

July 20, 1937.

M. G. ROSENGARTEN

2,087,334

GOLF PRACTICING DEVICE

Filed April 10, 1935

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. I.

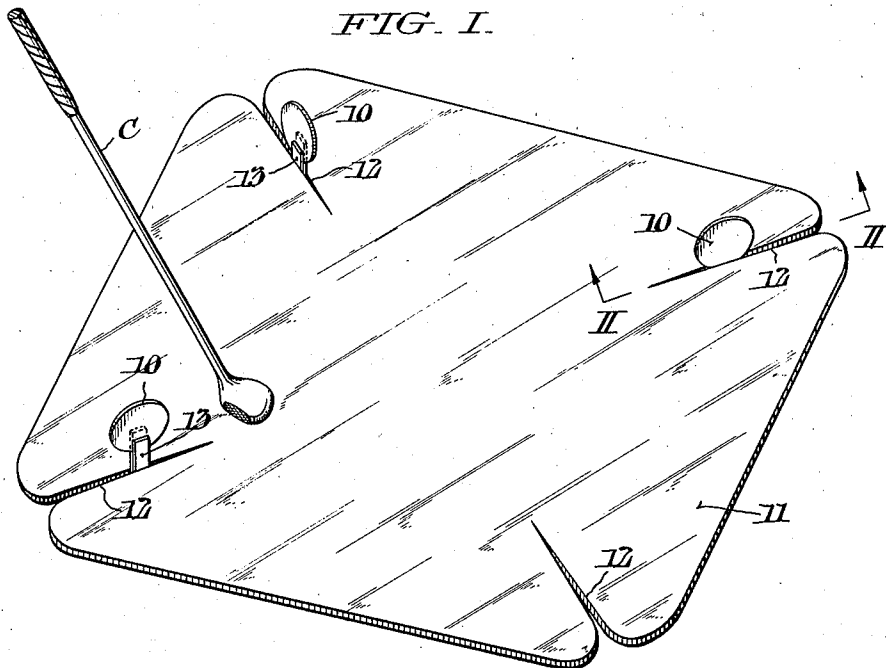


FIG. II.

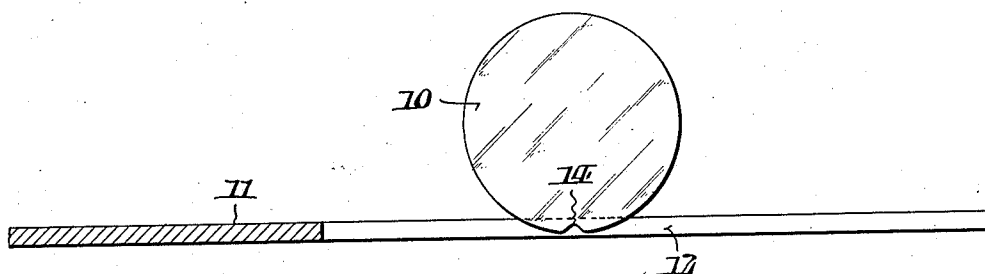
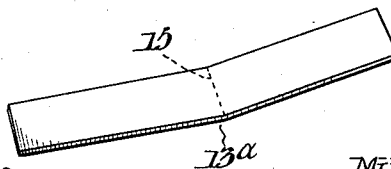


FIG. III.



WITNESSES:

Thomas W. Ferr, Jr.
William Bell, Jr.

INVENTOR:

Mitchell G. Rosen Garten
BY Fraley Paul
ATTORNEYS.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

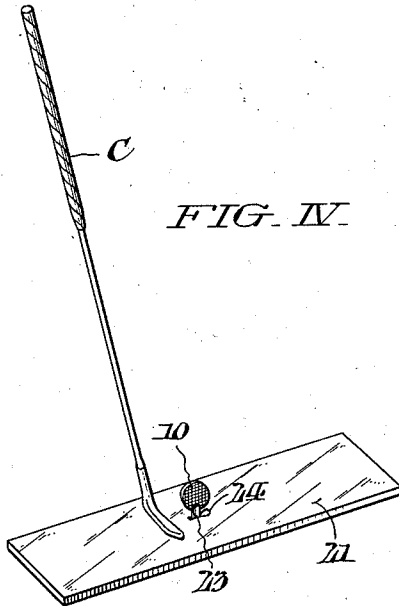


FIG. IV.

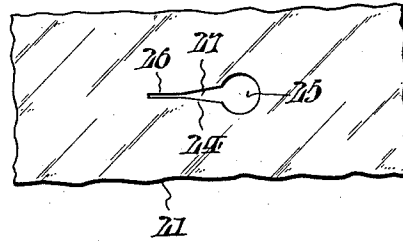


FIG. V.

FIG. VI.

