Jan. 17, 1939. E. L. DUFFY 2,144,439

GOLF PRACTICE AND AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

Filed Jan. 16, 1937 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

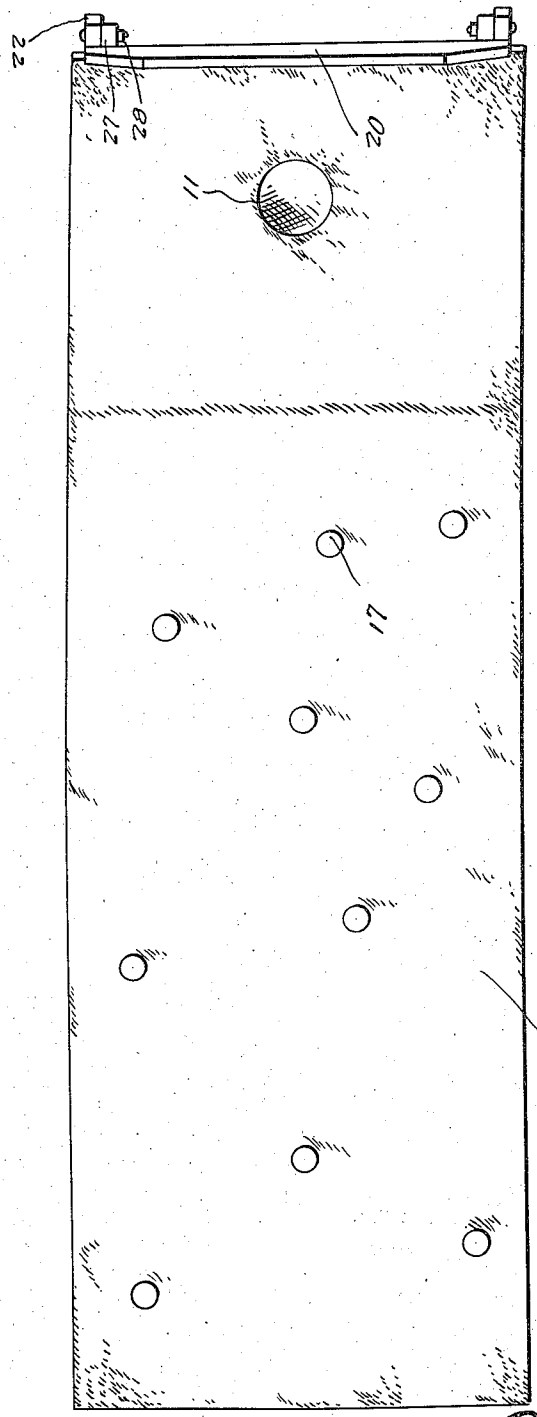


Fig. 1.

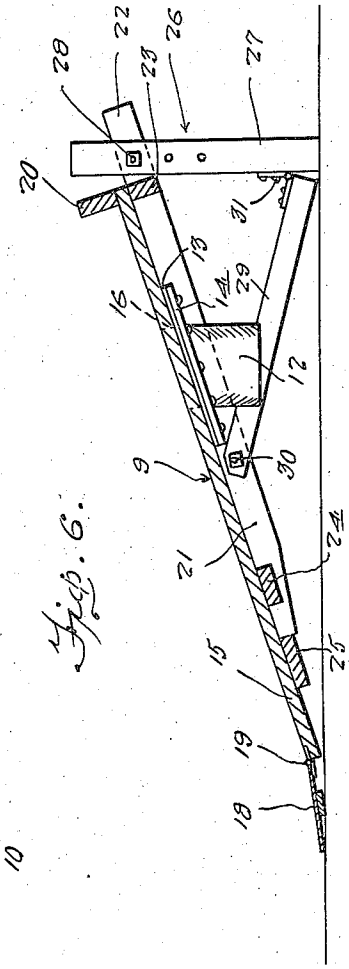


Fig. 6.

