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W. W. MALLOY ET AL

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GOLF GAME

Filed May 21, 1928

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

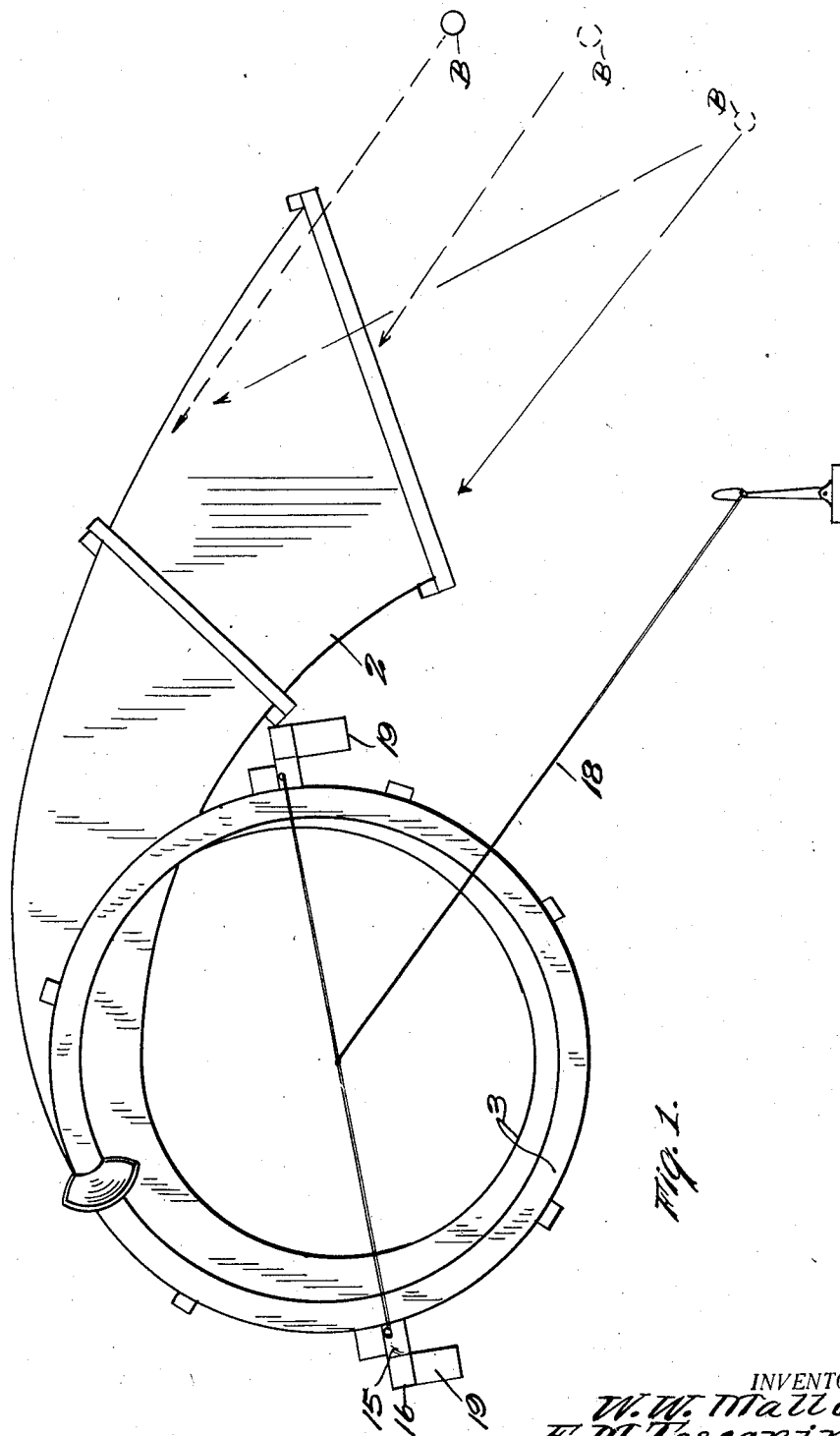


Fig. 1.

