

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,656,720

MECHANICAL GOLF PRACTICE APPARATUS

Frederick William Sonnett, Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Canada

Application January 29, 1951, Serial No. 208,270

2 Claims. (Cl. 73—379)

1

The present invention relates to improvements in recreational practice apparatus and more particularly to a device which provides a means for practicing golf driving.

An object of the present invention is to provide a mechanical golf practice apparatus having signal and indicating means associated therewith whereby the distance and direction that the ball would have traveled can be indicated upon striking the ball.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a novel means for indicating when a "slice" or "hook" has been struck.

Still further objects of the present invention are to provide such means that are simple in construction, economical of manufacture and readily stored.

The best form in which I have contemplated applying my invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a detailed perspective view of the entire apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical view taken substantially along the plane of line 2—2; and,

Figure 3 is an electrical circuit means which is employed in conjunction with the structure of the present invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout, the numeral 10 designates generally the housing structure, the numeral 12 designates generally the ball means, the numeral 14 indicates the indicating means, while the numerals 16 and 18 designate generally the switch and signal means respectively.

The housing 10 is comprised of a base board 20 having a hollow, rectangular, open-bottomed housing 22 mounted thereon. The open-bottomed housing 22 has upstanding side walls 24, end walls 26 and a top wall 28. The top wall 28 is formed with an enlarged opening 30 having an elongated slot 32 extending longitudinally therefrom. The upper wall 28 is also formed with a pair of openings 34 and 36 having glass plates 38 and 40 disposed therein. The glass plates 38 and 40 may be of different colored glass for a reason to be hereinafter explained.

The ball means 12 is comprised of a ball shaped element 42 with a coil spring 44 having an end portion 46 extending axially therefrom for insertion through the ball 42. The upper end 48 of the wire portion 46 is flattened for retaining the ball 42 against the upper end of the coiled portion of the spring 44. The bottom end of the coil spring 44 is secured to the arcuate shell 15 which is in turn fixedly secured to the base 20.

2

The indicating means 14 is comprised of a cable 52 which extends over a small pulley 54 disposed within the shell 50, an end portion of the cable 52 being secured to the underside of the ball 42 at 56. A pair of intermediate pulleys 58 and 60 are supported by the end wall 26 and base 20, respectively, and have an intermediate portion 62 of the cable 52 passing thereover. The opposite end 64 of the cable 52 has an indicator element 66 secured thereto for reciprocation in the slot 32.

As seen best in Figure 1, indicia means 68 are inscribed on the upper surface of the top wall 28 and along the edges of the slot 32, whereby when the indicator element 66 reaches predetermined positions in the slot 32, the various distances that the ball 42 would have traveled had it been free are indicated.

A switch means 16 is comprised of a pivot bracket 70 which is substantially of U-shape and has its legs terminating in angulated portions 72 whereby screws 74 may be employed for securing the bracket 70 to the base 20. A flexible lever element 76 is supported by the bight portion 78 of the bracket 70, rivet pins 80 being employed for supporting the lever element 76. Secured on the base 20 and in spaced relation are a pair of contact elements 82 which underlie end portions of the lever element 76.

A signal means 18 is comprised of a pair of lamps 84 which are disposed beneath the glass plates 38 and 40 for illuminating the same. The housing 10 is also provided with a source of electrical power such as the dry cell 86 which is supported to the under surface of the upper wall 28 by means of the brackets 88.

As seen best in Figure 3, each of the lamps 84 is connected to a preselected one of the pair of contacts 82 whereby when a preselected one of the contact elements 82 is engaged by an end portion of the lever 76, a circuit will be completed with a preselected one of the lamps 84 for indicating whether a "slice" or "hook" has been struck.

When it is desired to practice driving golf balls with the present apparatus, one merely has to take a conventional golf club and strike the ball 42. The ball 42 will be resiliently outwardly urged from the shell 50 against the tension of the spring 44, thereby exerting a pull on the cable 52 and causing the indicator element 66 to traverse a predetermined distance in the slot 32 indicating the distance that the ball would have traveled if free. The ball 42 will also engage a preselected portion of the lever element 76. Should the ball engage the middle portion of the switch means 16, neither of the lamps will be

3

4

illuminated, thereby indicating that the ball was well hit. On the other hand, should the ball 42 strike either side of the lever element 76, the switch on that side will be closed, thereby illuminating a lamp of preselected color for indicating whether a "slice" or "hook" has been struck.

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

1. A mechanical golf practice apparatus comprising an elongated rectangular and hollow housing having an upper wall and a base, said upper wall being formed with an enlarged opening and a slot extending therefrom, a coil spring supported in upright position within said opening and on said base for flexing laterally and extending above the plane of said upper wall, a ball secured to the upper end of said spring for swinging in different directions upon striking thereof an indicating means disposed for reciprocation in said slot, and means operatively connecting said ball to said indicating means including a cable having one end extending through said coil spring and connected to said ball and its other end connected to said indicating means.

2. A mechanical golf practice apparatus comprising an elongated rectangular and hollow hous-

ing having an upper wall and a base, said upper wall being formed with an enlarged opening and a slot extending therefrom, a ball means resiliently supported within said opening and on said base and extending above the plane of said upper wall, an indicating means connected with said ball means and actuated thereby, said indicating means being disposed for reciprocation in said slot upon striking of said ball, said ball means including a ball integrally connected to the upper end of a coil spring supported on said base and laterally flexible by striking of said ball, a cable connecting said ball with said indicating means whereby when said ball is struck and the coil spring flexed said indicating means will move a predetermined distance in said slot to proportionately indicate the distance the ball travels.

FREDERICK WILLIAM SONNETT.

References Cited in the file of this patent
UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,677,557	Johnson	July 17, 1928
1,975,368	Mikesell	Oct. 2, 1934
2,018,291	Thompson	Oct. 22, 1935