This invention relates to a machine adapted to enable players to practice handling cues in the proper manner.

An object of the present invention is the provision of a machine which may be used to instruct players how to handle cues properly for games such as billiards, snooker, pool and the like.

Up to the present time, there has been no mechanism for helping players to learn how to handle cues. This instruction has always been on a personal basis and most players or prospective players have not been able to find someone with the knowledge or time to give them the necessary instruction. Furthermore, a player can learn to handle the cue properly only by continuous practice, and it is not practical for someone to stand around for long periods to see that it is done correctly. As a result of this, comparatively few players learn to handle a cue, and this is the main difference between playing a good or bad game.

The present invention overcomes this by providing a machine which will enable players to practice with a cue without the necessity of having someone standing by to see that it is done properly. This machine includes a flat table top having a slot therein, and a pin projecting upwardly through the slot to which the small striking end or tip of a cue is connected. Suitable means is provided for reciprocating the pin, and this is adjusted so that the stroke of the cue connected to the pin is correct for normal playing purposes. The stroke of the pin and cue may be adjusted to suit different people and different styles of games.

An example of the present invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a reduced perspective view of a practising machine.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the machine.

Figure 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a horizontal section taken on the line 4-4 of Figure 3, and

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional detail of the pin and means for connecting the cue thereto.

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, 10 is a casing having legs 11 and a flat table top 12. This table top may be covered with a layer of green baize 13 to simulate the top of a pool table. The table top is preferably rectangular in shape and has a slot 15 extending longitudinally thereof adjacent one end and substantially midway between its sides.

If desired, a cue ball 16 may be fixed to the table top at one end of slot 15. Referring particularly to Figures 2 to 5, a pin 20 projects upwardly through the slot 15 and a cue 21 is connected at its tip or striking head to the upper end of this pin. In the preferred form of the invention, the end 22 of the cue is fixedly secured in a ferrule 24 which has a lug 25 projecting outwardly from an end thereof lying in a substantially vertical plane. This lug fits into a slot 27 formed in the upper end of a socket 28, and is connected to the latter by a pin 29.
cue to the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

2. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a pin projecting upwardly through the slot, means below the table top for reciprocating the pin in the slot, a cue tapering to a small striking end, and means pivotally connecting said striking end of the cue to the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

3. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a pin projecting upwardly through the slot, means below the table top for reciprocating the pin in the slot, a socket rotatably fitting over the upper end of the pin, a cue, means pivotally connecting one end of the cue to the socket, said pivot means permitting the cue to be swung in a vertical plane whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

4. A cue practicing machine as claimed in claim 3 including means for adjusting the length of the pin stroke.

5. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a plate spaced below the table top and having a slot therein registering with the table slot, a pin slidably mounted in the plate slot and extending upwardly through the table slot, means connected to the lower end of the pin for reciprocating the latter, a cue, and means connecting an end of the cue to the upper end of the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

6. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a plate spaced below the table top and having a slot therein registering with the table slot, a pin slidably mounted in the plate slot and extending upwardly through the table slot, means connected to the lower end of the pin for reciprocating the latter, a socket rotatably fitting over the upper end of the pin, a cue, means pivotally connecting one end of the cue to the socket, said pivot means permitting the cue to be swung in a vertical plane whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

7. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a plate spaced below the table top and having a slot therein registering with the table slot, a pin slidably mounted in the plate slot and extending upwardly through the table slot, an arm connected at one end to the lower end of the pin and extending longitudinally of the slots, a motor mounted below the table top, driving means connecting the motor to the opposite end of the arm for reciprocating said arm, a cue, and means connecting an end of the cue to the upper end of the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

8. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a plate spaced below the table top and having a slot therein registering with the table slot, a pin slidably mounted in the plate slot and extending upwardly through the table slot, an arm connected at one end to the lower end of the pin and extending longitudinally of the slots, a pulley rotatably mounted near the arm, means connecting the opposite end of the arm to the pulley spaced from its axis of rotation, a motor mounted below the table top, driving means connecting the motor to the pulley to rotate the latter and reciprocate the pin, a cue, and means connecting an end of the cue to the upper end of the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

9. A cue practicing machine comprising a flat table top, a slot in said top, a plate spaced below the table top and having a slot therein registering with the table slot, a pin slidably mounted in the plate slot and extending upwardly through the table slot, an arm connected at one end to the lower end of the pin and extending longitudinally of the slots, a pulley rotatably mounted near the arm, a plurality of spaced holes in the pulley, each hole being spaced a different distance from the axis of rotation of the pulley than the other holes, a pin for connecting the opposite end of the arm to any of the pulley holes, a motor mounted below the table top, driving means connecting the motor to the pulley to rotate the latter and reciprocate the pin, a cue, and means connecting an end of the cue to the upper end of the pin, whereby the cue may be reciprocated by the pin through a predetermined stroke.

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