April 1, 1941. E. C. GILLETTE 2,236,500

GOLF PRACTICING DEVICE

Filed Feb. 16, 1940

Fig. 1

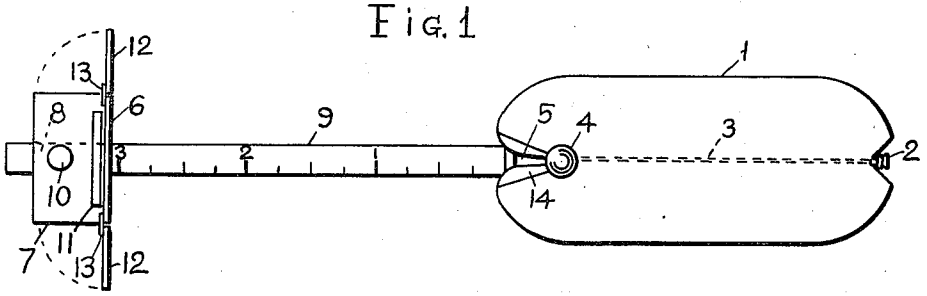


Fig. 2

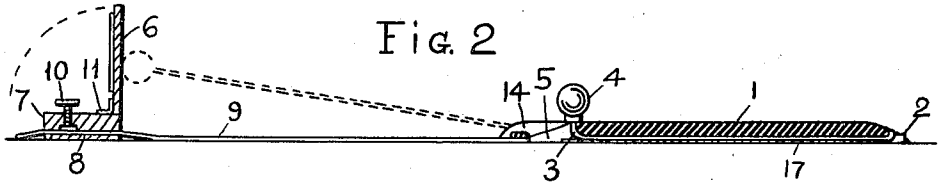


Fig. 3

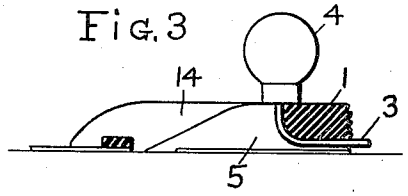


Fig. 4

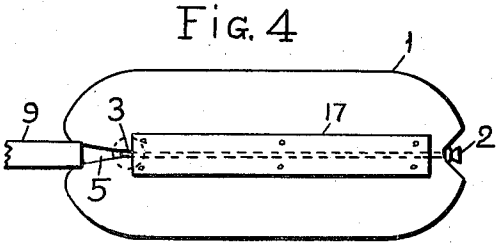


Fig. 5

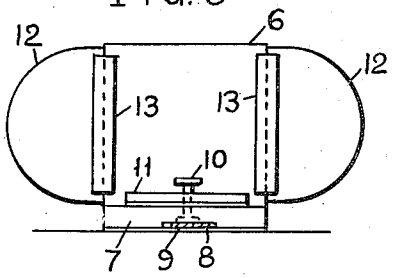
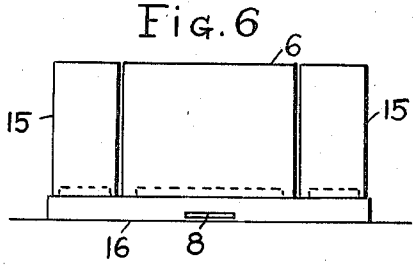


Fig. 6



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GOLF PRACTICING DEVICE

Elmon C. Gillette, New York, N. Y.

Application February 16, 1940, Serial No. 319,219

5 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

My invention relates to golf practicing devices and has particular reference to devices having captive balls.

My invention has for its object to provide a golf practicing device in which a captive ball is attached to one end of a resilient cord supported on the base, the ball being adapted to be held on the base in a convenient position for a drive by a golf club. The resilient cord limits the distance to which the ball is projected and, by measuring this distance, it is possible to ascertain the power of the drive. For convenience in gauging such distance, I provide a strap or tape extending from the front end of the base and calibrated in units of length, corresponding to the length of the drive if the ball were free. Thus, with a suitable rubber cord, four feet on the calibrated tape corresponds, for instance, to about two hundred yards of a free drive, five feet to about two hundred and fifty yards, and six feet to about three hundred yards.

Another object of my invention is to provide a target which can be placed on the calibrated tape and clamped in its position against the tape. The target may be provided with additional hinged targets on the sides of the main target to indicate sliced or hooked drives.

