Oct. 17, 1933. S. F. KELLIHER 1,931,387

BATTING PRACTICE CAGE

Filed Jan. 25, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

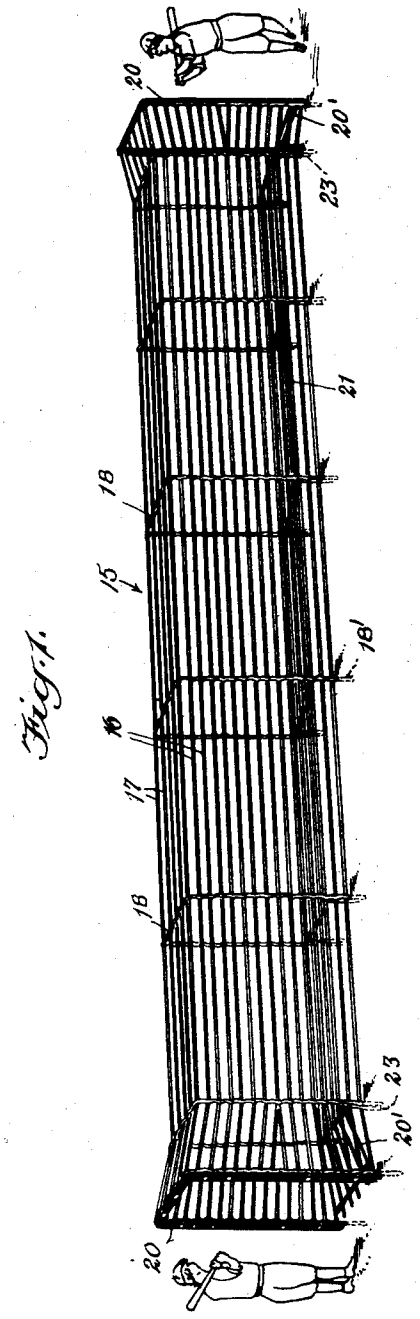


Fig. 1.

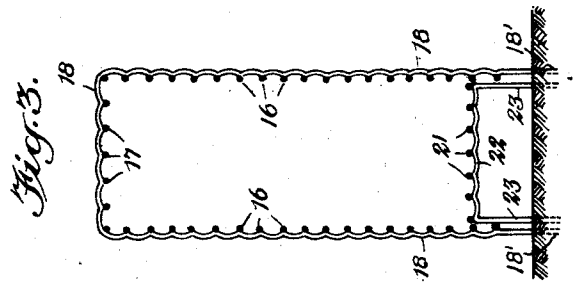


Fig. 3.

