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GOLF PRACTICING MACHINE

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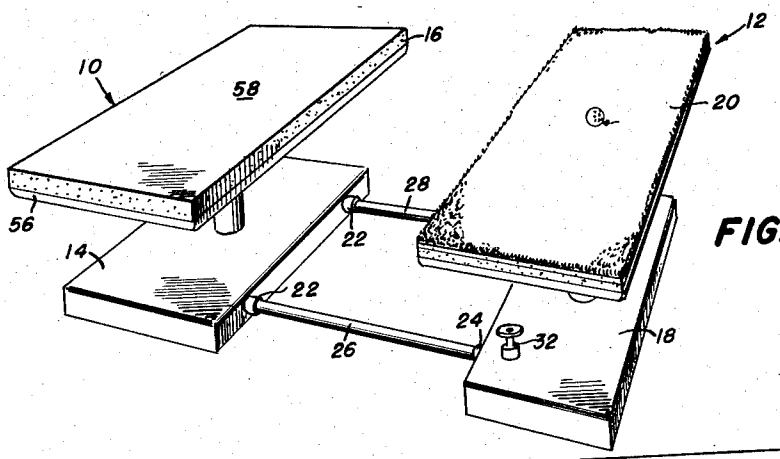


FIG. 1

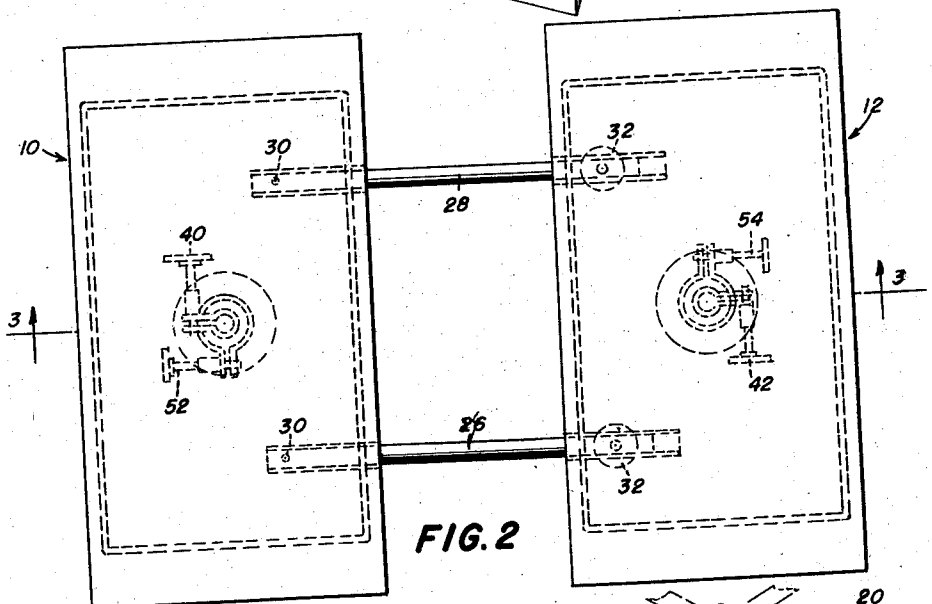


FIG. 2

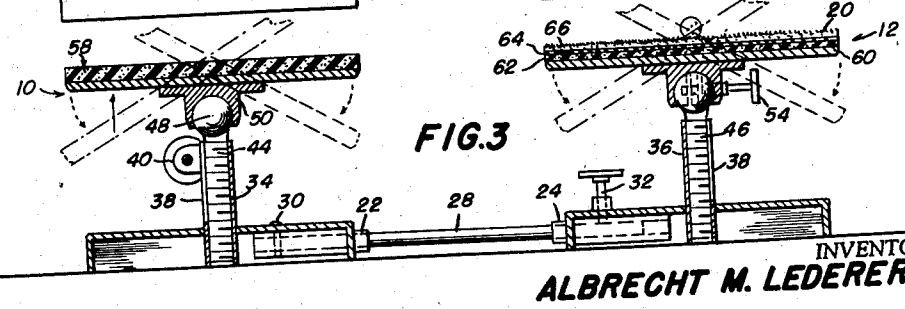


FIG. 3

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GOLF PRACTICING MACHINE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

The present invention relates generally to a golf practice machine or device, and more specifically to a machine which can reproduce in one location a simulation of any possible relation between player and ball found in actual play encountered in a game of golf on a golf course.

