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(54) **Golfing practice net**

(57) The present invention relates to a golfing practice net, comprising a support structure and a golf ball impact receiving surface, wherein the net further comprises stroke evaluation means indicating to a user at least one ball flight parameter correlation.

Fig. 1

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## Description

**[0001]** The present invention relates to golfing practice nets. Such nets are known generally in the art to provide a solution enabling a golfer to train and improve his golfing techniques without having to go to a golf course or a driving range, i.e. these nets enable the golfer to practice his strokes in a limited spatial area or a reduced volume.

**[0002]** Usually, these nets are made of interwoven threads that form a mesh, the mesh size being naturally significantly smaller than the diameter of a golf ball, such that when the golf ball is struck by the golfer with the golf club in the direction of the net, the golf ball strikes the net, but does not traverse it. In other words, the golf net stops the ball, or causes it to decelerate such that the ball drops to ground. In addition, the nets are hung or draped generally around a metal frame, in the manner of a curtain, such that the ball will be retained by the net no matter what the direction of flight or rebound. The tension in the net or threads is sufficiently elastic to prevent the ball from rebounding sharply, so that as the ball hits the net, the threads distend, or the drape of the net allows the net to billow, around the ball, thereby increasing surface area friction of the threads on the surface of the golf ball, causing it to decelerate in a safe manner for the user.

**[0003]** While such nets can be said to function satisfactorily with regard to stopping the golf ball from rebounding and endangering the striker or third parties, these nets offer little, if any, means for feedback as to the quality of the stroke, by the user. This is particularly the case for mobile golfing practice nets, that are generally limited to the structures described above. Accordingly, there is a long-felt need to provide a golfing practice net that can give feedback to the user as to how well it has struck a golf ball.

**[0004]** The present invention provides a solution to this long-felt need in a particular way that will be described hereafter. Accordingly, one object of the present invention is a golfing practice net comprising a support structure and a golf ball impact receiving surface, wherein the net further comprises stroke evaluation means indicating to a user at least one ball flight parameter correlation.

**[0005]** By the expression "ball flight parameter correlation", it is to be understood that the golfing practice net of the present invention clearly indicates to the golfer or user thereof, one of the many, or a combination thereof, parameters involved in golf ball flight that give a qualitative or quantitative determination of how well the golfer has struck the ball, including, among others, an indication of the most optimal stroke with regard to a predetermined golf club type.

**[0006]** By "golf club type", one should understand that reference is made to the type of club being used to strike the golf ball, as commonly used in the sport of golf, for example a number one wood, a number three wood, a number seven iron, or a number nine iron. These are just a few of the many types of club that are commonly found in sets of golf clubs. In particular, it is preferred that the club be selected from the group known commonly in the golfing world as drivers and woods.

**[0007]** By "ball impact receiving surface", reference is made to the surface of the golfing practice net that receives at least the primary impact of the golf ball once struck by the golfer, but may also include surfaces that receive rebounds or deflections of the ball after the initial primary impact.

**[0008]** Accordingly, one object of the present invention is therefore a golfing practice net, comprising a support structure and a golf ball impact receiving surface, wherein the net further comprises stroke evaluation means indicating to a user at least one ball flight parameter correlation. In a more preferred embodiment, the stroke evaluation means indicate at least one ball flight parameter correlation for a golf ball which has been struck with a golf club type known as a driver or a wood as described above.

**[0009]** The first object of the present invention thus provides for a golfing practice net that can be used for practising long distance strokes of a golf ball with a wood or driver, in a confined or predetermined and limited spatial volume, whilst at the same time indicating the value of the stroke to the golfer, and thereby enabling him or her to adjust his stroke parameters accordingly.

**[0010]** In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the golf ball impact receiving surface is removably connected to the support structure. This enables the practice net to be dismantled and reassembled as and when required, for example for storage. Most preferably, the golf ball impact receiving surface is suspended on the support structure. In this preferred configuration, it is particularly preferred that the ball impact receiving surface comprise attachment means for attaching said surface to the support structure, said attachment means preferably comprising eyelets located around the periphery of said surface.

