Aug. 15, 1950 A. J. JACKSON 2,519,047

PRACTICE GOLF GAME APPARATUS

Filed June 17, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

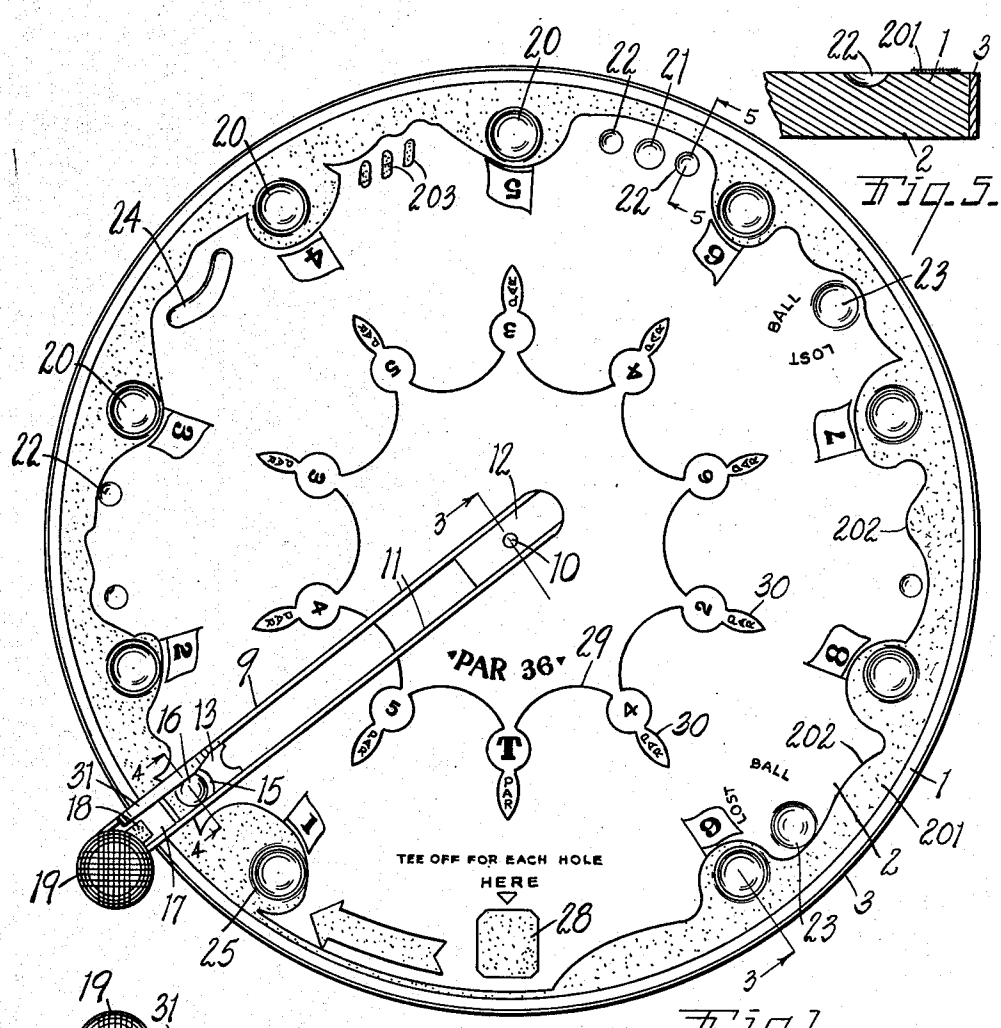


Fig. 1.

Fig. 5.

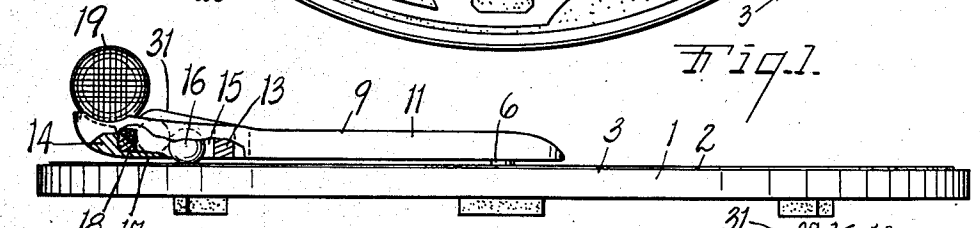


Fig. 2.

