June 7, 1949. C. S. BARKER 2,472,187

INDOOR GOLF

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Fig. 1.

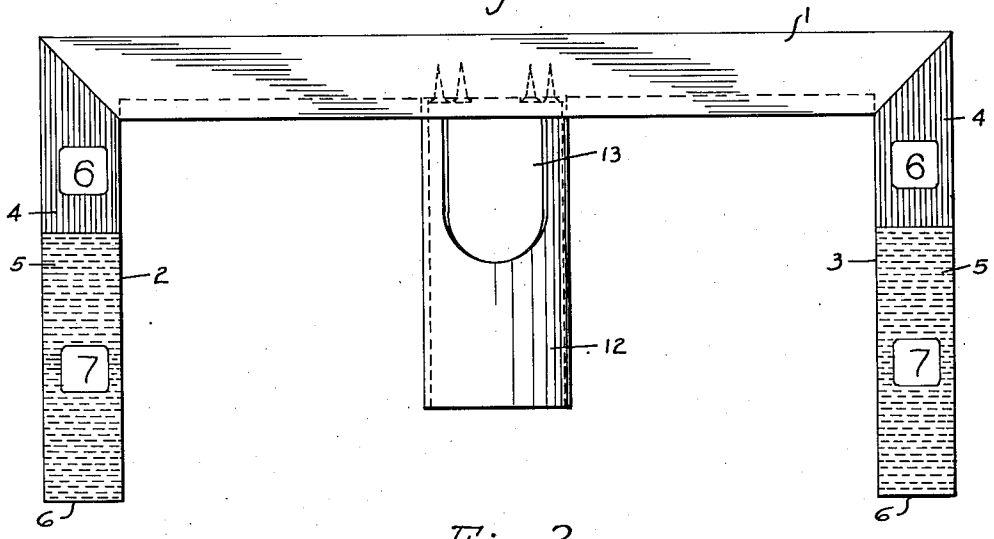


Fig. 2.

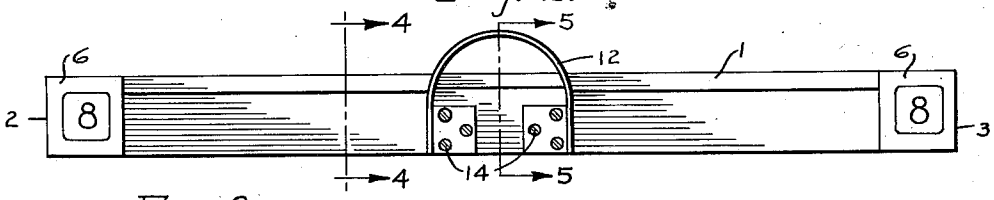


Fig. 3.

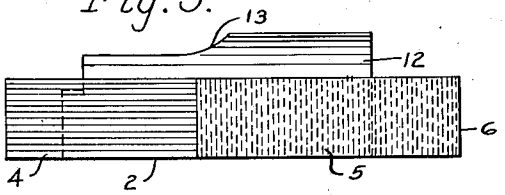


Fig. 5.

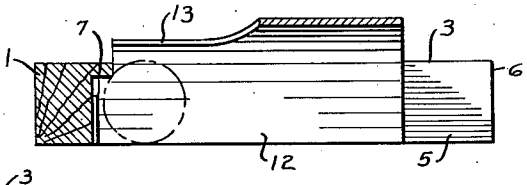
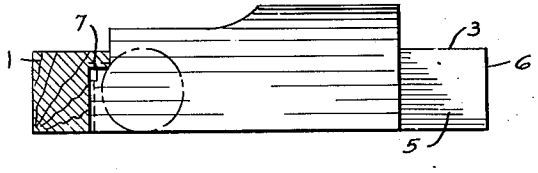


Fig. 4.



