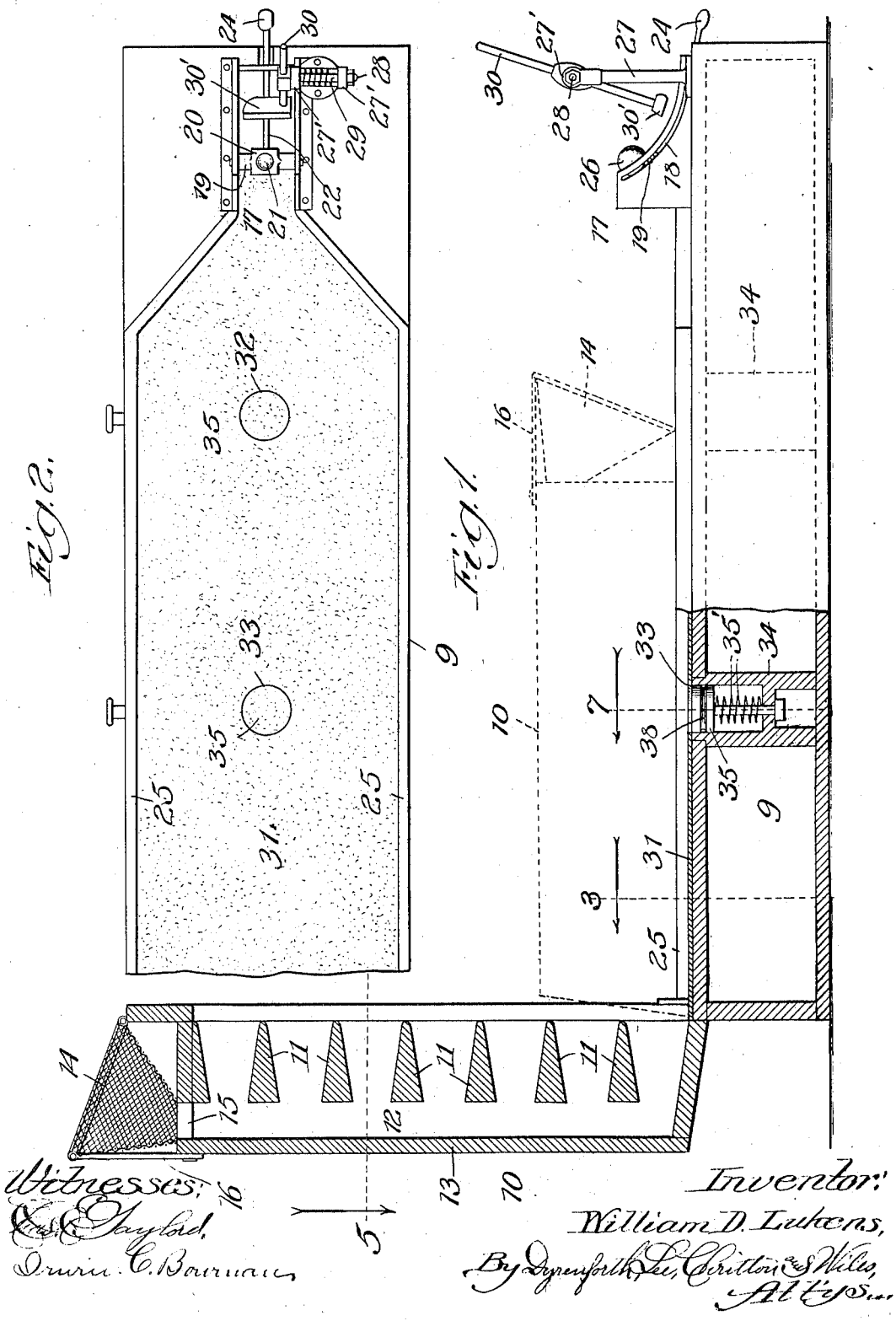
GOLF GAME.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 22, 1913.

1,112,924.