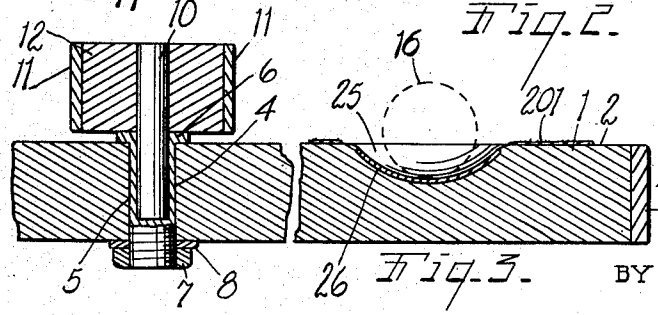


Fig. 3.

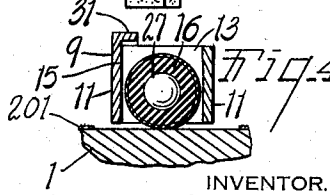


Fig. 4.

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Aug. 15, 1950 A. J. JACKSON 2,519,047

PRACTICE GOLF GAME APPARATUS

Filed June 17, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

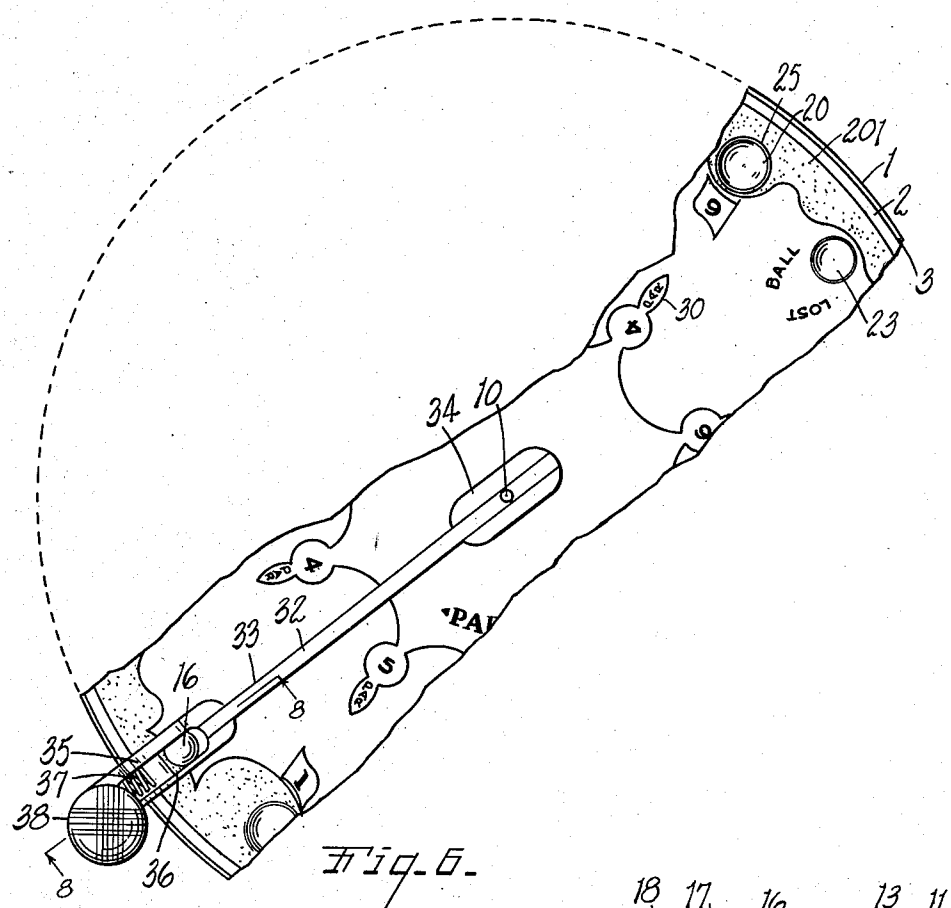


Fig. 6.

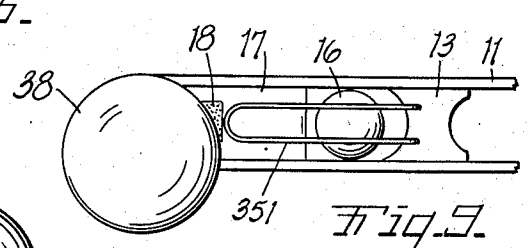


Fig. 5.

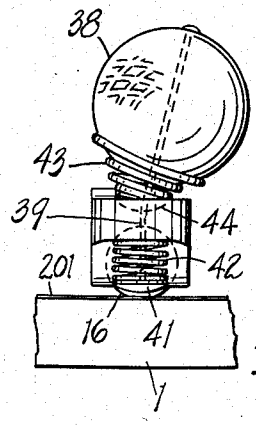


Fig. 7.

