Jan. 22, 1952 J. M. PRENTICE ET AL 2,583,493

GAME WICKET DEVICE

Filed May 4, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

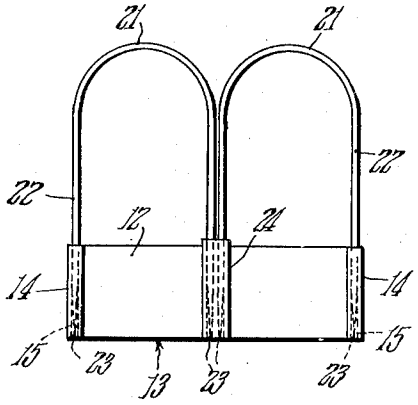


Fig. 2.

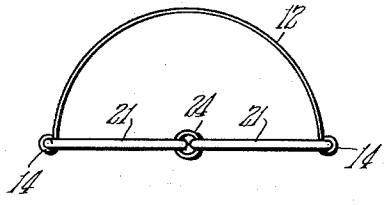
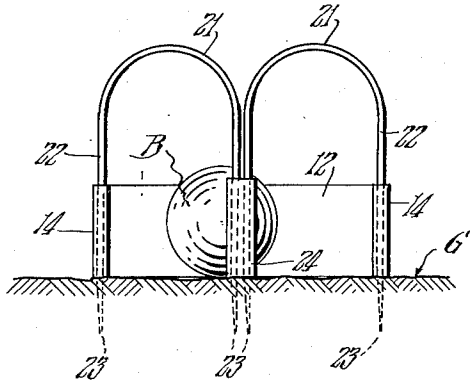


Fig. 3.



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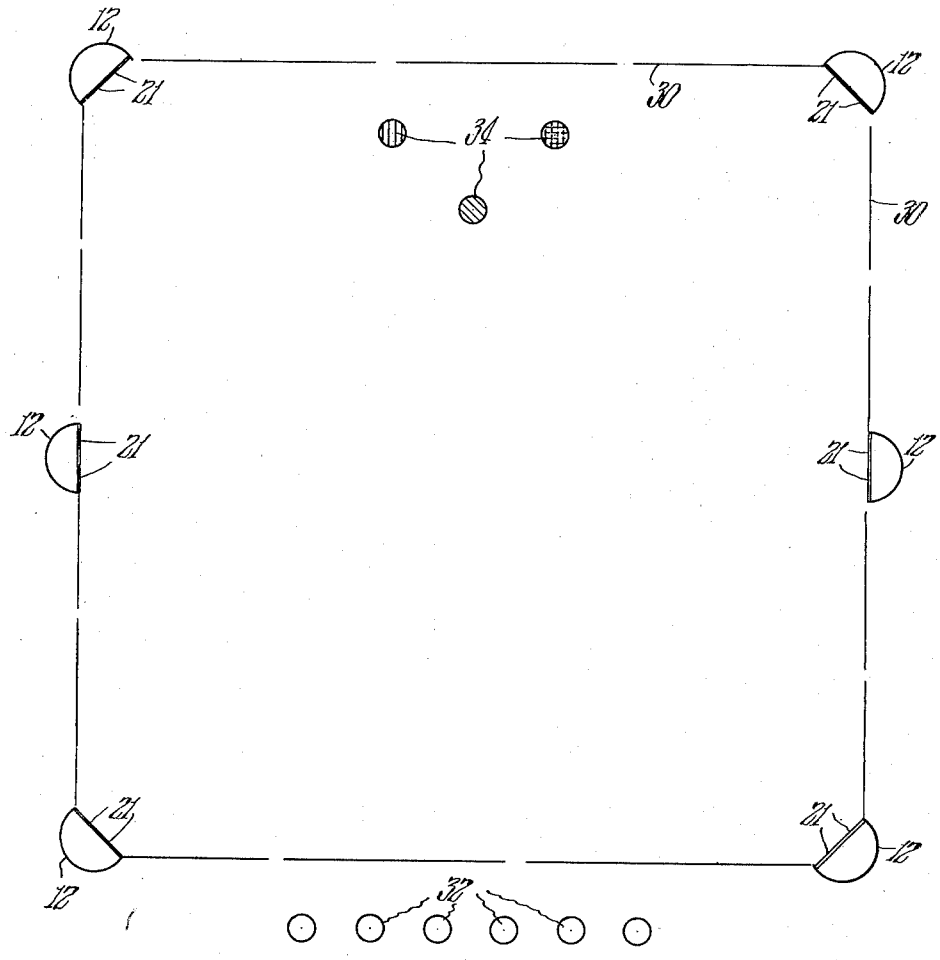


