

Oct. 7, 1930.

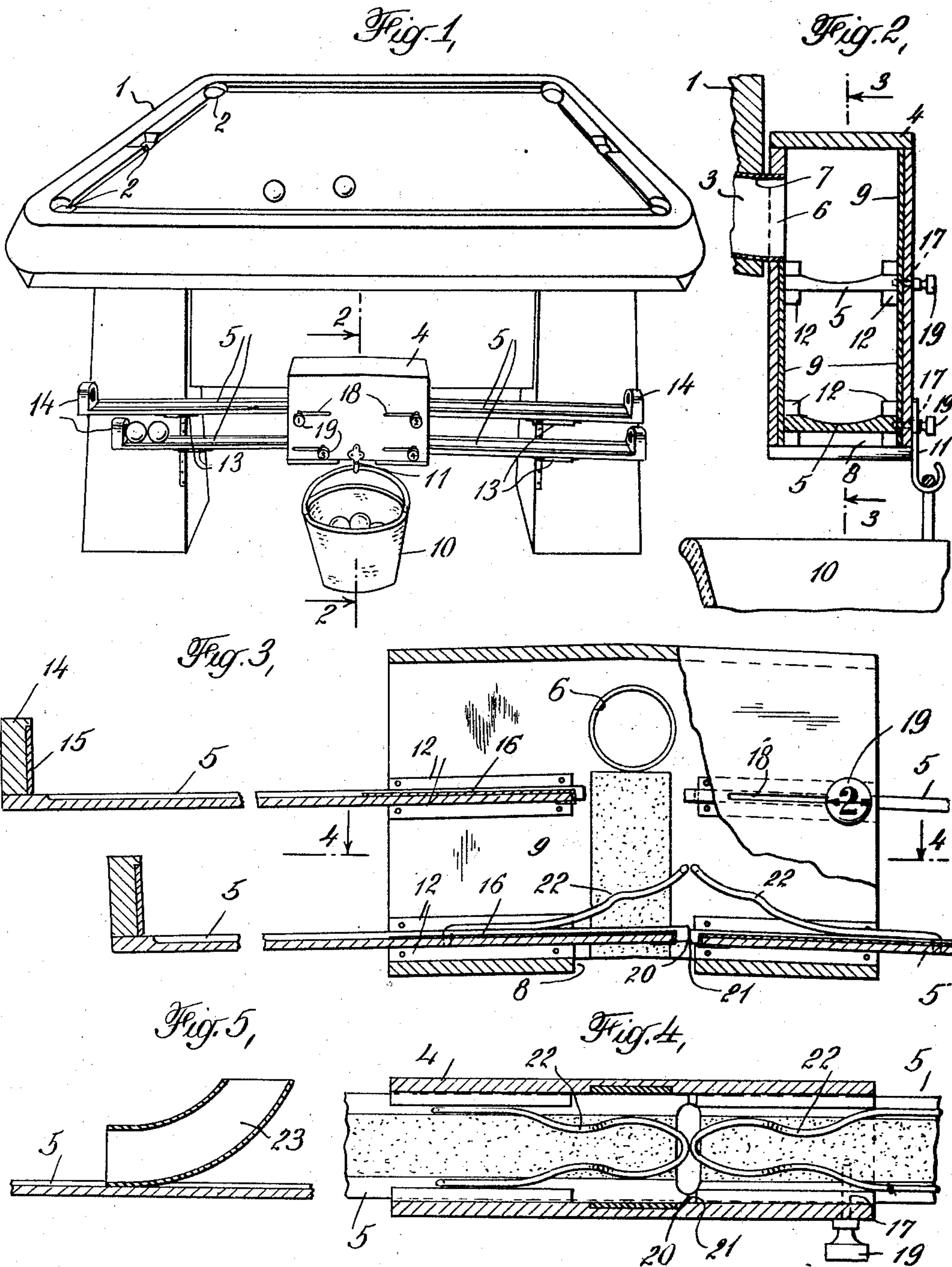
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RACK ATTACHMENT FOR POCKET BILLIARD TABLES