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GOLF PRACTICE AND AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

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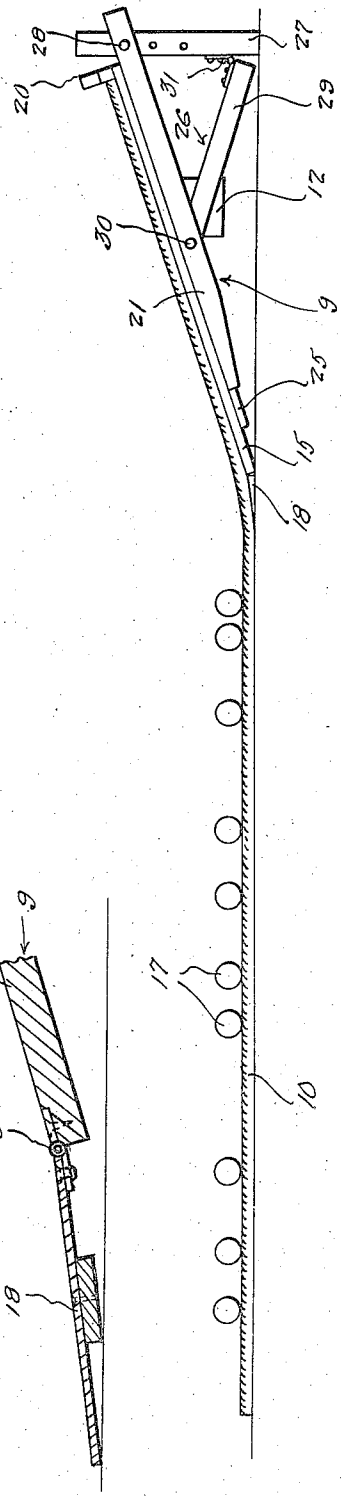


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

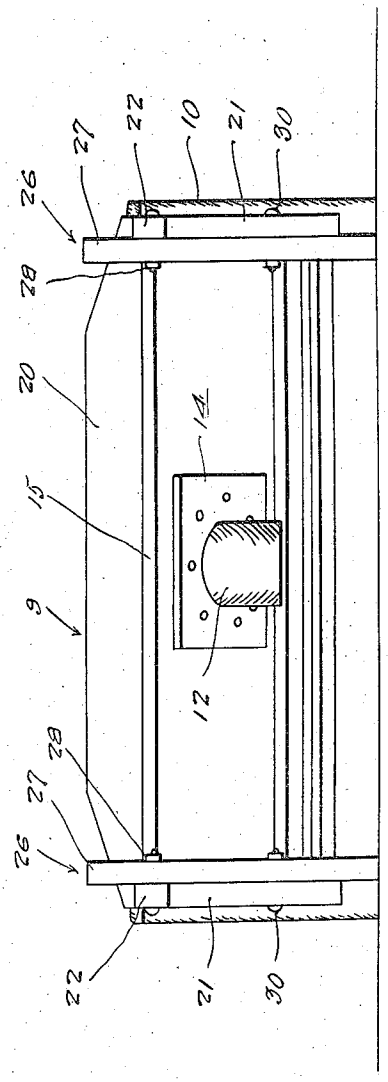


Fig. 4.

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GOLF PRACTICE AND AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

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Fig. 4.

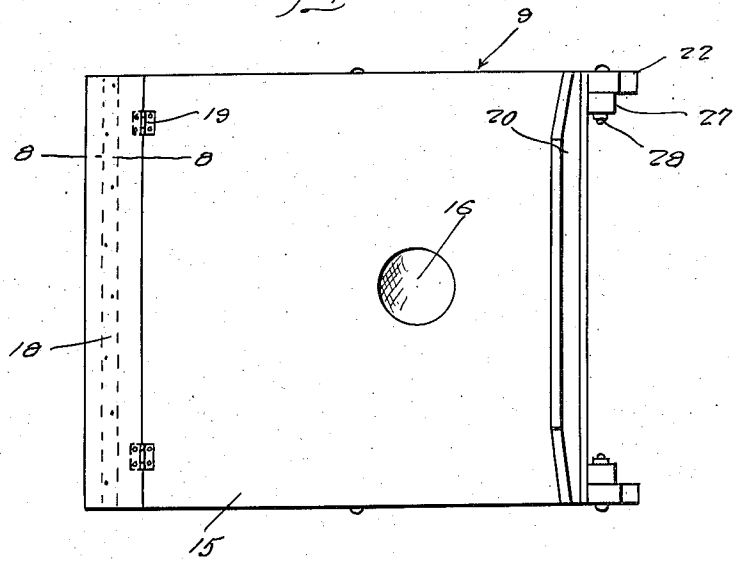
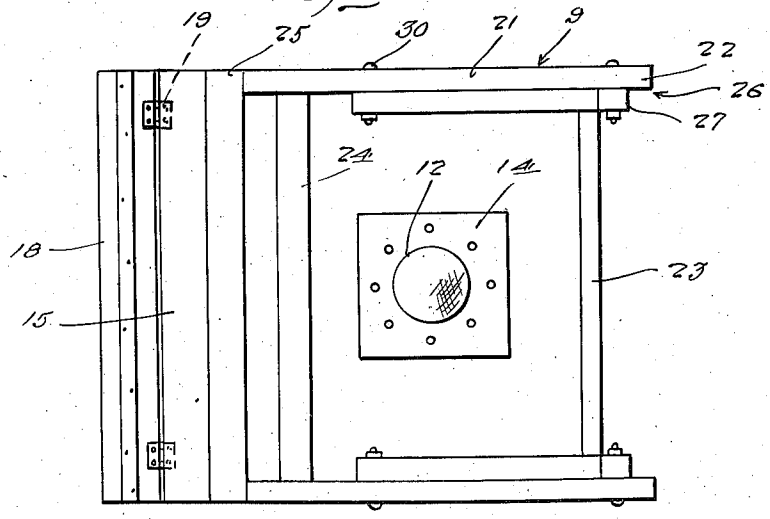