Patented Oct. 6, 1914.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

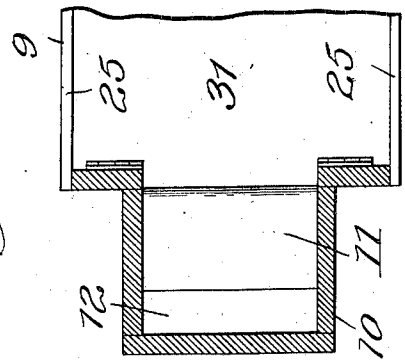


Fig. 4.

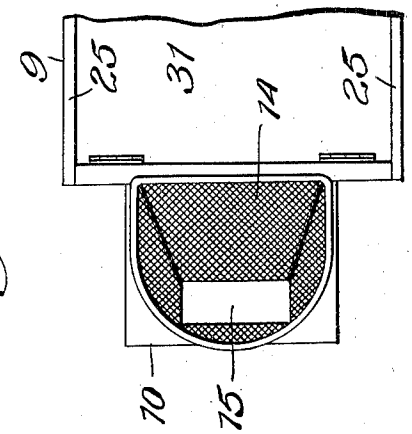
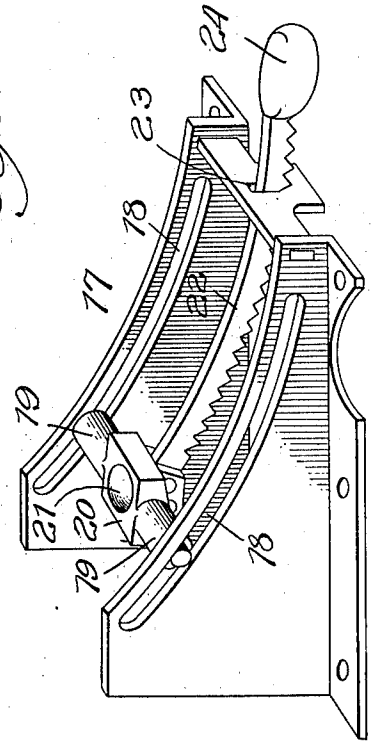


Fig. 6.



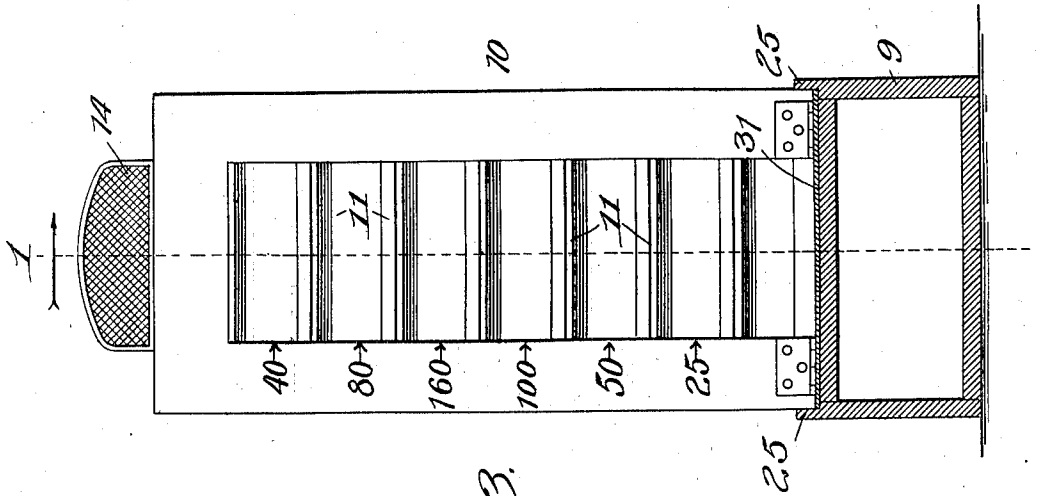


Fig. 3.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 8.

