Nov. 13, 1923. 1,473,954

G. C. EASTON

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Sept. 18, 1922

Fig.1

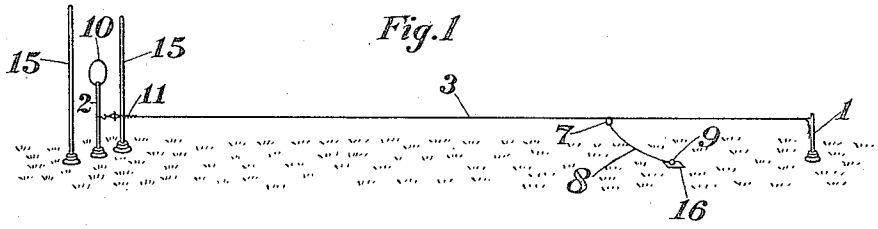


Fig.2

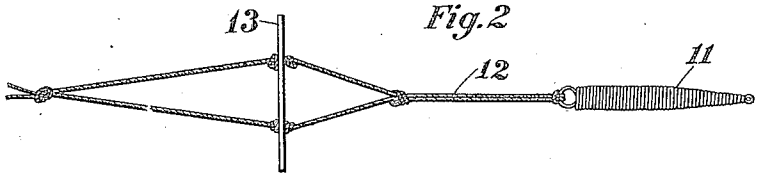


Fig.3

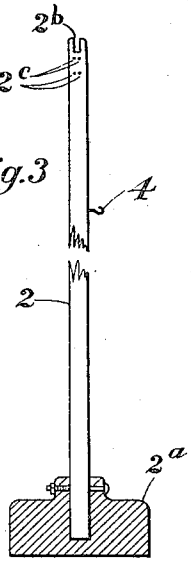


Fig 4

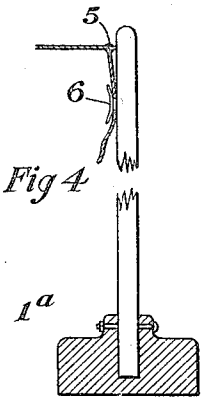


Fig.5

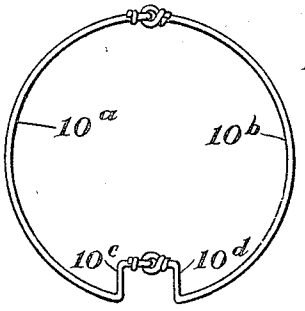
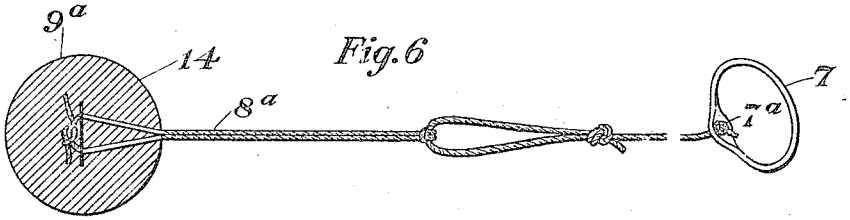


Fig.6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. EASTON, OF RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed September 18, 1922. Serial No. 588,820.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. EASTON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to game apparatus, the object of the invention being to provide an apparatus which furnishes a new and highly interesting and entertaining game, and which may also be used for practicing and perfecting the strokes of a golf player.

A further object of the invention is to provide a game apparatus which may be readily dismantled and packed for storage or shipment.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a flexible shock absorber for use in the playing of games which involve a captive ball, and to generally improve the method of tethering the ball whereby the tethering cord will be rendered more durable than heretofore.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel features of construction and combination of parts which will be more fully described hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, accompanying and forming part of this specification,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of apparatus embodying the invention, showing the same set up for playing the game;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a device forming a part of the apparatus and which device I have termed herein a shock absorber;

Fig. 3 is a side view, broken away, of one of the supporting posts, the base thereof being shown in section;

Fig. 4 is a similar view of the other supporting post;

Fig. 5 is a side view of a ring forming the main objective or goal of the apparatus; and

Fig. 6 is a partly sectional, perspective view illustrating my improved method of tethering the ball.

The same characters of reference designate the same parts in the different figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the apparatus comprises a pair of posts 1 and 2, spaced apart a predetermined distance, said distance being determined by the player, each of said posts being preferably provided with a weighted base 1^a and 2^a respectively. A flexible member 3, which may be of wire, cord or any other suitable material, is stretched between the posts, one end thereof being secured to a hook 4 carried by post 2 and the other end passed through a screw eye 5 carried by post 1 and fastened to a cleat 6 mounted on the post 1 below said screw eye. A small ring 7 of metal or any other suitable material encircles the flexible member 3, to which ring is attached one end of a string or cord 8, which carries at its opposite end a captive ball 9, the string being of sufficient length to permit the ball to rest freely on the ground at a suitable distance at one side of the apparatus, and to allow the ball when struck to travel through the air at the height at which an untethered golf-ball would travel when a long drive is made.

The post 2 is of greater height than post 1, and carries at its upper end a ring 10 through which it is the object of the player to drive the ball. The ring may be of any suitable construction and secured to the post in any desired manner. In order, however, to provide for the ready dismantling of the apparatus to enable the same to be packed for storage or shipment, I have shown herein a foldable ring which can easily be removed from the post, but the form of which is such that it will retain its proper position when placed on the post. As shown in Fig. 5, the ring comprises two approximately semicircular sections 10^a and 10^b hinged together by means of loops formed at their ends whereby the sections may be folded to lie one on the other. Each of the ring sections at one end thereof is bent first inwardly and then at right-angles to the first bend, as shown at 10^c and 10^d thereby to form, when the sections are hinged together, an inverted U-shaped portion extending inwardly from the circumference of the ring. The post 2 is provided at its upper end with a recess 2^b within which the U-shaped portion of the ring is adapted to seat, and with a plurality of pairs of pins 2^c at one or both sides of the post immediately below said recess, said pins being spaced apart to receive between them one of the legs 10^c and 10^d of the ring

sections thereby to retain the ring in upright position on the post.

