Aug. 26, 1930. G. N. SEELEY 1,774,187

PUTTING GAME

Filed March 26, 1928

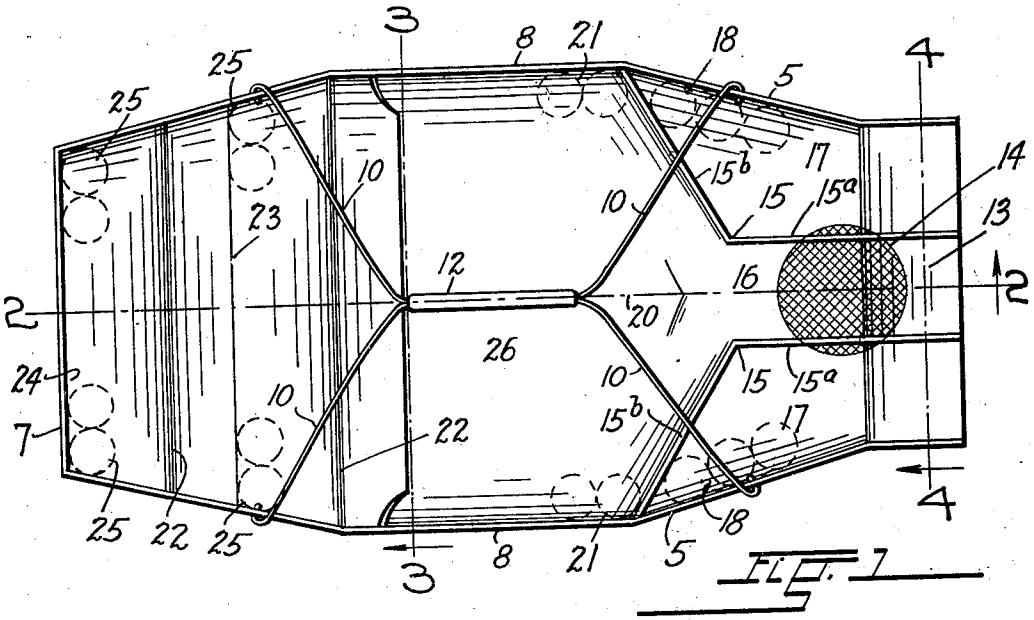


FIG. 1

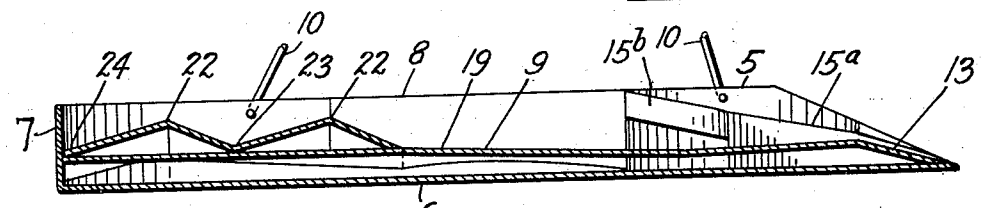


FIG. 2

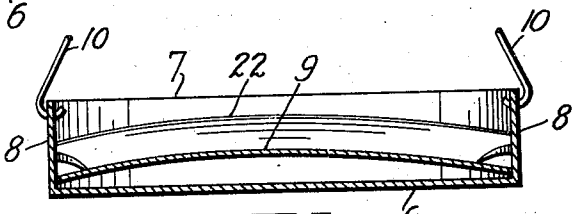


FIG. 3

FIG. 5

FIG. 4

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PUTTING GAME

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This invention relates to game-devices and more particularly to devices for playing indoor games by means of golf balls and golf clubs.

It is an object of the invention to provide a game-board especially adapted for the indoor practice of golf putting, that may be conveniently placed on the floor of any room to provide a target for balls directed thereto from a distant point.

The game-device has ball retaining spaces so arranged as to determine the nature of the stroke by which the ball was impelled, as to force and direction. And it is another object of the invention to provide a game-board thus constructed, in which the balls move automatically into the designated spaces and out of the path of balls played subsequently in the game.

