

Feb. 14, 1933.

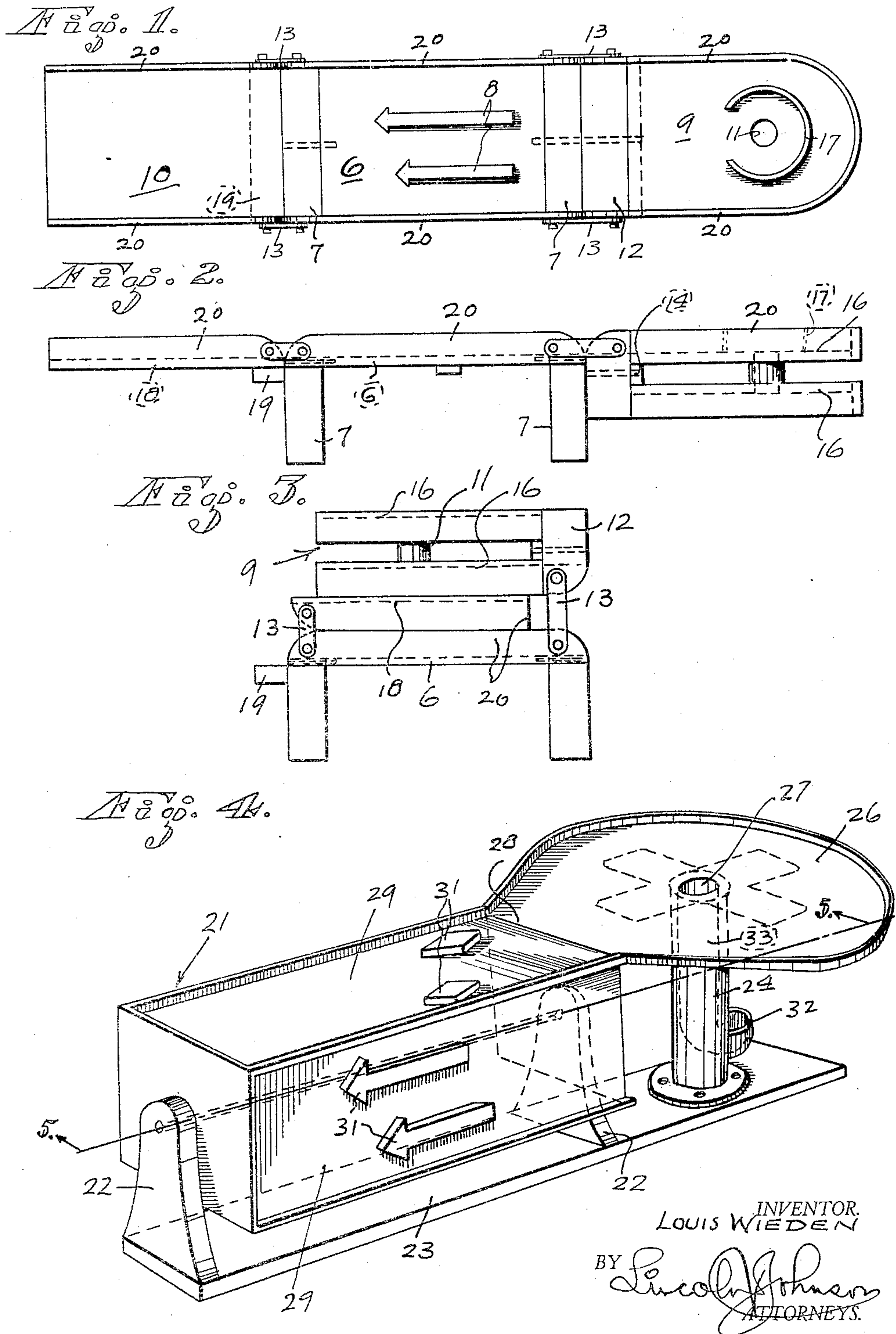
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1,897,289

GOLF GAME

Filed Jan. 7, 1931

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



Feb. 14, 1933.