Filed June 20, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 6,

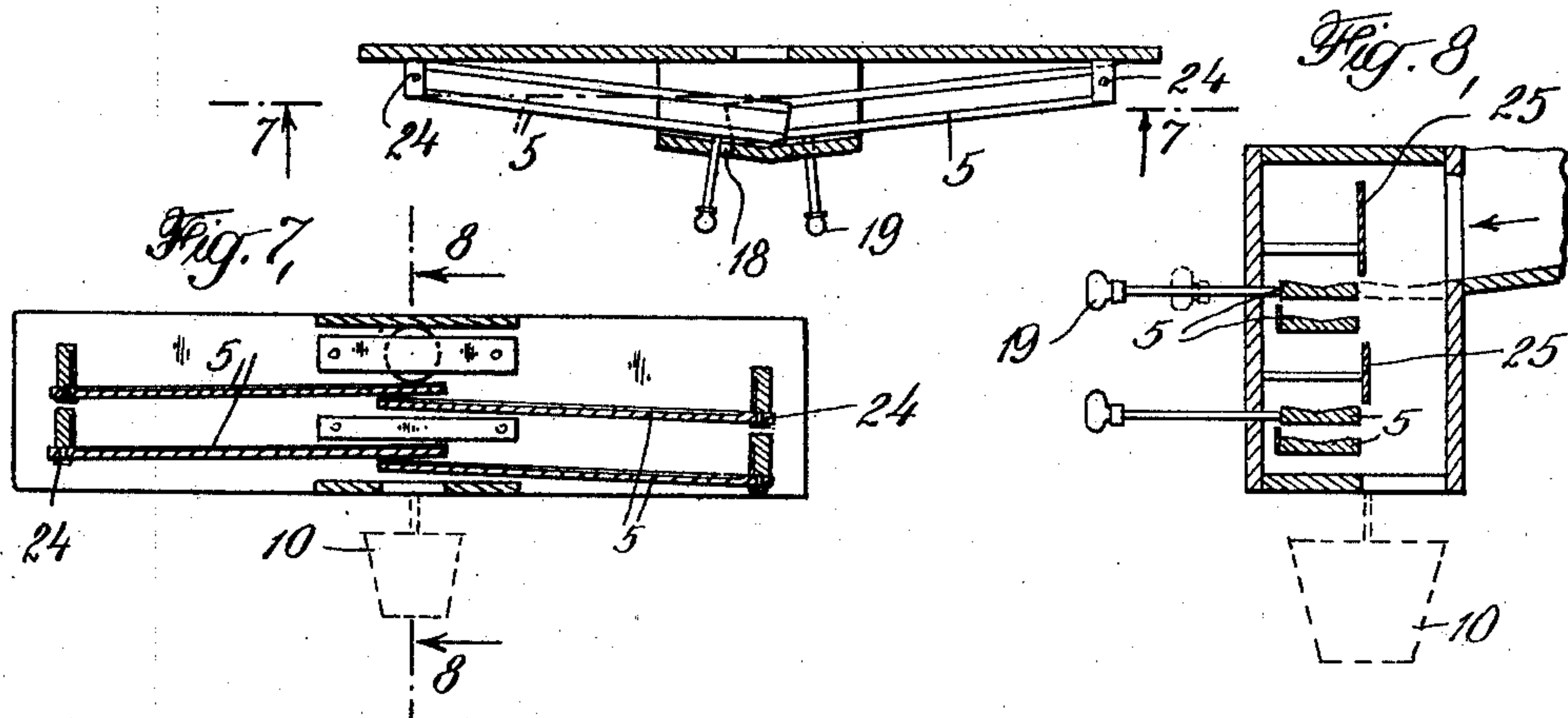


Fig. 9,

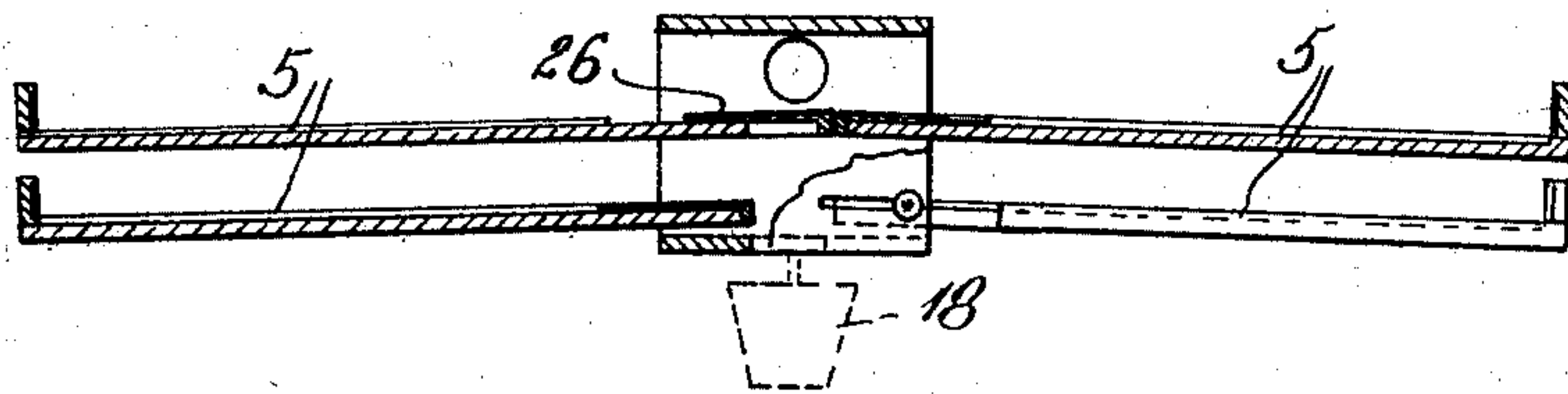