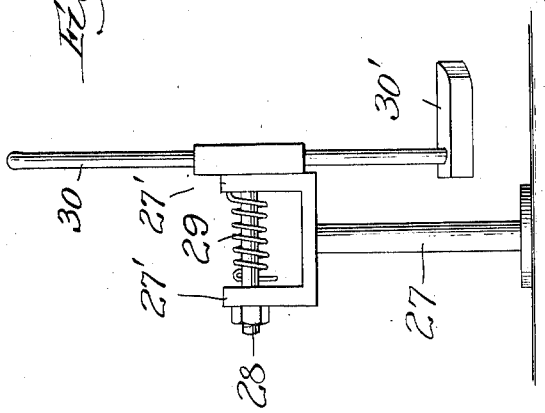
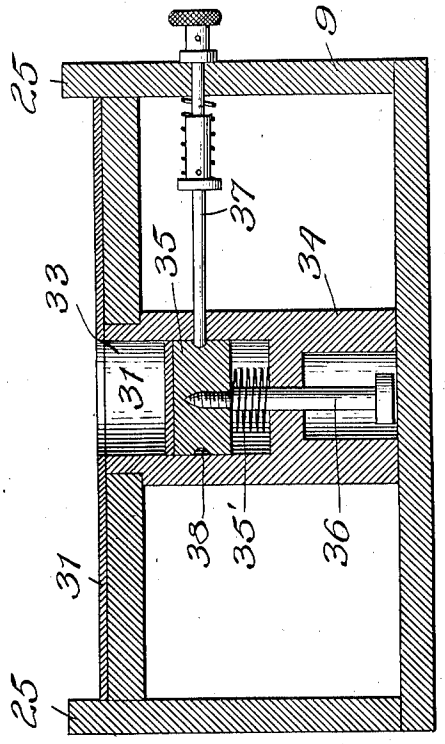


Fig. 7.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM D. LUKENS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

GOLF GAME.

1,112,924. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 6, 1914.

Application filed October 22, 1913. Serial No. 796,604.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. LUKENS, 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 Golf Games, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in apparatus for playing the game of golf indoors; and my object is to enable the outdoor game of golf to be played as a parlor-game on a small bed or table in a manner requiring skill attainable by practice, the same as playing the ordinary outdoor game.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows the entire apparatus, in its unfolded condition, and in folded condition by dotted representation, by a view in side elevation partly sectional, the section being taken on line 1, Fig. 3; Fig. 2 is a broken plan view of the apparatus; Fig. 3 is a section on line 3, Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a broken view showing a net hinged to the top of the pocket-containing folding casing in the position it occupies when the apparatus is folded; Fig. 5 is a section on line 5, Fig. 1; Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the adjustable "tee" device; Fig. 7 is an enlarged section on line 7, Fig. 1, and Fig. 8 is a view in rear elevation of the spring-actuated striking means employed for driving the ball.

The bed 9 of the apparatus is shown in its preferred form of a narrow and shallow rectangular oblong box, which may be of wood. On the distal end of the box is hinged an open-faced, preferably wooden, casing 10 to adapt it to be folded against the upper side of the box, for compactness when the apparatus is out of use or in transporting it, and to be raised to vertical position for playing the game. The bottom of the casing should incline slightly, as shown, toward the upper surface of the bed, and it contains a tier of pocket-forming shelves 11, which should incline, as shown, on their upper sides toward the open face of the casing, and they form a space 12 between their rear or inner edges and the casing-back 13. A net 14 is supported on the top of the casing to register its open bottom with an opening 15 in the top leading to the space 12, the net being shown to be secured to the upper end of the vertically extended casing-face and sustained in the forwardly-tilted position represented in Fig. 1 by a rear stay-bar 16. Each pocket is shown in Fig. 3 to be denoted by a number marked on one side of the casing-face to denote distance in yards, the numbers being arbitrary, though those herein used, namely 40—80—160—100—50—25, read in the downward direction, suffice for the explanation hereinafter contained of playing the game.

On the forward end of the box is secured the "tee"-support or "teeing" device 17. It comprises a rectangular frame having parallel curved slots 18 in its side-walls in which are guidingly confined at their ends arms 19 projecting from opposite sides of a block 20 having a ball-seat 21 in its upper face and serving the purpose of the "tee" in the outdoor game of golf. A rack-bar 22 is rigidly connected at one end with the under side of the block and extends through a central slot 23 in the rear end of the frame, beyond which it is provided with a handle 24. The bar 22 is shown to be curved for the purpose hereinafter stated; and flanges 25 are shown to be provided along the side-edges of the top of the bed 9 and to converge toward the sides of the frame 17 for guiding a ball 26, used in playing the game, back to the starting point.

