



US006675792B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
Suba et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,675,792 B2  
(45) **Date of Patent:** Jan. 13, 2004

(54) **KIT FOR CONVERTING CONVENTIONAL PITCHING MACHINE INTO A VIDEO PITCHING MACHINE**

(75) Inventors: **Michael T. Suba**, Fairfield, CT (US);  
**Michael DeVasto**, Trumbull, CT (US);  
**Timothy O'Reilly**, Oxford, CT (US);  
**Gregory J. Battersby**, Westport, CT (US)

(73) Assignee: **ProBatter Sports, LLC**, Milford, CT (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/183,248**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 27, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2002/0174859 A1 Nov. 28, 2002

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/776,659, filed on Feb. 6, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,546,924, which is a continuation of application No. 09/259,722, filed on Mar. 1, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,182,649.

(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **F41B 4/00**  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **124/78; 124/32**  
(58) **Field of Search** ..... 124/6, 32, 34,  
124/37, 49, 50, 51.1, 78

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

5,195,744 A \* 3/1993 Kapp et al.  
5,344,137 A \* 9/1994 Komori  
5,359,986 A \* 11/1994 Magrath et al.  
6,305,366 B1 \* 10/2001 Rizzo et al.

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—John A. Ricci

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Grimes & Battersby, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention consists of a conversion kit for converting a pitching machine of the type having at least one wheel into a video pitching machine. The kit includes: a projection screen; projector; ball injector; and control system. 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 pitching machine. The video projector must be able to project the video image of an actual pitcher onto the projection screen. The injector is adapted to hold a ball in a queued position immediately behind the pitching machine and inject the ball into the pitching machine to be propelled toward the batter in synchronization with the video image. The injector includes an electric solenoid for injecting the ball into the pitching machine. The control system is for storing the video image and displaying the video image onto the screen as well as for causing the injector to inject the ball into the pitching machine in full synchronization with the video image displayed on the screen.

**11 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