**[0011]** In one preferred variant of the golfing practice net of the present invention, the golf ball impact receiving surface is substantially integrated into the support structure, for example moulded as an integral part thereof, or extruded, or cast together. In this way, the user does not have to bother about losing parts of the net according to the invention, or forgetting to mount or attach certain parts of the net to the support structure.

**[0012]** Whatever the way the golf ball impact receiving surface is attached or integrated into the support structure, the former preferably extends substantially over all of a surface area defined by the support structure. In other words, it is highly preferred that the ball impact receiving surface cover a spatial area the periphery of which is defined by the support structure.

**[0013]** With regard to materials used in the golfing practice net of the present invention, the golf ball impact receiving surface is most preferably comprised of a synthetic polymeric material, and more preferably is a flexible film of synthetic polymeric material. Most preferably how-

ever, the golf ball impact receiving surface is a semi-rigid film of synthetic polymeric material, and is even more preferably made of nylon or PVC elastomer.

**[0014]** In a particularly preferred embodiment, the golf ball impact receiving surface forms part of a composite film or sheet of synthetic polymeric material, where the ball impact receiving surface is made of a first synthetic polymeric material overlaid onto an underlay made of a same or different synthetic polymeric material. In such a case, the golf ball impact receiving surface is preferably made of PVC elastomer, and overlaid onto an underlay preferably made of a synthetic polymeric plastics material. Also, it is preferred that both the ball impact receiving surface and the underlay be transparent, although this is not an obligation, and it is also preferably envisaged that the ball impact receiving surface be transparent and the underlay be opaque, translucent or not allow light to pass through, since these combinations allow for variation on the visibility of the stroke as will be described hereinafter.

**[0015]** In a most preferred embodiment, the golf ball receiving surface comprises a tressed nylon mat, wherein the mat preferably forms a net having a mesh size significantly smaller than the diameter of a golf ball.

**[0016]** In still yet another preferred embodiment, the material of the golf ball impact receiving surface is selected so as to be weather resistant. This limits the choice of available materials somewhat, since the material in question needs to be able to receive impacts from struck golf balls at high speeds and short distances from golfer, i.e. be sufficiently flexible to absorb the shock of the ball and prevent it from rebounding in a dangerous manner, whilst at the same time being capable of standing up to the rigours of a range of climates, whether they be excessively cold, hot, or humid, or a mixture of various climatic conditions. In addition, and as will be explained further on in the present specification, the ball impact receiving surface material should preferably be able to at least temporarily indicate the position of impact of the struck or projected ball on the surface. This means that the surface material under these circumstances also needs to be able to partially deform and retain, at least momentarily, for example from 3 seconds to 5 seconds, the deformation, so that the player striking the golf ball has a direct visual indication of where the ball has struck the surface. It is thus most preferred that the golf ball impact receiving surface provide a short-term visual representation of the impact zone of the golf ball when the ball strikes the receiving surface. In accordance with this preferred requirement, the material for the ball impact receiving surface is preferably selected from the group consisting of a variety of PVC elastomers.

**[0017]** In yet another preferred embodiment, the golf ball impact receiving surface is provided with rigidity enhancing elements which enhance the overall rigidity of the golfing practice net. Such rigidity enhancing elements can preferably be integrated into the ball impact receiving surface at the time of manufacture or alternatively and equally preferably be put into place by the user when the golfing practice net is assembled. Accordingly, the rigidity enhancing elements most preferably comprise plastic fibre struts, wherein the struts are disposed in or on the ball impact receiving surface in a way that will reinforce the overall stability and rigidity of the net. Most preferred examples of such an arrangement would be two or three vertically disposed plastic fibre struts, spread equally across the ball impact surface from essentially the base or ground of the net to the top of said net. Other numbers of struts are of course possible, as would be other arrangements of the struts, but it is preferred that there be at least two rigidity enhancing elements, and most preferably three such elements, arranged in a substantially vertical and equally spaced left to right arrangement across the ball impact receiving surface.

