Dec. 26, 1933. W. A. SCHOLLMEYER 1,940,970

GAME

Filed Aug. 30, 1930

Fig. 1.

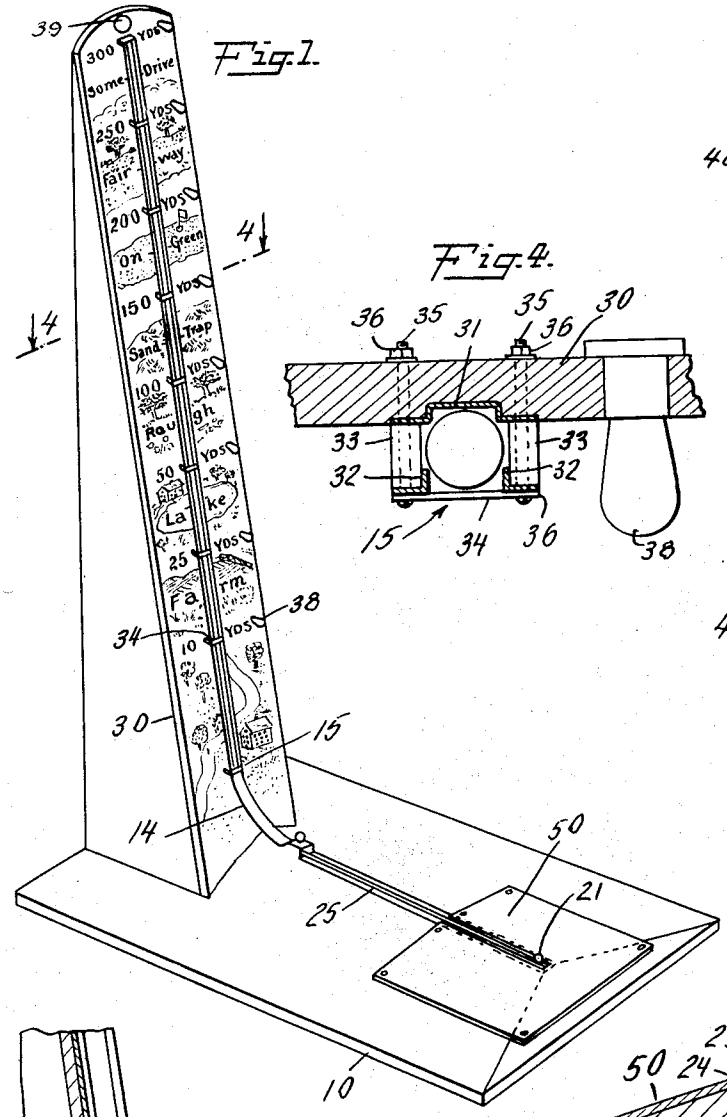


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

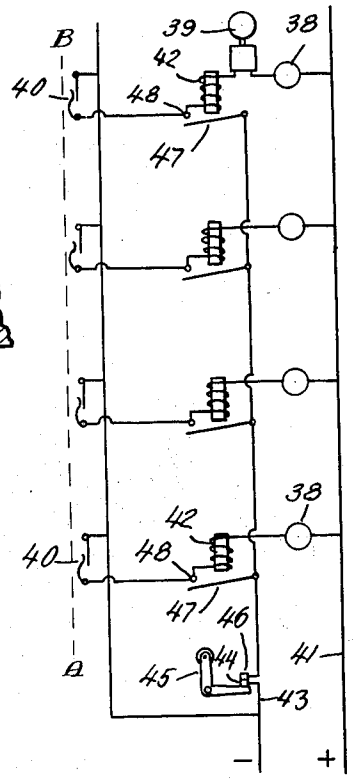


Fig. 3.