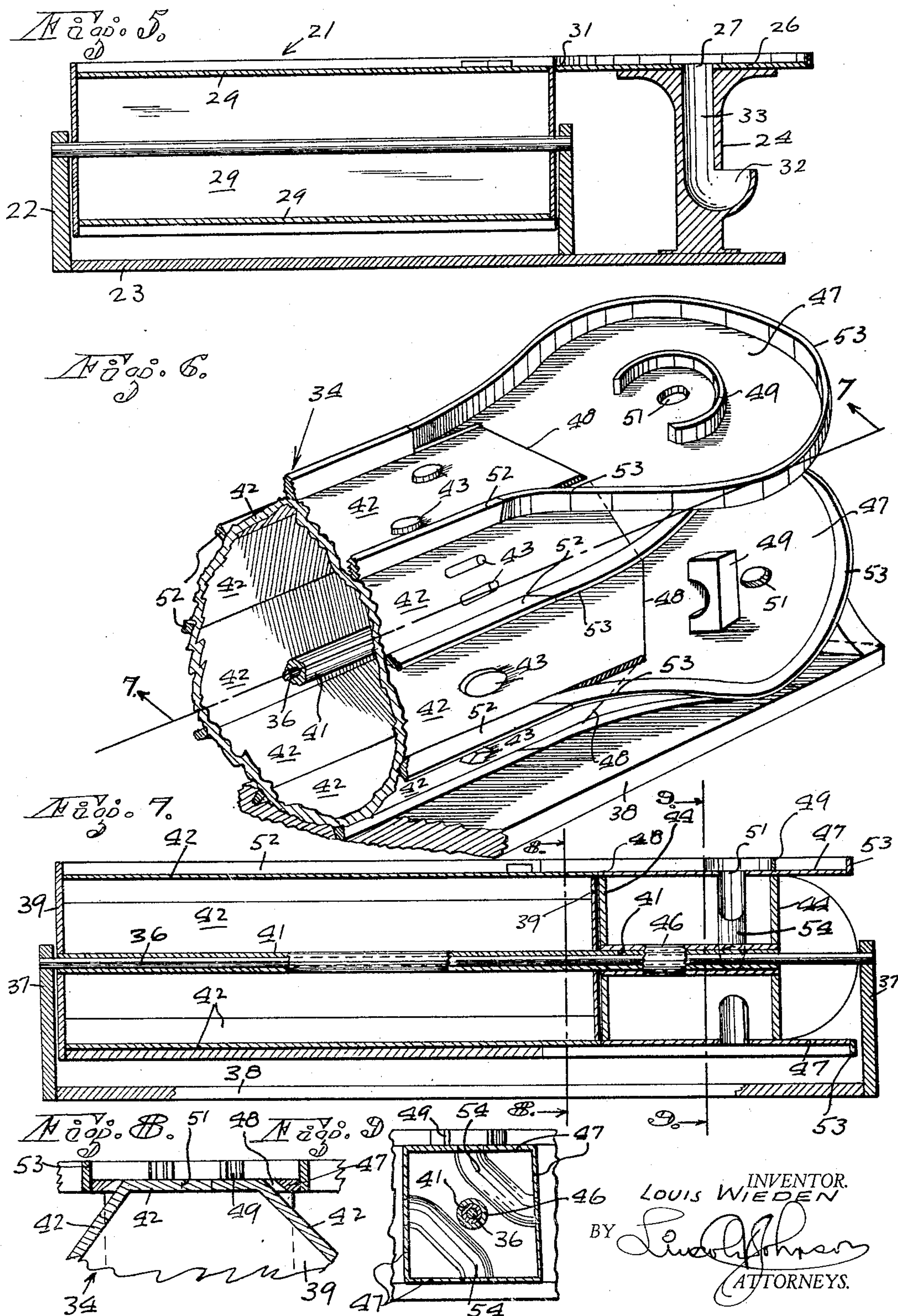
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Feb. 14, 1933.

