Sept. 15, 1953

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2,652,250

BASEBALL BATTING TEE

Filed Nov. 27, 1950

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

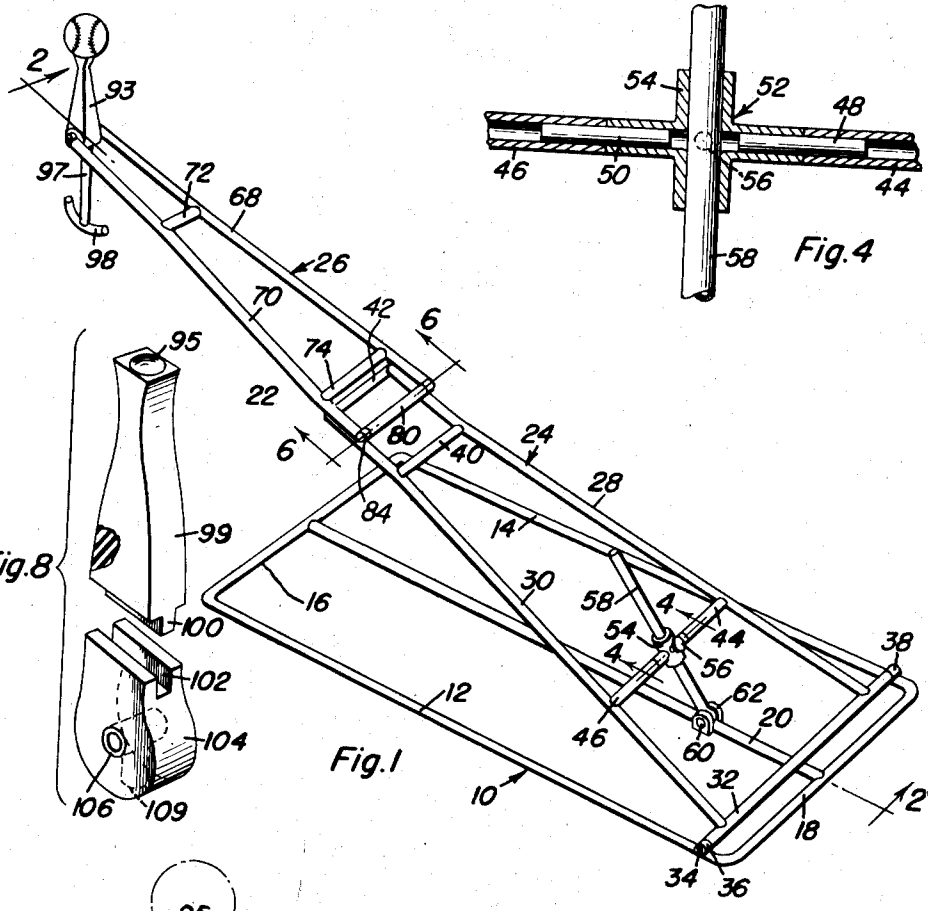


Fig.1

Fig.4

Fig.8

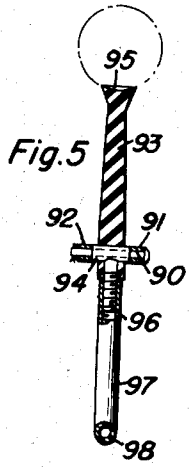


Fig.5

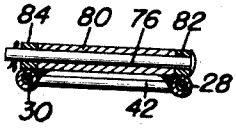


Fig.6

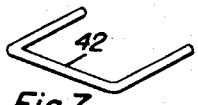


Fig.7

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Fig.2

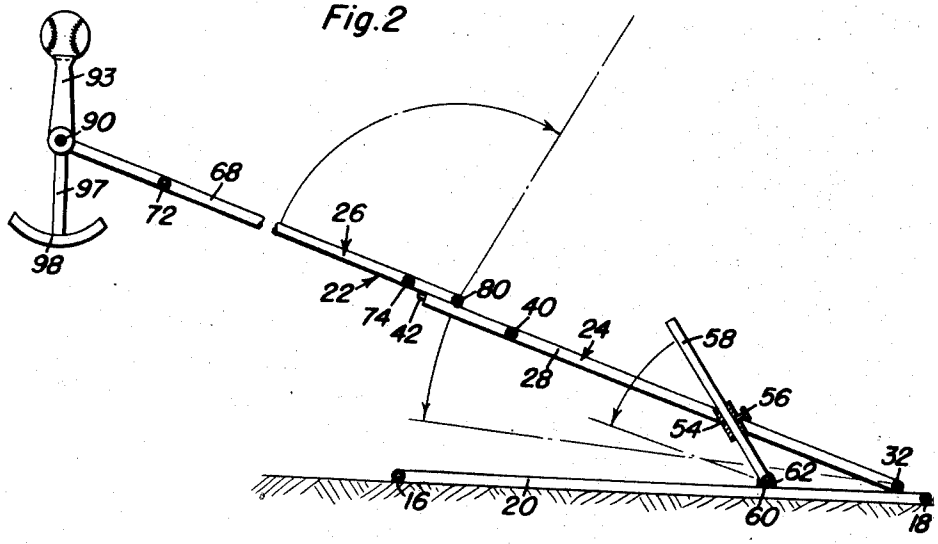
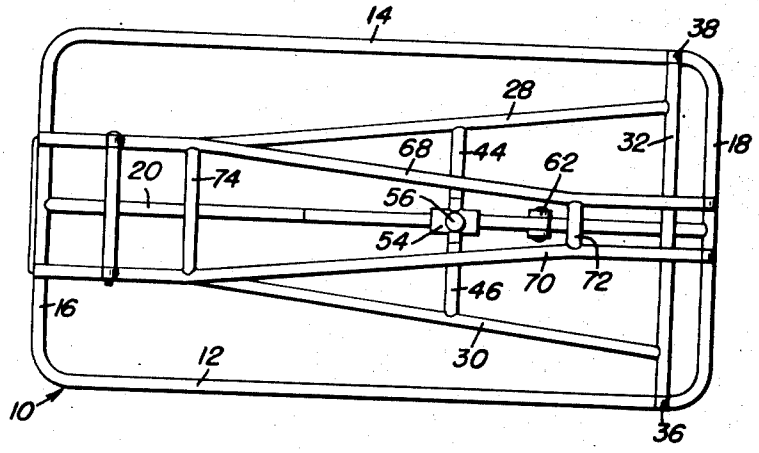


Fig.3



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BASEBALL BATTING TEE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—26)

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This invention relates to improvements in training devices for batters.

An object of this invention is to provide a device which through the use thereof, makes it possible for baseball players to obtain a grooved swing, learn proper coordination by training muscular action and improve their ability to hit properly various types of pitches such as those slightly below the shoulders, above the knees, inside or outside pitches and the like.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved mechanical structure which is capable of being folded in a compact assembly so that it will fit into a bat bag or a specially provided bag and yet when the device is set up it is capable of serving its function properly.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved assemblage at the end of the boom of the device for holding the ball, either an actual baseball or a simulated one, which assembly includes a resilient element swingingly mounted for protection of the bat and batter in the event that the ball is not properly struck.

Ancillary objects and features of importance will become apparent in following the description of the illustrated forms of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line of 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the device in the folded condition;