Fig. 10

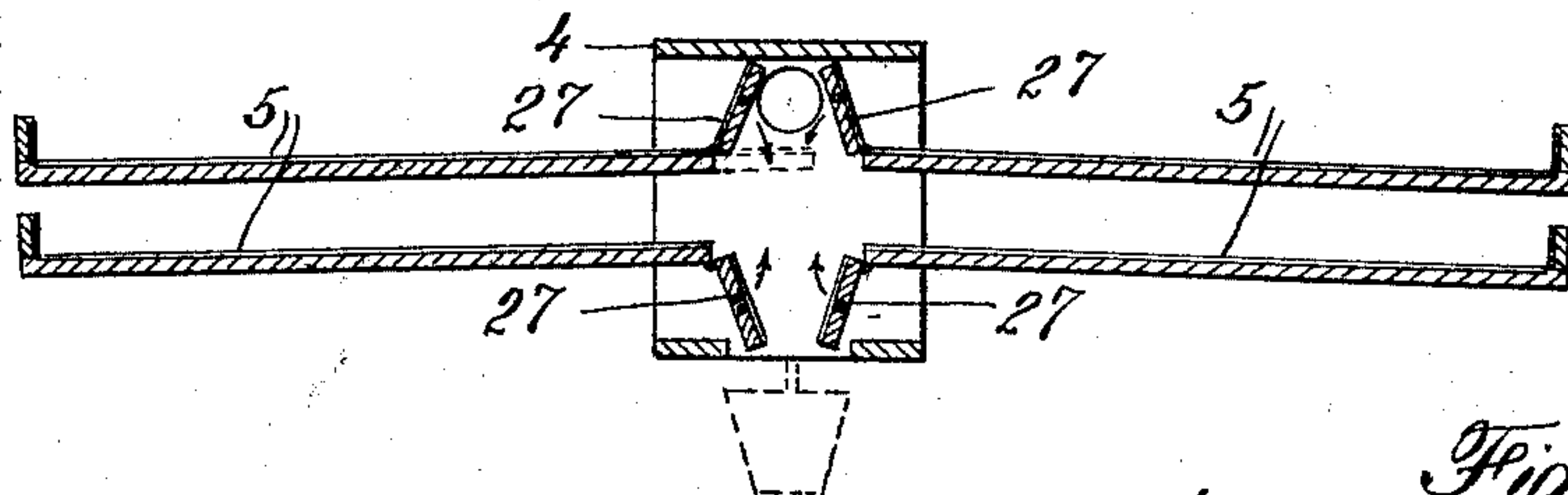


Fig. 11,

