United States Patent

[11] **3,618,944**

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[54] **POOL BALL RACK**
6 Claims, 8 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **273/22,** 273/14
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63d 15/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 273/10, 11 R, 14, 22; 46/1 A; 211/14, 15; 214/1 C; 224/48

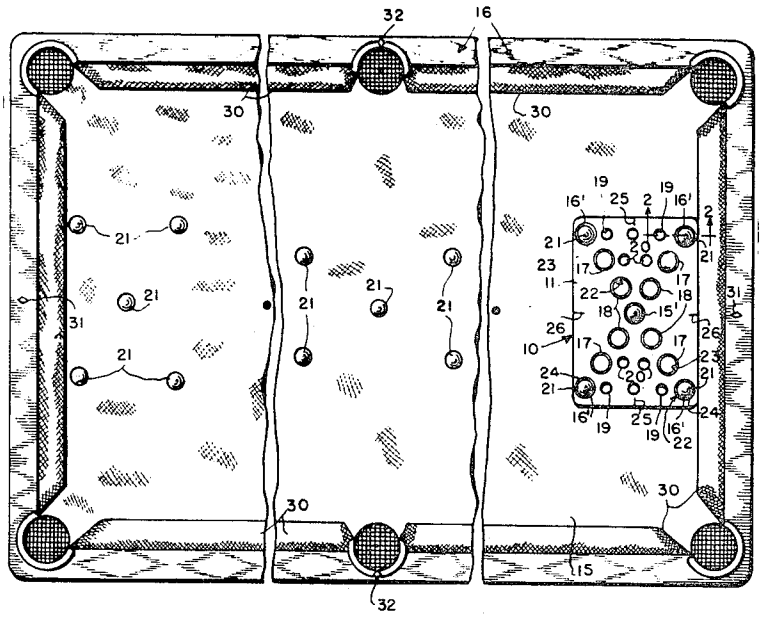
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Assistant Examiner—R. T. Stouffer
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ABSTRACT: A ball rack for use with pool or pocket billiard tables for locating the object balls in predetermined spread relation to one another on different areas of a pool table to facilitate locating the object balls for playing a new and unique pool game. The rack has an elevated top wall provided with openings through which the balls are displaced downwardly onto the playing surface of the pool table and including resilient rings secured to the openings for engaging and accurately locating the balls on the pool table and before removal of the rack therefrom.



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SHEET 1 OF 2

FIG. 1.