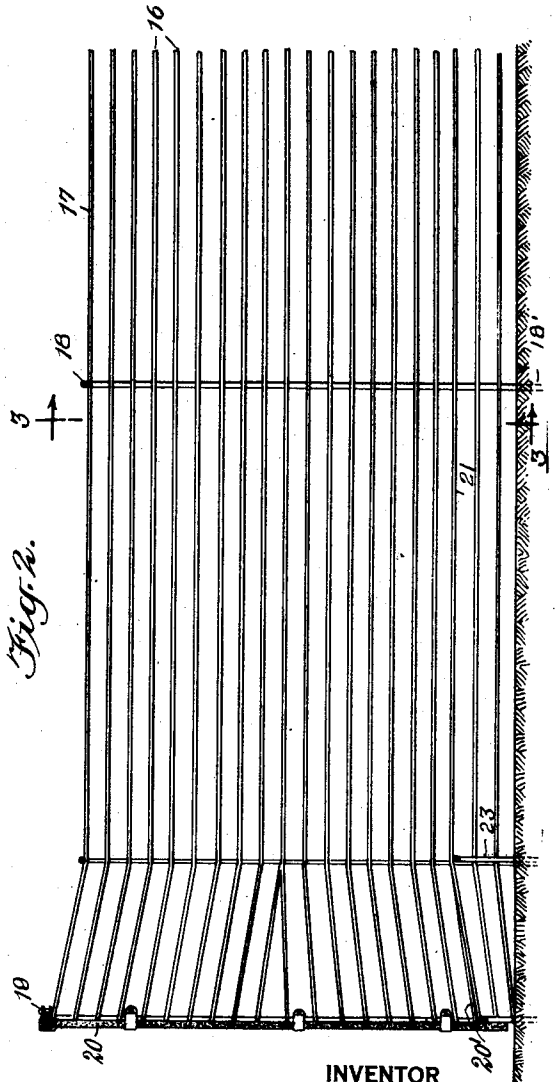


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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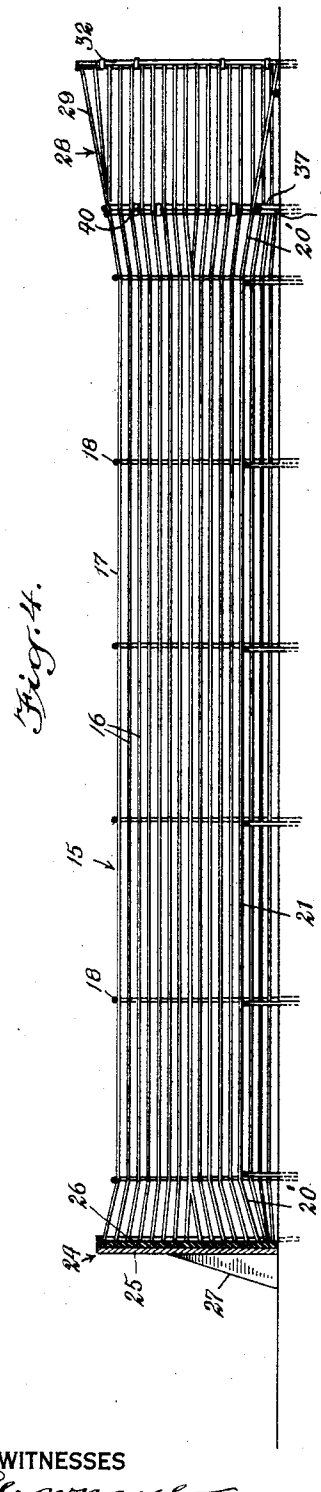


Fig. 4.

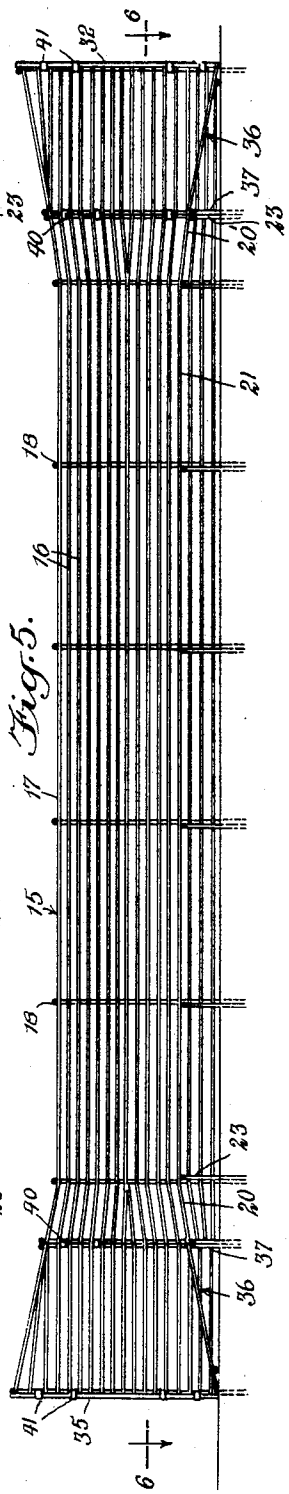


Fig. 5.

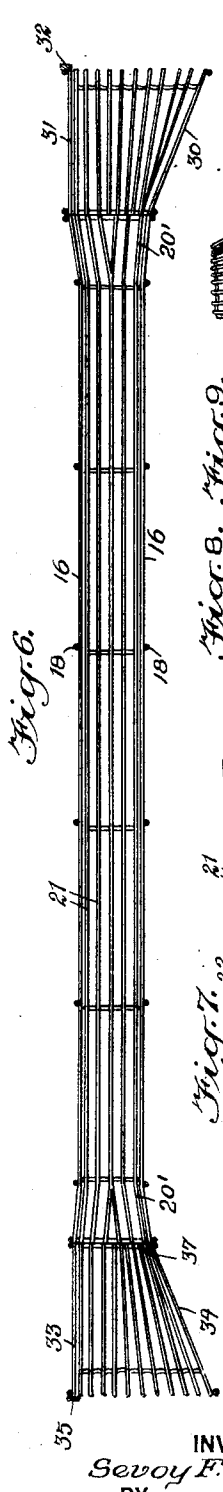


Fig. 6.

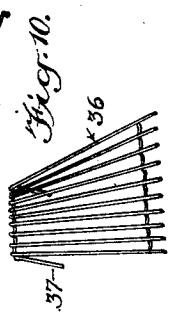


Fig. 10.



Fig. 9.



Fig. 8.