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME WICKET DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—56)

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Our invention relates to improvements in game apparatus and is directed more particularly to the provision of a novel and improved type of means for playing a game indoors on a rug or outdoors on a lawn, all as may be desired, and to an improvement in the playing devices for games of the ball and mallet type.

It is the principal object of our invention to provide a novel and improved construction whereby a lawn billiards game results which incorporates certain of the features of croquet, or similar lawn or rug games of the ball and mallet type.

There is the further provision of a new and novel construction whereby the playing of the game with a maximum amount of ease and with a minimum degree of effort is made possible.

With the above primary object in view, it is another object of our invention to provide a construction of the above described character which is relatively simple and compact in accordance with the demands and desires of manufacturers and purchasers alike and which is not only attractive in its appearance and practical in its value but also reliable in its operation and thoroughly efficient in its use.

These objects we accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts thereof, as will fully appear by a perusal of the description below and by various specific features which will be hereinafter set forth.

To the above cited and other ends and with the foregoing and various other novel features and advantages and other objects of our invention as will become more readily apparent as the description proceeds, our invention consists in certain novel features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more particularly pointed out in the claims hereunto annexed and more fully described and referred to in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a playing device used in the game of our invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the playing device shown in Fig. 1 in association with the ground with which it may be adapted for a particular kind of use; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the game of our invention showing a plurality of the playing devices shown in Fig. 1 in operative relation.

In the above mentioned drawings annexed hereto and forming a part of this specification,

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we have shown but one embodiment of our invention which is deemed preferable, but it is to be understood that changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring now to the different drawings more in detail, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures and referring more particularly to the preferred form of our invention selected for illustrative purposes, we have shown a wall member which is comprised of a curving semi-circular shaped side wall 12 which extends vertically relative to the surface on which the game is played such as the ground or a rug. The side wall 12 is so constructed that, when placed upon a rug or the ground, the member rests thereupon along its lowermost edge portion 13.

At the opposite extremities of the side wall 12, curved end portions 14 are turned back upon the side wall proper so as to provide openings 15 therethrough for use as will presently be observed. The openings 15 may be otherwise provided if desired.

A gate member comprises a pair of U-shaped wicket members 21 each having a pair of side arms 22 from each of which depends a downwardly extending extremity which has a tapered and pointed end 23 for insertion into the ground if desired.

A coupling member 24 is provided which serves to hold loosely together in adjacency one of the side arms 22 of one of the U-shaped members with the adjacent side arm 22 of the other of the U-shaped members in a manner substantially as shown in Fig. 1.

The outermost side arms of the pair of U-shaped members are receivable through the openings 15 of the pocket member, when the wicket member and pocket member are joined together in operative relationship whereby the side wall member 12 and the U-shaped members are disposed in parallel vertical planes, all as shown in Fig. 3.

The centrally disposed side arms which are held together in pivotal relationship as to each other by the coupling member 24, as aforesaid, serves as a guide post around which a ball B must pass as it "passes through" the playing piece formed by the combining of the member 12 and the members 21 and 21.

The ends 23 are insertable into the ground G or other outdoor surfaces when it is desired to play the game on a lawn, thereby serving as

stakes whereby the playing piece may be held fixed to the playing surface, during play.

When the device is used indoors on a rug or the like, the wicket members do not extend downwardly below the plane of the member **12**, as in the case where the device is used outdoors. That is, the ends **23** do not extend downwardly below the plane of the edge portion **13** whereby the rug or similar playing surface is not injured thereby.

The device is shown in operative position for playing indoors in Fig. 1, and in Fig. 3 the device is shown in operation position for playing outdoors.

