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J. C. HALL

INDOOR GOLF APPARATUS

Filed April 16, 1928

Fig. 1.

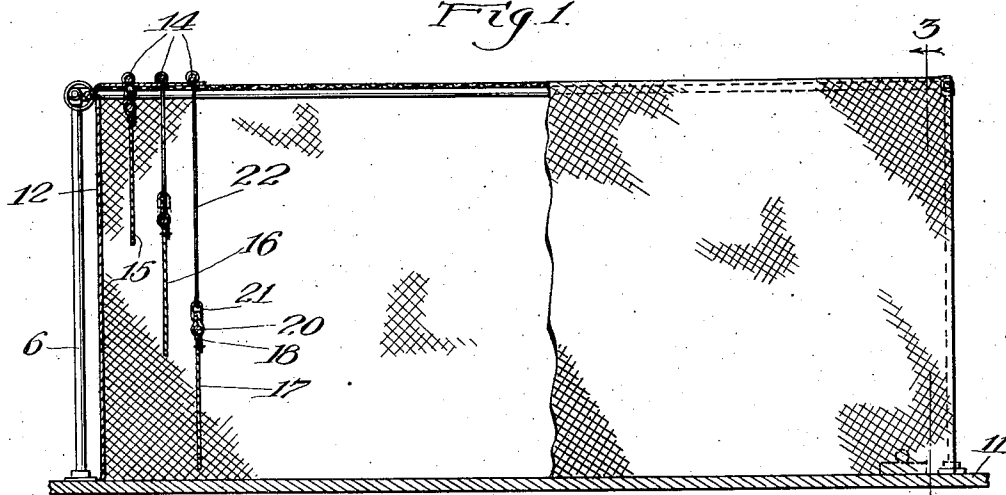


Fig. 2.

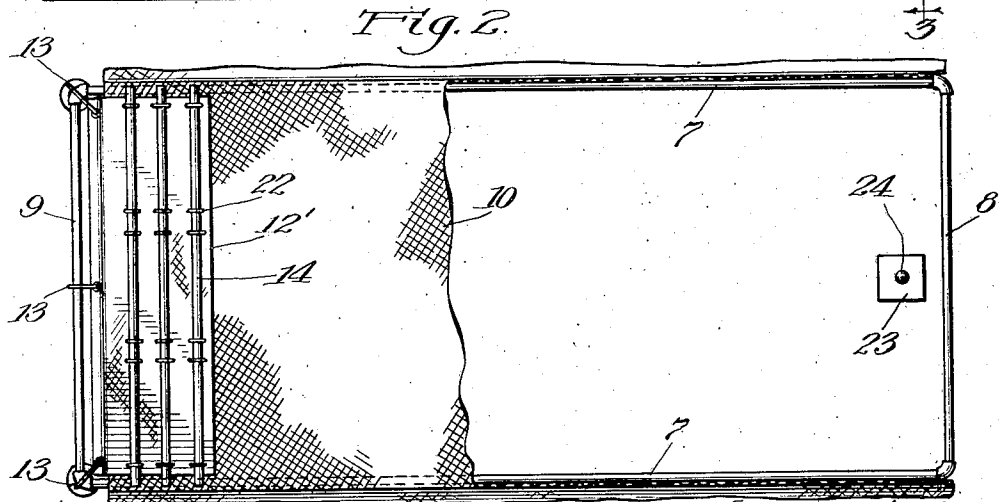


Fig. 3.

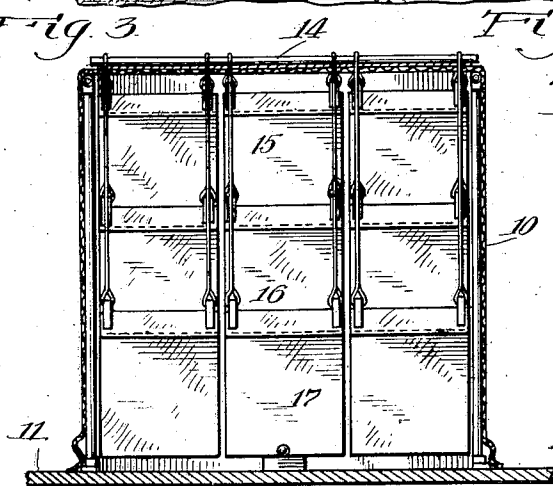


Fig. 4.