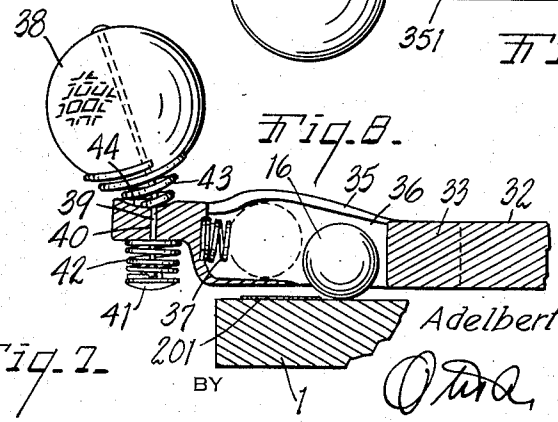


Fig. 8.

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PRACTICE GOLF GAME APPARATUS

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Application June 17, 1947, Serial No. 755,193

9 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

1

This invention relates to a practice golf game apparatus.

The main objects of this invention are:

First, to provide a game apparatus simulating a golf game.

Second, to provide a game apparatus having these advantages in which the apparatus may be used with very little noise.

Third, to provide an apparatus embodying these advantages which may be very economically produced and at the same time is strong and durable.

Objects relating to details and economies of the invention will appear from the description to follow. The invention is defined and pointed out in the claims.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a game apparatus embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is an edge elevational view thereof with a portion of the arm member in longitudinal section and partially broken away.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view on a line corresponding to line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view on a line corresponding to line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view through the base member on a line corresponding to line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary plan view of a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side elevational view viewed from the end of the arm in Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary view mainly in section on line 8—8 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary plan view of a modified form of ball retainer for the arm.

My present invention is an improvement upon and in some respects an adaptation of the game apparatus of my Patent 2,186,337 issued January 9, 1940.

The embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive comprises a board-like base member designated generally by the numeral 1 and desirably circular in shape, the base member comprising the panel 2 surrounded by a rim 3. The panel 2 may be formed of multi-ply veneer but I have not illustrated the veneer as a veneer structure is well understood.

The base member has a central bore 4 receiving the pivot socket 5, this pivot socket having a flange 6 at its upper end and being threaded at its lower end to receive the nut 7, a washer 8 being arranged between the nut and the bottom of the board.

The flange 6 serves as a bearing for the arm designated generally by the numeral 9 which is

2

provided with a pin 10 engaging the socket so that the arm is pivotally mounted on the base member to swing in a horizontal plane above the surface thereof. It will be noted that the pivot 10 is positioned close to the inner end of the arm so that the arm is not counterbalanced as is the case with the arm of the structure of my said patent.

The weight of the arm on the bearing also retards the arm so that the impact of the stroke of the player is a very important factor in playing the game. These features make the game quite largely one of skill instead of a game of chance which was largely the case with the apparatus of my aforesaid patent in which the arm is counterbalanced.

The arm 9 comprises a pair of thin nonmetallic side members 11 preferably of wood. The block 12 which receives the pivot 10 is disposed between the inner ends of the arms, the arms being adhesively secured to the sides of the pivot block. The outer ends of the arms are secured upon the sides of the spaced block-like members 13 and 14 which members, coacting with the side members, form a ball receiving chamber 15 open at the bottom so that a ball 16 arranged in the chamber may rollingly engage the surface of the base member.

The chamber 15 has a bottom portion 17 at the outer end of its bottom opening. The chamber is of such length as to receive the ball under the influence of centrifugal force as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2 and support the ball out of contact with the surface of the base.

The impact ball 19 is secured on the upper side of the arm, preferably in a rearwardly offset relation thereto as shown in the drawings. This impact ball is desirably quite soft and resilient.

The base member has a plurality of scoring pockets 20 arranged in an annular series centered in the arm pivot and in the zone traversed by the ball 15. These pockets represent the "greens" pockets of a golf course and they are numbered 1 to 9 inclusive. Intermediate certain of these scoring pockets 10 I provide hazard recesses 21, 22, 23 and 24, these being differently positioned relative to the scoring pockets and some of them at varying distances from the arm pivot. They are all preferably of a less diameter than the scoring pockets. The scoring pockets are desirably of substantially greater diameter than the ball 16 and are preferably provided with concavo-convex linings 25 which are adhesively secured within the recesses 26 in the face of the base.

