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(54) **KIT FOR CONVERTING CONVENTIONAL, SPRING-ACTUATED PITCHING MACHINE INTO A VIDEO PITCHING MACHINE**

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(58) **Field of Search** ..... **124/6, 32, 34, 124/36, 49, 50, 51.1**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention consists of a conversion kit for converting a spring-actuated pitching machine of the Iron Mike type to a video pitching machine, i.e., a pitching machine that includes a video projection screen on which the video image of an actual pitcher is displayed in synchronization with the release of a ball from the pitching machine. The kit includes a projection screen; a projector; a clutch motor unit; a relay unit; and a control unit. The projection screen, which is adapted to be positioned between the pitching machine and a batter, includes an aperture through which a ball may be delivered to the batter by the conventional spring-actuated pitching machine. The video projector must be able to project the video image of an actual pitcher onto the projection screen. The clutch motor is adapted to hold a ball in a queued position within the spring-actuated pitching machine and, upon release, propel the ball toward the batter in synchronization with the video image. A control unit is provided for storing the video image and displaying the video image onto the screen as well as for causing the clutch motor to hold the ball in a queued position and, upon release, propel the ball toward the batter in full synchronization with the video image displayed on the screen.

**12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**