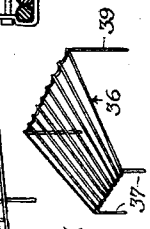


Fig. 11.

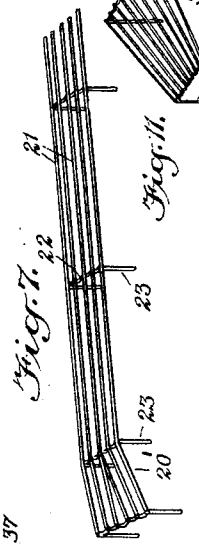


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,931,387

BATTING PRACTICE CAGE

Sevoy F. Kelliher, New Canaan, Conn.

Application January 25, 1932. Serial No. 588,699

8 Claims. (Cl. 273—26)

An object of the invention is to provide a batting practice cage which may be used without a pitcher and with which the batter may practice hitting balls traveling in various directions and at various speeds.

Another object of the invention is to provide a batting practice cage open at opposite ends, which permits two ball players, each with a bat, to position themselves, one at each end of the cage and bat a ball to and from each other through the cage.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a resilient member for closing one end of the cage, so that one player may use the cage by batting a ball through the cage to the resilient member, when it is returned by the action of the resilient member on the ball.

A further object of the invention is to provide detachable extensions which may be secured to the ends of the cage, the extensions having wider openings than the ends of the cage and permitting the player to make a longer and wider swing at the ball than would be the case if the player stood at the end of the cage instead of at the end of the extension.

The invention also includes a bottom member which may be disposed at an end of the cage to direct upwardly a ball which may travel along the bottom of the cage in the direction of the said end of the cage.

Additional objects of the invention will appear in the following specification in which the preferred form of the invention is described.

In the drawings similar reference characters refer to similar parts in all the views, of which

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the batting practice cage and showing the manner in which the cage is used,

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view showing one end of the cage,

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a side elevation of the cage illustrating the extension at one end of the cage and the resilient member closing the other end of the cage,

Figure 5 is a side elevation illustrating the cage with two extensions, one at each end of the cage,

Figure 6 is a plan view of Figure 5,

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the bottom at one end of the cage,

Figures 8 and 9 are fragmentary sectional views illustrating the means for securing the extensions and the resilient member at an end of the cage,

Figure 10 is a perspective view illustrating a bottom member for use in connection with the extension at an end of the cage, and

Figure 11 is a view illustrating the manner in which the bottom at the extension may be tilted outwardly and upwardly to direct upwardly a ball which rolls along the bottom of the cage.

By referring to the drawings, and particularly Figure 1, it will be seen that the batting practice cage 15 has a plurality of spaced-apart longitudinally extending members 16 forming the sides of the batting practice cage and also a plurality of longitudinally extending members 17 forming the top of the cage. These members 16 and 17 are preferably heavy wires or rods and are held spaced apart and in position by members 18, the members 18 having feet 18' which may penetrate the ground, the members 18 extending upwardly at the outer sides of the members 16 and across the top of the cage at the outer sides of the members 17. The members 16 and 17 are secured to the members 18 preferably by welding. It will be seen by referring to Figure 3 of the drawings that the members 18 are curved outwardly between the members 16 and 17, and these members 16 and 17 are disposed relatively close together, so that a ball cannot pass between the said members 16 and 17.

The members 18 extend outwardly between the members 16 and 17 respectively, so that a ball batted through the cage, should it strike the top or sides of the cage, will travel along the members 16 and 17 and will not contact with the members 18, which would alter the speed of the ball passing through the cage. As will be seen by referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, the members 16 at either end of the cage diverge laterally relatively to the members at the other side of the cage. The members 17 also extend upwardly and outwardly, so that the openings at the ends of the cage are flared. There are clamping members 19 at the ends of the cage and these clamping members 19 serve to secure a pad or cushioning member 20 around each end of the cage, so that there may be no danger of injury to the batter by the hands of the batter striking the ends of the cage.

The bottom of the cage is preferably made separately to permit of adjustment, the bottom having longitudinally extending members 21 which are held relatively to each other and spaced apart by transverse members 22, the transverse members 22 being bent downwardly between the members 21 and the said transverse members 22 having depending terminals 23, which may be disposed in the ground to hold the bottom of the

cage in the desired position relatively to the body of the cage. As will be seen by again referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, the ends 20' of the bottom of the cage extend downwardly and outwardly at the open ends of the cage.