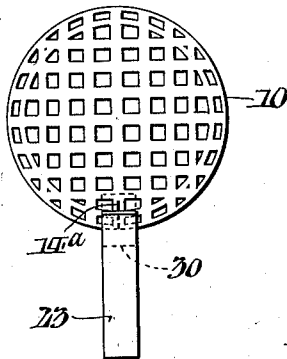


FIG. VII.

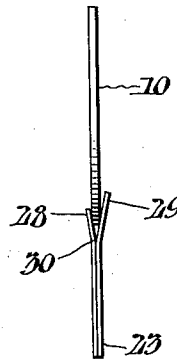
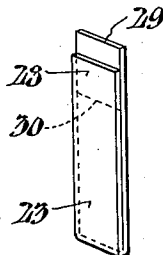


FIG. VIII.



WITNESSES:

Thomas W. Kerr, Jr.
William Bell, Jr.

INVENTOR:

Mitchell G. Rosen Garten
BY Tracy Paul
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,087,334

GOLF PRACTICING DEVICE

Mitchell G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application April 10, 1935, Serial No. 15,550

12 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to golf practice devices, and is specially adaptable and advantageous for the indoor practice of shots. Preferably, a missile of innocuous character (as compared with the ordinary golf ball) is used, in conjunction with special means for holding or teeing the missile. Any golf clubs such as employed in ordinary outdoor golf may be used in practicing with my apparatus, and strokes may be made with the full force that would be used in actual outdoor play, without danger of injuring the floor, the furniture and bric-a-brac, or persons in the room. Various other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the description of several species or forms of embodiment hereinafter, and from the drawings. All features hereinafter shown or described are, indeed, of my invention, so far as novel over the prior art.

In the drawings, Fig. I is a general perspective or tilted view of one form of apparatus suitable for the purposes of the invention (including an ordinary golf club), arranged ready for a shot.

Fig. II is a fragmentary sectional view, on a larger scale than Fig. I, taken as indicated by the line and arrows II—II in Fig. I.

Fig. III is a perspective or tilted view of a tee device such as illustrated in Fig. I, on a larger scale than Fig. I.

Fig. IV is a perspective view similar to Fig. I showing another form of apparatus suitable for the purposes of my invention.

Fig. V is a fragmentary plan view of a slot or socket for holding the tee device, such as shown in Fig. IV.

Fig. VI is a side view of the missile shown in Figs. I and IV, in association with the tee clip shown in Fig. IV.

Fig. VII is an edge view of the missile and tee clip shown in Fig. VI.

Fig. VIII is a perspective or tilted view of the tee clip of Figs. IV—VII by itself.

In Fig. I, several missiles 10 are shown on a supporting device comprising a mat 11. As here shown, the mat 11 is of polygonal (square) outline. In the margin of the mat 11, preferably at each of its corners, is a slot 12 extending inward from the edge of the mat and gradually tapering in width to virtually nothing, for holding or mounting the missiles 10. At the mouth of each such "socket" slot 12, the corners of the mat are preferably rounded off on a circular curve, as shown. The missile 10 at the extreme right of Fig. I has its margin wedged and held directly in the corresponding slot 12, while the other two missiles 10 are supported by "tee-clips" 13 whose

lower ends are wedged and held in the corresponding slots 12. A golf club C is shown in position behind the missile 10 at the left of Fig. I,—as if held by a player about to make a shot.

The form of missile 10 which I at present prefer is a round, flat disc, here shown (Figs. I and II) as very similar to that disclosed in my U. S. Patent No. 1,980,701 granted November 13, 1934. This golf-ball-disc 10 may consist of a circular disc of relatively stiff cardboard, say about 0.025 inch thick. It is shown with a "tee-index" mark 14 adjacent its periphery, in the form of a very small V-notch, and as printed and colored in imitation of an actual golf ball having a pitted surface,—although this last is of course unessential. Such a substantially circular disc 10 will correspond fairly well to a real golf ball in behavior and in flight, when it is properly struck; but the bad effects of improper strokes will generally be exaggerated by it: e. g., a pulled stroke will cause it to deflect sidewise to an exaggerated degree. The deformation of the disc edge by the golf club is also significant: i. e., a perfect shot will simply crush the disc edge to a degree depending on the force of the stroke, while a "topping" shot will produce a notch with one clean-cut edge, etc. The relation of the deformed area to the tee-index mark 14 indicates where and how the disc was struck relative to the tee 13 or to the point of engagement with the mat 11 in the slot 12.

