

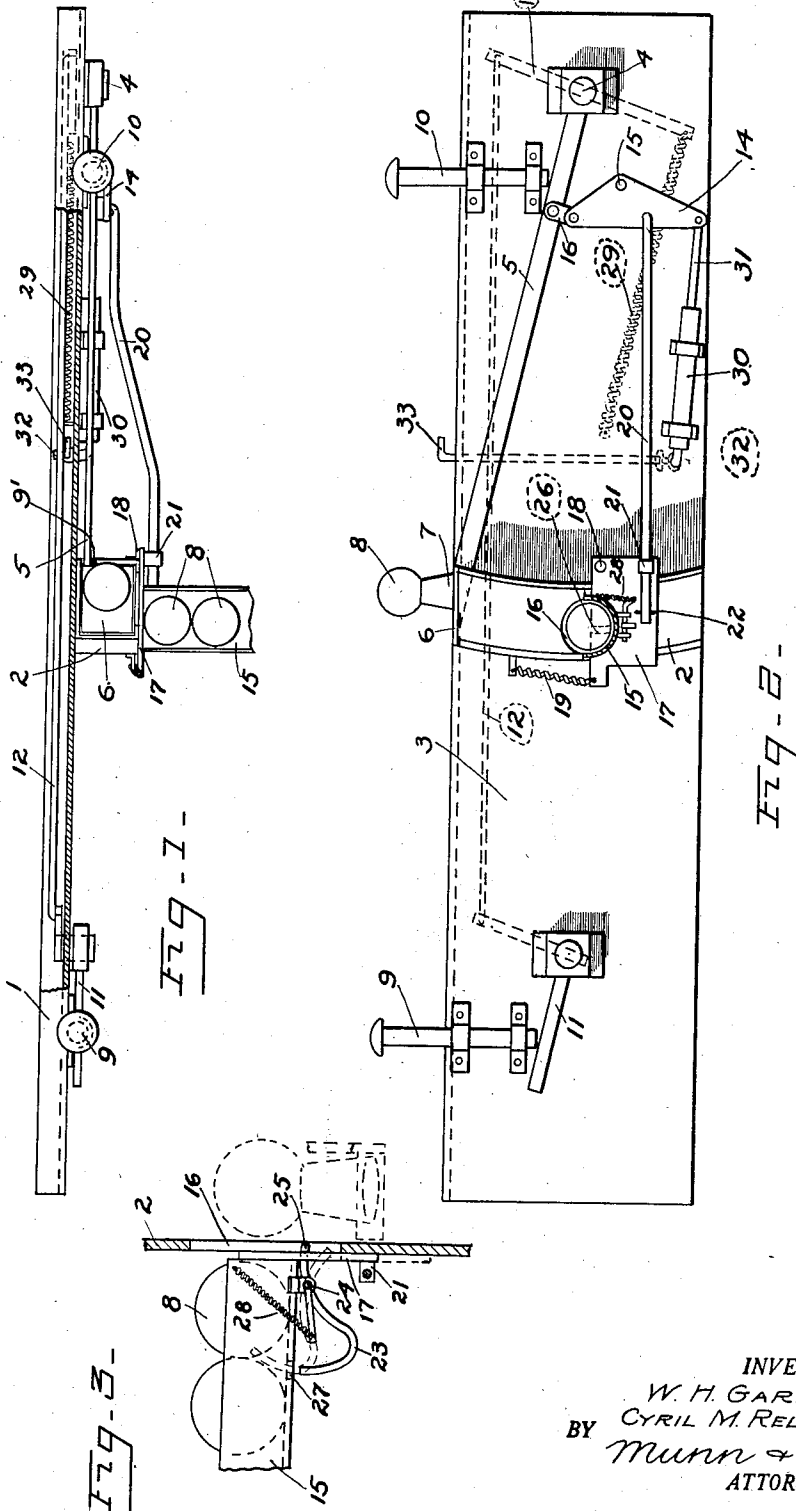
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AUTOMATIC GOLFING TEE

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AUTOMATIC GOLFING TEE

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Seaside, Oreg.Application May 31, 1930, Serial No. 458,492
Renewed March 26, 1934

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—33)

Our invention relates to improvements in automatic golfing tees, and it consists in the combinations, constructions and arrangements hereinafter described and claimed.

5 An object of our invention is to provide an automatic golfing tee which is to be used in conjunction with the device set forth in our co-pending application on a golf practice device, Serial No. 445,433 filed April 18, 1930. In said application
10 we showed a mechanism for raising a plurality of golf balls one at a time into a position where they can be struck by the player. In the present invention we have simplified the mechanism for bringing one golf ball at a time into playing position,
15 and this mechanism is accurate in operation and will not get out of order easily.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds, and the novel features of the device will be particularly pointed out in the claim hereto annexed.