The centrally disposed side arms are so spaced from the wall **12** as to permit a ball B to travel through one of the wicket members and over a greater portion of the area within the semi-circular wall member **12** and out through the other of the wicket members. That is to say, a passage "through the pocket" is accomplished as the ball B enters through one of the wicket members and out through the other of the wicket members.

The side wall **12** being circular in shape, a ball passing through one of the wickets is urged in a circular direction as it hits the wall **12** whereby the ball passes out through the other of the wickets.

The device of our invention having been recited, the rules for playing the game therewith will now be described.

The game is set up on a rug or on the lawn, as may be desired, and a plurality of pockets are arranged as to each other substantially as shown in Fig. 4, i. e. with sufficient space between pockets to provide a playing area within the confines of the area outlines by the pockets disposed on the edges thereof and the imaginary lines therebetween indicated generally by the numeral **30**.

The sequence of play may be decided by any conventional means as by the throw of dice or the like.

The first player starts taking as many strikes at his particular cue ball **32** as he is allowed in accordance with the rules set forth below. When his turn is over, the second player repeats the process. The play continues, each player following the player ahead of him until the end of the game. There is a cue ball **32** provided for each player in the game, as many playing as may be desired.

The object of the game is for each player to "score" in each of the pockets in the proper order or sequence. The first player to "score" in all of the pockets wins the game.

The pockets are of different colors or combinations of colors such as a yellow pocket, a green pocket, a yellow-green pocket, etc. etc.

Keys balls **34** are brought into play and consist of a plurality of colored balls, e. g. there may be if desired a red ball, a green ball, and a yellow ball, as shown in Fig. 4.

These key balls are for the use of all players in the game as will presently be observed.

A player must first cause his cue ball to strike the key ball or balls indicated by the color of the pocket he seeks to pass through. That is, in order to gain admittance to the yellow pocket, he must first cause his cue ball to strike the yellow key ball in the playing area. To gain admittance, on the other hand, to the red, yellow and green pocket, he must first cause his cue ball to strike in succession the red, yellow and green key balls.

When ready to pass through a pocket, a player successfully passes therethrough, or "makes" his move when and if he drives his cue ball, in either direction, through the pocket member in question.

A player starts out in his turn with one allowed strike or shot. He may qualify for additional or earned shots. By hitting a key ball, the player earns an additional shot. By playing through any pocket in either direction, a player earns an additional shot.

A player's turn ends:

a. When he fails to earn a free shot, and

b. When he causes his cue ball or any other player's cue ball or any key ball to go out of bounds.

When a key ball goes out of bounds or when any cue ball also goes out, the player's turn is terminated and the out-of-bound balls must be returned to the playing area.

While we have described the invention in great detail and with respect to the present preferred form thereof, it is not desired to be limited thereto since changes and modifications particularly as to the rules of the game may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of our invention. The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiments are therefore to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range and purview of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

What it is desired to claim and secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A playing device for a game apparatus of the ball and mallet type comprising in combination, a wall member having a semi-circular vertical side wall and arms receiving pockets at opposite extremities of the side wall, a pair of U-shaped wicket members each having a pair of downwardly extending side arms, and a coupling member gripping into adjacency one of the side arms of one of said wicket members with the adjacent side arm of the other of said wicket members, an opposite side arm of each of said wicket members being receivable in one of the arms receiving pockets of said wall member, all adapted and arranged with said wicket members being vertically disposed relative to a playing surface to provide a pair of openings through which balls of the game may be passed into and out of an area bounded by said wall member and said wicket members.

2. A playing device for a game apparatus of the ball and mallet type comprising in combination, a wall member having a semi-circular vertical side wall and arms receiving pockets at opposite extremities thereof, a pair of U-shaped wicket members each having a pair of side arms, and a coupling member gripping together in adjacency a side arm of one of said wicket members with the adjacent side arm of the other of said wicket members, the outermost side arms of each of said wicket members being insertable through the arms receiving pockets of said wall member, all adapted and arranged whereby said wicket members are vertically disposed relative to a playing surface to provide a pair of open-

ings through which balls of the game may be passed into an area bounded by said wall member and said wicket members, the side arms of said wicket members having free downwardly depending pointed ends for insertion into the ground as the side arms are projected downwardly through the arms receiving pockets of said wall member and below the plane thereof.

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