With the pockets of considerably greater diameter than the ball, interest is added because when the arm stops with the ball on the lip of the pocket or cup it may impart sufficient movement to the arm to cause the ball to fall into the pocket

or cup. The ball in the preferred form is formed of quite yielding rubber with a central weight 27 as shown in Fig. 4. This rubber ball travels around on the base member and may travel over the hazard recesses and scoring cups or pockets without substantial noise. The ball is preferably provided with a coating such as enamel commonly employed on golf balls.

It is to be noted that the scoring pockets are concaved throughout so that the ball comes to rest on the bottom as shown in Fig. 3 and that the rims of the pockets substantially exceed the diameter of the ball. This is of importance in that it permits the playing of the ball from a pocket as the ball can roll out of the pocket when the impact ball is struck with a minimum of playing ball resistance. If the pockets have an abrupt shoulder the ball is likely to wedge between the front wall of the pocket and the rear wall of the chamber as the arm is struck. It is contemplated that in playing the game, after driving past the tee, the player must play from the track or pocket or hazard as the ball may come to rest.

Certain of the hazard pockets have legends associated therewith as for example "lost ball" and the rules of the game may be such as to provide penalties for a lost ball. I have not shown legends in connection with the other hazards but it is contemplated that the rules may provide stroke penalties when a ball comes to rest in one of these hazard recesses.

The base is provided with a marker 28 representing a tee. The base is also provided with a diagram designated generally by the numeral 29 with pointers 30 having numerals associated therewith to indicate the "par" of a particular scoring pocket or cup.

The face of the base member is provided with an annular surface material 201 having an irregular inner outline, this surfacing material being desirably colored and having a roughened surface resulting from the application of flock or some other suitable material to a binding material of such thickness as to present a raised surface—that is, raised relative to the face of the board. The portions of this raised surface are in the path of the ball and serve to deflect the ball and to retard the ball when it comes into contact with the portions as 202 which project into the path of the ball. Also the scoring pockets or grooves are surrounded by this surfacing material so that it may stop the ball when the speed of the arm is quite low. Other obstructions in the path of the ball are shown at 203.

In play, the impact ball is struck with a golf club, preferably a putter and skill and experience count in the successful scoring play. The rubber ball and the buffer with the rubber impact element 19 substantially eliminate noise in the use of the apparatus. The inwardly projecting flange 31 on one of the side members 9 serves to retain the ball so that it does not fly out of the top of the arm chamber.

In the modified form of the invention shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, the arm 32 is formed of a flat bar 33 having a pivot block 34 at its inner end receiving the pivot 10. At its outer end, the arm is provided with a ball holder 35 for the ball 16, the chamber 36 of this holder being provided with a coiled spring buffer 37 which is desirably quite yielding so that it serves to return the ball to the inner end of the chamber and allow it to travel on the surface of the board or base member. In this embodiment, the impact ball 38 is provided with a stem 39 preferably formed of wire and angled, the stem being arranged through a vertical bore 40 in the arm and provided with a head 41 engaging the lower end of the tension spring 42. A helically coiled conical spring 43 is arranged in a seat 44 provided therefor on the upper side of the arm surrounding the stem, the spring constituting a yielding seat for the impact member. When the impact member is struck the yielding spring seat 44 thereof allows the ball to tilt and to swivel around about the stem, the tension spring 43 also yielding to some extent and relieving the stem of severe stresses. This embodiment adds to the interest of the game as it permits the player to position the impact ball as he may think desirable through quite a wide range.

In the modification of Fig. 9 the ball retainer is in the form of a loop of wire 351 disposed above the ball chamber of the arm. This provides a simple and economical means for retaining the ball.

I have illustrated and described the invention in highly practical embodiments thereof. I have not attempted to illustrate or describe certain further embodiments or adaptations as it is believed that this disclosure will enable those skilled in the art to embody or adapt the invention as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member to swing in a horizontal plane above the surface thereof, said arm having a rearwardly offset resilient impact ball at its outer end, said base member having a series of spaced scoring pockets and a plurality of hazard recesses interspersed with the scoring pockets, the scoring pockets and recesses being arranged in a generally annular series centered in the arm pivot, the hazard recesses being of less diameter than the scoring pockets and positioned at varying distances from the arm pivot, a rubber ball provided with a central weight, a ball holder chamber adjacent the outer end of said arm open at the bottom to permit the ball to rollingly engage the base and enter the scoring pockets and hazard recesses, the said chamber having a bottom portion extending from the outer end of the bottom opening adapted to receive the ball when it is actuated by centrifugal force, the front wall of said chamber being provided with an overhanging ball retaining flange, and a resilient bumper at the outer end of said chamber with which the ball impinges when actuated by centrifugal force, said bumper being of sufficient resiliency to tend to return the ball.

2. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on the base member to swing in a horizontal plane above the surface thereof, said arm having an impact member at its outer end, the pivot being closely adjacent the inner end of the arm to substantially eliminate counterweighting effect on the outer end of the arm, said base having a plurality of recesses arranged in a generally annular series centered in the arm pivot, a ball, said arm having a ball holder chamber adjacent its outer end open at the bottom to permit the ball to rollingly engage the base member in the annular zone of said recesses, said chamber having a bottom portion extending outwardly from the outer end of the

bottom opening adapted to supportingly receive the ball when it is actuated outwardly by centrifugal force, and a spring bumper at the outer end of said chamber with which the ball engages under the action of centrifugal force, the bumper tending to return the ball to position to rollingly engage the base member.

3. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member closely adjacent to its inner end to swing in a horizontal plane above the surface of the base member, said arm having an impact member at its outer end, said base member having a plurality of recesses arranged in a generally annular series, a ball, said arm having a ball chamber at its outer end open at the bottom to permit the ball to rollingly engage the base in the annular zone of said recesses as the arm swings on its pivot, said chamber having a bottom portion extending from the outer end of the bottom opening thereof adapted to receive the ball when it is actuated outwardly by centrifugal force, and a resilient bumper at the outer end of the chamber with which the ball impinges under the action of centrifugal force.

4. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member closely adjacent to its inner end to swing in a horizontal plane above the surface of the base member, said arm having an impact member at its outer end, said base member having a plurality of recesses arranged in a generally annular series, a rubber ball, said arm having a ball chamber at its outer end open at the bottom to permit the ball to rollingly engage the base in the zone of said recesses as the arm swings on its pivot, said chamber having a bottom portion extending from the outer end of the bottom opening thereof adapted to receive the ball when it is actuated outwardly by centrifugal force, and a resilient bumper at the outer end of the chamber with which the ball impinges under the action of centrifugal force.

5. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm comprising a pair of thin non-metallic side members, a pivot block secured between the inner ends of the side members, block-like members disposed between the outer ends of said side members in longitudinally spaced relation and coacting with the side members to provide an elongated ball chamber, the outer member of said block members having an inwardly inclined bottom portion, one of the side members having an inwardly projecting ball retaining flange, and a ball arranged in said chamber, the bottom opening of the chamber being such as to permit the ball to travel on the base member except when subject to sufficient centrifugal force to lift it from said bottom opening, said base member being provided with an annular series of recesses over which the bottom opening of said arm sweeps as the arm is swung on its pivot.

6. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm comprising a pair of thin non-metallic side members, a pivot block secured between the inner ends of the side members, block-like members disposed between the outer ends of said side members in longitudinally spaced relation and coacting with the side members to provide an elongated ball chamber, the outer member of said block members having an inwardly inclined bottom portion, and a ball arranged in said chamber, the bottom opening of the chamber being such as to permit the ball to travel on the base member except when subject to sufficient centrifugal force to lift it from said bottom opening, said base member being provided with an annular series of recesses over which the bottom opening of said arm sweeps as the arm is swung on its pivot.

7. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member, said arm having a ball chamber at its outer end open at the bottom, a ball arranged in said chamber, the bottom opening of the chamber permitting the ball to rollingly engage the surface of the base member, the outer end of the chamber being adapted to receive the ball and support it out of engagement with the base member when the speed of rotation of the arms exceeds a predetermined rate, a resilient impact ball, an angled anchoring stem projecting downwardly from said impact ball through said arm, a helically coiled seating spring for said ball seated on the top of said arm, and a tensioning spring for said stem arranged below said arm, the thrust of said seating spring and tensioning spring being in opposite directions.

8. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member, said arm having a ball chamber at its outer end open at the bottom, a ball arranged in said chamber, the bottom opening of the chamber permitting the ball to rollingly engage the surface of the base member, the outer end of the chamber being adapted to receive the ball and support it out of engagement with the base member when the speed of rotation of the arm exceeds a predetermined rate, an impact ball, an anchoring stem projecting downwardly from said impact ball through said arm, a seating spring for said ball, and a tensioning spring for said stem arranged below said arm.

9. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base member having a central vertical bore therethrough, an arm pivotally mounted on said base member having a ball chamber at its outer end open at the bottom, a ball arranged in said chamber, the bottom opening of the chamber permitting the ball to rollingly engage the surface of the base member, the outer end of the chamber being adapted to receive the ball and support it out of engagement with the base member when the speed of rotation of the arm exceeds a predetermined rate, an impact ball, an anchoring stem for said impact ball, and a helically coiled seating spring for said ball seated on the top of said arm around said stem.

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