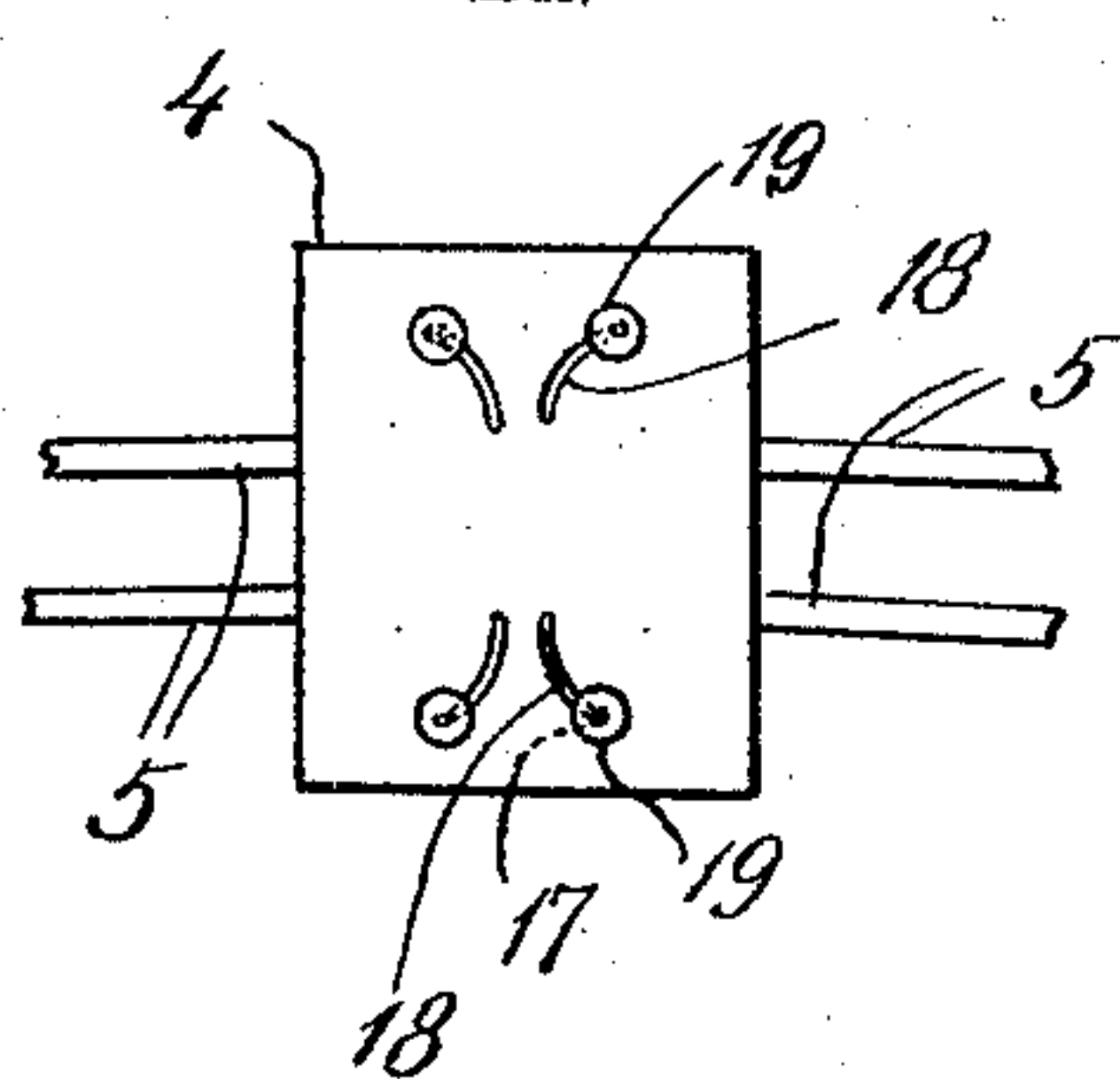
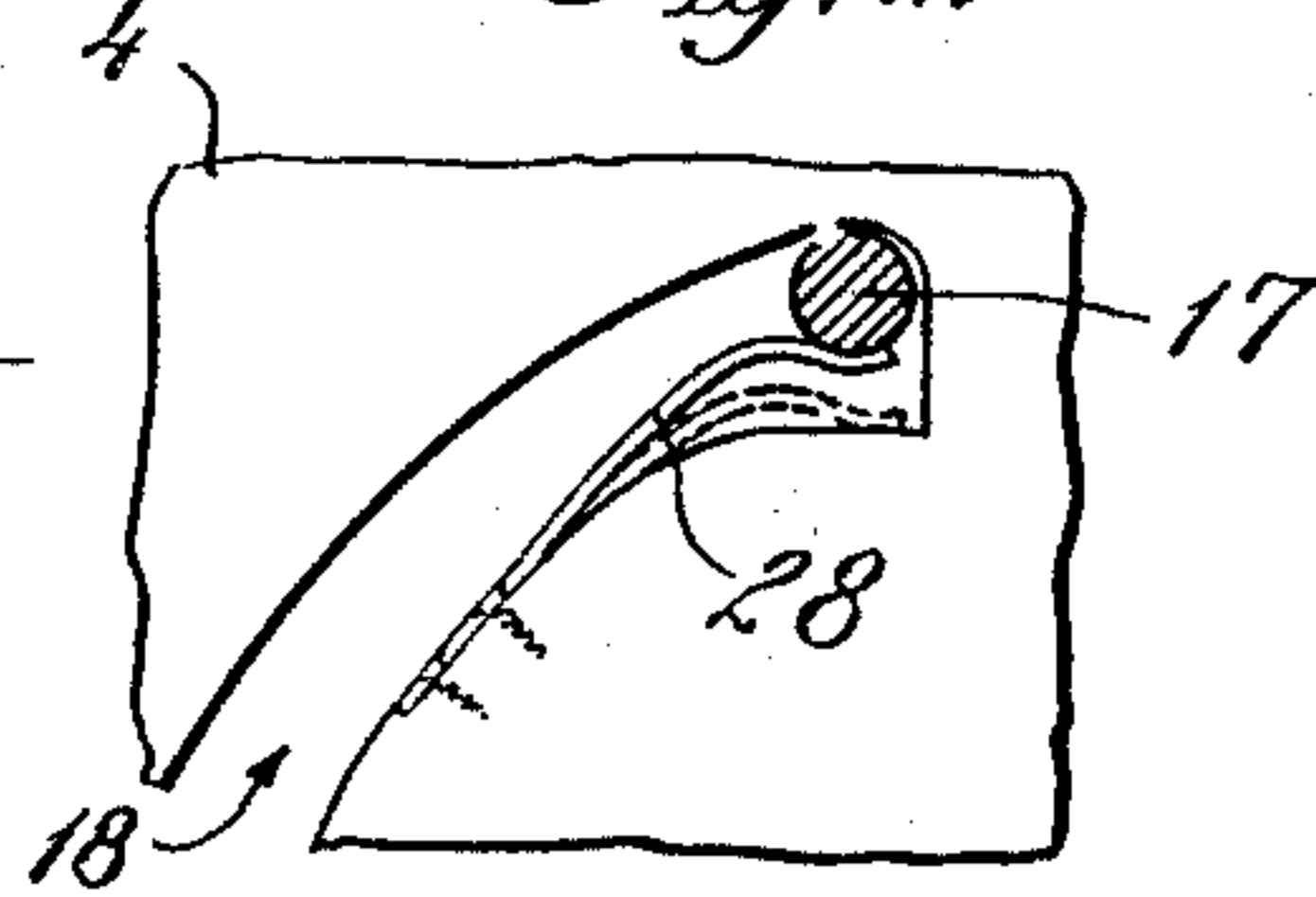