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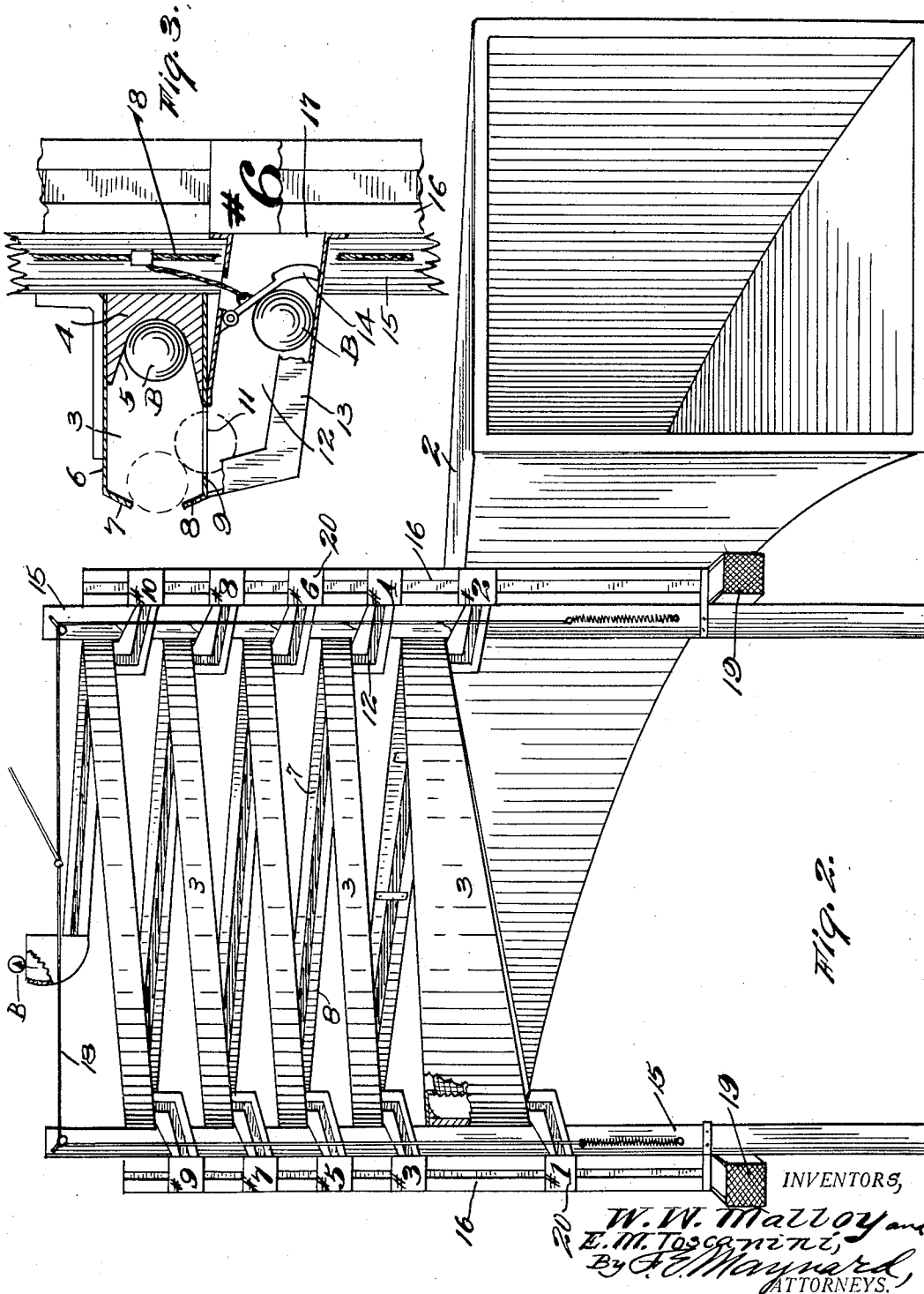
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Patented Mar. 12, 1929.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOLF GAME.

Application filed May 21, 1928. Serial No. 279,432.

This invention relates to games and amusement apparatus and more especially to a game structure for use in the practice of driving golf balls with the usual standard of personally adapted golf clubs.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide an apparatus whereby the driven ball is captured in a raceway and is permitted to continue a flight which is, while continuous as long as the ball has momentum, confined to a path wherein the ball is at all times clearly visible after entering its confining race-way, so that the player may drive to the utmost and readily watch the traverse of the ball to its stopping place and by practice obtain self-confidence in driving with a view of achieving a long hard drive with a reasonable certainty that his constant effort at certain driving force will effect a desired length of drive on a field.

For instance, by this invention the player may step-by-step, or progressively develop his or her united mental concentration and physical stance to an early degree of perfection. Or the professional golfer may keep in practice by playing at the apparatus either at his home or club, or other places where access may be had to the apparatus.

Another object is to provide means for positively signalling the approximate place of termination of the flight of the ball played.

A further object is to provide means for permitting the drive of a considerable number of the balls and to provide for collecting or holding the driven balls at the place of flight cessation, and to provide for the concurrent release of all detained balls to a basket or other desired repository for played balls.

