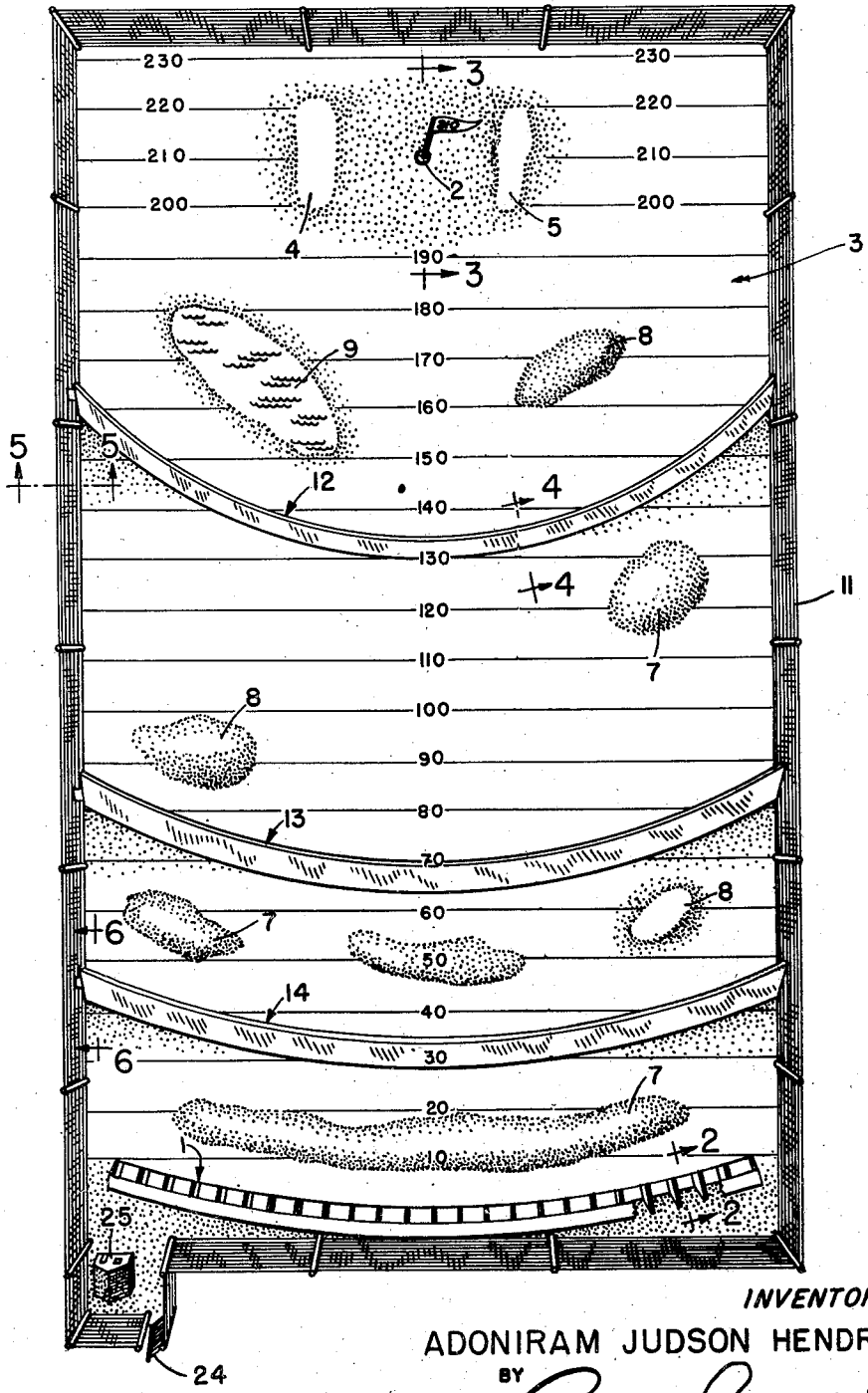
Dec. 13, 1949 A. J. HENDRY 2,490,961

GOLF PRACTICE RANGE

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 3

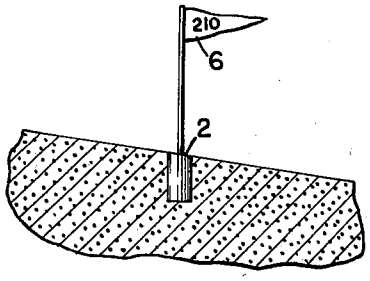


FIG. 2

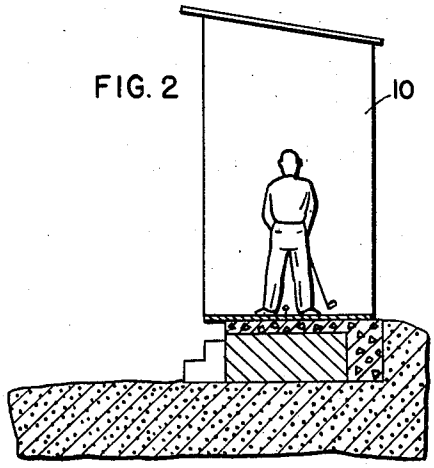


FIG. 4