**[0018]** In order to facilitate, storage and assembly, it is particularly preferred that the support structure define a series of interconnected cavities such that the structure is both inflatable, and deflatable by means of injection and withdrawal of a fluid, such as a gas, for example, air, or a liquid, for example, water. Consequently, the golfing practice net according to the present invention is preferably provided with at least one inflating entry valve, allowing fluid to be pumped into the support structure. Where it is desired that the support structure also be deflatable, it is possible to provide either a deflating outlet valve, or provide that a single valve operate both as an inflating inlet and a deflating outlet valve.

**[0019]** As was mentioned above, one notable point of the invention is that it provides stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation. In a preferred embodiment, such stroke evaluation means comprise at least one visible band, and preferably a series of visible bands, affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay beneath said golf ball impact receiving surface. In a more preferred embodiment, each band has a depth corresponding to the variation in the loft of a predetermined golf club type. By this, it is to be understood that golf clubs have varying loft between brands, the range of variation in loft being anything from a few tenths of a degree to up to approximately four degrees. Thus the visible bands have a depth, that is an upper and lower demarcation which defines a band height or depth corresponding to the whole range of possible variations of loft, and thereby enabling the golfer to strike the golf ball with practically any available brand of golf club on the market today. Even more preferably, each band is positioned at a height, measured from the ground up, on the ball impact receiving surface that corresponds to the optimal range of height of impact of a golf ball hit optimally with a predetermined golf club type. This aspect of the invention will be explained in further detail in the examples to follow. Most preferably, the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprise a series of five visible bands affixed or other-

wise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay behind said golf ball impact receiving surface. The significance of these bands will be described hereinafter.

**[0020]** In a variant, of the above arrangement, and even more preferably, the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation also comprise a vertical band affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially central and vertical disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay behind said golf ball impact receiving surface. Such a vertical band assists the player in determining whether the stroke is essentially straight, or whether there has been a deviation to the left or to the right of this central zone defined by the vertical band.

**[0021]** In addition to the components of the invention described above, it is also preferred that the invention further comprise swing speed detection means, and preferably a golf swing speed radar. The use of a golf speed radar enables tailor made fine tuning of the positioning of the stroke evaluation means, tailored to suit an individual player. Another useful and preferred accessory in this regard are also ball speed detection means, and preferably a golf ball speed radar. Here again, the use of ball speed detection means can assist in tailoring the net of the present invention to any particular golfer with a particular set of clubs as will be described later on in the present specification.

**[0022]** In still yet another preferred embodiment, the support structure and the golf ball impact receiving surface further define together wing elements that project forward from the support structure at a user definable angle, said wing elements forming side barriers to receive or deflect miss-hit golf balls. Even more preferably, the wing elements project forward and outward at an angle of 45° with respect to an orthogonal plane defined by the golf ball impact receiving surface. In other words, the ball impact receiving surface is essentially planar, similar to a vertical wall. The wing elements preferably project forward of this wall towards the golfer, and outwards from the plane, i.e. to the left and to the right of the golfer as he or she is standing facing the ball impact receiving surface. The angle of projection is preferably 45 degrees, which has been found to be the most stable angle for assembly and use of the golfing practice net according to the present invention.

**[0023]** Even more preferably still, the net according to the present invention further comprises shock absorbing means placed behind the ball impact receiving surface. Such shock absorbing means preferably comprise a foam mat. Most preferably, and in this configuration, the net of the invention also preferably comprises an underlay which is peripherally sealed to the ball impact receiving surface thereby sandwiching the shock absorbing means between said ball impact receiving surface and the underlay. In this way, the impact of any ball received by the impact receiving surface will be dampened and lessened to such a degree that the ball will simply drop to the ground and not rebound towards the player having played the stroke. Since the wing elements can be comprised of the same structure, any miss-hits or sidewards deflections will also be absorbed and the ball drop safely to the ground.

