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COMBINED GOLF CLUB AND BALL RETRIEVER

Filed Dec. 20, 1962

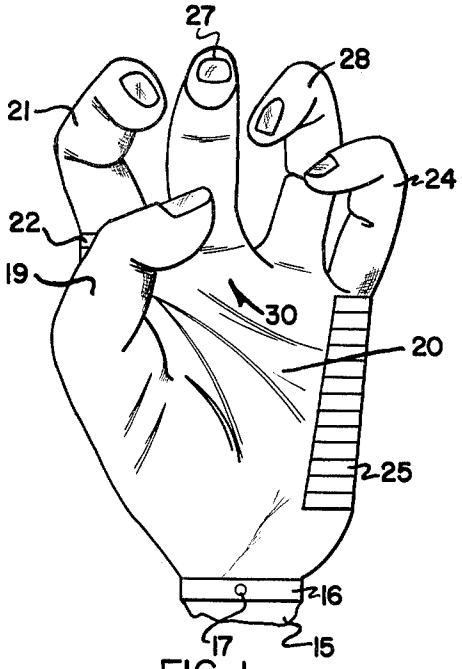


FIG. 1

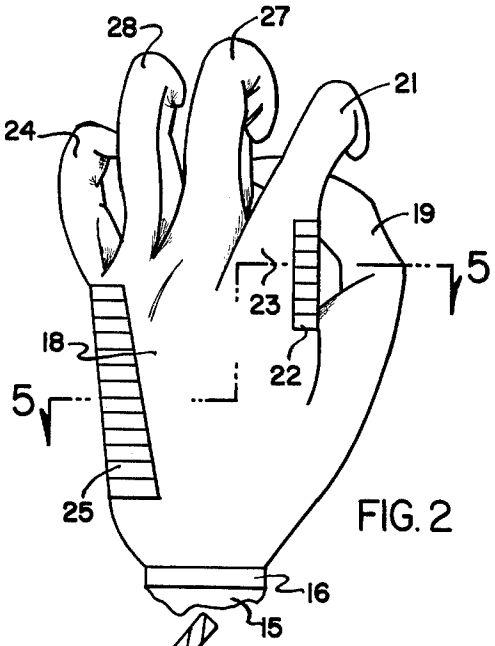


FIG. 2

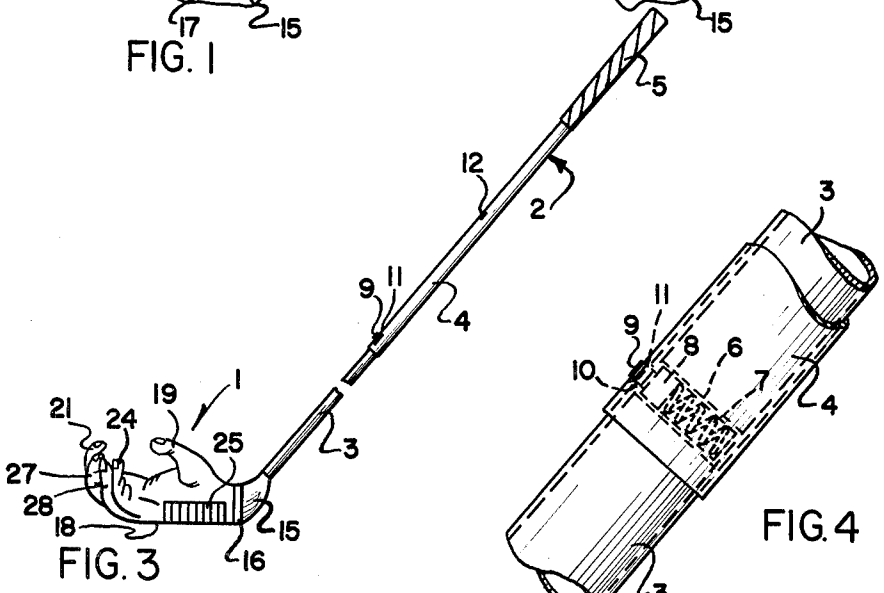


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

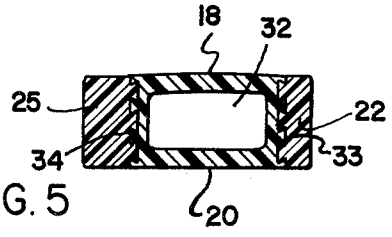


FIG. 5

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COMBINED GOLF CLUB AND BALL RETRIEVER