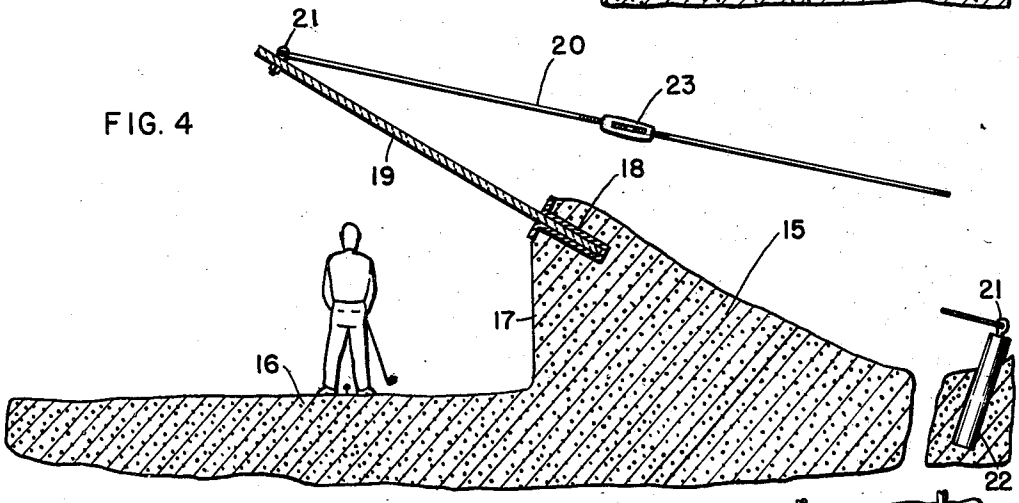


FIG. 5

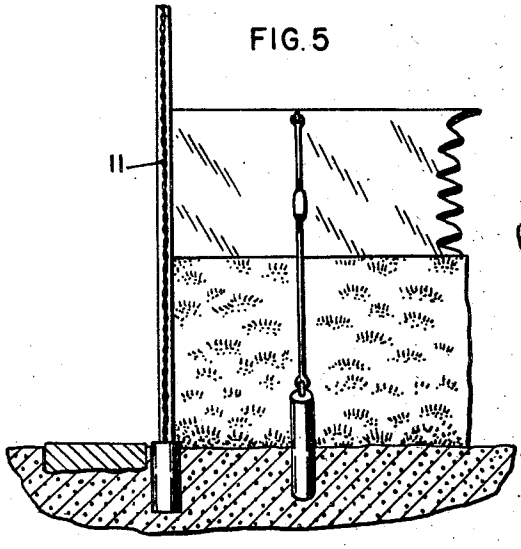
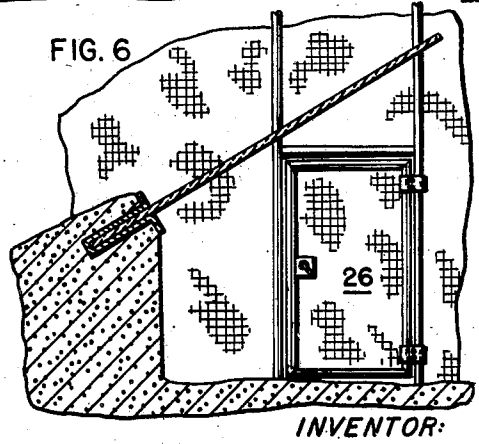


FIG. 6



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GOLF PRACTICE RANGE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in golf practice ranges.