Fig. 12



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RACK ATTACHMENT FOR POCKET-BILLIARD TABLES

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This invention relates to a rack attachment for a pocket billiard or pool table having chutes or gutters for conveying the balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet.

Such tables are now commonly provided with a receptacle wherein the discharged balls are collected and from which they are removed by the players to their individual racks.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a chute equipped table with attached racks for selectively receiving all of the balls pocketed by each player in turn.

Another object is to provide an attachment comprising a plurality of individual racks each separately movable into alinement with the ball discharging outlet.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which is so arranged that only one rack at a time can be placed in ball receiving position.

A still further object is to provide a device which is of simple construction, easy to manipulate, and noiseless in operation.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will appear from the following description thereof. It is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the details herein set forth and illustrated, as modifications thereof may be made within the scope of the claim.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pocket billiard table showing my selective rack attachment applied thereto;

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view of the rack attachment taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view thereof on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a further sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a modified form of ball catching member;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a modified form of my rack attachment.

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the latter on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of the same on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a view, mainly in section, of another modification in which the inner ends of the racks have sliding extensions, but showing a corner portion of the front wall of the casing;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view of a further modification in which the inner ends of the racks are of hinged construction;

Fig. 11 is a front view of the attachment of the form shown in Fig. 10, with the outer ends of the racks broken off; and,

Fig. 12 is a detail view of one of the slots of Fig. 11 showing a spring catch holding the hinged extension of the rack in one of its positions.

Referring now to the drawings, 1 indicates a pocket billiard or pool table of the type having chutes or gutters (not shown) for conveying the balls from all the pockets 2 to a common discharge outlet 3 at one end of the table.

The rack attachment, to which this invention particularly relates, comprises an open ended box-like casing 4 carrying a plurality of sliding ball storage racks 5. Each rack is independently movable into and out of ball receiving position. In the present instance four such racks are shown, arranged in opposed pairs at two levels, but fewer or more racks may be provided if so desired. Each rack is intended to be assigned to the exclusive use of an individual player, or of a team where two or more persons are playing in partnership, to receive and collect all of the balls that may be pocketed by said player or team.

The casing 4 is suitably attached to the ball discharging end of the table, and it has an opening 6 through its inner wall which opening communicates with the discharge outlet 3 of the table. These openings may be coupled together with a flexible tube 7. There is also an opening 8 in the bottom of the casing, in vertical line with the opening 6, through which the discharged balls may drop freely when all of the racks are moved out of ball receiving position. The interior surfaces of the casing, adjacent said openings, are

preferably lined with felt strips 9 to deaden noise. A basket 10 hanging on a hook 11 beneath the opening 8 catches the balls that are permitted to drop therethrough when for any reason the individual racks are not used. The
5 basket, furthermore, may be used in lieu of rack where there are more than four participants in the game.

The racks 5 are all supported at their inner ends in the casing 4 on guideways 12 and at their outer ends on slides 13 fastened to the table legs. Each rack is somewhat
10 concave in cross section, as seen in Fig. 2, and has a stop 14, provided with a felt pad insert 15, at its outer end. The racks are supported at a slight downward angle to facilitate rolling of the balls from the casing towards the stops. The inner ends of the racks preferably
15 have felt coverings 16.

Each rack has a stem 17 fixed thereto, which stem extends through a slot 18 in the front wall of the casing and carries a knob 19 on its free end. The knob serves as a
20 handle for sliding the rack into ball receiving position with its inner end portion positioned under the opening 6. The several knobs may be numbered "1", "2", "3" and
25 "4", respectively, for identification purposes, and are each preferably marked with an arrow, as shown in Fig. 3, to indicate the direction of movement required to slide the rack into operative position.

The racks are so arranged that when any one is in ball receiving position, as for example the lower left hand rack in Fig. 3, its
35 extreme inner end 20 abuts against the inner end 21 of the adjacent rack. Now when the latter rack is moved into operative position it will simultaneously shove the former out of position, so that only one rack at a time
40 will be positioned to receive the balls as they are discharged from the table.

The lower two racks 5 are each provided with a suitable device for catching the balls as they drop through the opening 6 and quickly
45 rolling them onto the rack. The provision of this device prevents any likelihood of the balls clicking as it gets each ball out of the way before the succeeding ball drops. Such
50 devices are unnecessary on the upper two racks as these racks are located directly beneath the discharge opening and the balls will of their own momentum immediately roll out of the way. The ball catching device may
55 be formed of bent wire rod 22, shaped as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, or it may consist of a hollow curved sleeve 23 as seen in Fig. 5.