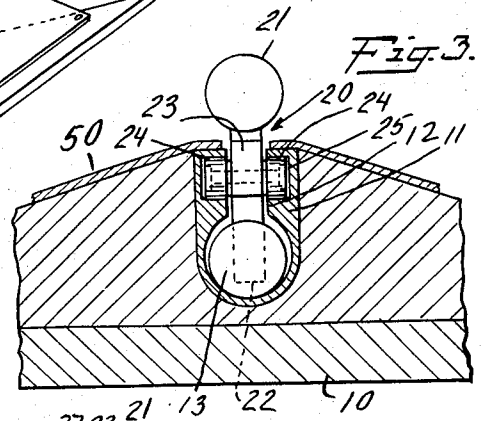
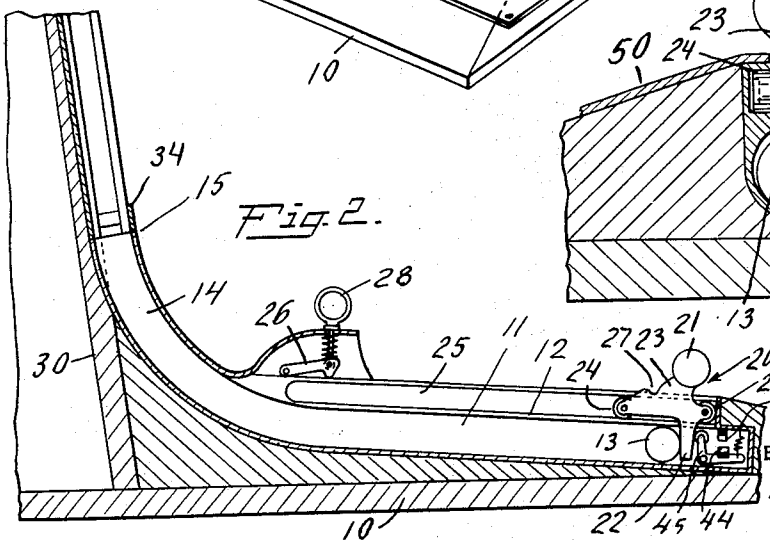


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME

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Application August 30, 1930. Serial No. 478,877

6 Claims. (Cl. 265—20)

This invention relates to games.

Its object is to provide a novel and attractive apparatus which is especially interesting and useful to golf enthusiasts. To this end I provide a surface simulating a driving tee with a spherical member thereon, preferably of the size of a standard golf ball, which may be struck by a suitable golf stick such as a driver and its impetus utilized to propel a golf ball into an upright track in which it is visible, or the driven member itself may be guided into the upright track. In order to enhance the attractiveness of the apparatus, an ornamental background is associated with the vertical track with pictorial representations of features of a golf course thereon, and having graduations or marks to show the distance of travel of the ball. Furthermore, indicators are associated with these marks to show the distance the ball is driven. These are in the form of lamps which are illuminated when the ball passes them and are arranged to remain illuminated after the play and until the apparatus is set for another drive. Another way of showing the driven distance is to prevent the driven member from falling back until it is released.

Referring to the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a game apparatus which is made according to and embodies my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the impeller and a part of its guide together with a golf ball and an electric switch;

Fig. 3 is a sectional transverse elevation of the impeller and its guide;

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional elevation of the upright track, the section being taken on line 4, 4, of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a diagram of electric circuits for the indicators.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 5 of the drawing in which like characters of references designate similar parts, 10 designates the base of the apparatus in which is a guide 11 having an open slot 12. The guide 11 is on an incline sufficient to insure the gravity roll of a ball 13 therein. The guide has a curved portion 14 which merges into an upright track at 15.

20 is a driven member or impeller which comprises a spherical head 21 and a finger 22 which projects through the slot 12 into guide 11. 23 is an intermediate portion on which are mounted rollers 24 which run in tracks 25 parallel with the guide 11. At the end of the tracks 25 is a spring catch 26 for catching and retaining the driven member by engaging a notch 27 in its intermediate portion 23. 28 is a finger ring for raising the catch 26. A mat 50 is shown over the rear end of the tracks 25.

The upright track comprises a board 30 which is preferably decorated, as shown in Fig. 1, with pictorial representations of such surroundings as are usually associated with a golf course. The board is set preferably at an incline from the vertical. The construction of the upright track is shown in Fig. 4 from which it may be seen that it comprises a metallic channel member 31 and two metallic angle pieces 32 which are held at a desired fixed distance from the channel 31 by spacers 33. The angle pieces are also spaced from each other by cross bars 34, the various parts being held together, as shown, by screws 35 and nuts 36. These parts thus described are so arranged as to form substantially vertical edges with a clearance between them for permitting the free passage of the ball 13. At the same time the structure is open so that the ball is visible at all times when in the upright track. The cross bars 34 are spaced and serve as graduations indicating driving distances. Opposite them are lamps 38, and opposite the upper one is a bell 39.

