

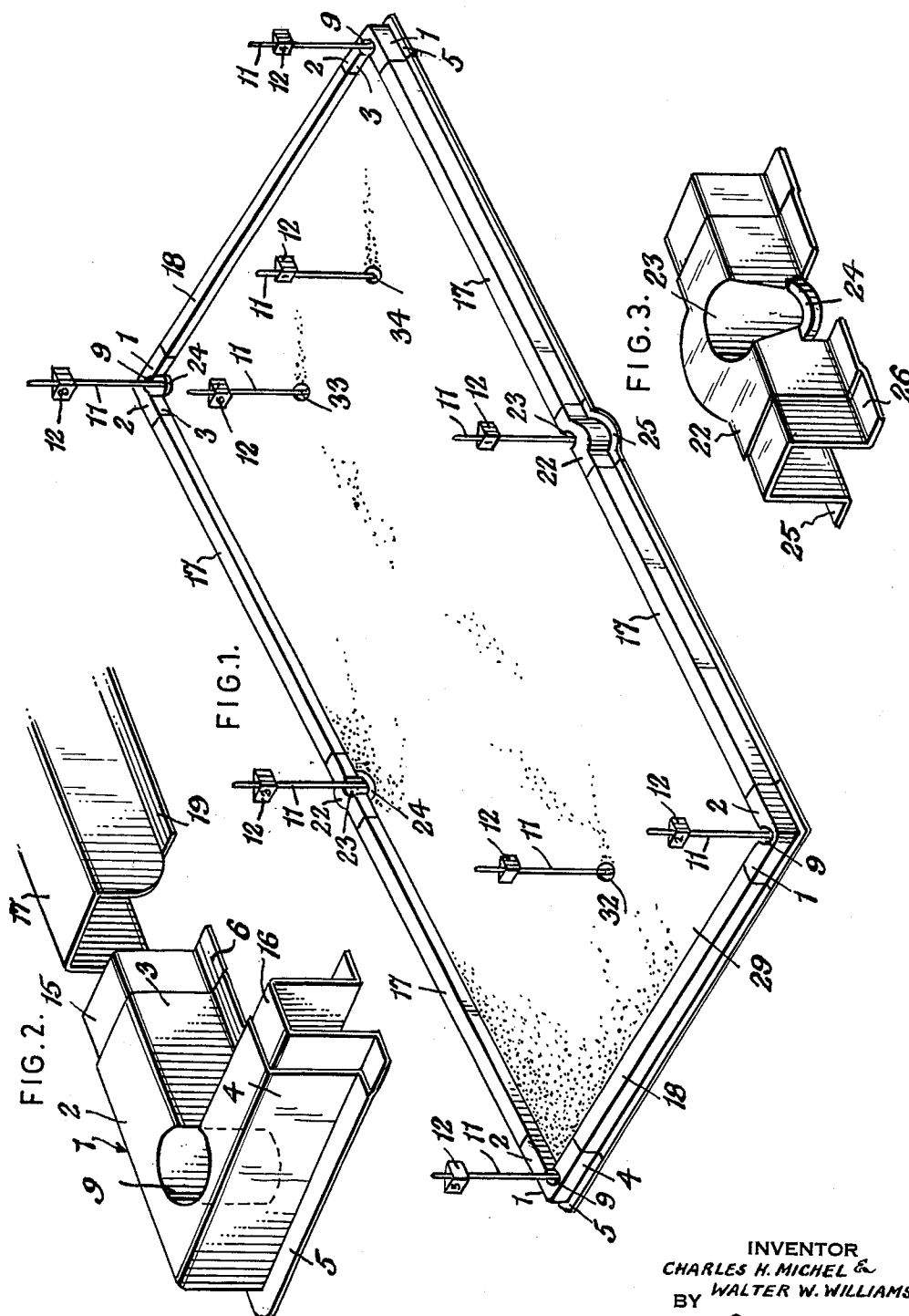
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MINIATURE GOLF COURSE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