Heretofore, golf practice ranges consisted of a series of driving tees arranged side by side and an area into which a ball may be driven, containing a series of markers indicating the yardage between such marker and the tees. These driving tees are normally designed for use in practicing "wood" golf club shots, although some times they are used by golfers to practice "iron" shots.

One of the inherent defects of golf driving ranges now in use is the lack of providing a player, practicing his various shots, with conditions normally simulating conditions on a golf course, so that the person utilizing a golf practice range cannot get the "feel" that a person gets when actually playing golf on a regular golf course. It was to overcome these defects that the present invention was designed.

The main objects of this invention are to provide a new and improved golf practice range of a character which substantially simulates conditions existing on a regular golf course and particularly a "hole" thereof; to provide a golf practice range of this character having protective areas arranged in a fairway between the driving tee and a "green" whereby a player may practice iron shots to the "green" under conditions normally simulating conditions on a regular golf course; to provide a single or multiple protective areas for a player in the fairway whereby numerous players may utilize a driving tee without interrupting or interfering with a player behind a protective area; to provide in a golf practice range of this character a protective area in the fairway behind which a player may practice "iron" shots to the "green" wherein the protective area is blended with the fairway in such a manner as to simulate conditions usually existing on a regular golf course and at the same time effectively hide a player using the protective areas whereby his presence will not interfere with a player using the driving tees; to provide such a protective area which is arranged to extend arcuately and transversely to the length of the driving range and be so constructed and arranged as to be practically invisible to a player using the driving tee; to provide a golf practice driving range of this character which is relatively simple in construction and inexpensive to lay out.

An illustrative embodiment of this invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a top elevational view of the golf practice range of my invention.

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Figs. 2 to 6 inclusive are cross sectional views taken on the lines 2—2, 3—3, 4—4, 5—5, and 6—6 respectively of Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the golf practice range of my invention consists of a series of driving tees 1 located at one end of the driving range and a green 2 at the opposite end with a fairway 3, interposed between the green and the driving tees. The green 2 is of the usual type found on a golf course and the green shown in the drawings is inclined upwardly from the fairway 3 so as to present a target at which a golfer may aim his shot. The green 2 is also provided with the usual sand traps 4 and 5, located on either side of the green. The green 2 is also provided with a flag 6 as is customary on golf courses. The fairway 3 is also provided with the usual hazards such as a series bunkers 7, sand traps 8 and may include a water hazard 9.

The driving tees 1 are on a plane higher than the plane of the fairway, as shown in Fig. 2, and consist of a series of individual platforms, suitably enclosed by a housing 10 so that one using the tees will be protected from the elements, whereby the tees may be used in any kind of weather.

The entire golf practice range may be surrounded by a fence 11 so as to confine it to a definite area.

A series of protective areas 12, 13 and 14 are incorporated in the fairway between the green and the driving tees, and the purpose of such areas are to provide suitable places for golfers to practice iron club shots at various distances from the green 2 as will be apparent from an inspection of Fig. 1 of the drawing. These protective areas each comprise an inclined turfed surface 15, which surface is so constructed and arranged whereby the angle of inclination is so slight from the plane of the fairway 2 that the inclined turfed surfaces 15 are substantially not visible from the tees 1. The playing surface 16 of these playing areas may be lower than the surface of the fairway so that a player standing on said surface 16 will not be seen by a player using the driving tee because of the heighth of the wall 17. The protective wall 17 defining the rear end of the playing surface 16 is substantially vertical. The apex of the upper end of the wall 17 and the forward end of the inclined turfed surface 15 may be fitted with a U-shaped seat 18 which may extend along the entire width of the apex. The rear end of a protective screen 19, which may be constructed of any material but preferably of shatter-proof glass or a trans-

parent, non-breakable plastic, is arranged to seat in said U-shaped seat 18 in such a manner that the screen 19 will lie substantially in the same diagonal plane as the plane of the inclined turfed driving surface 15. With the screen extending completely across the fairway as illustrated in Fig. 1, it will be obvious that the weight of such screen would require additional bracing and therefore, for this purpose, I have employed a series of braces 20 each anchored at one end of an eye bolt 21 which is securely fastened to the forward or free end of the screen. The other end of the brace is secured to an eyelet 21 anchored in a post 22 embedded in the fairway. The brace 20 is provided with a turn buckle 23 so as to impart the proper tension and bracing effect to the screen 19. It is obvious that other bracing means may be employed such as by use of a series of poles.