Numerous additional objects, advantages and features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts, and details of means will be made manifest in the ensuing description of the herewith illustrative embodiment; it being understood that modifications, variations and adaptations may be resorted to within the scope, spirit and principle of the invention as it is more directly claimed hereinafter.

Figure 1 is a plan of the apparatus.

Figure 2 is a vertical axial section.

Figure 3 is a detail, sectional view of one of the detaining traps and the relative signal number of a flight stop station.

In its illustrated form the apparatus in-

clude a horn-like case 2 which may have a suitably shaped inlet mouth as for instance square or round and which is disposed and opened in a vertical plane and is of any suitable size as will be determined according to practice. This horn is, in plan, of spiral and helical contour and pitches upward from the axis or center of the mouth its smaller end emerging into the lower end of a helical raceway 3 which has a vertical back track 4 presenting an internal concave face 5 which forms the supporting surface for a driven golf ball B.

The raceway 3 includes an over hanging top or eave 6 with a down turned flange 7 which is placed above a continuous upturned flange 8 skirting a continuous bottom ledge 9. This ledge is provided with a plurality of outlet holes 11 of a size sufficient to allow a ball B to roll back down the inclined ledge 9 after the ball has lost its momentum and rolls down away from the back wall 4 of the raceway.

The space between the flanges 7 and 8 is sufficiently wide to allow a clear observation of the ball while it is rolling up the helical raceway and at the same time prevents the ball B from escaping from the raceway during travel.

The holes 11 are placed at suitable distances along the track ledge 9 and as here shown the outlet holes 11 are arranged at diametrically opposite points or sides of the vertical helical raceway 3 and under each of the outlet holes 11 is a pocket or receiver 12 which is provided with an open front side 13 allowing observation of any balls collected therein. The collected balls are detained by trap doors 14 each of which has a releasing means whereby the several doors can be concurrently operated to an opening position to release the trapped balls from the pockets 12.

In the present case the pockets are shown in respective vertical series each along an upright post or column 15 of which one is provided at each opposite side of the vertical raceway; the pockets 12 having their open fronts 13 disposed toward the players station S so that the player may readily observe into which pockets 12 the balls may drop after they roll down from the back wall 4.

Along each pocket column 15 is secured a vertical return chute 16 vertically disposed and having holes 17 registering with the trap doors 14. Thus when the trap door releasing means which consists of a cable system

18 is pulled the detained balls roll from the pockets 12 into their respective chute 16, whence they return to baskets 19 or other repository as desired.

5 While the top end of the raceway 3 may be closed it is preferably left open so that if a player be sufficiently skillful and powerful he may drive a ball entirely through the confining path of the raceway 3; it being understood that the diameter, pitch and length of
10 the flight track 3 will be in accordance with desired practice.

Each of the pockets 12 is identified by a signal plate or index number 20 for convenience in keeping a record of the points or stations to which the ball or balls may have
15 been driven during a player's driving practice.

It is further understood that the game is to be played with golf balls and with the standard golf equipment of clubs.

What is claimed is:

1. Game apparatus including a golf club and a golf ball, and a horn-case having a continuous and unobstructed helical running track of a size to permit flight until the ball
25 motion is spent and means for preventing escape of the ball while in flight from a driving impulse.

30 2. Game apparatus including a golf club and a golf ball, and a horn-case having a continuous, laterally disposed, helical running back track of a size to permit flight until the ball motion is spent and means for
35 preventing escape of the ball while in flight from a driving impulse, and a perforated, bottom ledge having means for trapping the ball substantially at the portion of the running track where the ball leaves the track.

3. Game apparatus including a helical 40 runway about an upright axis and comprising a back track having a concaved internal face on which the balls travel from its driving impulse, confining means permitting a view of the traveling ball, and means permit- 45 ting a return of the ball after its driving momentum is spent.

4. Game apparatus including a vertical axis race-way having a horn-like inlet at its lower end to receive a driven golf ball and 50 direct it into the race-way, said race-way having a grooved side track and a perforated bottom ledge for returning a spent ball.

5. Game apparatus including a vertical axis race-way having a horn-like inlet at its 55 lower end to receive a driven golf ball and direct it into the race-way, and ball collecting and return means including trap stations along the race-way.

6. Game apparatus including a vertical 60 axis race-way having a horn-like inlet at its lower end to receive a driven golf ball and direct it into the race-way, index signs spaced along the race-way to show approximate end of ball flight motion, and ball returning 65 traps at the index signs.

7. A game apparatus including a helical race-way and means for directing a driven golf ball thereinto, said race-way including a continuous back track for the ball to run 70 on while having sufficient momentum, guards to allow view of the ball in flight along the track and preventing its escape, and a bottom ledge provided with trap holes for the ball when it leaves the back-track.

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