With the construction which has been described, two ball players may position themselves, one at each end of the cage, each with a bat, and may bat a ball back and forth through the cage to each other. When the batter at one end of the cage strikes the ball, the ball will travel through the cage and out of the other end of the cage, where it may be hit by the other player, who will return the ball to the player who first batted the ball.

By referring to Figure 4 of the drawings, it will be seen that the pad or cushioning member 20 at one end of the cage may be removed by feeding the pad or cushioning member from the clamping members 19, and the clamping members may then be employed to close the said end of the cage by means of an end member 24 having a body 25 at its outer side and a resilient member 26 at its inner side. As stated, this end member 24 will be secured by clamps, such as are shown in Figure 9 of the drawings, the end member 24 preferably having openings through which the said clamps will be disposed. This end member 24 also has a rearwardly extending leg 27 which serves to brace the end member and assist in holding the end member in position. With this form of the invention, the cage may be used by a single player, who will bat a ball through the cage, the ball striking the resilient member 26 and returning into the cage to be batted again by the player.

In certain cases it is important that the batter have practice at long swings at a ball and to provide for this, the batting practice cage is provided with end extensions 28 which are constructed in the manner set forth with reference to the top and sides of the cage, the end extensions 28 at their upper portions extending outwardly and upwardly, as shown at 29, one side 30 of the end extensions being flared and the other side of the end extensions being substantially parallel with the side line of the body of the cage. When this end extension is used, the batter, if he is a left-handed batter, will stand adjacent the side 31 of the end extension to bat the ball as it passes from the extension of the cage, the side 31 of the extension being preferably protected by a pad or cushioning member 32. If the batter is a right-handed batter, another arrangement of the end extension 28 will be provided and the batter will stand adjacent the side 33 of the end extension which is substantially parallel with the side line of the body of the cage, the side 33 being provided with a pad or cushioning member 35 and the opposite side 34 being flared. To form a continuation of the bottom of the cage at the end extension 28, a bottom member 36 is provided, the said bottom member 36 being constructed in the manner set forth with reference to the bottom member 21 and having legs 37 at its inner end which may be disposed in the ground to hold the bottom member 36 to form a continuation of the bottom of the cage. This bottom member, as shown in Figure 10 of the drawings, extends downwardly and outwardly, but, as will be seen by referring to Figure 11, an end extension bottom member 36 may be provided which will extend outwardly and upwardly to direct upwardly the ball, which may be traveling along the bottom of the cage, to a position where it may be batted by the player. This end extension bottom member 36 will have legs 39 to support its outer end above the ground. It will be seen that the end extension bottoms, as shown in Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings, have their sides diverging outwardly.

When the end extensions 28 are used, the clamps 40, shown in Figure 8 of the drawings, will be employed to clamp the end extensions to the body of the cage, but clamps 41, shown in Figure 9 of the drawings, will preferably be used to clamp the pad or cushioning member 20 to the outer end of the body of the cage and these clamps 41 may also be used, as has been described, to secure the end member 24 to a part of the cage.

What is claimed is:

1. An elongated batting practice cage having sides, a top and a bottom and being open at its ends to permit two batters to stand one at each open end of the cage to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other.

2. An elongated batting practice cage having open flared ends at which batters may stand to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other.

3. An elongated batting practice cage having open ends at which batters may stand to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other, and an approximately straight bottom through the body of the cage having an end extending outwardly and upwardly for directing upwardly a ball passing along the bottom of the cage.

4. An elongated batting practice cage having sides, a top and a bottom, means to support the cage with its bottom disposed above the ground, the cage having open ends at which batters may stand to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other.

5. An elongated batting practice cage having sides, a top and a bottom, means to support the cage with its bottom disposed above the ground, the cage having open ends at which batters may stand to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other, and a bottom member at an end of the cage for directing upwardly the ball passing along the bottom of the cage.

6. An elongated batting practice cage having sides, a bottom and a top, extension members at the ends of the cage and secured thereto, the extension members having tops and sides with a side of each extension member flared relatively to its opposite side, and extension bottom members between the sides of the bottom extension members and forming continuations of the bottom of the cage.

7. An elongated batting practice cage having sides, a bottom straight longitudinally of the cage and a top, extension members at the ends of the cage and secured thereto, the extension members having tops and sides with a side of each extension member flared relatively to its opposite side, and extension bottom members between the sides of the extension members and forming continuations of the bottom of the cage.

8. An elongated batting practice cage having sides and a top and feet for engaging the ground, an elongated bottom member for the cage disposed in the cage and having feet which support the bottom member in the cage above the ground, the cage having open ends at which batters may stand to bat a ball through the cage to and from each other.

SEVOY F. KELLIHER.