20 Our invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the device, a portion being broken away for clarity.

25 Figure 2 is a front elevation showing the trough for golf balls in section, and

Figure 3 is a side view of a portion of the device. In carrying out our invention we provide a frame 1 that may be mounted in front of the device shown in our co-pending application. A tubular member 2 is secured to the front face 3 of the frame and is preferably rectangular in cross section. The entire tubular member is arcuate in shape as shown in Figure 2 and has its center as
35 at 4.

An arm 5 is pivoted to the front wall 3 at the point 4 and has its free end bent into a platform 6 that carries a tee 7 for a golf ball 8. The tubular member 2 is slotted as at 9 for slidably receiving the arm 5.

40 The arm is swingable into its lowermost position for causing a golf ball to be received by the tee 7, and then the arm is movable back into its uppermost position as shown in Figure 2. Manually-controlled means is used for swinging the arm 5 downwardly, while spring means is used for returning the arm to normal position. Referring again to Figure 2, it will be seen that two foot
45 pedals 9 and 10 are used, and both operate the same mechanism. The foot pedal 9 is used by a right-handed player, while the pedal 10 is used by a left-handed player.

50 The pedal 9 actuates a bell crank lever 11, and this lever through a link 12 actuates a second lever 13 that is connected to the arm 5. A depressing

of the foot pedal 9 will swing the arm 5 downwardly. The foot pedal 10 operates directly upon the arm 5. The depressing of the arm causes a triangularly-shaped member 14 to swing about a pivot point 15 due to the fact that a link 16 connects the arm 5 with the member 14. The moving of the member 14 actuates a golf ball releasing mechanism after the tee 7 has been lowered into a position to receive the next golf ball.

It will be seen from Figure 2 that a golf ball 65 chute 15 leads to the tubular member 2 and that an opening 16 in the tubular member permits a golf ball 8 to pass from the chute 15 into a position on top of the tee 7 (see Figure 3). The chute 15 is inclined so as to feed the golf balls 70 by gravity.

A stop member 17 is normally disposed in a position to partially cover the opening 16 (see Figure 2) and to prevent the passage of a golf ball into the tubular member 2. The stop 17 is
75 pivoted at 18 (see Figure 2) and is held in raised position by a spring 19. The stop 17 is connected to the member 14 by a rod 20 that is pivoted to the member 14 and is loosely received in a collar 21 in the stop 17. A pin 22 is carried by the rod 20 and contacts with the collar or sleeve 21 after the tee 7 has been lowered into proper position.

In order to prevent more than one golf ball 8 being delivered to the tube 2 at any one time, I provide an auxiliary stop mechanism shown in
85 Figure 3. This consists of a wire 23 bent in the manner shown and pivoted at 24. The wire extends at 25 and the projecting portion is receivable in a slot 26 in the stop 17. The opposite end of the wire is designed to enter an opening 27
90 (see Figure 3) and to prevent movement of the second golf ball in line during the time the stop 17 is lowered. A spring 28 moves the auxiliary stop 23 into raised position. The spring 19 is strong enough to overcome the spring 28 when
95 the parts are in normal position, and this will keep the auxiliary stop 23 down below the chute 15 and permit the first one of the row of golf balls to contact with the stop 17.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof may be readily understood.

The player, stepping upon either of the foot pedals 9 or 10, will swing the arm downwardly as described. The tee 7 will come into a position to receive the next golf ball 8 before the stop 17 will be swung into open position. As the stop 17 is swung into open position, the auxiliary stop 23 will move into a position shown by the dotted lines in Figure 3 and stop any movement of the second
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golf ball 8 which is in line. The first golf ball in the line will pass through the opening 16 and will come to rest on top of the tee 7.

The player now frees the depressed foot pedal 5 and a spring 29 (see Figure 2) will swing the arm 5 into its upright position, and this movement will cause the rod 20 to free the stop 17, and this stop will be returned by the spring 19. The return movement of the stop 17 will bring the bottom of the slot 26 into contact with the projecting portion 25 of the auxiliary stop, and further movement of the stop 17 will swing the auxiliary stop into the full-line position shown in Figure 3. The parts are now ready for the next operation.

15 We provide control means for the return movement of the parts. An air cylinder 30 receives a plunger 31 (see Figure 2) that is connected to the member 14. An escape valve indicated generally at 32 is controlled by a handle 33, and the

20 player determines the opening of the valve and in this way regulates the return movement of the arm 5.

Although we have shown and described one embodiment of our invention, it is to be understood that the same is susceptible of various changes, and we reserve the right to employ such changes as may come within the scope of the claim hereto attached. 80

We claim:

In a golfing device, a gravity chute for holding a line of golf balls, a stop for holding the end golf ball, a second stop for engaging with the second ball in line when the first stop is removed, means for urging the second stop into operative position, said first stop having a slot therein, an arm carried by the second stop and being receivable in the slot and operable upon contacting with the bottom of the slot to actuate the second stop, and means for moving the first stop for disengaging the arm from the bottom of the slot, the closing of the first stop acting on the second to positively open it. 90 95

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