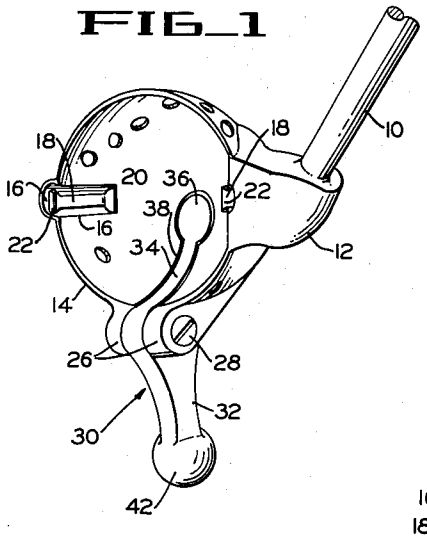
May 1, 1956 C. JACUZZI 2,743,930

BALL-CATAPULTING GOLF PRACTICE CLUB

Filed Dec. 16, 1953

FIG_1



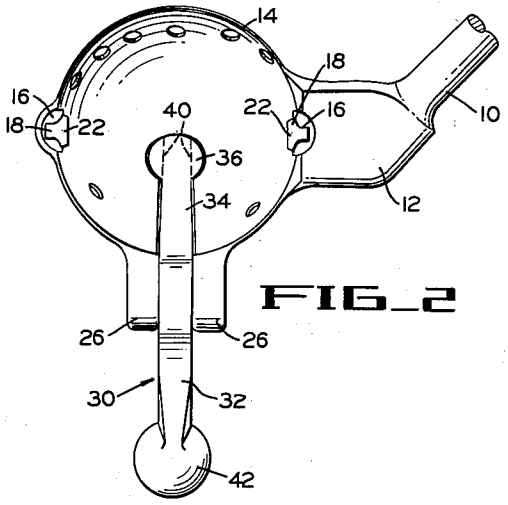
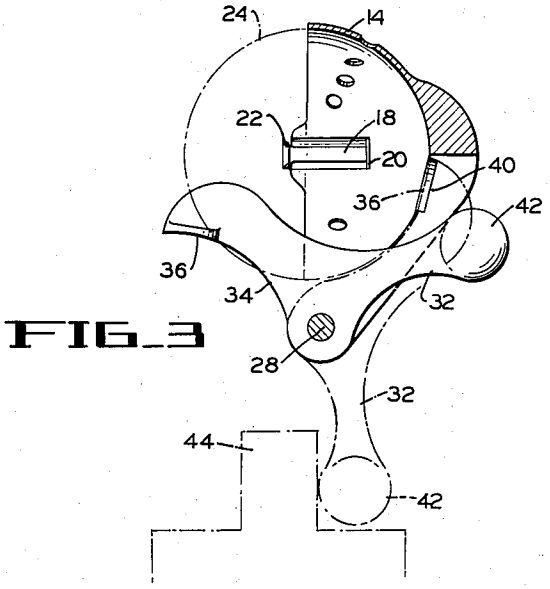


FIG_2

FIG_3



INVENTOR.
CANDIDO JACUZZI
BY Naylor and Lassagne
ATTORNEY

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BALL-CATAPULTING GOLF PRACTICE CLUB

Candido Jacuzzi, Lafayette, Calif.

Application December 16, 1953, Serial No. 398,580

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—193)

This invention relates to ball-catapulting devices, and more particularly to a club adapted to be swung in the manner of a golf club to thereby combinationally hurl and drive a ball, such as a golf ball, therefrom.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a golf club having cup-shaped head means adapted to receive a compressible ball, such as a golf ball, spring means associated with said head means adapted to retain the ball therein during both the back swing and the down swing of the club, and lever means pivotally carried by the head means and composed of a hammer portion and a dependent trigger portion adapted when said latter portion strikes a fixed tee, or the ground, to cause said hammer portion to propel the ball from the head means at a high velocity.

While it is appreciated that the use of the club of the invention is not sanctioned by the rules of the game of golf in their present state, it is contemplated that the subject club may be used as a practice device by golfers for the purpose of developing a "grooved" swing. In this connection, golfers as a whole generally experience the fact that a prefatory practice swing, with no ball in place on the ground, is generally smoother, more rhythimical, and less hurried than an actual swing where a golfer is not infrequently imbued with the obsession that the distance the ball will travel is directly proportional to the sheer physical force exerted during the swing. With the club of the invention, the average golfer, or duffer, may practice his swing without developing a fixation complex in attempting to focus on a ground-positioned ball, while at the same time a ball will leave the club head and travel substantially the same distance as though it were struck by a conventional club from a ground position. Also, since the club head cannot be pushed or pulled across the face of the ball, the ball will travel from the club without any appreciable degree of hooking or slicing action. With any hooking and slicing tendency being out of mind, the use of the subject club should be conducive to the development of a swing which, when a conventional club is employed in an actual game, will not induce such deviational tendencies of the ball.