Another object of my invention is to provide means to enable the ball, upon its rebound and return to the base, to take a teeing position for a new drive. For this purpose, I provide the front end of the base with a slot having tapering sides so that the ball can be pulled by the tension of the cord over these tapering or inclined sides on the upper side of the base.

In order to protect the cord under the base, I provide a cover or covers for the slot in which the cord slides.

My invention is more fully described in the accompanying specification and drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of my device.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the same.

Fig. 3 is a detail view of the front end of the base.

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the base.

Fig. 5 is a front view of the target.

Fig. 6 is a view of a modified target.

My golf practicing device consists of a base board 1 which can be made of any suitable material such as wood, metal, or, preferably, rubber. It has a hook 2 at one end for attaching the end of a resilient cord 3. A ball 4 is attached to the other end of the cord and fits in a slot 5 at the front of the base, being held in a teeing position by the resiliency of the cord. The ball can be driven from the base by striking it with a golf club in the same manner as it is done in actual play. The cord, being made of a high grade rubber, preferably rubber tubing, stretches more or less, depending on the speed at which the club is moving at the moment of impact. The distance reached by the ball after the drive is approximately proportional to the actual distance which an ordinary free golf ball would travel when hit at the same speed and by the same club.

The distance of travel of the captive ball 4 can be determined by placing a target 6 in front of the device. The target is supported on a block 7 having a slot 8 at the bottom for a measuring strap or tape 9 attached at one end to the under side of the base 1. The block 7 can be clamped against the tape by a suitable clamping device such as a screw 10. The target is supported on the block by means of a resilient hinge 11 preferably made of rubber. The hinge tends to keep the target in a vertical position, the target resting with its edge against the surface of the block.

Additional targets 12 are attached to the side edges of the main target by resilient hinges 13. The main target is deflected when hit by the ball. One of the side targets is deflected if the ball travels at an angle, as is the case, for instance, with a sliced drive.

The ball returns on rebound to the base 1. The sides of the slot 5 are tapered at 14 in order to enable the ball to climb on top of the base and to take a teeing position, being pulled by the tension of the cord 3.

A modified target is shown in Fig. 6, the side targets 15 being hinged to the block 16, so that they can be deflected independently of the main target.

It is understood that my golf practicing device may be further modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a golf practicing device employing a ball tethered to a base on a resilient cord, a target comprising a board, a solid target plate, a horizontal hinge supporting the target plate at its lower edge on the board, yieldably retaining the target plate in a substantially vertical position, supplementary target plates, and means to hingedly support the supplementary plates at the substantially vertical side edges of the main target plate and to yieldably retain them in a substantially parallel alignment with the main tar-

get plate, the supplementary plates being substantially smaller than the main target plate.

2. In a golf practicing device employing a ball tethered to a base on a resilient cord, a target comprising a board, a solid target plate, a horizontal hinge supporting the target plate at its lower edge on the board, yieldably retaining the target plate in a substantially vertical position, supplementary target plates, hinges extending along the side edges of the main target plate yieldably supporting the supplementary plates, the supplementary plates being normally held in a plane with the main target plate and being adapted to be deflected by the ball independently of the main plate.

3. In a golf practicing device employing a ball tethered to a base on a resilient cord, a target comprising a board, a solid target plate, a horizontal hinge supporting the target plate at its lower edge on the board, yieldably retaining the target plate in a substantially vertical position, supplementary target plates, and means to hingedly support the supplementary plates at the substantially vertical side edges of the main target plate and to yieldably retain them in a substantially parallel alignment with the main target plate, the supplementary plates being substantially smaller than the main target plate and being adapted to be deflected by the ball independently of the main target plate.

4. In a golf practicing device employing a ball tethered to a base on a resilient cord, a target comprising a board, a solid target plate, means to hingedly and yieldably support the plate on the board in a substantially vertical position, supplementary target plates, and means to hingedly support the supplementary plates at the substantially vertical side edges of the main target plate and to yieldably retain them in a substantially parallel alignment with the main target plate, the supplementary plates being substantially smaller than the main target plate.

5. A target for a golf practicing device comprising a board, a solid target plate, means to hingedly and yieldably support the plate on the board in a substantially vertical position, supplementary target plates, and means to hingedly support the supplementary plates at the substantially vertical side edges of the main target plate and to yieldably retain them in a substantially parallel alignment with the main target plate, the supplementary plates being substantially smaller than the main target plate.

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