While I prefer to embody the principle of my invention in a construction substantially
60 such as hereinabove described, I am aware that it may be embodied in somewhat different constructions, and I shall now accordingly proceed to describe briefly several modifications, without, however, limiting myself
65 thereto.

In the form illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, the racks 5 are all supported at their outer ends on fixed pivot pins 24. In this case the racks are arranged to be swung angularly
70 about their pivots into and out of ball receiving position, as is indicated by the dotted lines in Figs. 6 and 8. The casing 4 is somewhat wider than in the preceding instance, to allow for the swinging movement of the
75 racks, and is provided with interior walls 25 to direct the balls from the opening 6 onto the racks.

With the form of attachment shown in Fig. 9 the racks 5 themselves are stationary but are provided at their inner ends with
80 sliding or telescopic extensions 26 which constitute a part of the racks and are adapted to be moved in or out of ball receiving position.

The modification represented in Figs. 10
85 and 11 also has stationary racks 5 which in this case are provided with hinged inner end extensions 27. The fixed stems 17 of the handles 19, whereby these extensions may be raised or lowered into or out of ball
90 receiving position, pass through arcuate slots 18 in the front wall of the casing. Means are provided to hold the extensions in raised position. These means may take the form of a conventional spring catch 28, shown in
95 detail in Fig. 12. The catch engages and holds the stem 17 when the handle of the rack-extension is moved into raised position but permits of release of the stem upon
100 movement of the handle in the opposite direction.

It will be noted that the several forms of the invention hereinabove described all embody the same principle in that in each
105 instance the racks themselves, or a complementary part thereof, are movable selectively into position to receive the balls as they are discharged from the table.

Having now described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. In combination with a pocket billiard table having chutes for conveying balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet, a rack-supporting member secured to the
110 table, and a plurality of racks supported thereon, each independently movable into ball receiving position beneath said outlet.

2. In combination with a pocket billiard table having chutes for conveying balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet, a rack-supporting member secured to the
115 table, and a plurality of racks supported thereon with their inner ends arranged to be brought selectively into ball receiving position beneath said outlet.

3. In combination with a pocket billiard table having chutes for conveying balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet, a rack-supporting member secured to the
120 table, and a plurality of racks slidably supported thereon, each independently movable into ball receiving position beneath said outlet.

ported thereon and movable selectively into ball receiving position beneath said outlet.

4. In combination with a pocket billiard table having chutes for conveying balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet, a rack-supporting member secured to the table, a plurality of racks supported thereon for movement selectively into ball receiving position beneath said outlet, and handles on the racks for so moving said racks.

5. In combination with a pocket billiard table having chutes for conveying balls from all the pockets to a common discharge outlet, a rack-supporting member secured to the table, a plurality of racks supported thereon in opposed pairs at different levels, said racks being movable selectively into ball receiving position beneath the outlet, and handles on the racks for so moving said racks.

6. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing formed with a ball receiving opening, and a plurality of racks having their inner ends disposed within the casing and arranged to be brought selectively into alinement with the ball receiving opening.

7. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing formed with a ball receiving opening, and a plurality of racks having their inner ends slidably supported within the casing and movable selectively into alinement with the ball receiving opening.

8. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing formed with a ball receiving opening through its inner wall and slots in its outer wall, a plurality of racks having their inner ends disposed within the casing and movable selectively into alinement with the ball receiving opening, and handles for moving the racks extending outwardly from the racks through the slots in the front wall of the casing.

9. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing having a ball receiving opening in one wall and ball discharging opening in its bottom, and a plurality of racks having their inner ends disposed within the casing and movable selectively into ball receiving position, a free passage from the receiving to the discharging openings being afforded when all of the racks are moved out of ball receiving position.

10. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing having a ball receiving opening, and a plurality of racks having their inner ends slidably supported within the casing and movable selectively into alinement with the ball receiving opening, said racks being arranged in pairs at different levels with the inner ends of the racks of each pair in opposition.

11. A rack attachment for a pocket billiard table of the ball conveying chute type, comprising a casing having a ball receiving opening, a plurality of racks having their inner ends disposed within the casing and movable selectively into alinement with the ball receiving opening, said racks being arranged in pairs at two levels, and ball catching elements on the inner ends of the lower pair.

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