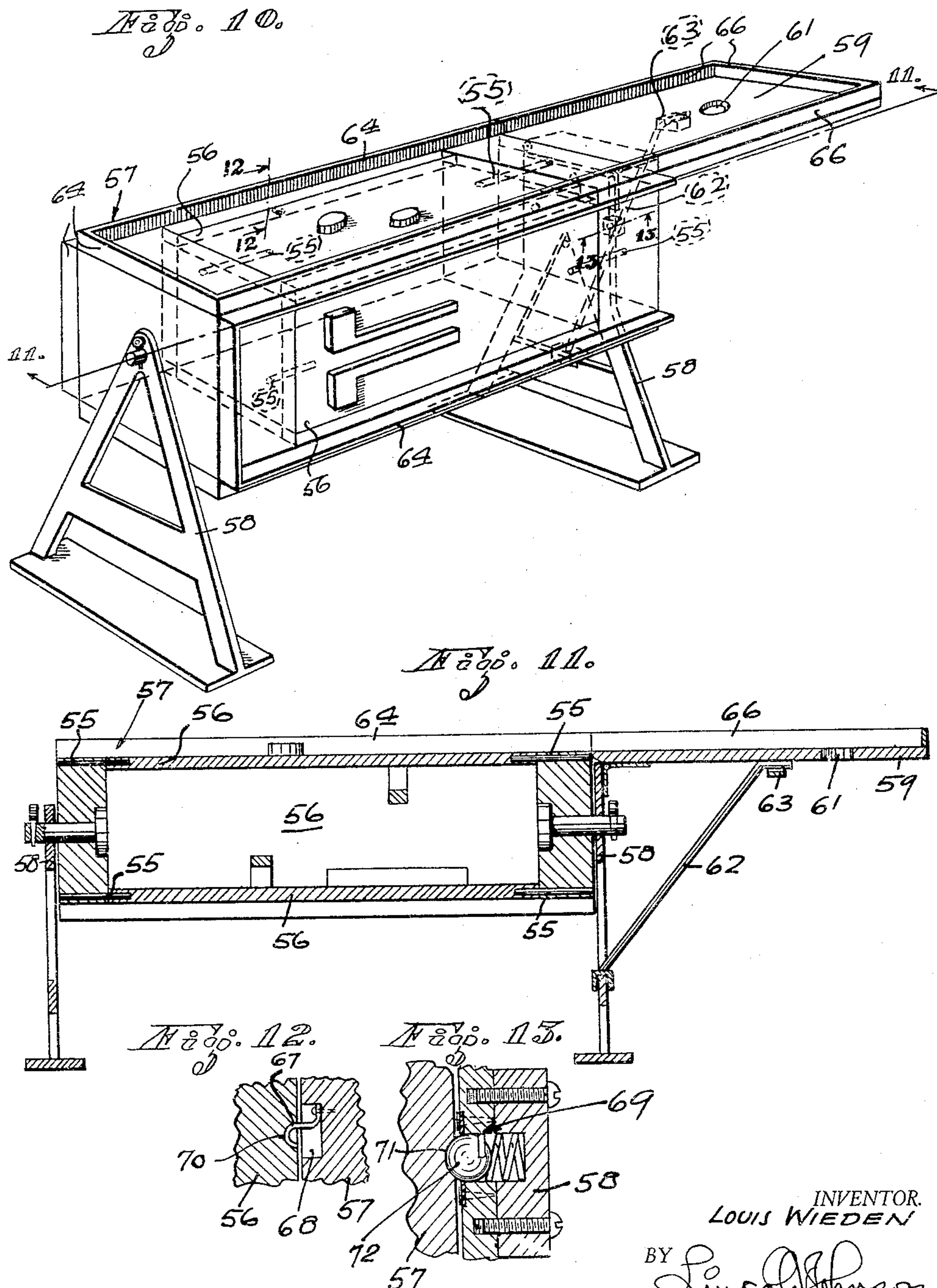
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LOUIS WIEDEN, OF LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

GOLF GAME

Application filed January 7, 1931. Serial No. 507,111.

This invention relates to a device for golf games, and particularly to miniature golf courses.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a miniature golf course or putting course, which is constructed of complementary sections adjustably related to each other.

Another object of the invention is to provide a miniature putting course wherein the approach or right of way and the putting surface around the hole is variable at will to present continuous courses with various, different obstructions or hazards, thus providing a multiple course in a single unit.

Particularly it is an object of the invention to provide a miniature golf course containing a plurality of links with various hazards in a unitary structure, so that the course is readily adjusted from one link or course to another with different hazards thereon, all the variable courses may lead to the same putting surface with a hole therein, or a plurality of putting surfaces with various hazards around the holes may be adjustably arranged so that each of the surfaces may be adjusted to complement any one of the first mentioned courses, thus offering a great variety of courses for the game.

Other objects and advantages are to provide a device for golf games, particularly miniature golf courses, that will be superior in point of simplicity, inexpensiveness of construction, positiveness of operation, and facility and convenience in use and general efficiency.

In this specification and the annexed drawings, the invention is illustrated in the form considered to be the best, but it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to such form, because it may be embodied in other forms; and it is also to be understood that in and by the claims following the description, it is desired to cover the invention in whatsoever form it may be embodied.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a collapsible sectional putting course.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the collapsible putting course.

Fig. 3 is a side of the putting course in collapsed or folded position.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a putting course with rotatably united putting courses adjustable relatively to a foldable putting surface.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of the putting course shown in Fig. 4, the section being taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a fragmental perspective view of a device with two contiguous rotatable sets of putting surfaces.