In using the apparatus the driven member 20 is placed at the rear end of the tracks 25 with the ball 13 resting by gravity upon the finger 22. The player then strikes the spherical head 21 with a suitable golf stick such as a driver, thereby driving it through the tracks 25 to the catch 26 which will thereupon engage the notch 27 and retain the driven member. The ball 13 will be impelled by this movement of the driven member but the movement of the ball continues up into the upright track a distance proportional to the force of the blow imparted to the driven member. As the track is open the progress of the ball may be seen at all times.

As the movement of the ball is quite rapid it is desirable to indicate the distance it covers and it is for this purpose that the lamps 38 are provided. At intervals near each of the cross bars 24 is a pair of spring contacts 40, one of each of said pairs having a portion projecting into the path of movement of the ball which is indicated by the broken line A—B in Fig. 5. Referring to Fig. 5 it may be seen that a conductor 41 from the positive lead of a source of electrical supply passes through each of the lamps 38 through a coil 42 to one of each pair of spring contacts, the other of which is connected to the negative lead from the source of electrical supply. 43 is a conductor from the negative lead to contact 44 on a

spring closed switch 45, the other contact of which, designated by 46, is connected to the armatures 47 of each of the coils 42 and is arranged to be brought by energization of the coils 42 against a contact 48.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that as the ball passes the spring contacts 40 it will first close circuits through the coils 42 and lamps 32, which circuits will thereupon be closed between the armatures 47 and contacts 48. Thereby the lamps 38 will be successively illuminated as far as the ball transverses and will remain illuminated so that the player may have a visible indication of the distance covered by the ball which he has impelled. If the ball rearches the upper one of these indicators, the bell 39 will be energized also. The self-holding circuit for the illuminated lamps and the bell passes through the contacts 44 and 46 of the switch 45 and from Fig. 2 it may be seen that when the driven member returns to the position for the next play this switch will be opened to thereby break the self-holding circuits and cut off the current through the lamps. The ball returning by gravity, strikes the finger 22 to release the impeller from the catch 26, allowing it to return to its initial position. If the impact of the ball is insufficient to effect the release of the impeller, the catch may be lifted by means of the ring 28.

By calibrating the indicating marks associated with the upright track, they are made to measure the force of the blows imparted to the driven member and to indicate the distances a standard golf ball would travel if impelled by blows of like force.

It is to be understood that variations in construction and arrangement of parts may be made within the spirit and scope of the invention and that I intend no limitations other than those imposed by the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A game apparatus comprising a guide having a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the guide and a head projecting above the guide, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

2. A game apparatus comprising a slotted guide having a slightly inclined portion and a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the guide and a spherical head above the guide portion, means for guiding the impeller, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

3. A game apparatus comprising a guide having a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the guide and a head projecting above the guide, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, a member having spaced graduations thereon along the track, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

4. A game apparatus comprising a slotted guide having a slightly inclined portion and a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the inclined portion of the guide, a spherical head above the guide and an intermediate portion, rails for guiding said intermediate portion of the impeller, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, an ornamented member back of the track having spaced graduations thereon along the track, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

5. A game apparatus comprising a guide having a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the guide and a head projecting above the guide, means near the lower end of the curved portion of the guide for arresting and retaining the impeller, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

6. A game apparatus comprising a slotted guide having a slightly inclined portion and a curved portion, an impeller having a finger movable in the inclined portion of the guide, a spherical head above the guide and an intermediate portion, rollers projecting laterally from said intermediate portion, rails for guiding the rollers, a catch near the end of the inclined portion of the guide arranged to engage and hold the impeller, an upright track forming a continuation of the guide, and a ball free to move in said guide and track and arranged to be driven by said impeller.

WILLIAM A. SCHOLLMEYER.