A further object is to provide a device of the above described character, which is readily emptied of the balls collected in the retaining-spaces, when the game is ended, and still other objects reside principally in details of construction as will fully appear in the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings in which like characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the views,

Figure 1 represents a plan- or top-view of the game-device,

Figure 2, a longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2, Figure 1,

Figure 3, a transverse section along the line 3—3, Figure 1,

Figure 4, a similar section on the line 4—4, Figure 1, and

Figure 5, a perspective view of the device, drawn to a reduced scale.

The device as shown, comprises a tray 5 open at its forward end to receive the balls directed to it from a distant point, and composed of metal, wood, cardboard or any other suitable material.

The tray has a bottom-member 6, an upright rear flange 7 opposite to its open end, and upright side flanges 8 adjoining the rear flange and extending to the front end of the device.

A floor 9, superimposed on the bottom 6, provides the ridges, inclines and other features of construction by which the balls are retained and directed, as will hereinafter be more fully explained.

It is to be understood in this connection, that the bottom-member may be omitted, in which case the device is supported by its flanges, and that other variations in the construction and relative arrangement of the parts of the device may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

A bail consisting of two members 10 attached at the sides of the tray and joined at their upper extremities by a tubular handle 12, serves to move the device from one place to another and to empty it of the accumulated balls, at the end of each game.

Referring further to the floor 9 that provides the surface over which the balls entering at the front of the tray move to the various retaining places, it is formed to provide, at the forward end of the surface, an inclined approach 13. Rearward of the approach, the surface slopes slightly downwardly so that balls that have entered the tray across the approach, are compelled to move further inwardly and cannot pass out of the tray.

Before continuing the description of the form of the floor surface, it is to be observed that at the forward end of the tray the surface bears a circular spot 14 of contrasting color, that forms the target at which the balls are aimed. The spot represents the putting hole in the game of golf, but since it is not defined by any depression, the balls can pass across the same without obstruction.

The target is, centrally, in the longitudinal axis of the tray, and two partitions 15, partially parallel to said axis, extend across the target at opposite sides of its center and then slant rearwardly, as at 15^b, to adjoin the side flanges of the tray.

The parallel parts 15^a of the partitions, taper from the front edge of the inclined approach upwardly and they define a central runway 16, and at opposite sides thereof, chambers 17 in which the balls that did not pass through the runway are received.

The rearwardly sloping portion of the

floor surface, back of the approach, in the chambers 17, also slopes outwardly to the points at which the slanting portions of the partitions adjoin the side flanges of the tray, the purpose of these slopes being to compel the balls entering the chambers to arrange themselves along the flanges, as indicated in broken lines at 18, in Figure 1.

The floor surface of the tray adjacent the end of the runway, slopes slightly upwardly toward the rear end of the tray, as at 19, in Figure 2, and from an imaginary central line 20, it slopes sideways toward the side flanges of the tray. By virtue of these double slopes the balls entering the main chamber 26 of the device, are compelled to roll toward the sides thereof and arrange themselves in rows along the side flanges, as indicated at 21 in Figure 1.

Between the rear end of the main chamber and the end flange of the tray are two transverse ridges 22 of inverted V-shaped section, which define two ledges 23 and 24 to receive the balls that pass beyond the end of the chamber. The rearmost surface of each ridge slants toward the sides of the tray, as best shown in Figure 5, to compel the balls to roll toward said sides and arrange themselves in rows on the ledges, as indicated at 25 in Figure 1.

Having thus described the form and construction of the game-device, the manner of its use in playing the putting game is as follows:

The tray is placed on the floor of a room, and preferably on a mat, rug or carpet, the surface of which somewhat resembles that of the ground of a golf course. The player or players face the device at a suitable distance from the open end thereof, and direct balls of the type ordinarily used in the game of golf, toward the target by means of a standard putter or other convenient golf-club.