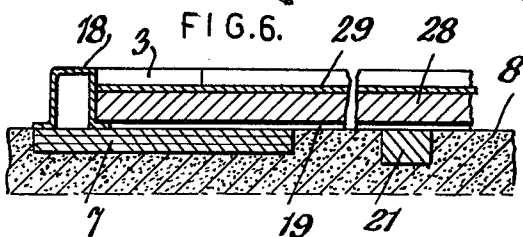
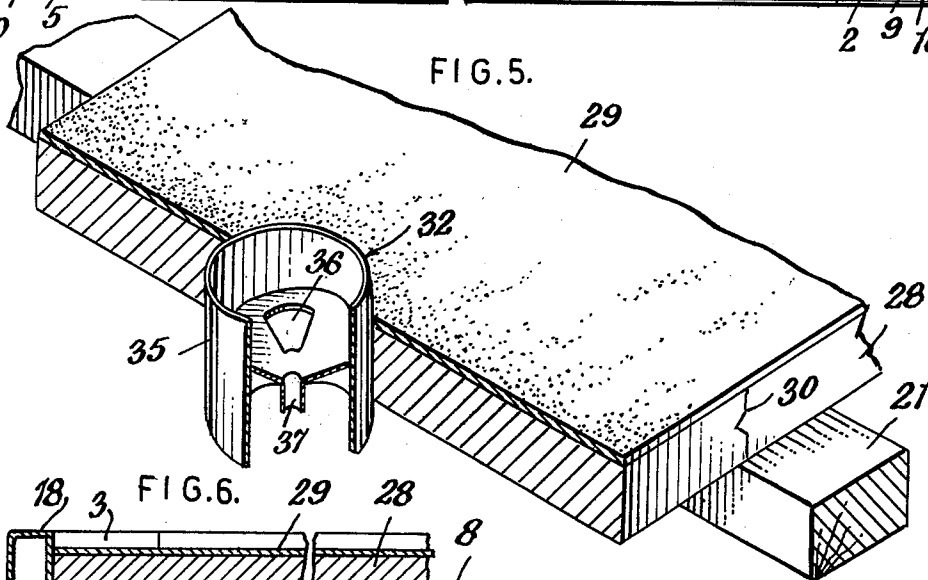
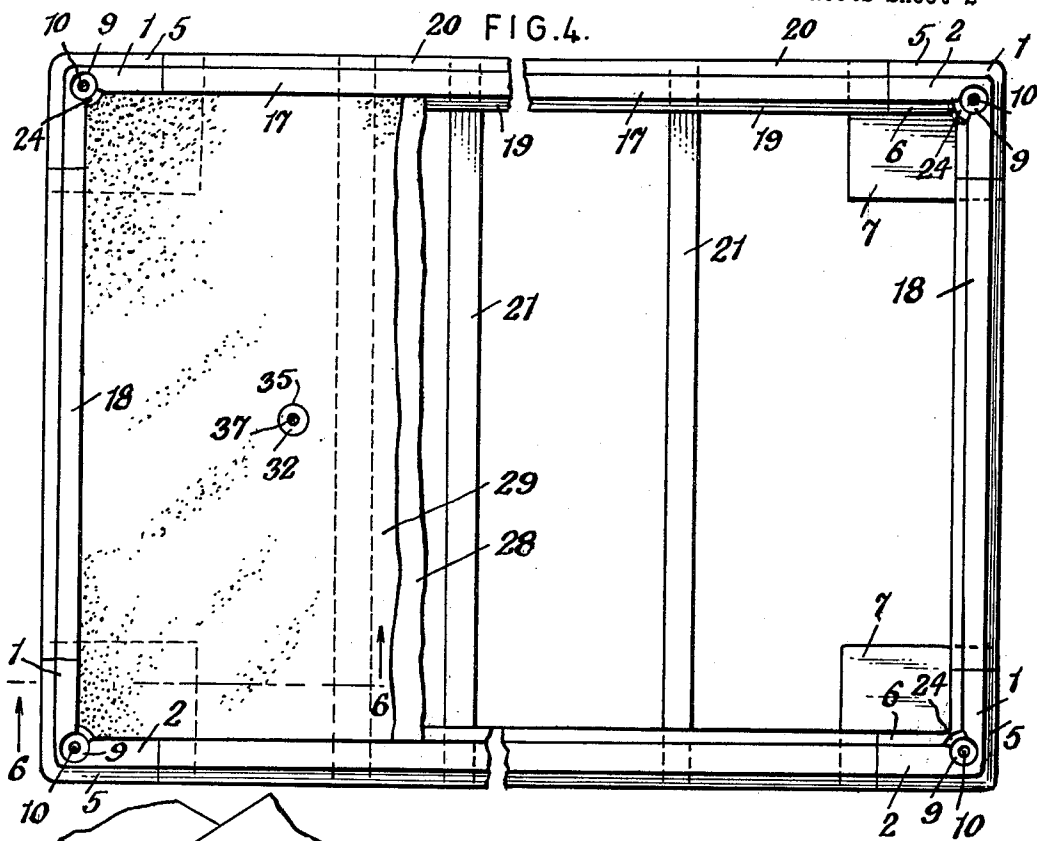