As already mentioned, the golf-ball-disc 10 shown at the right of Fig. I and in Fig. II is itself directly engaged and wedged in the tapering mat-slot 12. The tee-clip 13 employed in Fig. I for teeing up the other two discs 10 is shown in Fig. III as consisting of united superposed leaves. It may be formed of a flat strip 13a of stiff, springy cardboard (which may be of about the same character and thickness as the disc 10, or somewhat thinner), scored for folding as indicated at 15,—about at mid length of the strip, but preferably a little nearer one end than the other. The tee-clip 13 shown at the left of Fig. I corresponds in height to the length of the tee-clip-strip 13a in Fig. III: The tee-clip 13 at the top or rear of Fig. I is shown as somewhat lower or shorter. In using the clip-strip 13a, the player folds or doubles its two ends or "leaves" flat against one another, and wedges the fold of the laminated clip 13 thus formed in one of the tapering slots 12. The portion of the golf-ball-disc 10 containing the index notch 14 is inserted between the upper ends of the clip leaves,—either before inserting the fold of

the clip 13 in the slot 12, or afterward,— and is lightly held by the springy clip leaves, under the elastic tension due to the bending of the leaves that is required by the interposition of the disc thickness between them. In other words, the resilient clip leaves are held together upstanding from the mat 11, and the disc 10 is in consequence held gently and elastically gripped between the upstanding leaves, in upright position or substantially so.

When a golf-ball-disc 10 held by a tee-clip 13 as above described is struck with a stroke of a club against its edge as suggested by the showing of the club C at the left of Fig. I, the disc is readily released for free flight from the clip. After thus propelling the disc 10 on its flight out of the clip 13, the club C may also readily knock the clip out of the mat-slot 12,—if the stroke of the club is low enough to hit the clip. This occurs the more readily when the stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot 12, as indicated at the left of Fig. I. When the golf-ball-disc 10 is directly held in the mat-slot 12 as shown at the right of Fig. I and in Fig. II, it is likewise readily released by the stroke of the club C against its edge, particularly if the stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot, as already mentioned.

The mat 11 may consist of any fairly stiff and rugged material adapted to hold the golf-ball-discs 10 or the tee-clips 13 firmly in its slots 12, and to bear the brunt of strokes of the club that touch or hit the mat. One suitable material for the purpose is indurated fiber such as commonly used for fiber waste-baskets, but somewhat thicker,—say from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness. Such a mat may be made about $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches square (more or less), and its slots 12 may extend inward some $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches from its corners. The tee-clips 13 may be an inch or an inch-and-a-quarter long when folded, for the longer ones, and about three-quarters of an inch when folded for the shorter ones. Naturally, the golf-ball-discs 10 will be teed up with the (longer) clips 13 for practice with the driver or brassie, and will be held directly in the mat slots 12 (or held by the shorter clips) for practice with the other clubs,—so that the conditions shall correspond to those of actual golf play. Obviously, of course, clips longer or shorter than those mentioned above may be used, as preferred by the player.

Figs. IV–VIII illustrate a base or mat 21 somewhat different from the mat 11 of Fig. I, and also a tee-clip 23 somewhat different from the tee-clips 13. The mat 21 may consist of a strip of material (e. g., wood or rubber) socketed at 24 to receive and hold the clip 23 which, in turn, holds the golf-ball-disc 10. The socket 24 is shown as a key-hole slot, consisting of a round hole 25 drilled through the mat 21, and a narrow slit 26 sawed or cut from one side of the hole 25 lengthwise of the mat 21. The hole 25 is large enough to receive the lower portion or “butt” of the clip 23 quite freely, while the slit 26 which forms the socket proper is narrow enough to hold the lower portion or butt of the clip either loosely or snugly,—or even tightly. If preferred, the entrance of the slit 26 from the hole 25 may be V-tapered (in width) as at 27 in Fig. V, and the other end of the slit 26 may be made somewhat too narrow for the thickness of the clip 23: This not only facilitates entering the clip 23 in the slit from the hole 25, but allows the clip to be forced in and held just as tightly as each player may desire. Besides affording a

sufficient depth of socket at 24, it is desirable that the mat 21 be heavy enough to “stay put” on the floor when properly placed, without requiring to be fastened down. I prefer to make the mat 21 long enough to allow its socket slit 26 to be “aimed” accurately and quickly in the desired direction of flight of the disc 10, which practically requires the socket slit to extend truly lengthwise of the mat. A strip of plank 30 inches by 6 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (or less) in thickness answers very well for the purpose.