**[0024]** In still yet another preferred embodiment, the net further comprises a marker cord for indicating an ideal striking distance at which a user should stand. This marker cord is more preferably attached to the bottom of the ball impact receiving surface, and can extend outwardly toward the player in a generally arc-shaped configuration. The marker cord comprises a predetermined mark, which indicates the ideal position and thus distance at which the golfer should stand when he or she wants to practice strokes with the golfing practice net according to the present invention.

Brief Description of the Figures

**[0025]**

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the golfing practice net according to the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

**[0026]** The following description relates to one or more examples or embodiments of the present invention, given purely for illustrative purposes.

**[0027]** The golfing practice net of the present invention, designated generally by the reference 1, comprises a support structure 2 and stroke evaluation means indicated by a general reference 3. The support structure is an inflatable structure, comprising a series of interconnected chambers of approximately 10 centimetres in diameter that can be filled with fluid, for example, air. The support structure 2 defines a generally trapezoid shape, with a central rectangular area 4 and two triangular areas 5,6, each triangular area located respectively on a left and right had side of the central area, and each triangular area forming part of the wing elements 7,8 along with the ball impact receiving surface 9 that is attached thereto. The structure can measure from about 2.5 metres to about 4 metres in total length, taken from the leftmost tip of the left triangle to the rightmost tip of the right triangle, as seen from a player's position standing in front of the net, and measured along the ground. Preferably however, the structure measures 4 metres along the ground from triangular tip 10 to triangular tip 11. The support structure thus extends along this length, and then upwards obliquely and inwardly on substantially the same plane from each triangular tip 10, 11 to a point 12, 13, corresponding to the limits of the width of the central area, from which a top bar 14, also forming part of the support structure, extends. The central area 4 can measure approximately from between about 1 metre to about 2.5 metres, and is preferably 2 metres in length, or width. The height of the central area, measured from the ground

up, can vary as a function of the widths and lengths given above, but is preferably 2 metres, thus the central area can also square as well as rectangular.

**[0028]** The net can also comprise two or more weights, for example measuring 40 centimetres by 20 centimetres, that are intended to hold the structure to the ground. These weights can be filled with water or sand, and are useful when the net is being used in windy conditions. Optionally, but preferably, the net also comes with a small area of artificial turf, approximately 30 centimetres square, and which enables a golf tee to be placed therein to enable comfortable indoor practice. Alternatively, other indoor tee off devices can be used.

**[0029]** The support structure 2 is covered with a ball impact receiving surface 9, which can be a tressed PVC mesh, or alternatively and preferably, a tressed nylon mesh, available from the company Airgoal. The advantage of this mesh is that when it receives an impact from a golf ball hit from a close distance, in this case approximately two metres, its tressed structure enables it to deform under the impact and not return immediately to a relaxed state. Thus, the impact remains visible for a time sufficient for the player to immediately determine the point at which the ball impacted the surface. The mesh size is preferably approximately 4 centimetres, although in general should be less than the diameter of the golf ball. The ball impact receiving surface 9 covers all of the surface defined by the support structure, essentially presenting a wall, and thereby also forming the wing elements 7,8. The ball impact receiving surface 9 can be attached to the support structure via a system of ties (not shown) and eyelets 15, located around the periphery of said surface 9, and most notably around the periphery of the central rectangular area 4 of the support structure 2. Alternatively, and preferably, the ball impact receiving surface 9 is sewn to support structure or bond welded thereto. The ball impact surface is rigidified by two plastic fibre struts 17,18, which extend substantially from the bottom of the surface 9 to the top thereof, and which are also preferably located at the periphery of the central rectangular area 4.

**[0030]** Optionally, the net according to the present invention can be provided with a marker cord or drawstring 26 bearing a mark 27 that indicates the distance at which the golfer should stand from the net in order to practice. The cord is attached to the bottom of the net, preferably substantially in alignment with the rigidifying elements. Preferably, the marker cord should be of sufficient length that when drawn out taut, it should indicate a mark at about 2 metres away from, that is, in front of, the net.