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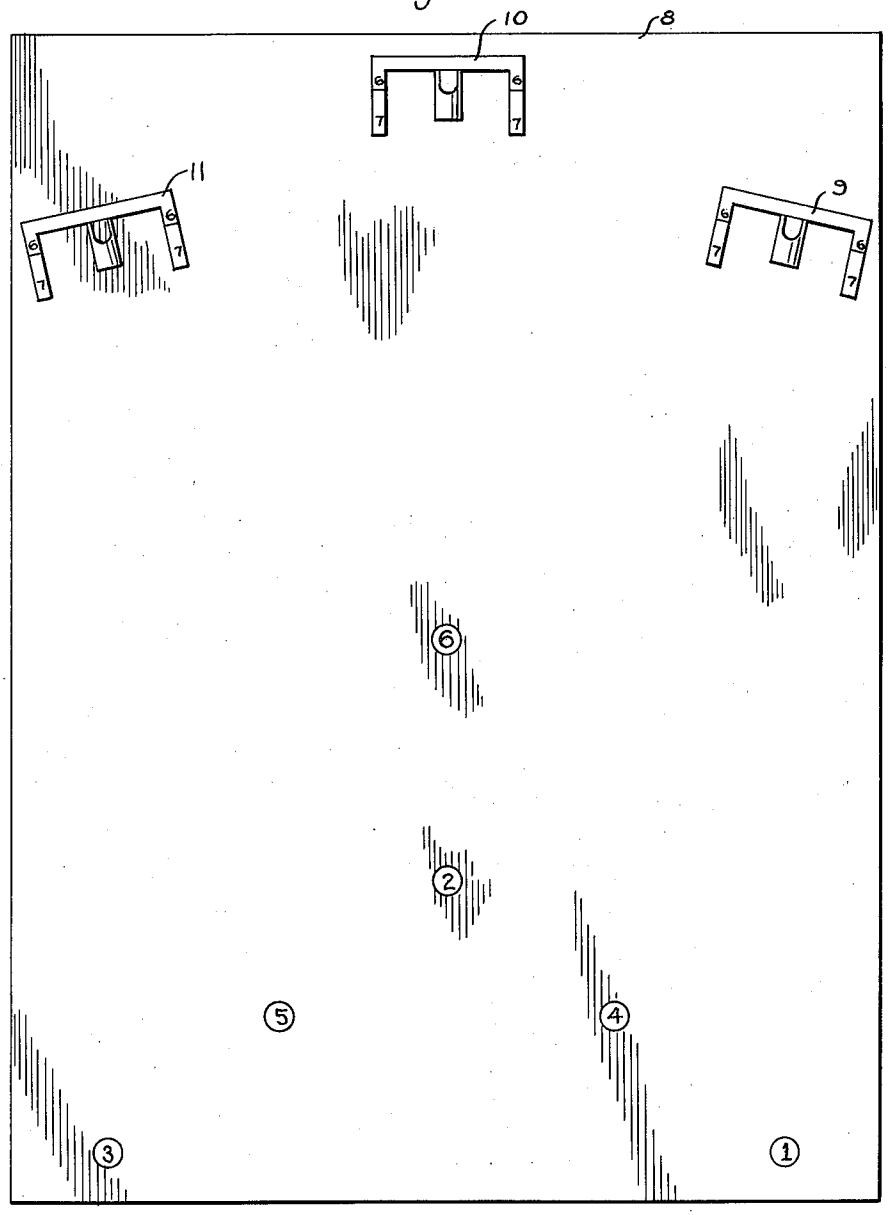
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Fig. 6.



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INDOOR GOLF

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8 Claims. (Cl. 273—36)

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The present invention relates to golf games and more particularly to an indoor equivalent of outdoor golf.

The object of this invention is to construct frames that may be placed on a rug or floor to serve as holes, having means for braking the speed of a ball and for indicating how far the ball would overrun the hole on a regular golf course.

Another object is to simulate a regular outdoor putting course indoors on a floor space of approximately 9' x 12'.