The tee-clip 23 is shown in Figs. VI, VII, and VIII as a flat strip whose lower end or butt is adapted for insertion in the socket 24 as already described, and whose upper end has resiliently separable jaws or leaves 28, 29 adapted to receive and yieldingly hold the golf-ball-disc 10 between them, as best shown in Figs. VI and VII. As shown in Figs. VII and VIII the jaws and the whole clip 23 are alike of laminated construction, consisting throughout of superposed and united leaves or strips 28, 29 preferably of quite stiff, springy cardboard,—which may be of about the same character and thickness as the disc 10. These strips 28, 29 are preferably secured together at least at their lower or butt ends and where indicated by the dotted line 30 in Figs. VI and VIII: i. e., they are free to flex apart only from the line 30 upward. For simplicity in manufacture, they may be cemented or glued together from their lower ends all the way up to the line 30. The strips 28, 29 may be entirely separate, as shown in Fig. VII, or they may consist of a single long strip—such as shown in Fig. III—doubled flat at the butt end of the clip, as indicated in Fig. VIII, and suitably secured together at 30, etc. As shown in Figs. VI, VII and VIII, the strip 29 projects from under (beyond the end of) the strip 28 to facilitate inserting a disc 10 between the strips as in Figs. VI and VII,—with index marking 14a in the clip 23.

This application is a continuation in part of my copending application Serial No. 728,635, filed June 2, 1934, now Patent No. 2,011,014 granted August 13, 1935.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In apparatus for golf practice, the combination of an apertured mat, a substantially flat tee-clip releasably engaged by its lower portion in the mat opening and thereby held upright, and a golf-ball-disc releasably gripped and held upright in the upper end of said tee-clip, so that a stroke of a golf club against the disc edge may knock the clip out of engagement in the mat, besides propelling the disc on its flight out of the clip.

2. In apparatus for golf practice, the combination of a mat or base having therein an elongated longitudinally tapered slot, a light tee-clip having its lower end releasably wedged in said slot and provided with resiliently separable jaws at its upper end, and a golf-ball-disc yieldingly gripped between the jaws of said clip, so that a stroke of a golf club against the disc edge may readily knock the clip out of the mat slot, especially when such stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot besides propelling the disc on its flight out of the clip.

3. In apparatus for golf practice, the combination of a slotted mat or base, a tee-clip comprising leaves engaged between the sides of the slot and thereby held together upstanding from the mat, and a golf-ball-disc gripped between these upstanding leaves.

4. In apparatus for golf practice, the combination of a mat or base having therein a slot tapered in width, and a tee clip comprising leaves wedged between the sides of the slot and there-
5 by held together upstanding from the mat, but unattached to one another above the mat, with consequent capacity for gripping a missile disc when inserted between them.

5. In apparatus for golf practice, a floor mat
10 adapted to bear the brunt of golf-club strokes and protect the floor, and having in its margin an elongated slot tapered lengthwise and extending inward into the mat from its edge, so that a golf-ball-disc or a flat tee-clip therefor can be
15 wedged and securely held in the narrower end of the slot, but can be readily released by a stroke of a golf club against the disc edge when such stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot.

20 6. In apparatus for golf practice, a polygonal floor mat adapted to bear the brunt of golf-club strokes and protect the floor, and having in its corners elongated slots tapered lengthwise and extending inward into the mat, so that a golf-
25 ball-disc or a flat tee-clip therefor can be wedged and securely held in the narrow end of each slot, but can be readily released by a stroke of a golf club against the disc edge when such stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot.

30 7. In apparatus for golf practice, a mat having therein an elongated keyhole slot longitudinally tapered so that a cardboard golf-ball-disc or a flat tee-clip therefor can be wedged and securely held in the narrower end of the slot, but
35 can be readily released by a stroke of a golf club

against the disc edge when such stroke is directed toward the wide end of the slot.

8. In apparatus for golf practice, a tee-clip comprising a strip with resilient leaves at one end yieldingly separable to receive and hold a golf-
5 ball-disc between them, with freedom for flight edgewise from the clip when said disc is struck edgewise with a golf club.

9. In apparatus for golf practice, a tee-clip comprising a strip with resiliently separable
10 leaves at one end, adapted to hold a golf-ball-disc between them, one of said leaves projecting beyond the edge of the other to facilitate entry of the disc edge between the leaves.

10. In apparatus for golf practice, a tee-clip
15 composed of united superposed leaves of resiliently flexible material yieldingly separable at one end to receive and hold a golf-ball-disc between them, with freedom for flight edgewise
20 from the clip when said disc is struck edgewise with a golf club.

11. In apparatus for golf practice, a tee-clip comprising a folding strip of resiliently flexible sheet material adapted to receive and grip a
25 golf-ball-disc between the ends of said strip with freedom for flight edgewise from the clip when said disc is struck edgewise with a golf club.

12. In apparatus for golf-practice, a tee-clip comprising superposed strips of stiff cardboard secured together for part of their length only,
30 with the end of one projecting beyond that of the other; so that a golf-ball-disc may be easily entered and yieldingly gripped between the strips.

MITCHELL G. ROSENGARTEN. 35