PRACTICE DEVICE FOR GOLF AND LIKE OUTDOOR GAMES.


To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Leon S. Gates, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Practice Devices for Golf and like Outdoor Games, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to golf-practice devices in which the ball is used in-doors or in places of limited space and not convenient to the links or field where the game itself is played.

The device comprises a pyramidal-shape sack or receptacle made of canvas or the like that is stretched over a suitable skeleton-frame and is mounted for use on a foldable wooden frame, such receptacle being arranged so that its open base shall be vertical and with its vertex extended rearwardly for stretched-connection with an upwardly-extending arm from said wooden frame and so that the ball, when driven into the receptacle from a distant point can readily return to the player for rapid continuous shots and to enlarge his scope of practice thereby.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the device as it appears ready for use; Fig. 2, a perspective view of the wooden frame that is adapted to hold or support the practice sack or receptacle in position for use; Fig. 3, a fragmentary perspective of the fore-end of the longitudinal-bar that forms a part of the said wooden supporting-frame for the sack; and Fig. 4, a fragmentary perspective of the transverse-bar of said supporting-frame, shown inverted and with the recess therein for the reception of said fore-end of the longitudinal-bar seen in Fig. 3.

The pyramidal-shape sack or receptacle is made up of four corresponding triangular sides of canvas or other like fabric, such sides being indicated by the numerals 1, 1 for the vertical side-walls, 2 for the bottom and 3 for the top, all of them converging in the vertex 4, the latter having extended therefrom to a knotted-cord 5. The four canvas sides are suitably stitched or seamed along their corners or longitudinal angles, and have wires or ropes stretched through the fore-edges of the bottom 2 and top 3, such fore-edges having fringe 6 for the desired finish. Along the fore-edges of the two vertical sides 1, I provide light bamboo poles or sticks 7 that are duly attached in place and serve to suitably stretch the open mouth of the receptacle when in use. In use, the said sack is placed in the position shown in Fig. 1, with the open base of the pyramidal vertical and the vertex held taut by means of the knotted-extension 5 which engages a tilted bar or stake 8, the latter being preferably hinged at its lower end to a longitudinal base-bar 9 and has a slit 10 at its upper end for the engagement of said knotted-extension 5, for ready detachment. A girdling-strap 11 is provided for the tilted stake or bar 8, its buckle allowing for any depressing of the stake 8 that may be necessary in stretching the pointed end of the sack or receptacle taut for use.

12 indicates a transverse-bar that forms a part of the supporting-base for the said sack. This bar 12 has at its center an under-recess 13 that is somewhat tapered for the engagement of the tapered fore-end 14 of the longitudinal-bar 9, a metal plate 15 being bridged across the entrance to said recess 13 for holding the fore-end of said bar 9 in substantial engagement with the transverse-bar 12 in order to provide a substantial supporting-frame for the practice sack or receptacle.

At each of the opposite ends of the transverse-bar 12 I provide a hinged upright arm or bar 16 that has pivotal-props 17, the latter being pivotally-connected at their upper ends to the upright-arms 16 by means of screws or pins 18 and having pointed lower ends that abut the raised edges of the plates 19 when the device is in use and can be readily released when it is desired to drop or fold said upright-arms 16 upon the transverse-bar 12, especially when the device is to be folded or packed into small compass for storage, shipping, carrying, or the like.

At the upper ends of the said upright-arms 16 I provide outwardly-disposed hooks 20 that are adapted to engage rings 21 on the bamboo-poles 7 of the receptacle and to firmly hold said bamboo-poles upright, as well as the open mouth of the receptacle in a stanch position for use.

The rings 21 are readily detached from the hooks 20 when it is desired to remove the receptacle from its supporting-base, and the rear stake or member 8 of the supporting-
frame is adapted to be hinged forwardly upon the longitudinal-bar 9 when the strap 11 has been released, and the knotted-extension 5 also released from the stake when it is desired to fold the supporting-frame at the time the device is not in use. And still further, the fore-end of the longitudinal-bar 9 is readily released from the recess or socket provided in the under-center of the transverse-bar 12 so that when the upright-arms 16 are folded upon said transverse-bar 12 and the props 17 are folded lengthwise along said transverse-bar 12, the longitudinal bar 9 can be readily laid upon the now folded arm 16 and then the bamboo-stretchers 7 of the sack can be folded with the sack so that latter and its contents can be folded into small compass and laid upon said longitudinal-bar 9. The whole can now be bound together by straps or ropes to suit the purposes of the user and in the manner in which he chooses to inclose the bundle. The straps 22 are used to prevent the upright-arms 16 unduly hinging outwardly when in use and to relieve strain on the rings 21.

In use, the bottom 2 of the sack can be arranged at the desired inclination so that the ball, when driven into it, can readily return to the feet of the player whose distance from the device can be regulated to suit the practice he desires, the invention being to improve his aim and delivery, and the mouth of the receptacle being of such size as to suit the desired practice and the distance the ball is to be driven.

In the use of my device it will be readily seen that the sack or receptacle forms an open-mouthed target whose sides are made somewhat resilient under strained tension and thereby provide for the cushioning of the driven ball on landing in the sack and the automatic rebound or return of said driven ball to the player.

I claim:

1. A golf-practice device comprising a pyramidal-shaped collapsible sack or receptacle having a suitably stretched or expanding front end for the reception and automatic return of the practice-ball, and means for adjustably and removably supporting said receptacle in position for use so that one of the walls is forwardly and downwardly inclined.

2. A golf-practice device comprising a collapsible target sack or receptacle having an open-mouthed, suitably extended fore-end and a pointed rear-end or vertex, an attaching-cord extended from said vertex, a longitudinal base-member having at its rear-end a tilted pivotal-stake with which said attaching-cord is engaged and placed under straining-tension, a transverse base-member with which the fore-end of said longitudinal base-member is adapted to detachably engage in use, upright pivotal-members at the opposite ends of said transverse base-member and having upper hook-extensions for engagement with the sides of the expanded open-mouthed fore-end of the receptacle, and pivotal-braces extending from said upright pivotal-members to support the latter in using position, all of said members, including the sack, being adapted to be collapsed and folded in small compass for storing, carrying and shipping.

LEON S. GATES.