At one side of the frame 17, near the adjacent end of the bed 9, rises a post 27 having a bifurcated upper end, in the arms 27′ of which is journaled a rock-shaft 28 (Fig. 8) surrounded by a spiral spring 29 fastened at one end to the shaft and at its opposite end to an arm 27′, whereby turning the shaft tensions the spring. On one end of this shaft is secured at an enlargement between its ends the handle of a club 30 to extend the head 30′ on its lower end in alinement with a ball 26 in its seat on the block 20.

I prefer to cover the top of the box 9 with green plush 31 to represent the "putting green" in the outdoor game of golf. At suitable distances apart and from the frame 17 in alinement with the driving-head 30′, holes 32 and 33 are provided in the top of the box. At each hole is confined in a cylindrical casing 34 below it a piston-like head 35 shown covered with the plush 31 and held normally flush with the surface of the box-top by a spiral spring 35′ confined about a stem 36 guiding the head. A spring-pressed handle-equipped plunger-rod 37 reciprocably supported in a side of the box 9, and provided one for each head 35, passes through the respective cylinder wall to enter a groove 38 in the head when depressed, as

shown, and lock the latter until released by withdrawing the rod to permit the spring to raise the head to its normal position.

In playing the game with my apparatus, the player, by manipulating the bar 22 and locking it at its teeth in the slot 23, adjusts the block 20 with reference to the elevation of the net, or of a particular pocket in the vertical casing, or to the level of the top of the bed 9. With a ball seated on the "tee" thus provided, he presses forwardly the handle of the club 30 to tension the spring 29 suitably, according to his judgment, so that on releasing the handle the recoil-force of the spring will be just sufficient, in striking the head 30′ against the ball, to drive it into the pocket or other goal aimed for. The curve in the bar 22 takes it out of the path of the swinging driving-head.

A suitable score-card, setting forth the number of pretended yards in the course, also from the "tee" to the first hole and from the latter to the second hole, and also prescribing what constitutes "par" and what constitutes "bogey," is furnished each player; though players may, of course, play their own games, using such score-cards as they wish.

Each drive or attempted drive with the swinging club 30 is counted a stroke. If the ball misses the pocket aimed for and rebounds from the edge of a shelf 11, the drive counts a stroke the same as if, in the regular game, the ball were in a hazard, pond, ditch or the like. When the ball enters a pocket, drops down the space 12 and returns from the bottom thereof to the "green" 31, the stroke counts for distance, or the number of yards indicated by the number denoting the pocket entered. If the driven ball enters a pocket but strikes the back or "sounding-board" 13 and rebounds therefrom through the pocket upon the "green," the stroke is termed a "bunker," and before the distance denoted by that pocket can be counted, the player must make the bunker, which is represented by the elevated net 14; and the number of strokes used to enter the ball into the net constitutes the number thereof necessary to get out of the bunker, to be totaled with the score. When this bunker has been made, the distance denoted by the particular pocket thus entered may be added to the yards previously made.

For putting, the teeing-block 20 is adjusted to its lowest position in the frame 17 to bring it on a level with the "green," and the adjacent piston-head is depressed to open the first hole; and it is locked in the lowered position by its rod 37. When the player has made the first hole on driving the ball into it by operating the club, the rod 37 should be withdrawn to unlock the respective head 35 and permit raising thereof by its spring 35′ to normal position. For playing the second hole 33 its head 35 is adjusted in the same way as described in connection with the first hole. The first hole on the "putting green" represents the five-yards putting hole, or any distance under five yards. Any distance over five yards and up to ten yards has to be played in the second putting-hole 33 in the same way as already described with relation to the first hole 32. In other words, it is necessary to play the pockets within ten yards of the total distance to be accomplished before being permitted to putt on the "green." For example, if the distance for driving be 485 yards, the player would have to make the 160-yard pocket 11 three times, thereby making a total of 480 yards, or five yards less than the total distance, and would then play the first hole 32. If the distance to be covered be 500 yards, the player may make the 160-yard pocket twice for a total of 320 yards, then the 100-yard pocket and thereafter the 80-yard pocket, each once. Should he make the 160-yard pocket when he only lacks, say, 80 yards of the total distance, he would be 80 yards in excess of the total and would have to make the 80-yard pocket to come back to 500 yards.