The balls crossing the target through the runway and into the main chamber are those which, in the actual game of golf, would have fallen into the putting hole, and in playing the game, these balls represent the highest score.

Balls passing at the sides of the partitions into either of the two chambers 17, represent the balls which, in the game of golf, would have "rimmed" the cup, and they either do not score or score negatively, as may be determined by the rules of the game.

The balls entering the main chamber through the runway, but moving with such force that they cross one or both of the ridges 22, represent the balls which, in the game of golf, would have been driven with too much force to enter the cup and would have jumped across the same. Balls thus entering one of the ledges also would not score or score negatively as the case may be.

It is a distinctive and important feature of the invention that the balls entering any of the several chambers, move automatically out of the path of balls subsequently played and arrange themselves in rows in the respective retaining places. This is due to the peculiar sloping of the bottom surfaces of the chambers, as hereinbefore described, and it permits of playing a considerable number of balls one after another without any possibility of their interfering with each other.

After all the balls have been played they may be carried to and deposited at the point from which they were played, by lifting the tray by means of the handle and tilting it forwardly to empty it through its open end. The empty tray is subsequently placed again in its original position and both the tray and the balls are again at their proper locations for another game.

It will be apparent that the game is not only entertaining, but requires considerable skill and, as such, provides a splendid means of practising putting in the game of golf.

The game may be played by one player or by two or more players in a competitive contest for recreation and the display of skill, and it is to be understood that the rules which govern its use may be varied indefinitely according to the requirements and inclinations of the players.

The tray may be made in any suitable proportions, but it requires, at its best, very little floor-space and is easily carried about or stored away when not in use.

The partitions 15^b may be made of flexible material to deaden the rebound of balls shot against it. These partitions are disposed at an angle to deflect balls that enter the side chambers 17 to the side flanges of the tray so that the balls will arrange themselves along said flanges. The partitions also serve as a running board upon emptying balls out of the tray after a round of play.

I claim:

1. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a ball-directing floor-surface bearing, adjacent said end, a target of distinctive character to represent a putting-hole, and partitions extending across the target and defining a central runway, and ball-retaining chambers at opposite sides thereof.

2. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a ball-directing floor-surface bearing, adjacent said end, a target of distinctive character to represent a putting-hole, and partitions extending across the target and defining a central runway, and ball-retaining chambers at opposite sides thereof, the floor-surfaces of the chambers being inclined to compel balls entering the chambers to arrange themselves in a row at a side thereof.

3. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which,

adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same.

4. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, the floor surface sloping upwardly at the open end of the tray to provide an approach, and then downwardly to the chamber.

5. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the target and ball-retaining chambers at opposite sides of the same.

6. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, and a transverse ridge at the end of the chamber opposite to the target.

7. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, and a transverse ridge at the end of the chamber opposite to the target, providing a ball-retaining ledge.

8. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, and successive transverse ridges at the end of the chamber opposite to the target.

9. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, the floor-surface of the chamber sloping lengthwise and sideways to compel balls entering the chamber to arrange themselves in a row at a side thereof.

10. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the target, and ball-retaining chambers at the sides of the same, the floor-surfaces of the chambers sloping lengthwise and sideways to compel balls entering the chambers to arrange themselves in a row at a side thereof.

11. A game-device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor-surface which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, defining a runway across the target, and a ball-retaining chamber rearward of the same, and a transverse ridge at the end of the chamber opposite to the target, providing a ball-retaining ledge, the floor-surface of the ledge being inclined to compel balls entering the ledge to move to an end thereof.

12. A game device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor surface, which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, partitions extending across the target, defining a runway, and partitions joining said partitions to the sides of the tray and being at obtuse angles thereto to direct balls to the runway when the tray is tilted to remove the balls.

13. A game device comprising a tray having an open end and having a floor surface, which, adjacent said end, bears a target of distinctive character, and partitions at opposite sides of the center of the target, but spaced from the edges thereof, whereby balls that would "rim the cup" in a golf game will not pass between the partitions.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

GEORGE N. SEELEY.