Instead of connecting the end of the member 3 directly to the hook 4 of post 2, the shock absorber shown in Fig. 2 may be interposed therebetween. This shock absorber comprises a helical spring 11, to one end of which is attached one end of a double cord 12, the cords of which are knotted at a short distance from the spring and are separated and passed separately through a disk 13, which may be of leather or any other suitable material, each cord being knotted immediately before and after its passage through the disk thereby to prevent the latter from moving along the cords under the impact of the ring 7 as it slides along the member 3. At some distance beyond the disk, the cords are again brought together and knotted, whereby they may be secured on the hook of post 2. The spring 11 is preferably tapered toward the end of the member 3 to which it is attached, so as to permit the ring 7 to readily pass over said spring when the ball is driven.

In Fig. 6, I have illustrated a special form of ring by means of which the attached end of the tethering string 8 is protected against frictional contact with the member 3. In this form, the cylindrical stock from which the ring is made is flattened at one portion of the ring and the edges of said flattened portion rolled inwardly so as to form a depression within the ring. A radially extending opening is formed in the bottom of said depression for the passage of the end of the string or cord 8, which is knotted after its passage through said opening, so that the knot lies within said depression, as shown at 7^a, Fig. 6. In Fig. 6, I have also shown an improved method of tethering the ball. As therein illustrated, the ball 9^a has molded within it a disk 14, preferably of leather, to which the double cord 8^a is attached by passing the separated cords through spaced apart openings in the disk and knotting said cords together at the rear of the disk. By thus molding the cord right into the ball, the necessity for providing a rigid member having means extending outside of the periphery of the ball for attachment of the string is avoided, and by the use of a disk of comparatively soft and flexible material for anchoring the string within the ball, the string will outlast the ball, since its contact with the anchoring disk is practically frictionless.

For providing additional hazards and thus increasing interest in the game, a pair of posts 15, each provided with a weighted base, may be placed at opposite sides of post 2, said posts 15 being of greater height than post 2.

The apparatus is used as follows: After the structure has been set up as shown in Fig. 1, a tee 16 made of rubber or any other suitable material, or, if preferred, the ordinary sand tee is placed on the ground a short distance in front of and at one side of post 1. The ball is then placed on the tee, and the player will endeavor, by striking the ball with a suitable implement, such as any of the usual golf sticks, to send the ball through the ring 10 on top of post 2, or cause the ball to pass first on one side of post 2 and then on the other side thereof between said post and the posts 15, the player being awarded a certain number of points for successfully making either of said strokes.

While I have described in detail the structure herein illustrated, it is to be understood that I do not thereby limit my invention to the precise features of construction shown, as I am aware that many mechanical changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a flexible member maintained in taut condition, a goal supported adjacent to one end of said flexible member and having an opening out of alignment with the flexible member, and a ball tethered to said flexible member and adapted to be driven along the same and through said goal.

2. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, a goal carried by one of said posts, and having an opening, a flexible member stretched between the posts out of alignment with the goal opening, and a ball tethered to said flexible member and adapted to be driven from one post toward the other and through the goal opening.

3. A game apparatus, comprsing, in combination, a pair of posts, a goal carried by one of said posts and having an opening, a flexible member stretched between said posts out of alignment with the goal opening, a ball tethered to said flexible member and adapted to be driven from one post toward the other and through said goal opening, and a pair of posts forming hazards, one at each side of said goal post.

4. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, a ring surmounting one of said posts, a flexible member stretched between said posts and connected to the ring carrying post at a point below said ring, and a ball tethered to said flexible member and adapted to be driven along the same and to pass through said ring.

5. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, one of said posts having a recess in its upper end, a removable and foldable ring seated in said recess and

having means for engaging the sides of the post thereby to retain the ring in an upright position, a flexible member stretched between said posts, and a ball tethered to said flexible member and adapted to be driven along the same toward the ring carrying post and to pass through said ring.

6. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, a flexible member stretched between said posts, a member mounted on said flexible member and adapted to travel along the same, and a ball tethered to said traveling member and adapted to be driven from one post toward the other, said flexible member including a shock-absorber located adjacent to said last post and adapted to engage said traveling member thereby to check the speed of said ball.

7. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, a flexible member stretched between said posts, a member mounted on said flexible member and adapted to travel along the same, a ball tethered to said traveling member and adapted to be driven from one post toward the other, and a disk supported by said flexible member in the path of the traveling member and adapted to engage the same thereby to check the speed of the ball.

8. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a pair of posts, a flexible member stretched between said posts, a ring encircling said flexible member and adapted to travel along the same, a cord secured at one end to said ring and carrying a ball at its opposite end, said ring having means for preventing frictional contact of said cord with the flexible member.

9. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a flexible member supported in taut condition, said flexible member including a coil spring, a disk connected to said spring and maintained in transverse relation thereto, a traveling member carried by said flexible member and adapted to travel along the same and beyond the spring without obstruction and to be checked by said disk, and a ball tethered to said traveling member.

10. A game apparatus, comprising, in combination, a member maintained in taut condition in a horizontal plane, a goal supported adjacent to one end of said member and out of alignment therewith, and a ball tethered to said member so as to travel along the same, the tether being of greater length than the vertical distance between the taut member and the surface on which the apparatus is supported, whereby the ball may be driven from a recumbent position and caused to travel along said taut member and reach said goal.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

GEORGE C. EASTON.