With practice on my apparatus, a player will get to feel the extent required of tensioning the spring 29 by pressing the club to cause it to drive the ball to the desired point, and thus become skilful; but it will nevertheless be practically impossible to acquire a degree of skill enabling the player to make each pocket aimed for and putt without missing strokes or getting a "bunker," and this adds to the interest in playing the game.

I realize that considerable variation is possible in the details of construction thus specifically shown and described, and I do not intend by illustrating a single, specific or preferred embodiment of my invention to be limited thereto; my intention being in the following claims to claim protection upon all the novelty there may be in my invention as broadly as the state of the art will permit.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a support at the opposite end thereof, a ball-seating block adjustable on said support for elevation relative to pockets in said tier, and means for securing the block in its different positions of adjustment.

2. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a support at the opposite end thereof, a ball-seating block adjustable on said support for elevation relative to pockets in said tier, and a rack-device on the block for releasably fastening it in its adjusted positions.

3. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a frame at the opposite end thereof having curvedly-slotted sides, a ball-seating block supported in the curved slots to be elevated and lowered for adjustment therein, and means for releasably securing said block in adjusted position.

4. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a frame at the opposite end thereof having curvedly-slotted sides, a ball-seating block having arms movably confined in the curved slots to be elevated and lowered therein for adjusting said block on the frame, and a rack extending backwardly from said block through the rear end of the frame and releasably engaging therewith.

5. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a support at the opposite end thereof, a spring-actuated club supported to swing behind said support, and a ball-seating block adjustable on said support for elevation relative to said pockets and to the path of said club.

6. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a tier of pockets at one end of the bed, a frame at the opposite end thereof having curved slots in its sides, a ball-seating block supported in the curved slots to be elevated and lowered therein for adjustment on the frame, and a spring-actuated club supported to swing behind the frame over the ball-seat.

7. A game-apparatus comprising a box, a ball-seat supported at one end of the box, a spring-pressed club supported behind said seat to swing over it, a hole in the top of the box, a spring-raised depressible head confined in the box at said hole to normally extend flush with the upper box-surface, and means for releasably locking the head in its depressed position.

8. A game-apparatus comprising a box, a ball-seat supported at one end of the box, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, a hole in the top of the box, a casing in the box at said hole, a head supported to fill the hole on a guide-stem in the casing having a spring confined about it, and a spring-pressed rod working through a side of the box and the casing to engage and lock said head in its depressed position.

9. A game-apparatus comprising a box, a ball-seat supported at one end of the box, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, alining holes at intervals in the top of the box, a casing in the box at each hole, circumferentially-grooved heads supported to fill the holes on guide-stems in the casings having springs confined about them, and spring-pressed rods working through a side of the box and the casings to engage and lock said heads at the grooves therein in their depressed position.

10. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a ball-seat adjustably supported at one end of the bed, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, and an open-faced casing at the opposite end of the bed containing a tier of pockets.

11. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a ball-seat adjustably supported at one end of the bed, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, and an open-faced casing at the opposite end of the bed containing a tier of pocket-forming shelves and a ball-space between the inner edges of the shelves and the back of the casing.

12. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a ball-seat adjustably supported at one end of the bed, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, and an open-faced casing hinged at the opposite end of the bed to fold downwardly thereon and containing a tier of pockets and a rear ball-space between the pockets and back of the casing.

13. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a ball-seat adjustably supported at one end of the bed, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, an open-faced casing at the opposite end of the bed containing a top-opening, a tier of pockets and a rear ball-space between the pockets and back of the casing, and a net supported on the top of the casing and discharging to the opening therein.

14. A game-apparatus comprising a bed, a ball-seat adjustably supported at one end of the bed, a spring-pressed club supported behind the seat to swing over it, and an open-faced casing at the opposite end of the bed containing a top-opening, a tier of forwardly and downwardly inclined pocket-forming shelves and a ball-space between the inner edges of the shelves and the back of the casing, and a net supported on the top of the casing and discharging to the opening therein.

WILLIAM D. LUKENS.

In presence of—
L. Heislar,
E. D. Steele.