**[0031]** The stroke evaluation means 3 present in this embodiment are represented partially by a vertical band 16, located substantially centrally in the central area 4, and the width of which is determined by two lines 19, 20, attached, affixed, optionally removably, or otherwise printed or drawn on the surface 9. The width is generally set at 40 centimetres in the case of a net designed for beginners, though of course other more narrower widths are perfectly possible, and for more experienced golfers this vertical band 16 becomes optional.

**[0032]** In a more preferred embodiment, the stroke evaluation means comprise a series of five horizontal bands (21, 22, 23, 24, 25), that can be for example, removably attached, affixed, or otherwise permanently or temporarily printed on the surface 9. Each band corresponds to a particular type of golf club, and may be colour coded at manufacture, for easier visual reference and correlation by the player. Taken in order, from bottom to top, the bands represent the optimal impact zone for the following types of club :

- band 21 represents the optimal impact zone for a number one wood ;
- band 22 represents the optimal impact zone for a number three wood ;
- band 23 represents the optimal impact zone for a number five iron ;
- band 24 represents the optimal impact zone for a number seven iron;
- band 25 represents the optimal impact zone for a number nine iron.

**[0033]** Since, as mentioned previously in this specification, different brands of club have varying loft, the present inventors have calculated that a band depth comprised between about 5 centimetres and about 10 centimetres is sufficient to provide an optimal strike correlation with the majority of commercialised clubs available today. The depth of about 10 centimetres also includes leave for a margin of error to accommodate particular clubs that may not fall within the generally recognized loft ranges, although 5 centimetres is the preferred depth.

**[0034]** Insofar as the positioning of the horizontal bands are concerned, the inventors have determined that these bands can be positioned as follows, measured from the ground up, wherein the positions refer to the lower and upper edges of the band respectively, the following applying to golfers considered as expert, according to the competition ranking index given by the French Golf Federation :

- band 21, at between about 32 centimetres and about 37 centimetres ;
- band 22, at between about 47 centimetres and about 52 centimetres ;
- band 23, at between about 103 centimetres and about 108 centimetres ;
- band 24, at between about 141 centimetres and about 146 centimetres ;

- band 25, at between about 175 centimetres and about 180 centimetres.

**[0035]** For average players using the same grading system with regard to players' capacity, the band locations are indicated as follows :

- band 21, at between about 32 centimetres and about 37 centimetres ;
- band 22, at between about 46 centimetres and about 51 centimetres ;
- band 23, at between about 102 centimetres and about 107 centimetres ;
- band 24, at between about 140 centimetres and about 145 centimetres ;
- band 25, at between about 173 centimetres and about 178 centimetres.

**[0036]** In a similar manner, beginners were also classified, and the optimal positions of the bands determined as follows :

- band 21, at between about 31 centimetres and about 36 centimetres ;
- band 22, at between about 45 centimetres and about 50 centimetres ;
- band 23, at between about 100 centimetres and about 105 centimetres ;
- band 24, at between about 137 centimetres and about 142 centimetres ;
- band 25, at between about 169 centimetres and about 174 centimetres.

**[0037]** It is thus possible with the golfing practice net according to the present invention, to provide a made to measure practice net solution, that will indicate visually to the golfer via the impact on the surface 9, and the correlation between the impact and the horizontal bands, whether the golfer's stroke was optimal or not, and in particular, tailor the golfing practice net of the invention to any particular set of clubs with given lofts that a particular player may have.

**[0038]** In addition to the above, it also becomes possible to produce a golf ball impact receiving surface that can be adapted to existing support structures, whereby the differences with regard to what have been described above relate only to the means for attachment of the surface to the existing support structure, and certain elasticity in the material used for the surface to enable it to be stretched to fit or shrink to the required size said pre-existing support structure. Consequently, this also represents another object of the present invention.

## Claims

1. Golfing practice net, comprising a support structure and a golf ball impact receiving surface, wherein the net further comprises stroke evaluation means indicating to a user at least one ball flight parameter correlation.

2. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein said ball flight parameter correlation corresponds to a golf ball that has been struck by a golf club type known as a driver or a wood.

3. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is removably connected to the support structure.

4. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is comprised of a synthetic polymeric material.

5. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is a flexible film of synthetic polymeric material.

6. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is a semi-rigid film of synthetic polymeric material.

7. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is suspended on the support structure.

8. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is substantially integrated into the support structure.

9. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface extends substantially over all of a surface area defined by the support structure.

10. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface forms part of a composite film or sheet of synthetic polymeric material, the ball impact receiving surface being made of a first synthetic polymeric material overlaid onto an underlay made of a same or different synthetic polymeric material.

11. Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface forms part of a composite film or sheet of synthetic polymeric material, the ball impact receiving surface being made

of a PVC elastomer, and overlaid onto an underlay made of synthetic polymeric plastic material.

**12.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball receiving surface comprises a tressed nylon mat.

**13.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is made of a transparent synthetic polymeric material.

**14.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is weather resistant.

**15.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface provides a short-term visual representation of the impact zone of the golf ball when the ball strikes the receiving surface.

**16.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is provided with rigidity enhancing elements which enhance the overall rigidity of the golfing practice net.

**17.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the golf ball impact receiving surface is provided with rigidity enhancing elements comprising plastic fibre struts.

**18.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the support structure is inflatable.

**19.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the support structure is deflatable.

**20.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprise at least one visible band, and preferably a series of visible bands, affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay beneath said golf ball impact receiving surface.

**21.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprise at least one visible band, and preferably a series of visible bands, affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay beneath said golf ball impact receiving surface, each band having a depth corresponding to the variation in the loft of a predetermined golf club type.

**22.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprise at least one visible band, and preferably a series of visible bands, affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay beneath said golf ball impact receiving surface, each band being positioned at a height on the ball impact receiving surface that corresponds to the optimal range of height of impact of a golf ball hit optimally with a predetermined golf club type.

**23.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, further comprising swing speed detection means, preferably a golf swing speed radar.

**24.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, further comprising golf ball speed detection means, preferably a golf ball speed radar.

**25.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprise a series of five visible bands affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially horizontal disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay behind said golf ball impact receiving surface.

**26.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the stroke evaluation means indicating to the user at least one ball flight parameter correlation comprises a vertical band affixed or otherwise imprinted in a substantially central and vertical disposition on the golf ball impact receiving surface or on an underlay behind said golf ball impact receiving surface.

**27.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the support structure and the golf ball impact receiving surface further define together wing elements that project forward from the support structure at a user definable angle, said wing elements forming side barriers to receive or deflect miss-hit golf balls.

**28.** Golfing practice net according to claim 27, wherein the wing elements are project forward and outward at an angle of 45° with respect to an orthogonal plane defined by the golf ball impact receiving surface.

**29.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the net further comprises shock absorbing means placed behind the ball impact receiving surface.

**30.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, where in the net further comprises shock absorbing means placed behind the ball impact receiving surface, which shock absorbing means comprise a foam mat.

**31.** Golfing practice net according to claim 29, wherein

the net further comprises an underlay which is peripherally sealed to the ball impact receiving surface thereby sandwiching the shock absorbing means between said ball impact receiving surface and the underlay.

**32.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, further comprising a marker cord for indicating an ideal striking distance at which a user should stand.

**33.** Golfing practice net according to claim 32, wherein the marker cord is attached to the bottom of the ball impact receiving surface.

**34.** Golfing practice net according to claim 1, wherein the ball impact receiving surface comprises attachment means for attaching said surface to the support structure, said attachment means preferably comprising eyelets located around the periphery of said surface.

**35.** Golf ball impact receiving surface comprising stroke evaluation means indicating to a user at least one ball flight parameter correlation and made of a material capable of adapting the receiving surface in size and shape to a pre-existing support structure.

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Fig. 1

European Patent Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 29 0342

## DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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1

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

## ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 06 29 0342

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