July 5, 1960 G. F. EIMERMAN 2,943,856

GOLF BALL AND TEE HANDLING DEVICES

Filed March 20, 1958

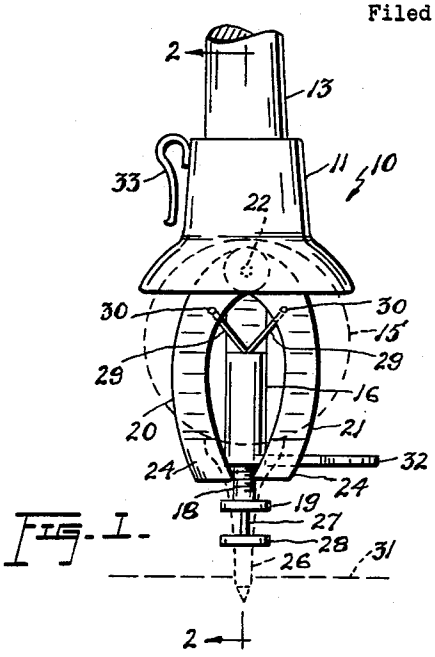


FIG. 1.

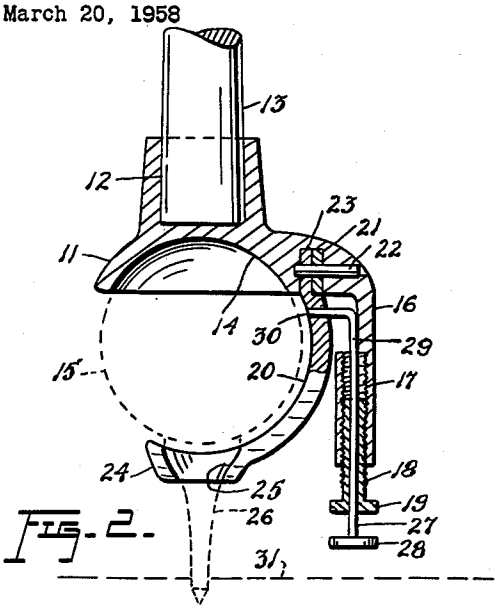


FIG. 2.

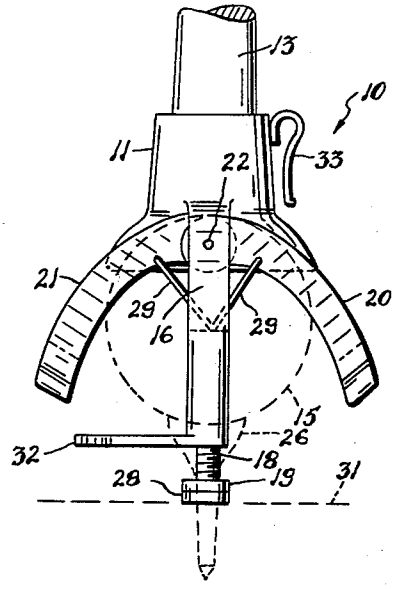


FIG. 4.

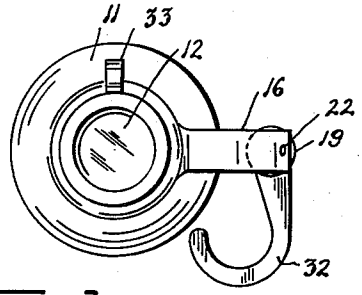


FIG. 3.

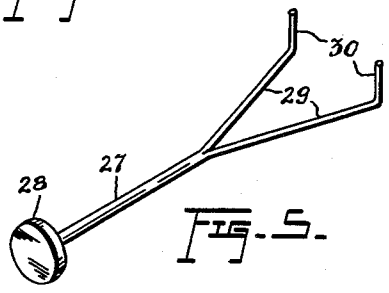


FIG. 5.

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GOLF BALL AND TEE HANDLING DEVICES

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in devices for handling golf balls and tees, and the principal object of the invention is to completely eliminate the necessity of stooping or bending over in order to insert the tee in the ground and position a ball thereon.

This object is attained by the provision of a device which includes a holder adapted to receive a golf ball and equipped with a set of openable and closable arms for supportably engaging a golf tee placed under the ball when the arms are in their closed position, such device being adapted for attachment to an elongated handle such as for example, the handle end of a conventional golf club, so that by pressing the same downwardly, the tee held by the arms may be easily and conveniently inserted in the ground.

An important feature of the invention involves the provision of means, responsive to the pressing of the device against the ground, for automatically opening the arms to disengage the same from the tee, whereby the tee may remain inserted in the ground with the ball already positioned thereon in readiness for use, all this being effected while the player remains in a straight, upstanding position.

Another important feature of the invention involves the provision of means on the device whereby inserted golf tees may be withdrawn from the ground, also without the necessity of stooping or bending over for that purpose.

Some of the advantages of the invention reside in its relatively small size and easy portability, in its efficient operation, and in its adaptability to economical manufacture.