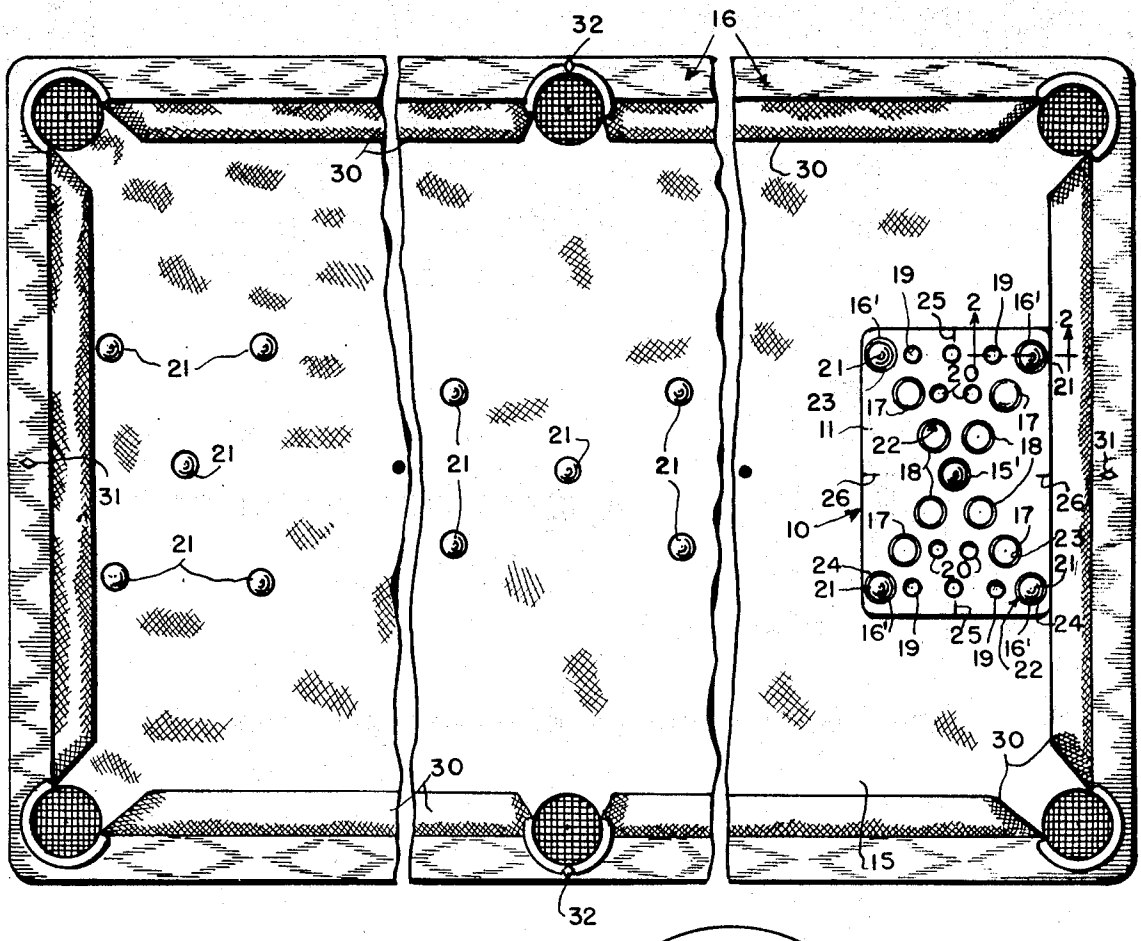
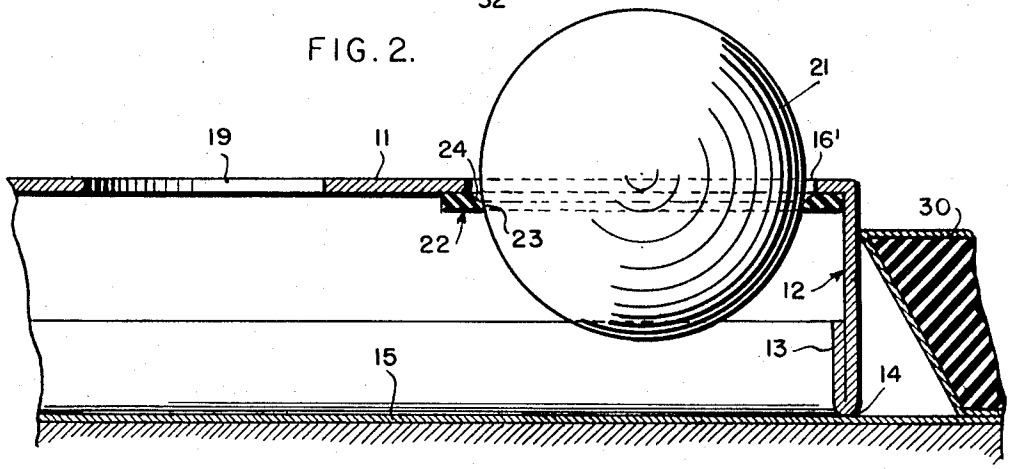


FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3.

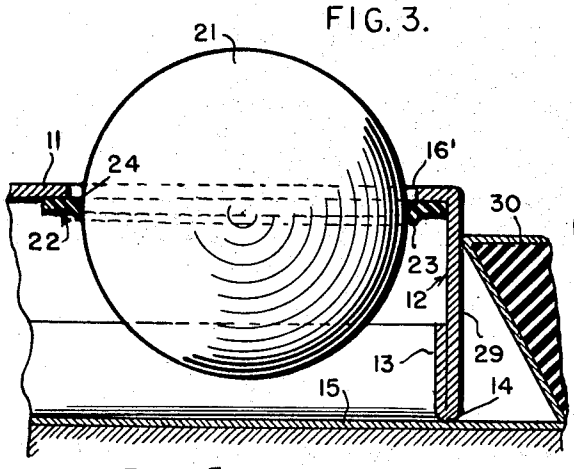


FIG. 4.