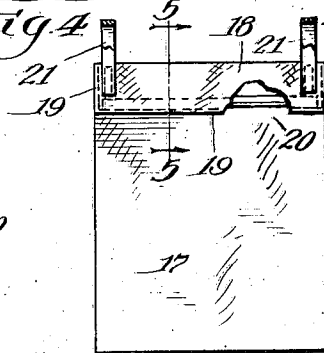
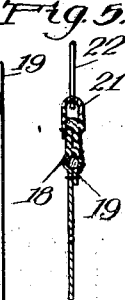


Fig. 5.



Inventor:
John C. Hall
By Wm. O. Bell, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. HALL, OF WHITING, INDIANA.

INDOOR GOLF APPARATUS.

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This invention relates to game apparatus and it has for its object to provide an apparatus of simple construction which can be set up indoors and used for playing indoor golf and also for practicing golf.

The invention also has for its object to provide an apparatus of this kind having a plurality of targets or curtains arranged to indicate to the player the direction and approximate distance of the flight of the ball so that a game may be played by selecting a curtain as a target for a stroke, of for practice purposes.

In the accompanying drawings illustrated a selected embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation with the net partly broken away.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view with the net partly broken away.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation.

Fig. 4 is a detail enlarged view of one of the curtains.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

The invention comprises a skeleton frame which can be conveniently made of tubing and having four corner posts 6, two side members 7, a front end top member 8 and a rear end top member 9. A net 10 is supported by the frame and extends across the top of the frame and hangs freely at both sides thereof, the bottom portions of the sides of the net being permitted to fold upon the floor 11 to prevent balls from escaping under the net. A sheet of canvas 12 is arranged to close the rear end of the net and form a back stop to prevent escape of balls. This sheet 12 projects over the top of the net at 12' and it is sewed or laced or grommeted or otherwise securely fastened to the net at the top and bottom rear end portions thereof. The sheet is secured to the frame by heavy cord, or rope, or rings, or other suitable devices indicated at 13. Any suitable means may be employed for securing the sheet to the net and for supporting the sheet on the frame. A plurality of rods 14, preferably three, are supported on the frame at the rear end thereof and are arranged to rest upon the forwardly projecting part of the canvas sheet 12'. These rods are arranged in parallel relation and they are spaced several inches apart. A plurality of target curtains, preferably three, are suspended loosely from each rod. The three curtains 15 hang side by side at the top of

the net and at the rear end thereof; the three intermediate curtains 16 hang in front of the curtains 15 but spaced therefrom; the three curtains 17 hang in front of the curtains 16 and are spaced therefrom. The lower ends of the rear curtains 15 project below the top of the intermediate curtain 16 and the lower ends of the intermediate curtains 16 project below the top of the front curtains 17. The three sets of curtains in vertical alignment are spaced apart slightly, as shown in Fig. 3 for free and independent movement and each curtain is separately suspended so that it may move under the impact of the ball without affecting any of the other curtains. Various means may be employed for suspending the curtains from the rods 14, but I prefer to fold the upper edge portion of the curtain upon itself at 18 and sew this folded portion at its side and bottom edge to the main portion of the curtain as indicated at 19 in Fig. 4. Within this folded portion I arrange a weight which is preferably in the form of a rod 20. Loops 21 are sewed to the folded portion at or adjacent the upper corners of the curtain and suspending cords 22 are engaged with these loops and with the rods 14.

A mat or other suitable means is provided at the front end of the apparatus as a tee for a golf ball 24 and this tee is preferably movable so that it can be shifted to any position on the floor at the end of the frame as a player may desire.

It will be noted that in the selected embodiment illustrated there are nine curtains, each independently suspended free from contact with the other curtains and with the upper edge of the intermediate horizontal set of curtains overlapping the lower edge of the upper horizontal set of curtains, and the upper edge of the lower horizontal set of curtains overlapping the lower edge of the intermediate horizontal set of curtains. The three vertical sets of curtains are spaced apart sufficiently to permit the curtains to hang freely and independently and to move without disturbing adjacent curtains. In playing a game or in practicing a player may select any row of curtains horizontal or vertical, or any particular curtain as a target and a game may be played in this way. When a ball hits a curtain it agitates the curtain and bulges the curtain at the point of contact. The ball falls immediately to the floor but the agitation of the

curtain is always sufficient to indicate to the player which curtain has been struck, and this agitation continues until the player lifts his eyes from the tee to follow the course of the ball as in the ordinary game. Therefore a player may select for a particular shot with a particular club the target curtain which he aims to hit and he can determine the approximate direction and distance of the flight of the ball by the curtain which is agitated and, the sound of the impact, and the degree of agitation.