Fig. 5.



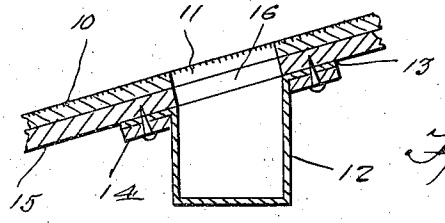


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,144,439

GOLF PRACTICE AND AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

Elmer L. Duffy, Yakima, Wash.

Application January 16, 1937, Serial No. 120,994

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—32)

This invention relates to that classification of mechanical structures which might well be grouped among so-called game apparatus and amusement devices, though it may be more satisfactorily and adequately classed as a golf ball putting and practicing structure.

With the thought in mind of providing a structure to promote friendly competition among participants and enable the players to incidentally practice the art of putting with golf balls I have perfected a novel assemblage of features which, collectively considered, go to make up a unique apparatus which though primarily intended for indoor use but may be employed with satisfaction for outdoor activity due to its portable nature and ability to be transported and set up for play at any predetermined and proper place of use.

Considered as a composite combination of properly coordinated structural parts, the assemblage, as a whole, is characterized by a suitable ball runway preferably in the form of a properly fabricated floor runner or rug, this being employed in conjunction with an inclined board mounted on an adjustable stand, said board having a ball receiving and collecting cup.

By way of comparison with analagous constructions, the principal factor in the construction is the especially designed and adaptable inclined cup equipped board and its special companionate features and adaptations.

Other and more specific features and advantages of the invention and preferred embodiment thereof will become more readily apparent from the accompanying illustrative drawings and the following detailed description and claims.

In the drawings wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the complete structural assemblage as developed in accordance with the principles of my invention.

Figure 2 is an edge elevational view of the structure seen in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged end elevational view observing either of Figures 1 or 2 in a direction from right to left.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the special portable knock-down board unit or panel forming the principal part of the improvement, the runner or rug being omitted for clarity of illustration.

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the unit depicted in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a central longitudinal sectional view through the structure of Figure 4.

Figure 7 is an enlarged detail view disclosing the ball receiving cup and attaching means therefor.

Figure 8 is a detail section on the line 8—8 of Figure 4.

Considering the structure as a general assembly it may be said to be made up principally of two complemental sections; namely the inclined knockdown portable cup unit 9 and the companion ball runway 10. The latter part is simply in the nature of an elongated rug or carpet such as might be adequately referred to as a runner. It is of appropriate texture and its top is formed with suitable nap to provide the requisite factors of resistance and to give the realistic effect of putting on a regular putting green. Due to the function of this part 10 it is thought that it may be loosely described or referred to as the ball runway or putting green. At one end it is provided with a hole 11 and this is adapted to register with the underlying ball receiving cup 12. Incidentally, the cup is made of canvas or other suitable fabric and as shown in Figure 7 is of a capacity to receive some ten or more regulation golf balls. It is thus in effect not only a ball receiving cup but a sort of a trap to facilitate reassembling the balls for further use. It is formed with a marginal flange 13 suitably fastened in place by an attaching frame 14 secured to the underside of the inclined board or panel 15. This board is formed with an opening 16 which registers with the opening 11. Thus when the golf balls 17 are properly propelled through the action of a putter or similar club, they may be selectively dropped into the cup through these openings 11 and 16. Any suitable means may be employed for securing the apertured portion of the ball runway or rug 10 on the inclined panel 15. It has been found expedient and practicable to provide a sort of a tapered flap 18 which is hingedly connected as at 19 to the intake end of the board or panel. This is in a sense a properly graduated lift or riser for that portion of the rug which joins the intake end of the panel or board. It avoids the presence at this juncture of an obstruction which might interfere with the accurate rolling of the golf balls. The balls are prevented from rolling beyond the board by way of an upstanding flange or stop element 20. This also serves as a sort of straight edge for the adjacent edge of the rug and facilitates allocation of parts.