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1

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## MINIATURE GOLF COURSE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273-176)

This invention relates to golf games, and more particularly to the construction of a small or miniature golf course or putting green.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a small golf course or putting green which can be easily constructed on a patio, on a lawn or on any suitable site in a relatively small area, and which will afford the facilities and usefulness to players of a more extensive course.

It is an object of the invention to provide a golf course composed of easily-assembled elements and materials; to provide one which will be weather-resistant and which will withstand hard use and enable players to perfect their game and enjoy their golfing activities.

More particularly, the invention contemplates the provision of a strong, reinforced frame composed of a tough weather-resistant material made up of glass fibres and a polyester resin, an example of which is that made and sold under the trademark "Fiberglas," and the frame so constructed surrounds and provides an enclosing wall for a playing surface that is encompassed by the frame; the frame being provided with ball cups constituting a number of holes of the course, and the flooring or surfacing of the course consisting of a thick layer of planking or sheet material or concrete or other material having a wear-resistant surface.

With these and other objects to be hereinafter set forth in view, we have devised the arrangement of parts to be described and more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein an illustrative embodiment of the invention is disclosed,

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a golf course or putting green constructed according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of one of the corner elements of the frame of the course, and a portion of one of the side rails of the frame;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of one of the center or intermediate connection elements of the frame;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view, with some parts fragmentarily shown, of the course;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a portion of the flooring and one of the supporting beams for the same, and

FIG. 6 is a sectional view, taken substantially on the line 6-6 of FIG. 4, looking in the direction of the arrows.

The game primarily consists of a course or putting green, and it includes a perimeter made up of a frame composed of Fiberglas or some other material having similar characteristics and being dent-resistant and waterproof. The frame extends around and encloses a flooring composed of a layer of relatively thick sheeting, planking or concrete. Ball-receiving cups constituting holes of the course, are formed in parts of the frame, such cups being provided with means for holding markers.

The surrounding frame for the course includes four angular corner members generally indicated at 1 and shown in detail in FIG. 2. Each of said members is preferably, although not necessarily, composed of Fiberglas, and it is substantially of inverted U-shape in cross section, being thus provided with a top web 2 and downwardly-extending sides 3 and 4. At their lower ends, the sides 3 and 4 are respectively provided with laterally-

2

projecting flanges 5 and 6 by which the corners may be nailed or otherwise attached to corner reinforcing plates (FIG. 4) composed of sturdy plywood or other suitable material. These plywood reinforcements or supports rest on or in concrete, hard-packed earth or water-compacted sand (FIG. 6) and serve to hold the corners of the frame level and true.

Formed in each of the corner members 1 is a cup 9 constituting the "hole" of the course and into which the player attempts to drive the ball. Each of these cups is provided with a forwardly-projecting flange 24. The cups 9 are each provided with a central hole 10 into which the staff 11 of a hole-designating marker 12 is removably inserted to thereby support the marker vertically substantially as shown in FIG. 1. The angular legs 3 and 4 of each of the corner members 1 have reduced end portions indicated respectively at 15 and 16 adapted to telescopically fit into the ends of the channel-shaped side rails 17 of the frame. A portion of one of the side rails is shown in FIG. 2, wherein it will be seen that the same is of inverted U-shape in cross section, similar to the cross-sectional shape of the ends of the corner members, and the side rails are composed of Fiberglas or its equivalent. Each of the side rails has its side walls formed at the bottom with radially-projecting flanges 19 and 20 by which these side rails are nailed or otherwise suitably attached to a plurality of cross-ties 21, which rest on or are embedded in the hard-packed earth, sand, concrete or other suitable material.

The end rails of the frame, shown at 18, are similar in shape, material and construction to the side rails 17 and said end rails telescopically engage with the end portions of the corner members 1.