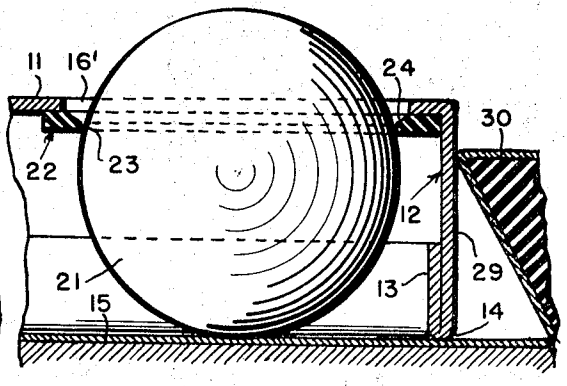


FIG. 5.

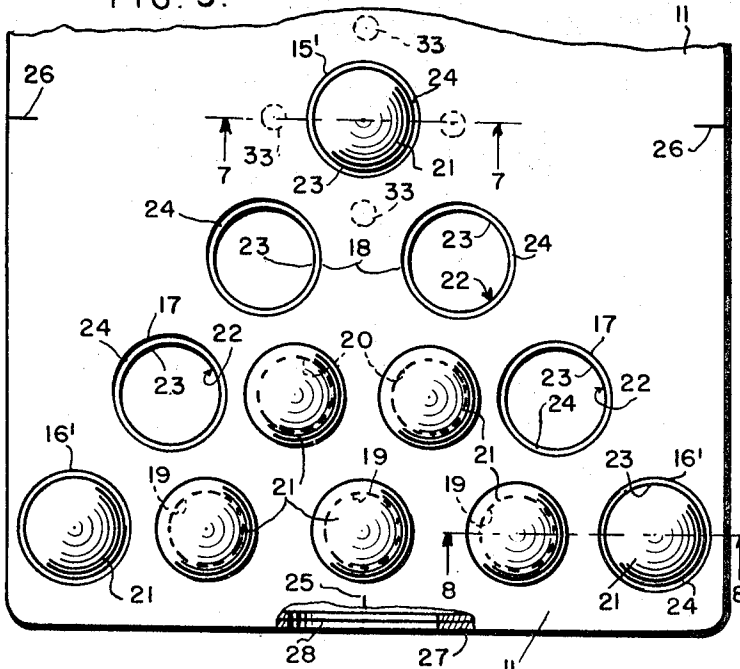


FIG. 6.

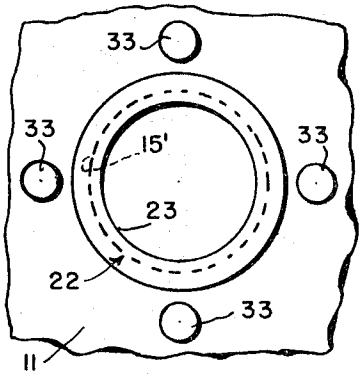
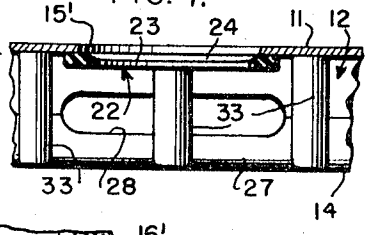


FIG. 7.



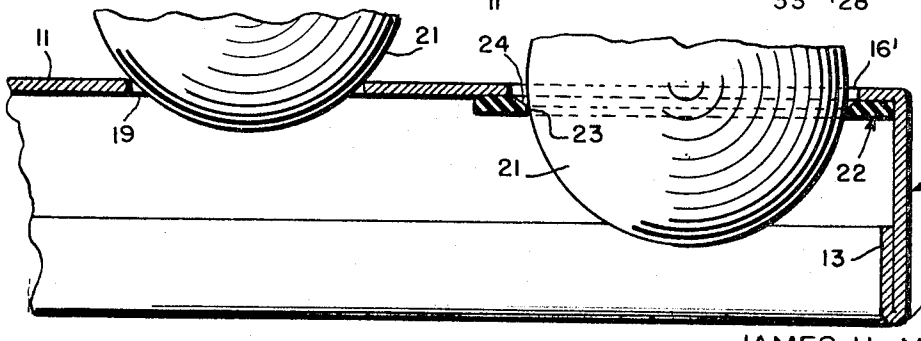


FIG. 8.

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POOL BALL RACK

SUMMARY

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a novel rack for use in accurately locating object balls in predetermined spaced-apart relation to one another on the playing surface of a pool or pocket billiard table for the play of a new and unique game.