Fig. 7 is a longitudinal sectional view of the last mentioned device, the section being taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a fragmental sectional detail of the rotatable set of putting surfaces, the section being taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of the other rotatable set of putting surfaces, the section being taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 10 is a rotary set of putting courses, with each individually pivoted side presenting a putting surface on both faces thereof.

Fig. 11 is a longitudinal sectional view of the device shown in Fig. 10, the section being taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a sectional detail of the catch for the individual pivoted sides of the device, the section being taken on the line 12—12 of Fig. 10.

Fig. 13 is a sectional view of the spring catch connection between the rotary frame of the device and the supporting standard, the section being taken on the line 13—13 of Fig. 10.

In its general organization the invention includes a support on which are adjustably mounted a plurality of putting surface sections, which in turn are selectively adjustable to complement each other into a continuous putting course, on which a golf ball may be putted.

In the embodiment of my invention shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, a central member 6 is supported on standards 7, and has a putting surface and hazards 8 thereon, said hazards may be constructed in any shape and form. For the purpose of illustration, I show the hazards 8 formed in the shape of staggered

arrows. On an end of the member 6 is pivotally mounted another putting section 9 with a hole 11 therein toward which the golf ball is to be directed by the player. The putting section 9 is connected to the member 6 by a block 12 and links 13 on the opposite sides thereof. The putting section 9 is pivoted to the block 12 by a pivot pin 14 which coincides with the longitudinal center line of the member 6. The section 9 is formed of two parallel boards or plates 16 connected to each other at the said pivot 14 and at the hole 11, which latter extends through both boards 16. The outer face of each board 16 is formed into a putting surface and has different hazards around the respective ends of the hole 11, such as the broken ring-like obstruction 17 around the hole 11.

In order to change the course, the section 9 is rotated around its pivot 14 to bring the lower face thereof into complemental relation to the member 6 and the top of the block 12. On the other end of the member 6 is pivoted another section 18 by means of links 13, which section 18 rests on a stop block 19 to be held in alignment with the member 6. All of the sections have a flange or rim 20 at the edges thereof, so arranged as to prevent the rolling off of the ball from the putting surfaces. Thus a continuous variable putting course is provided which is collapsible and foldable into a comparatively small unit as shown in Fig. 3.

Instead of varying the part of the putting course by changing the hazards around the hole, the course may be varied by changing the hazards on the fairway or approach toward the hole, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. In this embodiment of my invention a box-like column 21 is journaled at its opposite ends in standards 22, the latter being extended from a base 23. At one end of the box 21 and outside of the bracket 22 at that end is a tubular support 24 extended upwardly from the base 23. On the top of the support 24 is a substantially circular disc 26 provided with a hole 27 therethrough. A portion 28 of the disc 26 is elongated and cut to fit the end of a horizontal side 29 of the column 21. In the present instance the column 21 has four longitudinal sides 29, each being provided with different obstructions 31 for different hazards. The sides 29 form putting surfaces. The side 29 in the topmost position is contiguous with the portion 28 of the disc 26 so as to form a fairway or approach toward the hole 27 in the disc 26. The sides 29 are substantially equidistant from the axis of rotation of the column 21 so that either one of the sides 29 may be selectively brought into operative position relatively to the disc 26. Thus by turning the column 21 around its longitudinal axis, the putting surfaces of the approach can be successively altered to provide entirely different courses, by reason of

the different hazards. In this last described embodiment of my invention, the miniature golf course provided consists of four different putting surfaces, in a single, compact unit.

It is to be noted that a cup 32 is provided on the outside of the support 24, which is connected by a passage 33 to the hole 27. The golf ball is thus dropped from the hole 27 into said cup 32, from which the player can readily remove it.

The column has retaining flanges at the corners thereof, to prevent the rolling off of the ball from the respective putting surfaces. But the arrangement of the putting surfaces in a rotary unit does not limit the number of different courses. The number of different courses can be further increased in the manner illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. In this case a polyhedron 34 is rotatably mounted by way of supporting a central shaft 36 in standards 37 above a base 38. The ends 39 of the polyhedron 34 are rotatable on the shaft 36. In order to securely align the said polyhedron 34 a central bearing 41 of the polyhedron is disposed on the shaft 36. The sides 42 of the polyhedron 34 are formed into putting surfaces and have various hazards 43 thereon. In this illustration, the polyhedron 34 has nine sides providing nine different courses or surfaces.