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 4—4 Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a sectional view of the ball holding assembly of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a part of the inner boom section; and

Figure 8 is an exploded perspective view of a slightly modified form of ball holder.

In carrying out this invention there is provided a base 10 which is preferably made of tubular stock and includes sides 12 and 14 together with ends 16 and 18 which are connected together by means of the cross member 20.

A boom generally indicated at 22 consists of an inner boom section 24 connected to an outer boom section 26. The inner boom section is made from two converging rods or tubes 28 and 30 which are connected together at their inner ends by the cross member 32 through which the spindle 34 passes. The ends of the spindle are held in place in the bearings 36 and 38, which are fixed to the sides 12 and 14 of the base.

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A cross member 40 is rigidly fixed to the converging members 28 and 30 near their outer ends and a U-shaped holder 42 has its legs disposed in the bores of the converging members 28 and 30 to facilitate holding the converging member assembled.

Axially aligned tubes 44 and 46 are welded or otherwise rigidly fixed to the converging members 28 and 30 between the cross members 32 and 40. Spindles 48 and 50 (Figure 4) are disposed in the bores of the tubes 44 and 46 and the clamp 52 is mounted for rotation about the common axis of the spindles 48 and 50. This clamp includes a sleeve 54 which has a set screw 56 carried thereby to engage the rod 58 which is passed through the bore of the sleeve 54. The lower end of the rod 58 is pivoted as by the pin 60 which is disposed in openings in the brackets 62, secured to the cross member 20, the clamp and the rod 58 cooperating to form a means for holding the boom section 24 in selective pivoted position.