Another object of the invention is to provide a rack including a top wall which is elevated relative to the playing surface of the pool table when the rack is applied thereto and which has openings through which the balls are applied through the rack onto the playing surface, said rack including means for retaining the balls accurately located on the playing surface prior to removal of the rack therefrom.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawings, illustrating a presently preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary top plan view of a pool or pocket billiard table showing the rack applied thereto in one position for locating certain of the object balls and showing other of the object balls previously located on the table by the rack;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view similar to FIG. 2 but showing the object ball displaced downwardly somewhat from its position of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 3 but showing the object ball displaced downwardly from its position of FIG. 3 and into engagement with the playing surface of the table;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged top plan view of one end portion of the rack and showing a plurality of the object balls located thereon;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of the central portion of the rack, on an enlarged scale relative to FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 7—7 of FIG. 5, and

FIG. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 8—8 of FIG. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring more specifically to the drawing, the pool ball rack in its entirety and comprising the invention is designated generally **10** and includes a substantially flat rectangular top wall **11** having a continuous depending flange **12** extending downwardly from the marginal edges thereof and which is disposed substantially perpendicular to the top wall **11**. The flange **12** is turned inwardly and back upon itself as seen at **13** for reinforcing the flange and to provide a smooth rounded bottom edge **14** of said flange **12** and which is adapted to rest upon the playing surface **15** of a conventional pool or pocket billiard table **16**, as best seen in FIGS. **2**, **3** and **4**.

As seen in FIG. **1**, the top wall **11** has a centrally disposed opening **15'** and four openings **16'** one of which is located adjacent each corner of said top wall, and which openings are equally spaced from the opening **15'**. Said top wall **11** is also provided with four openings **17** and four openings **18** which are disposed in alignment with the central opening **15'** and the corner openings **16'**. The openings **17** are disposed between the corner openings **16'** and the openings **18** and said openings **18** are disposed between the center opening **15'** and the openings **17**. The aligned openings **15'**, **18**, **17** and **16'** are equally spaced from one another. Three openings **19** are provided in the top wall **11** between the openings **16'** at each end thereof and two openings **20** are provided in said top wall between each pair of transversely aligned openings **17**. The openings **19** and **20** are substantially smaller than the openings **15'**, **16'**, **17** and **18**, all of which are of the same diameter and of a diameter somewhat larger than the diameter of a conventional object ball **21** used in playing pool or pocket billiards, as seen in FIGS. **2**, **3** and **4**.

As best illustrated in FIGS. **2**, **3**, **4** and **8**, a ring **22** of a resilient material, preferably rubber, is bonded or secured in any other conventional manner to the underside of the top wall **11** around each of the openings **15'**, **16'**, **17** and **18**. Each ring **22** is of substantial width and has an outer diameter larger than said openings and an inner diameter or opening **23** smaller than the opening beneath which it is disposed and somewhat smaller than the diameter of the ball **21**. The upper surface of the inner portion of the ring which protrudes inwardly from the top wall opening, with which said ring is associated, is beveled as seen at **24**.

The upper surface of the top wall **11** is provided with longitudinal center markings or lines **25** at each end thereof with transverse center markings or lines **26** at each side thereof.

To rack up the 15 object balls **21** on the playing surface **15**, a ball **21** is positioned in each opening **15'** and **16'** and remaining 10 balls are positioned and supported by the 10 smaller openings **19** and **20**. The balls located in the openings **15'** and **16'** are supported by the rings **22**, as illustrated in FIGS. **2** and **8**, which have sufficient rigidity to support the weight of the balls. The two end portions **27** of the flange **12** have finger-receiving openings **28**, one of which is shown in FIG. **7**, by which the rack can be lifted and placed on the table surface **15** crosswise thereof and with one longitudinal side **29** of the flange **12** abutting against the cushion **30** of one end of the table **16** and with the transverse centerlines **26** in alignment with the conventional diamond **31** of said end of the table, which is located midway of its side edges.

The balls **21**, disposed in the openings **15'** and **16'**, are displaced downwardly from their initial positions, supported by the rings **22**, to positions resting on the playing surface **15**, as illustrated in FIG. **4**. The inner portion of the ring **22** is deflected downwardly and outwardly, as seen in FIG. **3**, as the horizontal center portion of the ball passes therethrough in moving from its position of FIG. **2** to its position in FIG. **4**, after which the ring **22** resumes its normal position when the ball **21** has come to rest on the surface **15**.