It is an object of the present invention to provide such a device adapted for use either indoors or outdoors and which can be portable or constructed as a permanent installation.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device which can reproduce any lie or ground condition desired.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a golf practice device wherein the angle of the lie can be in any relation to the position of the player, either on the same level, lower level, or higher level.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a golf practice device wherein the level of the lie of the ball with respect to the player can be selectively altered, and wherein the angular disposition of the player with respect to the ball can be selectively varied in any desired plane or any conceivable compound angle in three dimensions.

An additional object of the present invention is to provide a golf practice device wherein exactly the same relation can be reproduced for the ground upon which the player stands to make his shot, in relation to the lie, as the relation of the lie to the player as described hereinbefore.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a golf practice device susceptible of adjustment for different positions of the player with respect to the lie, and wherein the position of the player with respect to the lie, and of the lie with respect to the player, are independently adjustable.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a golf practice device of the nature described, wherein the distance between the player and the ball can be selectively varied.

In accordance with the teachings of the present invention, separate stands or platforms are provided respectively for the player and a ball, producing a simulated lie therefor, and which relative positions are separately universally adjustable so as to be able to produce an indefinitely variable number of simulated lies.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description of an embodiment thereof when taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the device of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

The device basically consists of a player's stand 10 and a ball stand 12. These two major portions can be identical in construction, but not necessarily in size or detailed construction. The player's stand 10 consists of a base 14 and a platform 16, and the ball stand 12 consists of a similar base 18 and platform 20. The base 14 has two spaced tubes 22 which are secured therein in any desired manner. A similar pair of spaced tubes 24 are fixed in the base 18 of ball stand 12. Rods or tubes 26 and 28 have their ends respectively inserted in the tubes 22 and 24. Pins or the like 30 secure those ends of rods 26 and 28 which are inserted in tubes 22. The ends of the rods which are inserted in tubes 24 are slidably mounted or held therein, and set screw devices 32 mounted on top of base 18 are adapted for fixing the position of the rods in the tubes 24. By means of this construction, the relative distance between the player's stand 10 and ball stand 12 can be adjusted. By loosening the set screws 32, the two stands can be moved with respect to one another and it is contemplated that the stands can be pulled apart any distance up to, for example, twelve inches. Upon closing the set screws the position becomes fixed.

The pins 30 can be replaced by set screws, and as shown at 32, or a series of several spaced holes could be provided for the pins, thus making it possible for the rods 26 to slide in both bases, instead of only one base. Such a construction would increase the maximum space adjustable between the two bases.

Extending vertically from the bases 14 and 18 are internally screw threaded tubes 34 and 36 which are slotted or split as indicated at 38 in their upper portions. Clamping screws 40 and 42 are arranged at the top of tubes 34 and 36, and are adjustable to cooperate with the tubes which are slit at this position. Externally threaded bolts 44 and 46 are adjustably mounted in the tubes 34 and 36. The split threaded tubes 34 and 36 can be clamped tight to bolts 44 and 46 in any desired position of height of the bolts. The splits or slots, extending over a partial length of the tubes, on one side, permit this tightening by means of clamp screws 40 and 42.

Externally threaded bolts 44 and 46 carry at their upper ends balls as shown at 48 and which together with sockets 50, form ball and socket joints. The platforms 16 and 20 are secured to and carried by the socket members 50. This ball and socket mounting of the platforms permits the angular disposition of the platforms to be universally varied as desired, and as indicated in broken lines as also by the arrows in broken lines in Figure 3. Clamp screws 52 and 54 permit clamping of the platforms at any given angle by a clamping action on the balls 48.