Another object is to use three frames and six stations from each of which one ball is shot to each of the frames by each contestant, thus providing the equivalent of eighteen holes of golf.

Another object is to so arrange the frames and stations as to provide a wide variety of distances and relative angular positions of the frame relative to the station.

Another object is to provide means on said frames to bounce a ball back after it hits the back of the frame, at a considerably reduced speed relatively to that with which it strikes the frame but proportional thereto, and means for measuring the reduced rebound in terms of the distance the ball would have actually missed the hole by rolling beyond it, whereby to put a premium on correct distance as well as directional accuracy.

Another object is to construct a frame such as referred to above, in the form of a three-sided rectangular bar for laying flat on the floor, the open side constituting its front end, the front of the rear side being undercut at a height greater than the radius and less than the diameter of a golf ball to slow up its rebound.

Another object is to construct a frame as above providing a horizontal cup extending forward from the rear side at its center, representing the hole.

Another object is to form the above cup of sheet material formed into an archway, the top of which is cut out for a short distance from the rear side to facilitate recovery of a ball in the cup without disturbing the frame.

Another object is to mark the lateral sides of the frame at predetermined distances from the rear side to enable measuring the distance of rebound of a ball.

Another object is to indicate the scoring values on these sides corresponding to the several distances of rebound to thereby indicate accuracy for distance.

Other and more specific objects will appear in the following detailed description of one form of construction illustrating the present invention, having reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the frame used in the present golf game,

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Figure 2 is a front elevational view thereof,

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the same frame,

Figures 4 and 5 are sectional views taken on the lines 4—4 and 5—5 of Figure 2 respectively, and

Figure 6 is a plan view of three of the frames showing their arrangement relative to the positions of six stations from which the balls may be shot, on a space approximately 9' x 12'.

The frames are three-sided rectangular bars, preferably constructed of square or rectangular wood stock 1½" to 2" in size. A bar 1 about 9" long forms the rear side, while bars 2 and 3 about 4½" long form the lateral sides. These lateral sides may be marked off into two or more axial sections, such as 4 and 5, preferably by painting the sections in different colors, such as e. g. red for sections 4 and silver or white for sections 5. These sections may also be inscribed with the score indications corresponding to the accuracy in distance of a ball shot so as to stop within the distance of the respective sections, as e. g. "6" on sections 4 and "7" on sections 5. The front ends 6 of the lateral sides may be inscribed with a higher score such as "8" to be counted in the event the ball misses or comes back out of the frame. An arched cup 12 of sheet material cut out at the top at 13 extends forwardly from the middle of the rear side 1, and may be fixed thereto by screws 14, as shown.

The front of the rear side is undercut as shown at 7 at a height less than the diameter of a golf ball, but more than its radius, depending on the amount of snubbing or braking action desired. The higher the undercut, the greater the snubbing and the smaller the rebound. The standard diameter of a golf ball is $1\frac{21}{32}$". The undercut in the present frame is 1⅜" inside the cup and $1\frac{29}{32}$" outside the cup, being $\frac{7}{16}$" deep all the way across the rear side of the frame. The 1⅜" undercut was found to have sufficient snubbing action to prevent the ball from being bounced back out of the cup, unless hit so hard that it would ordinarily pass right over the hole without dropping in, on the regular golf greens. The $1\frac{29}{32}$" undercut outside the cup was found to cause sufficient snubbing action to cause the ball to bounce back within the red section distance from the rear side, if the ball is hit only hard enough to go about 2 to 5 feet past the cup if there were no obstruction, and to bounce it back within the silver section space, if it is hit so that it would normally be carried about 5 to 10 feet beyond the cup.

Different amounts of undercut may be selected in accordance with the amount of snubbing desired and any number of sections may be used and different number of points assigned to the score indications for each section accordingly.