As before implied the cup equipped unit or board includes an inclining and supporting stand. The stand is of a multiple-part type and the

parts are made to promote rigidity and to facilitate collapsing and to provide for compactness and convenience in handling, shipping and assembling. Considering the structure as it is set up in the illustration of the drawings, it will be observed that the stand includes a pair of spaced parallel rails or battens 21. These are secured to the underside and have their rear ends projecting into attaching extensions 22. The numerals 23, 24 and 25 may be described as representing reinforcing or cross pieces. This is so as to keep the board level and to prevent warping. I provide a pair of adjustable and foldable leg units. Each unit is denoted by the numeral 26, and a description of one will suffice for both. The leg proper is denoted by the numeral 27 and is provided with a plurality of apertures attachable by a bolt and nut as at 28 to the extension 22. This enables the leg to be properly adjusted to regulate the elevation and inclination of the panel or board. The numeral 29 designates a diagonal stay which is detachably bolted as at 30 to the intermediate portion of the adjacent rail 21. The opposite end however, is hingedly connected as at 31 to the lower end portion of the leg 27. It goes without saying that this type of a prop or support is desirable due to its simplicity and economy and because it is aptly fitted to successfully fulfill the requirements of a dependable stand.

The gist of the invention is reflected in the employment of the essential unit or part 9 which is in the nature of a board preferably held in inclined position by an adjustable and detachable stand, said board being provided with an aperture at a predetermined point serving as a ball dropping hole, there being beneath this the collapsible receptacle or cup 12. In connection with this cup, it is evident that when it becomes filled with balls, by placing the hand underneath and squeezing or pushing it upwardly this will thrust the balls severally out through the hole so that they can be conveniently grasped and re-used. It obviates the necessity of attempting to lift the balls one by one out through the hole as might be necessary if a rigid cup were used. Another feature is found in the special adapter flap 18 which provides the desired coordination between the rug and the panel or board. Then too, the use of a simple rug or runway as the "putting green" is a unique adaptation and makes for convenience and practicability especially for indoor play.

Needless to say the invention is usable in the home, in recreation halls, in gymnasiums, hospitals as a satisfactory pastime and amusement apparatus. In addition to this it has the practical aspect of enabling the participants to practice putting in a convenient and amusing manner. In practice, various rules and regulations may be employed, so as to add to the pastime effects of the game. For example, it is possible to place the balls at predetermined spots on the green 10 as shown in Figure 1, and to number the balls and to see how many strokes are required to get all the balls in the cup. This provides the desired friendly pastime and competitive spirit so useful in a structure of this character.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a golf practice and amusement device, a board having an opening therein, supporting means for the board holding the board in a position sloping downwardly and forwardly on a surface, means for adjusting the inclination of the board, a flap hingedly connected to the front and lower end of the board, a pocket forming member of flexible material connected with the underside of the board in registry with the hole therein for receiving and retaining balls dropping through the hole, an upright strip connected to the upper face of the board at the rear and high end of the same for preventing balls from rolling off said rear end of the board, an elongated member of carpet material having its major portion resting on the surface in front of the board and another portion resting on the board and the flap with the rear end of the elongated member abutting the strip and that portion of the elongated member resting on the board having a hole therein registering with the hole in the board.

2. A golf practice and amusement apparatus comprising a pair of upright legs each provided with a vertical row of spaced holes, a board having a hole therein, rails connected with the side edges of the board and having the rear ends extending beyond the rear end of the board, bolts passing through said extended parts and through any one of the holes in the legs, a pair of bars hingedly connected at the rear ends to the legs and pivotally connected at the front ends to the rails, said rails and the bars with the legs supporting the board in an inclined position sloping downwardly and forwardly with the front edge resting on a surface, a flap hinged to the front edge of the board and resting on the surface, a pocket forming member of flexible material connected with the underface of the board and registering with the opening therein, an upright strip connected to the upper face of the rear end of the board and an elongated strip of carpet-like material having its major portion resting on the surface in front of the board with another portion resting on the board and the flap with the rear end of the strip abutting the upright strip at the rear end of the board, that portion of the elongated strip which rests on the board having a hole therein registering with the hole in the board.

ELMER L. DUFFY.