The boom section 26 consists of a pair of converging side members 68 and 70 which are held in their proper spaced relationship by means of the cross members 72 and 74. At the inner end of the boom section 26 there is a pivot pin 76 which is passed through the bore of a sleeve 80 which serves as a bearing, and also passed through the bearings 82 and 84. The bearings 82 and 84 are welded or otherwise rigidly fixed to the inner ends of the side member 68 and 70 of the outer boom section 26, and the sleeve 80 is welded to the side members 28 and 30. Through this construction the outer boom 26 is hingedly connected to the inner boom 24 whereby the outer boom may be swung upon the inner boom. The outer boom section and the inner boom section are of such size that when the device is folded as disclosed in Figure 3, the base 10 will define the outside dimension for the device, so that it may be inserted easily and withdrawn equally as easy from a container or sack.

Attention is now invited to Figure 5. A pivot pin 90 is illustrated in this view, this pin passing through bearings 91 and 92 which are formed at the outer ends of the side members 68 and 70 of the boom section 26. A ball holding assembly is mounted for swinging or pivotal movement about the axis of the pin 90. This assembly includes a resilient standard 93 which is molded upon the bearing 94 and which tapers inwardly as it rises from the pin 90. This tapering allows the top portion of the standard 93 to flex more readily than the lower portion in the event that the ball on the standard is not struck properly. At the extreme top portion of the standard 93 there is

a ball retaining recess **95**, for preventing the ball from inadvertently falling from the standard.

Attached to the bearing **94** is a stud **96** which has the tube **97** threaded thereon. A counterweight **98** is fixed to the tube **97** to gravitationally hold the standard **93** in the upright and proper ball holding position.

In Figure 8 there is a slightly modified version of the assembly for releasably retaining the ball in place. The standard **99** is shaped very similar to the standard **93**, but is slightly shorter. At its bottom end there is a tongue **100** which is fitted in the groove **102** of the block **104**. This block has a bearing **106** disposed therein and is constructed very similar to the bearing **94**, serving the identical function. The counterweight holding element is connected in the socket **109** of the bearing **106** in order to prepare the ball holder for use at the outer end of the boom **22**. By employing the structure of Figure 8 in lieu of the structure of Figure 5 a less expensive assembly may be obtained in as much as there need be no fastening of rubber to metal since the block **104** may be made of wood or other material.

The inner end of the boom section **26** overlaps the outer end of the boom section **24** a slight amount and the overlapping portions constitute a stop to hold the sections retained in a predetermined hinged condition as disclosed in Figure 2, whereby the sections may be easily folded to the position shown in Figure 3 for storage and transportation. In transit or storage the ball assembly may be removed by a simple removal of the pin **90**.

In operation the device is adjusted to the desired height and the ball simply placed in one of the recesses **95**, depending upon which ball holding assembly is used. Then, the batter may practice either under the direction of a coach or for his own satisfaction.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A baseball batter's training device comprising a base, a first boom section having its inner end pivoted to said base, means interconnecting said first boom section and said base for holding the first boom in selected pivoted positions, a hinge pin mounted on said first boom section intermediate the inner and outer ends thereof, a second boom section extending longitudinally of said first boom section, the inner end of said second boom section overlapping the outer end of said first boom section and being pivotally connected to said hinge pin, the overlapping ends of said sections constituting a stop for limiting pivotal movement of the second section in one direction, and means mounted at the outer end of said second section for releasably holding a ball, said base including forward and rearward ends and a cross member extending between and interconnecting said ends, said first boom section being pivoted to said base adjacent the rearward end thereof and extending toward the forward end, said first mentioned means including a rod pivotally secured to said cross member, a clamping sleeve rotatably carried by said boom section, said rod being received in said clamping sleeve.

2. A baseball batter's training device comprising a base, a first boom section having its inner end pivoted to said base, means interconnecting said first boom section and said base for holding the first boom in selected pivoted positions, a hinge pin mounted on said first boom section intermediate the inner and outer ends thereof, a second boom section extending longitudinally of said first boom section, the inner end of said second boom section overlapping the outer end of said first boom section and being pivotally connected to said hinge pin, the overlapping ends of said sections constituting a stop for limiting pivotal movement of the second section in one direction, and means mounted at the outer end of said second section for releasably holding a ball, said last mentioned means including a pivot pin carried by the outer end of said second boom and a ball holding element carried by said pivot pin and a counterweight carried by said ball holding element.

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