The frame employs intermediate connecting members 22, one of these connecting members being shown in FIG. 3. It will be therein noted that the intermediate member is of substantially inverted U-shape and is provided with a cup portion 23 constituting one of the holes of the course, said cup portion having a forwardly-projecting flange 24. The side walls of the intermediate connecting member are provided at the bottom with lateral flanges 25 and 26 which can be attached by nails or otherwise secured to the cross ties or beams 21. The overlapped end portions of the end and side rails and corner and intermediate members may be riveted together.

The result of the foregoing construction, is a substantially rectangular frame, which may be made in various sizes according to the plot on which it is to be placed. The frame is suitably supported at its corners by corner reinforcing plates 7 and is cross-braced and strengthened by the cross ties 21. The cups provided in the parts of the frame are integrally formed in such parts.

The flooring of the course may be formed of concrete, relatively thick planking or sheeting 28. The flooring may be composed, for example, of the all-weather material sold under the trade name of "Tectum" or of some material of similar characteristics and the sections of it which form the flooring may fit together with a tongue and groove fit 30, so that a substantially smooth and interrupted playing surface, particularly when covered with the protective layer 29, is the result. The protective layer 29 may consist of an asphalt felt applied to the flooring material 28, and if desired, a layer of carpeting or similar material, not shown, may be applied over the waterproof layer 29. The frame of the course is of such height that it projects above the flooring and provides an enclosing railing around the course and prevents the balls from leaving the course during playing of the game.

In addition to the holes provided by means of the cups formed in the frame elements, additional holes are provided at suitable points in the flooring in the manner

3

shown in FIG. 5. Each of the above holes, indicated respectively at 32, 33 and 34, is composed of a cylinder or cup 35 inserted in the flooring and having its bottom provided with a drain opening 36 as well as with a central sleeve 37 for the reception of the staff 11 of a marker 12.

The result of the above-described construction is a golf course or putting green which can be readily erected on any suitable site with a minimum of construction effort. It can be made in any suitable size and with any reasonable amount of cups or holes by adding to or decreasing the length and number of side and end rail sections. The construction of the course is such that it provides a smooth and even playing surface and can be easily maintained in a clean and useful condition.

Having thus described a single embodiment of the invention, it is obvious that the same is not to be restricted thereto, but is broad enough to cover all structures coming within the scope of the annexed claims.

What we claim is:

1. A golf course or putting green comprising, a frame defining the course, said frame being composed of a plurality of inverted U-shaped side and end elements and angular corner pieces telescopically joined end to end to form a rectangular enclosure, the frame elements being formed with cups to provide golf course holes, the frame elements having laterally-extending flanges at their lower ends, a flooring disposed within the frame and resting on the flanges, and cross members extending under and supporting the flooring and the frame on the ground.

2. A golf course or putting green comprising, a frame defining the course, said frame having angular corner members, each of the same being formed with a ball-receiving cup, end rails extending between the corner members and telescopically engaged with legs on the corner members, side rails telescopically engaged with the corner members, each of the side rails including an intermediate connector member, the connector members being each formed with a ball-receiving cup, all of the parts of the frame being composed of Fiberglas and being formed at the bottom with lateral flanges, supporting beams in spaced relation located under the frame, the

4

flanges on the frame parts being attached to said beams, a flooring within the frame and supported by the beams, the flooring consisting of relatively thick sheet material provided with an upper waterproof covering.

3. In a golf course as provided for in claim 2, wherein each of the cups is provided with a bottom having a central opening for the reception of a staff of a hole marker, the frame elements extending above the top of the flooring and constituting a ball-confining rail around the flooring, and supplementary cups provided in the flooring.

4. A golf course or putting green comprising, a frame defining the course, the frame having angular corner members, flat supports resting on the ground beneath the corner members and supporting said corner members, each of the corner members including angular legs and each being formed with a ball cup located between the legs, end rails disposed between the corner members and engaging with some of the angular legs thereof, side rails engaging the other angular legs of the corner members, intermediate connector members connected to the side rails, each of the intermediate connector members being provided with a ball cup, the corner members having flanges attached to the flat supports, cross ties beneath the side rails, said side rails having flanges attached to the cross ties, a flooring within the frame resting on the cross ties, said flooring having a waterproof top facing and being provided with a plurality of ball cups extending through it.

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