Another frame 44 is disposed between an end 39 of the polyhedron 34 and the adjacent standard 37. A central bearing sleeve 46 in the frame 44 rotatably supports the said frame 44 on the portion of the first bearing sleeve 41 that extends beyond the polyhedron end 39. On the frame 44 are secured four substantially circular discs 47, at right angles to each other. A portion of each disc 47 abutting the adjacent end 39 is cut away at 48 to extend over the end of the respective sides 42 of the polyhedron 34 and form the continuation thereof. The sides 42 are adapted to move into and out of said cut away portions 48 when the polyhedron 34 is rotated, and the cut away portions 48 are adapted to move over said end of the polyhedron 34 when the frame 44 is rotated.

Each disc 47 is formed into a putting surface with different hazards 49 around a hole 51 thereof. The aligning putting surfaces of the side 42 and of a disc 47 in uppermost horizontal positions form a continuous putting course leading to the hole 51. There are rim flanges 52 on each edge of the corners of the polyhedron 34, and flanges 53 around the peripheries of the discs 47 to prevent the rolling off of the golf ball from the putting surfaces. The flanges 52 and 53 of the aligning sides 42 and discs 47 complement each other as shown. The holes 51 are connected to each other by chutes 54 so that the ball rolled into the uppermost hole 51 drops

out through a hole 51 of a vertically positioned disc 47.

The last described embodiment of my invention permits the use of four times nine, or thirty-six different putting courses, providing therefore substantially a thirty-six hole course in a single compact unit. The alignment of each of the nine polyhedron sides 42 with one of the discs 47, provides nine new combinations of hazards. Inasmuch as all four discs 47 have different hazards, there are thirty six different combinations available for the game. Naturally the set of putting surfaces united on the polyhedron may be of any reasonable number depending on the number of sides of the polyhedron. The same increase may be suitably achieved in connection with the other set of putting surfaces on the frame 44.

The number of putting surfaces may be also increased by providing two putting surfaces on each side of the polyhedron. In the embodiment of my invention shown in Figs. 10 and 11, each side 56 of a polyhedron 57 has a section thereof pivoted at 55 onto the end sections of the respective sides, so that the sides 56 may be turned around to expose either one of the faces of the side 56. There is a putting surface with different hazards on each face of each side 56. The polyhedron 57 is journaled at the end thereof in bearing brackets 58. A foldable plate 59 is pivotally secured to a bracket 58 at an end of the polyhedron 57 so as to form a continuation of the side of the polyhedron 57 in uppermost horizontal position. This plate 59 has a hole 61 therein toward which the ball is rolled by the player. The plate 59 is held in extended, horizontal position by a brace rod 62 insertable at one end thereof into a hole in the adjacent bracket 58 and at the other end thereof into a hole in a block 63 on the bottom of the plate 59. The edges of the polyhedron 57 have retaining flanges 64 thereon, with which flanges 66 of the plate 59 register when the respective sides of the polyhedron 57 are turned into operative position.

The last described arrangement provides eight putting surfaces with different hazards on a four sided polyhedron. The pivoted sides 56 are held against tilting by a bent spring 67 which has an end thereof secured in a recess 68 in the frame of the polyhedron 57 so as to be engaged by an indentation 70 in the edge of the side 57. The resiliency of the springs 67 allows the tilting and rotation of the pivoted sides 57 if sufficient force is exerted thereon, but they hold the sides 57 against rotation at other times.

In all of the aforescribed rotary polyhedrons, the same may be releasably held in an adjusted position by any spring catch, such as the spring catch 69 used on the last described form of my device. An end of the

polyhedron 57 has indentations 71 thereon circumferentially spaced from each other and at equal radial distance from the center of rotation of the polyhedron 57. The catch 69 is so disposed that a resiliently urged ball 72 thereof readily engages the registering indentation 71. The indentations 71 are so arranged that they register with the catch 69 at times when a side 56 of the polyhedron 57 is in operative position relatively to the putting surface of the plate 59.

The game is played in the usual manner, by golf putters, and with golf balls. The various combinations of the putting surfaces may be consecutively numbered and are subsequently brought into operative position. Then a golf ball is teed off from the end of the putting surface farthest from the hole and the ball puttied toward the hole through or past the various hazards.