The height of the top wall **11** and rings **22** and the diameters of the ring openings **23** is such that the inner edges of the rings **22**, as defined by the openings **23**, contact the balls **21** when said balls are resting on the surface **15**, for accurately locating the five object balls being positioned by the rack. To accomplish this, it will be noted that the top wall **11** is disposed above the level of the cushion **30** when the rack is resting on surface **15** and, accordingly, the flange **12** is sufficient height so that one of its longitudinal sides can abut one of the cushions **30** when the rack is resting on the surface **15**.

The rack **10** is then lifted vertically leaving the five object balls **21** which have been displaced downwardly through the openings **15'** and **16'** correctly positioned in spaced apart relation on the surface **15**. Five of the remaining 10 balls **21**, are then removed from the openings **19** and **20** and positioned in the openings **15'** and **16'**, and the aforedescribed operation is then repeated for racking five balls in the same manner at the other end of the table **16**, or in the center of the table. In racking the balls in the center of the table, the rack **10** is disposed lengthwise of the table and the transverse center lines **26** are aligned with the conventional diamonds **32** which are disposed on the top surfaces of the longitudinal sides of the table, midway of its ends, and the centerlines **25** are aligned with the diamonds **31** at the ends of the table.

FIG. **1** shows five of the balls **21** racked at one end of the table, five more racked midway of the table ends, and the remaining five balls supported by the rack and about to be racked at the other table end. After the fifteen object balls have been racked on the table, as heretofore described and the rack has been removed from the table, the player places a cue ball, not shown, in any desired position on the playing surface **15** and using a pool cue, attempts to pocket the 15 object

balls 21 without missing or scratching. If necessary, a second and possibly a third cue ball is used if scratches are made with the initial and second cue balls, before the 15 balls have been pocketed, and the play's score is determined by the number of object balls 21 which are pocketed and by the number of cue balls employed.

The openings 17 can be utilized in lieu of the openings 16' or the openings 18 can be utilized in lieu of the openings 16' or 17 for varying the spacing between each group of five object balls when racked on the table surface 15 for increasing the degree of difficulty in pocketing the object balls, as heretofore described.

In order to maintain the top wall 11 precisely horizontal or parallel to the playing surface 15, the underside of the central portion of the top wall 11 may be provided with depending legs 33, as seen in FIGS. 6 and 7, which extend downwardly therefrom and which are disposed around the center opening 15', and which have lower ends disposed in the same plane as the bottom edge 14 of the flange 12, to prevent sagging of the central portion of the top wall 11.

Various modifications and changes are contemplated and may be resorted to, without departing from the function or scope of the invention.

I Claim:

1. In combination with a plurality of pool balls, a pool rack comprising a top wall having a plurality of pool ball receiving openings each of a diameter slightly greater than the diameter of said pool balls, support means extending downwardly from said top wall and adapted to rest on the playing surface of a pool or pocket billiard table for supporting said top wall in a plane substantially parallel to the playing surface and above and spaced therefrom a distance greater than the radius and less than the diameter of said openings, whereby said pool balls when passed downwardly through said openings into engagement with the table surface are located in predetermined spaced-apart relation to one another when the rack is removed from the playing surface, and a resilient ring secured to the top wall around each of said openings and having an inner diameter less than the diameter of the pool balls for supporting one of the pool balls on the rack, the inner portion of the ring being sufficiently resilient to permit said pool ball to be forced downwardly therethrough into a position in contact with the playing surface, the level of the underside of said ring relative to the playing surface and the inner diameter thereof being such that the ring throughout its inner circumference is in contact with a part of the upper hemisphere of said pool ball when the ball is supported on the playing surface.

2. A pool ball rack as in claim 1, the inner portion of the upper side of the ring being beveled downwardly toward its inner circumference,

3. A pool ball rack as in claim 1, said openings including a center opening and four corner openings equally spaced from said center opening.

4. A pool ball rack as in claim 3, and said top wall having additional openings of a smaller diameter for supporting additional pool balls prior to the racking thereof.

5. A pool ball rack as in claim 1, said support means including a vertical wall portion adapted to abut against a cushion of the table for correctly locating the balls to be racked relative to the cushion.

6. A pool ball rack as in claim 1, and said top wall having indexing means adapted to function with markings on the table for accurately locating the rack relative to the ends and sides of the playing surface.

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