With the foregoing more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention will be understood from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters of reference are used to designate like parts, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of the invention, the arms of the holder being shown in their closed position and a golf ball and tee being illustrated by dotted lines;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view, taken substantially in the plane of the line 2—2 in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the device per se, that is, with the handle thereof removed;

Figure 4 is a rear elevational view showing the arms of the device in their open position; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the plunger used in the invention.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the golf ball and tee handling device is designated generally by the reference numeral **10** and embodies in its construction a holder **11** formed at the top thereof with a blind bore or socket **12** for reception of an end portion of a suitable, elongated handle **13**, such as for example, the handle portion of a conventional golf club. The underside of the holder **11** is provided with a concavity defining an inverted socket **14** for the reception of a golf ball **15**.

The back of the holder **11** is formed with a downward extension **16**, the lower portion of which is substantially tubular in form and internally screw-threaded as indicated at **17** to receive an externally screw-threaded bushing **18**. The lower end of the bushing is formed with an enlarged shoulder or flange **19**, as shown.

A pair of coacting arms **20**, **21** are pivoted at their upper ends by a pin **22** in a recess **23** formed at the confluence of the extension **16** with the holder **11**. The arms **20**, **21** are preferably curved as shown and are movable toward and away from each other on the pivot pin **22**, between the closed and open positions shown in Figures 1 and 4, respectively. The lower ends of the arms **20**, **21** are formed with forwardly projecting jaws **24** which are recessed as indicated at **25** whereby to receive therebetween and supportably engage the head portion of a golf tee **26** when the arms are in their closed position. The arrangement of parts is such that when the tee **26** is supported by the jaws **24**, it engages the underside of the ball **15** in the socket **14**.

A plunger **27**, formed from wire rod, is slidable vertically in the bore of the aforementioned bushing **18** and is provided at its lower end with an enlarged head **28**. The upper end portion of the plunger is split or bifurcated as indicated at **29**, the furcations **29** terminating in forwardly angulated portions **30** which are pivotally connected to the arms **20**, **21** adjacent the pivot pin **22**. It is to be understood that the furcations **29** of the plunger **27** are movable toward and away from each other and that when they are together they may slide into the bore of the bushing **18** when the plunger is slid downwardly. In so doing, the furcations **29** will draw the arms **20**, **21** to their closed position as shown in Figure 1, but when the plunger is slid upwardly, the furcations **29** move the arms to their open position shown in Figure 4.

When the invention is placed in use, the device is applied to the handle portion of a conventional golf club or some other suitable handle and the plunger **27** is slid downwardly after positioning of the ball **15** in the socket **14** and of the tee **26** under the ball. The resultant closing movement of the arms **20**, **21** will cause the jaws **24** to supportably engage the tee and retain both the tee and the ball in place in the device. Without stooping or bending over, the player may then press downwardly upon the handle **13** so as to insert the tee into the ground, indicated at **31**. As downward pressing of the handle continues, the head **28** of the plunger **27** will contact the ground, resulting in upward sliding of the plunger which, in turn, will automatically move the arms **20**, **21** to their open position shown in Figure 4. Thereupon, the entire device may be removed while the tee remains inserted in the ground together with the ball positioned thereon, in readiness for use.

If desired, a hook-shaped member **32** may be provided at the lower end of the extension **16** for engagement with the head portion of the tee to withdraw the same from the ground after playing, it being noted that the entire procedure of inserting the tee, placing the ball thereon and withdrawing the tee, may be effected while the player is standing straight.

A suitable clip **33** may be provided on the holder **11** whereby the device may be attached to a golf bag or to wearing apparel of the player, for convenient portability when it is not in use.

While in the foregoing there has been described and shown the preferred embodiment of the invention, various modifications may become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention relates. Accordingly, it is not desired to limit the invention to this disclosure, and various modifications may be resorted to, such as may lie within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a golf ball and tee handling device, the combination of a holder provided with an inverted ball receiving socket, a pair of coacting arms pivoted to said holder for closing and opening movement toward and away from each other, said arms extending downwardly from the holder, jaws provided at the lower ends of said arms for supportably engaging a tee placed under a ball in said socket when the arms are closed, a downward extension provided on the holder centrally relative to said arms, and a plunger slidable in said extension and having its lower end engageable with the ground, the upper end portion of said plunger being bifurcated and providing a pair of resilient furcations operatively connected to the respective arms and urging the same apart when said plunger is upwardly slid in said extension by downward pressure on said holder while the lower end of the plunger engages the ground.

2. The device as defined in claim 1 wherein said extension has an open upper end operatively engageable with said furcations for drawing the same and the associated arms together during downward sliding of said plunger in the extension.

3. The device as defined in claim 1 together with an elongated handle secured to and extending upwardly from said holder, whereby downward pressure on the latter may be exerted.

4. The device as defined in claim 1 together with adjustable stop means for limiting the extent of sliding of said plunger upwardly in said extension.

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