In utilizing the golf practice range of my invention, a person wishing to practice golf shots enters the gate 24 and obtains the usual pail of balls, as is customary in the present practice ranges, from the attendant located in the small house 25. He then selects one of the driving tees 1 from which he desires to practice his wood shots, aiming his shots towards the green 2. If the player now decides that he wants to practice iron golf club shots, he takes his clubs and pail of balls and walks along the outside of the fence 11 to the playing areas 12, 13 or 14, depending upon what length shots he desires to practice. In the illustrative embodiment shown in the drawings, the playing area 14 is arranged for practicing iron shots to the green for distances of from 180 to 190 yards from the green. In the playing area 13, the shots are for a distance of from 130 to 140 yards from the green, while the playing area 12 are for shots of from 110 to 150 yards from the green. It is to be noted that each of the playing areas 12, 13 and 14 are arcuately shaped so that a person practicing golf shots within any one of the areas 12 to 15 inclusive may shoot shots to the green from anywhere he desires between the marginal edges of the fairway, so that the angle at which the shots are made can be greatly varied at the will of the person practicing so as to more closely simulate actual conditions that exist on a golf course.

It should be apparent that although for the purposes of illustration I have indicated that the screen 19 extends across the width of the fairway in a single piece of material, this is not absolutely essential since the primary object of the present invention is to provide protective areas in the fairway between the green and the driving tees whereby a player may practice iron shots to the green without interfering with players using the driving tee, and such players from the driving tee from interfering with the person practicing the iron golf shots. It is also to be understood that another primary object of the present invention is to provide these playing areas, but such areas are to be so adapted and arranged as to be substantially as invisible as possible to persons between the practice tees and the green so as to more nearly simulate actual playing conditions on a golf course. In the illustration shown, I have provided gates 26 for entrance to the practice areas 12, 13 and 14, but it is appreciated that these gates are not essential except when the range is fenced.

Although but one specific embodiment of this invention is herein shown and described, it will

be understood that numerous details of the construction shown may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a golf driving range, a series of driving tees arranged at one end of said driving range, a fairway, a green positioned at the other end of said driving range, a series of areas located in said fairway between said green and said driving tees and at a lower level than said fairway, and protective means overhanging each of said areas to protect the player practicing golf shots in said areas.

2. In a golf driving range, a series of driving tees arranged at one end of said driving range, a fairway, a green positioned at the other end of said driving range, a series of areas located in said fairway between said green and said driving tees and at a lower level than said fairway, and positioned transversely to the length of said driving range, and protective means overhanging each of said areas to protect the player practicing golf shots in said areas.

3. In a golf driving range, a series of driving tees arranged at one end of said driving range, a fairway, a green positioned at the other end of said driving range, a series of areas located in said fairway between said green and said driving tees and at a lower level than said fairway, and positioned transversely to the length of said driving range, and protective means overhanging each of said areas comprising a diagonally positioned screen securely anchored in the ground and under which the player stands to protect the player practicing golf shots in said areas.

4. In a golf driving range, a series of driving tees arranged at one end of said driving range, a fairway, a green positioned at the other end of said driving range, a series of areas located between said green and said driving tees and in said fairway, and positioned transversely to the length of said driving range, each of said areas comprising an inclined turfed surface, the top of said surface terminating in a substantially vertically extending wall, the lower end of said wall terminating in a playing surface extending forwardly thereof, a protective screen-like material extending over said playing surface and rigidly secured in said turfed surface whereby the player practicing golf shots in said area will be protected from balls being driven from said driving tee and any areas positioned behind said forward areas.

5. In a golf driving range, a series of driving tees arranged at one end of said driving range, a fairway, a green positioned at the other end of said driving range, a series of areas located between said green and said driving tees and in said fairway, and positioned transversely to the length of said driving range, each of said areas comprising an inclined turfed surface, the top of said surface terminating at the top of a substantially vertical wall projecting upwardly from a playing surface which extends forwardly therefrom, said playing surface being at a lower level than the plane of said fairway, a protective screen-like material extending over said playing surface and rigidly secured in said turfed surface whereby the player practicing golf shots in said area will be protected from balls being driven from said driving tee and any areas positioned behind said forward areas.

6. The device according to claim 4 wherein said screen-like material is a transparent plastic.

7. The device according to claim 4 wherein said screen-like material is a shatterproof glass.

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