With the aforementioned objects and advantages in mind, the structure and mode of operation of the club of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the drawing forming part of this specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the club head portion of the club of the invention;

Figure 2 is a view in front elevation of the club head of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a view in vertical section of the club head showing, in dotted outline, the attitude of the lever means prior to release of the ball, and, in solid outline, the attitude of the lever means after the ball has been propelled from the club head.

With reference to the drawing, the club comprises a preferably hollow tubular shaft **10** which terminates at its upper end, not shown, in a conventional grip and which terminates at its lower end in a hosel member **12**, said hosel member being preferably integral with a semi-spherical head **14**. Disposed within recesses **16** formed at opposite sides of head **14** are spring clips **18** having their inner ends **20** secured, as by brazing, to the head and having their outer ends **22** inturned to yieldingly retain a golf ball **24** within the head.

Pivotally secured, as by pin **28**, between spaced lug members **26** formed integral with the head **14** is a lever indicated generally by **30**, said lever having a normally depending, or trigger, portion **32** and a hammer portion **34** terminating in a ball-striking pad **36**, said lever portion **34** and end pad **36** normally residing within a complementally formed and vertically disposed slot **38** defined in head **14**. Lever portions **34** and **36** are normally positioned with their inside surfaces substantially flush with the adjacent inside surfaces of head **14**, said portions being prevented from being moved in a clockwise direction, with reference to Figures 1 and 2, by rib-like webs **40**, integral with the head, adapted to engage the rearward side of the pad, or hammer head, portion **36** and thereby serve as stop members therefor.

The trigger arm portion **32** of lever **30** is provided at its lower end with an enlarged and preferably ball-shaped portion **42** which, upon actuation of the lever **30** in the manner hereinafter described, is prevented, by virtue of its size, from passing through slot **38** of the head, thereby arresting the counterclockwise movement of lever arm **34** in the solid line position of Figure 3 and thus preventing it from striking or contacting the lever-actuating tee **44**, or the ground.

The club is employed in the following manner: A golf ball is inserted within the head to be yieldingly retained therein by spring clips **18** during the course of the back swing and the ensuing down swing, it being pointed out that at the top of a full back swing the open end of the cup-shaped head **14** is disposed upwardly; and the club is then swung in the conventional manner to bring the enlarged portion **42** of trigger arm portion **32** of lever **30** into striking engagement with an enlarged ground-anchored tee **44**, which may preferably be rubber-covered, to cause the lever **30** to be abruptly moved from the dotted line position of Figure 3 to the solid line position, thereby causing the pad, or hammer head, portion **36** of the lever to strike the ball **24** and thus drivingly propel it from the cup-shaped head.

It is pointed out that the shorter the lever portion **32** is with respect to the length of lever portion **34**, the faster the speed of travel of portion **34** will be upon impact, and therefore the greater the distance the ball will be driven from head **14**.

What is claimed is:

1. A device of the class described comprising a shaft, a cup-like head secured to the lower end of said shaft having a forwardly opening substantially semi-spherical cavity adapted to envelop and closely fit around approximately one half of the surface of a compressible ball, said head having a slot formed in the rearward side thereof, means to retain said ball within said cavity against ejection therefrom under the influence of a casual swinging of said club, and lever means pivotally carried by said head having a normally depending ground-engageable portion and a ball-engageable portion integral therewith operable upon engagement of said first-mentioned portion with the ground during a non-casual swing of said club to abruptly pivot to cause said second-mentioned portion to pivotally move through said slot and drive said ball from said head.

2. A club having a golf club-like shaft and grip and cup-shaped ball holder means semi-complemental to a golf ball fixedly carried at the lower end of said shaft

whereby a golf ball may be rotatably accelerated by swinging movement of said shaft to have a velocity of movement equal to that of said cup-shaped holder means, an opening formed in the rearward portion of said cup-shaped holder means and lever means pivotally carried by said cup-shaped holder means having a ground-engageable trigger portion and a ball-engageable hammer portion, with said latter portion being adapted to be pivotally moved through said opening to strikingly compress said ball and cause said ball to be propelled out of said holder means when said trigger portion engages the ground at the low point of swing.

3. A club comprising a golf club-like shaft, ball-carrier means disposed at the lower end of said shaft to rotatably whirl said ball by swinging movement of said club and to release said ball along a path tangential to the low point of the arc of movement of said means, and ground-contacting and ball-impacting lever means pivotally attached to said ball carrier means and adapted to abruptly propel said ball from said carrier means when said low point is reached.

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