I have found it highly entertaining and instructive to lay out a game according to any particular golf course by indicating the holes, distance and par and then indicating for each hole the clubs to be used in the drive and on the fairway. By following these general rules, supplemented by such detail rules as may be found desirable a player or a group of players may theoretically play a particular golf course the varying distances, the par strokes and the different clubs required, following the custom which would ordinarily prevail on the fairways of the course, is not only entertaining to the players but is instructive and highly beneficial practice. I have also found that in playing games in this way and in practicing with my invention the separate suspension and independency of the target curtains is of particular importance because the player is enabled to keep his eye on the ball according to approved practice throughout the stroke and when he lifts his eyes as he does, or should do, in approved practice on a regular course to watch the flight of the ball and its location at the end of the flight, he will know by the agitation of the curtain which curtain has been struck by the ball. If the player drives a hard ball he will see the bulge in the curtain caused by the impact of the ball even if he does not lift his eye until after the stroke is completed. This is interesting to the player because he is enabled to see within reasonable limits the direction of flight of the ball and by the point of impact on the curtain he can estimate approximately the distance of the flight.

The apparatus embodying my invention is extremely simple, it can be easily made, and it can be installed indoors or outdoors; it can be set up in club room, basements, attics, billiard rooms, and other places where there is room to swing a club. It is not necessary to fasten the posts to the floor if they are provided with bases commonly known. The net and curtains may be suspended or supported by any other means than the frame work shown. I have hung the net over an automobile with the target curtains at the inner end of a stall in a garage so that the apparatus could be used when the car is moved out of the stall, and

I have found this a very convenient place to use the apparatus.

I have shown nine target curtains separately and independently suspended in spaced relation because I have found this number satisfactory in practical use, but a greater or less number of curtains may be used within the scope of my invention if such change should be found desirable for any purpose or by any persons. The weight rod in each curtain is desirable to hold the curtain steady and to restore it to its proper position after it has been truck by a ball, but a weight of any other kind suitable for the purpose may be substituted for the rod. I have also referred to sewing as a means for fastening parts of the apparatus, but any other suitable fastening means may be substituted for sewing; and any suitable means for suspending the curtains from the rods and for securing the back sheet to the net, and for holding the net and back sheet in position other than those herein disclosed may be used without departing from my invention:

I claim:

1. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains, and means for suspending said curtains in an arrangement to form a plurality of horizontal sets and a plurality of vertical sets.

2. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains, and means for suspending said curtains in an arrangement to form a plurality of horizontal sets and a plurality of vertical sets, the vertical sets being spaced apart slightly to prevent interference of one curtain with another.

3. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains, and means for suspending said curtains in an arrangement to form a plurality of horizontal sets and a plurality of vertical sets, the horizontal sets being spaced apart one in front of the other.

4. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains, and means for suspending said curtains in an arrangement to form a plurality of horizontal sets and a plurality of vertical sets, the upper edge portions of the curtains in one horizontal set overlapping the lower edge portions of the curtains in the horizontal set next behind.

5. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains arranged in horizontal sets and in vertical sets and in adjacent relation, means for independently suspending each curtain of each set to enable the curtains to swing freely and independently of each other.

6. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains arranged in horizontal sets, said sets being lo-

cated one in front of the other and in stepped relation, and means for suspending each curtain independently of the other curtains.

5 7. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains arranged in vertical sets spaced slightly apart, and means for suspending each of said curtains independently of the other curtains.

10 8. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains arranged in horizontal sets spaced apart and overlapping and in vertical sets spaced apart, and means for suspending each of said curtains independently of the other curtains.

15 9. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of parallel suspension rods spaced apart, a plurality of target curtains, means for loosely suspending a horizontal set of curtains from each rod, said curtains being
20 arranged in vertical sets overlapping and spaced apart.

10. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a substantially rectangular skeleton frame, a net covering the top and sides of said frame, a sheet fastened to the rear ends of the net
25 at the rear end of the frame, and a plurality of separate target curtains arranged in horizontal and vertical sets, a plurality of parallel rods spaced apart and supported on the frame adjacent the rear end thereof, a plu-
30 rality of separate target curtains independently suspended from said rods in horizontal and vertical sets, the horizontal sets overlapping and spaced apart and the ver-
35 tical sets spaced apart.

11. Indoor golf apparatus comprising a plurality of separate target curtains, and means for suspending said curtains independently, each of said curtains having a weight adjacent its upper edge.

JOHN C. HALL.