The platforms 16 and 20 can have different constructions, such as including a platform base 56 with a covering 58 in the nature of a layer of resilient material such as foam rubber. This could, of course, be covered with any desired material. The platform 20 is shown as being slightly different in construction. This includes a base portion 60 over which a foam rubber layer 62 is placed, which is in turn covered by a hard flexible surface 64 on top of which is a layer 66 of simulated grass or the like. Manifestly, the constructions of the platforms can be varied in any desired manner.

The heights of the respective platforms 16 and 20 can be varied merely by turning or rotating the bolts 44 and 46 into or out of the tubes 34 and 38 upon release of the tension of clamps 40 and 42. When the desired respective elevations have been established, then these can be fixed by tightening the clamp screws 40 and 42.

From the foregoing description, it will be apparent that each of the platforms or stands namely, 10 and 12, can be individually universally adjusted angularly, and the respective heights of the stands 10 and 12 can be ad-

justed with respect to one another. Additionally, the two stands can be adjustably spaced with respect to one another.

The stands **10** and **12** can be identical in structure although this is not necessary. While in the drawings mechanical means have been shown for the various adjustments, it is to be understood that different mechanisms can be utilized. The control can be manual, or of any other nature or type such as electrical, hydraulic, air, steam or any combination of these and the control can be manual, or remote control, or a combination of both manual and power.

In order to permit independent use of either of the stands, the adjustable connection afforded by the rods **26** and **28**, can be removable as shown in the drawings.

The device can be made in various sizes and in varying degrees of refinement in relation to finish, luxury of control and type of installation. Manifestly, the best means for a particular size and degree of refinement will be used for a given design or installation. The installations can be either portable or fixed.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the present invention provides a device which can reproduce in one spot any possible simulated relation between player and ball, that is, any location or position that could be encountered in an actual game of golf on a golf course and can be used anywhere either indoors or outdoors. The device can produce any lie or ground position desired and the angle of the lie can be in any relation to the position of the player; on the same level, lower level or higher level. In any given level, a slope can be arranged at a simple angle away from the player, toward the player or to the right or left and any conceivably compound angle in three dimensions. Exactly the same relation can be reproduced for the ground, upon which the player stands to make his shot, in relation to the lie, as the relation of the lie to the player hereinbefore described. The positions of the lie and of the player are independently adjustable.

Manifestly variations and changes of design and construction are possible while still obtaining the desired result, and without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in, and limited solely by, the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a golf practice device of the type described, the combination of two horizontally spaced platforms adapted respectively as player and ball supports, means separately mounting said platforms, said means being individually adjustable, whereby each of said platforms can be universally angularly adjusted and raised or lowered, said mounting means respectively including a telescopically mounted threaded bolt, a ball on the upper end of said bolt and a socket on the underside of said platform, said balls and sockets coacting to universally mount said platforms, said threaded bolts being actuable to raise and lower said platforms, and bases for said platforms vertically mounting said bolts, and rods adjustably interconnecting said bases, said bases and said platforms being movable with respect to one another to vary the distance therebetween.

2. A golf practice device as claimed in claim 1, and further including clamping means associated respectively with said ball and socket, said bolts and said rods to fix the respective parts of said device in any adjusted position thereof.

3. In a golf practice device of the type described, the combination of two horizontally spaced platforms adapted respectively as player and ball supports, a base support means for each platform, means adjustably securing said base support means and in turn said platforms together, means adjustably mounting at least one of said platforms on the base support means therefor, said means including a telescoping member for raising and lowering said platform with respect to its base support means and ball and socket elements universally disposing said platform on said telescoping member whereby said platform is universally adjustable to different positions so as to simulate a wide variety of golf playing conditions.

4. A device as set forth in claim 3 including means positively locking both of said base support means in a fixed position, once they have been adjusted with respect to one another.

5. In a golf practice device of the type described, the combination of two horizontally spaced platforms adapted respectively as player and ball supports, a base support means for each platform, means adjustably securing said base support means and in turn said platforms together, independent means adjustably mounting each of said platforms on the base support means therefor, each of said means including a telescoping member for raising and lowering the platform with respect to its base support means and ball and socket elements universally disposing said platform on said telescoping member, whereby each of said platforms will be completely and universally adjustable independently of the other to as many different positions as possible so as to simulate all the different playing conditions encountered in the playing of golf.

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