A preferred arrangement of the frames on a 9' x 12' space or rug 8 is shown in Figure 6. The frames 9, 10 and 11 are placed as shown at one end of the rug and six positions are indicated for the six different stations, numbers 1 to 6, from which 18 balls are shot by each player consecutively, each player hitting three balls from each station, one ball for each frame. This arrangement provides for a variety of distances and angles for the eighteen "holes" thus simulated.

The cup in the present frames is made 3'' wide, whereas the standard cup in the greens is 4¼'' in diameter. Accordingly, a score of 4 may be counted if the ball hits the front of the cup in this game, and 3 if it goes into the cup. If a ball stroked at a reasonable speed hits the front of the cup, that ball would very likely ring the cup in a regular golf game.

The undercut may be made slanting downwardly a slightly amount from the cup toward the ends of the rear side of the frame, so as to give a greater rebound to the ball if it hits the rear side farther away from the center, thus putting a premium on directional accuracy as well as on distance.

Many other modifications may obviously be made in the form and arrangement of the frames used in this game without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In game apparatus for improving the putting technique of golfers, an assemblage comprising an angular three-sided frame formed of a rear wall and wings projecting forwardly from and at substantial right angles to the end zones of such rear wall, and an open-bottom and open-ended element secured to and projecting forwardly from a mid-zone portion of the rear wall, the open front end of said element permitting passage of a putted golf ball into the element, said element having an arched top and an overall height greater than that of the rear wall, said rear wall being undercut lengthwise of the length of the wall to form a forwardly-projecting rib-like formation extending lengthwise of the upper zone of such rear wall to thereby brake or snub a golf ball driven into contact with the rear wall by a putt stroke of the golfer, the open rear end of the element extending above the plane of the rib-formation to place the rib-formation accessible to the interior of the element and cause a putted golf ball entering the element to be subject to the braking or snubbing action of such formation to thereby control the rebound value of such entered ball.

2. An assemblage as in claim 1 characterized in that the vertical height of the rear-wall undercut is greater than the radius of a golf ball and less than the diameter of such ball.

3. An assemblage as in claim 2 characterized in that the vertical height of the undercut within the element zone is greater than the undercut height between the element and the wings of the frame.

4. An assemblage as in claim 1 characterized in that the wings of the frame carry distinctive markings constituting scoring indications of distance values based upon the rebound values produced by the braking or snubbing action of the rib formation.

5. An assemblage as in claim 1 characterized in that the wings of the frame carry distinctive markings constituting scoring indications of distance values based upon the rebound values produced by the braking or snubbing action of the rib formation, said markings distinguishing by color with the colors forming zones arranged in succession lengthwise of each wing, each zone carrying a value indication to present the scoring value of the zone.

6. An assembly as in claim 1 characterized in that the formed ball-receiving element is of sheet metal construction and presents a cross-section of inverted U-shape contour, with its rear open end formed with inturned flanges carried by the lower end portions of the legs of the contour, said flanges being secured to the face of the undercut zone of the rear wall, the lower edges of the element extending in the plane of the bottoms of the rear wall and wings.

7. An assemblage as in claim 6 characterized in that the rear end zones of the legs of the element have end contours including an intermediate step adapted to underlie the rear-wall rib formation, the thickness of the flanges being sufficiently less than the depth of the undercut as to prevent contact therewith of the entering ball to thereby render such ball subject to the braking or snubbing action provided by the section of the rib formation active between the legs of the element.

8. An assembly as in claim 1 characterized in that the formed ball-receiving element is of sheet metal construction and presents a cross section of inverted U-shape contour, with its rear open end formed with inturned flanges carried by the lower end portions of the legs of the contour, said flanges being secured to the face of the undercut zone of the rear wall, the lower edges of the element extending in the plane of the bottoms of the rear wall and wings, a portion of the arched top of the element being cut away from the rear of the element forwardly for a distance approximating half the length of the element and a width greater than the diameter of a golf ball to thereby permit removal of an entered ball from the element through such opening without disturbing the position of the assembly when accurate putting of the ball has caused the rebound to locate its rest position to be within the rear zone of the element beneath such opening.

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