March 18, 1958 C. F. PRUESS, SR 2,826,771

BOWLING ALLEY BRIDGE

Filed Aug. 25, 1954

Fig. 1

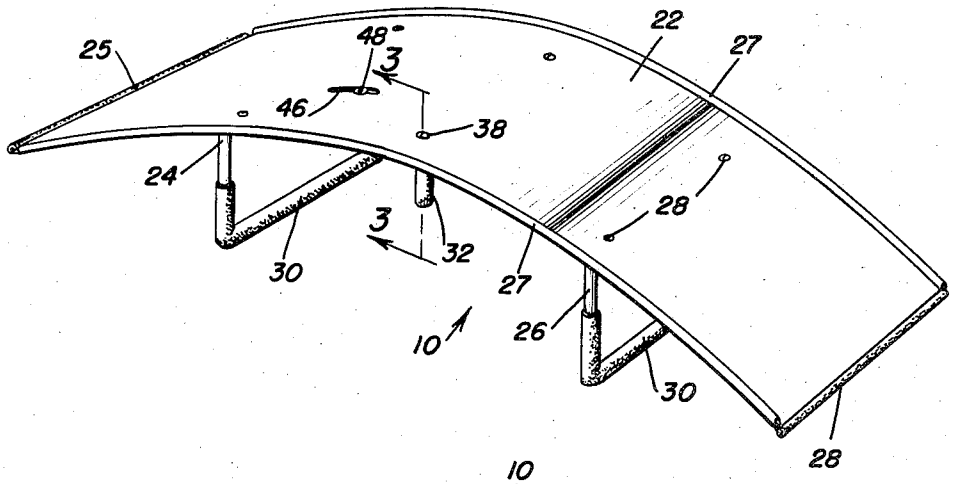
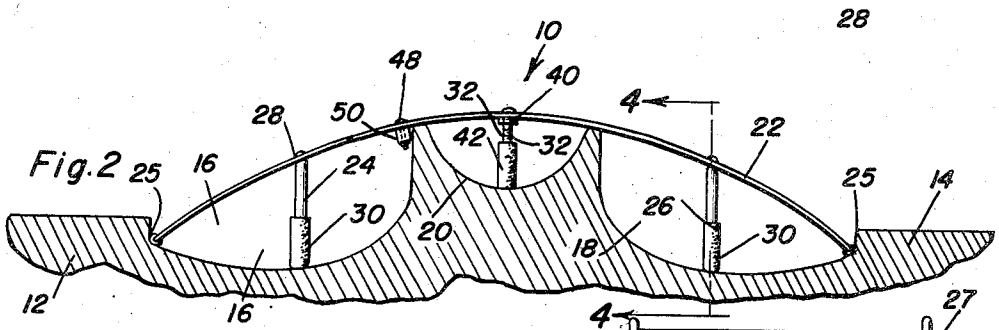


Fig. 2



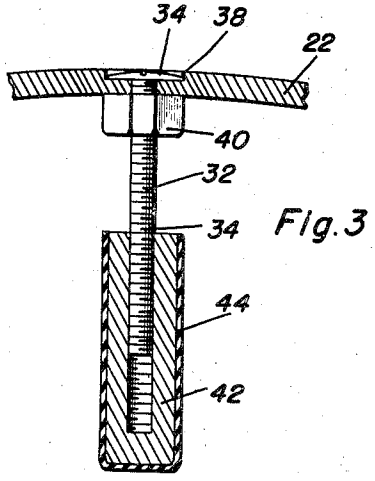


Fig. 3

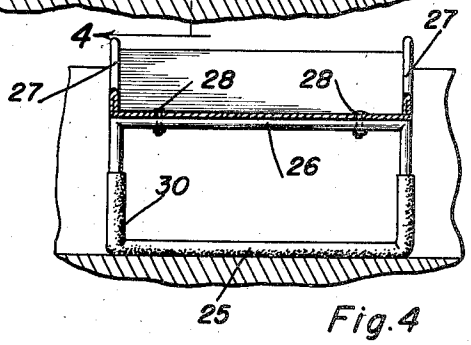


Fig. 4

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BOWLING ALLEY BRIDGE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 14—72)

This invention relates to the class of sporting equipment and more particularly to a novel bowling alley bridge adapted to be used in conjunction with bowling alleys.

The primary object of the present invention resides in the provision of a bowling alley bridge which will enable comparatively large and heavy machines, such as those used for sanding and buffing bowling alleys, to be moved from one alley to another in a simple and convenient manner.