While I have illustrated in this application several types of hazards, it is to be understood that any type of hazard may be employed on the putting surfaces. On a non-rotatable putting surface a set of removable hazards is provided to vary the course to the hole. The putting surfaces may be built plane, or concave, or convex, or straight, or curved, and the like, to provide the variety required in the game, and by this variety, and multiple link golf course is achieved a compact unit, which may be made sufficiently small to be used indoors, as well as outdoors.

Having thus described this invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A miniature golf course comprising a plurality of putting surfaces united together, and means to rotatably support said united surfaces to permit the surfaces to be brought successively into an operative position.

2. In a miniature golf course a variable section comprising a plurality of putting surfaces united together, and means to rotatably support said united surfaces to permit the surfaces to be brought successively into contiguous alignment with the surface of the course.

3. A section for a miniature golf course comprising a support, a rotary element on said support having a plurality of putting surfaces formed around its periphery to be moved around the axis of rotation of said body when the latter is rotated.

4. A section for a miniature golf course comprising a support, a rotary element on said support having a plurality of putting surfaces formed around its periphery to be moved around the axis of rotation of said body when the latter is rotated to be selectively brought in contiguous operative relation to the surface of the course.

5. A section for a miniature golf course comprising a support, a rotary element on said support having a plurality of putting

surfaces formed around its periphery to be moved around the axis of rotation of said body when the latter is rotated to be selectively brought in contiguous operative relation to the surface of the course; and means on the support to releasably hold the said element in its adjusted positions.

6. A miniature golf course comprising a set of putting surfaces with various hazards thereon united into a rotating body, means to rotatably support said body, and a stationary putting surface contiguous with said body, said first mentioned surfaces being selectively movable into contiguous operative relation to said stationary surface to complement the latter.

7. A miniature golf course comprising a set of putting surfaces with various hazards thereon united into a rotating body, means to rotatably support said body, and a second set of putting surfaces united for simultaneous rotation around an axis contiguous with the axis of rotation of the first mentioned set of surfaces and being adapted to be brought selectively into complemental relation to the end of the operative surface of the first set.

8. A miniature golf course comprising a set of putting surfaces with various hazards thereon united into a rotating body, means to rotatably support said body, and a second set of putting surfaces united for simultaneous rotation around an axis contiguous with the axis of rotation of the first mentioned set of surfaces and being adapted to be brought selectively into complemental relation to the end of the operative surface of the first set, the said surfaces having different hazards arranged thereon to permit the combination of a plurality of different putting links.

9. A miniature golf course comprising a set of putting surfaces with various hazards thereon united into a rotating body, means to rotatably support said body, and a second set of putting surfaces united for simultaneous rotation around an axis contiguous with the axis of rotation of the first mentioned set of surfaces and being adapted to be brought selectively into complemental relation to the end of the operative surface of the first set, each putting surface of the second set having a hole therein to receive a golf ball putted in its direction.

10. A miniature golf course comprising a set of putting surfaces with various hazards thereon united into a rotating body, means to rotatably support said body, a second set of putting surfaces united for simultaneous rotation around an axis contiguous with the axis of rotation of the first mentioned set of surfaces and being adapted to be brought selectively into complemental relation to the end of the operative surface of the first set, each putting surface of the second set having a hole therein to receive a golf ball putted in

its direction; and means to conduct the ball from either one of said holes to a point outside of the second set.

11. A device for a golf game comprising a frame, a support on which the frame is rotatably supported; a plurality of putting surfaces formed around the frame to be selectively brought into operative position by rotating the frame, various obstructing members forming hazards on the said surfaces; and an adjustable putting surface with a hole therein disposed at an end of the frame to complement the putting surface that is in operative position.

12. In a device for a golf game, a skeleton frame, a support to rotatably hold the frame, a plurality of substantially longitudinal sides pivoted on the frame around a longitudinal axis, each side having a putting surface formed on each face thereof; obstructing elements forming various hazards on the said putting surfaces; means to releasably hold the frame on the support in adjusted position to hold a selected side in operative position; and releasable means of connection between each side and the frame to hold the respective putting surfaces in position; and another putting surface adjustably related to the frame to complement the selected putting surface in operative position.

13. In a device of the character described a support, a polyhedron rotatably supported on said support, each side of said polyhedron being formed into a putting surface, and different obstructions provided on the said surfaces.

14. In a device of the character described, a support, a polyhedron rotatably supported on said support, each side of said polyhedron being formed into a putting surface, and different obstructions provided on the said surfaces; and means to adjustably hold the polyhedron in any position wherein one of its sides is disposed in operative position for the putting of a ball thereon.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Livermore, California, this 13th day of December, 1930.

LOUIS WIEDEN.