A further object of the invention resides in the provision of a bowling alley bridge which is adapted to span the bowling alley well between the spaced gutters of a pair of adjacent bowling alleys so that suitable equipment such as sanders, resurfacers and buffers may be moved from alley to alley over the bridge in a convenient manner.

The construction of this invention features an arcuate plate having downwardly supporting legs for engagement within the gutters of the adjacent alleys and an adjustable stand for support of the bridge by engagement with the surface of the ball return well. The plate may be made of any suitable material, such as steel, plastics or the like, and is adapted to support the weight of a comparatively heavy machine.

Still further objects and features of this invention reside in the provision of a bowling alley bridge that is simple in construction, easily carried from one location to another, and which will substantially reduce the time necessary for sanding, resurfacing, or buffing a series of bowling alleys by enabling the machine to be readily moved from one alley to another.

These, together with various ancillary objects and features of the invention which will become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by this bowling alley bridge, a preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings, by way of example only, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bowling alley bridge comprising the present invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view of a portion of a pair of bowling alleys illustrating the bridge operatively installed;

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view as taken along the plane of line 3—3 in Figure 1 illustrating the construction of one of the support standards; and

Figure 4 is a sectional view as taken along the plane of line 4—4 in Figure 2 illustrating in detail the construction of the support legs.

With continuing reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, the reference numeral **10** generally designates the bowling alley bridge comprising the present invention which is adapted to be associated with adjacent bowling alleys **12** and **14** provided with the conventional gutters as at **16** and **18** therebetween and a raised bowling ball return well **20** between the gutters **16** and **18**. The bridge **10** is adapted to be

positioned so that a sander, buffer, or other suitable and comparatively heavy equipment can be moved from the alley **12** to the alley **14**, or vice versa, without the difficulty usually present in moving the machine past the gutters **16** and **18** and the wall **20**.

The bowling alley bridge **10** consists of an arcuate, upwardly convex plate **22** of any suitable material such as plastics or metal which has a pair of substantially rectangular legs **24** and **26** attached thereto. Each of the legs is of substantially the same configuration as can be seen best in Figure 4 and are generally rectangular in shape and formed from suitable tubular stock or solid cylindrical stock as may be desired. Bolts or other suitable fasteners, as at **28**, are utilized to secure the legs **24** and **26** to the plate **22**. The legs are disposed medial the ends of said plate **22** and the center thereof.

A covering of rubber, fiber, or other suitable resilient material formed of slit tubular stock is secured to the ends of the plate **22** as at **25**. Further, the sides of the bridge may be suitably ribbed as at **27**, which adds to the strength of the bridge.

Substantially U-shaped resilient protective devices **30** formed of rubber or other suitable material are positioned on the legs **24** and **26** by any convenient means, or by suitably coating the protective member onto the legs **24** and **26** or slitting the protective members **30** before positioning the protective members on the legs. The legs **24** and **26** are adapted to seat in the lower surfaces of the gutters **16** and **18** and in order to further support the bridge plate **22**, there are provided vertically adjustable standards **32**, each of which consists of a bolt **34** having the head **36** thereof countersunk in a recess **38** in the central portion of the plate **22**. Further, the standards **32** consist of nuts **40** which are threadedly secured on the bolts **34** and internally threaded base members **42** which are coated, as at **44**, or covered by a suitably resilient material so that the standards **32** may be utilized for engagement with the ball return well **20**. A longitudinally extending slot **46** may be provided in the plate **22** through which a bolt **48** may extend for adjustment of an engaging block **50** used to engage the side of the gutter to hold the bridge to the gutter side of the ball return **20** and to thus prevent the bridge from slipping during use. This provides adequate support for the plate **22** and assures that a comparatively heavy machine or the like may be easily moved from one alley to another.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A bowling alley bridge comprising a plate, downwardly extending support legs attached to said plate medial the ends of said plate and the center thereof, and at least one vertically adjustable standard depending from the center portion of said plate, said standard having a resilient covering, said plate being upwardly convex, said support legs being of a substantially open rectangular shape of cylindrical cross-section having upper and lower portions interconnected by spaced side portions, said upper portions being each fastened to said plate, said lower portions being adapted for engagement in a bowling ball return alley, a resilient covering of U-shape over said lower portions thereof, the end edges of said plate having resilient protective shields secured thereto, said plate having a longitudinally extending slot therein, a stop block,

and a fastener extending through said slot adjustably holding said block in an adjusted position relative to said plate, with said block being adapted to engage a bowling ball return alley to prevent the bridge from slipping.

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