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This invention relates generally, as indicated, to a hand mashie and more particularly to a novelty for golfers having in addition to its function as a novelty certain utilitarian purposes.

In golfing, the hand mashie is facetiously termed that club which is employed when a ball is picked up and thrown to obtain a better lie. Few players will admit to having used a hand mashie. Accordingly, a visible hand mashie in a golfer's bag will leave no question as to his veracity and such is apt to be a major subject of conversation at the 19th hole.

A hand mashie is often employed when the shot of a right-handed player lands in an impossible lie for a shot using a right-handed club. Most players do not carry an extra club of opposite hand and accordingly the more conventional hand mashie is employed in such situations. The hand mashie is also sometimes employed when the ball obtains a difficult to reach location such as a pond, beyond a barrier such as a fence, or other unplayable hazard. Golf balls have been known to land up in trees, for example. The conventional hand mashie is often too short to retrieve the ball and in such situations, the golfing novelty of the present invention may be employed.

It is a principal object of the present invention to provide a golfing novelty which will provoke mirth among golfers.

Another object is the provision of such novelty which will have both right and left hand ball striking surfaces.

Still another object is the provision of such golfing novelty which can be utilized as a ball retriever.

Yet another object is the provision of such golfing novelty having an adjustably extensible handle.

Still another object is the provision of such golfing novelty having the above utilitarian purposes which will be of light-weight inexpensive construction.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the invention, then, comprises the features hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the following description and the annexed drawing setting forth in detail a certain illustrative embodiment of the invention, this being indicative, however, of but one of the various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

In said annexed drawing:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary top plan view of the hand mashie in accordance with the present invention with the handle broken away;

FIG. 2 is a plan view similar to FIG. 1 showing the back of the hand mashie;

FIG. 3 is a side elevation of the hand mashie on a reduced scale with the handle broken away and illustrating a right-handed club;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of the telescoping handle for the club; and

FIG. 5 is a vertical section of the back of the hand mashie taken substantially on the line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

Referring now to the drawing, and especially to FIG. 3, there is illustrated the right-hand novelty in accordance with the present invention which comprises a ball striking head **1** mounted on an elongated handle **2**. Such handle **2** comprises two telescoping steel tubular members **3** and **4** with the latter terminating in the hand grip portion **5** which may be comprised of spirally wrapped strips of leather in the conventional manner. The tubular shank **3** telescopes within the slightly larger tubular shank **4** and a handle **2** of adjustable length is thus obtained. As seen in FIG. 4, the inner tubular member **3** may be provided with a transverse tubular container **6** housing a compression spring **7** resiliently biasing outwardly a detent plunger **8** which may be provided with a rectangular or square head **9** adapted to project through an opening **10** of similar configuration in the inner tubular member **3** and a similar aligned opening **11** in the outer tubular member **4**. When the detent head **9** is thus projected through such openings by the pressure of spring **7**, the tubular handle sections **3** and **4** will be locked against relative longitudinal movement. The outer tubular member **4** may be provided with a further opening **12** of similar configuration, or for that matter further such openings, whereby the position of the outer tubular member on the inner tubular member may be adjusted and locked. In FIG. 3, the handle is shown in its extended position and it will be realized that in order to retract the handle, the user need only depress the detent head **9** until it clears the opening **11** and then slide the handle section **4** longitudinally downwardly along the handle section **3** until the detent head **9** becomes aligned with the opening **12**. At such time, the detent will then simply pop into the opening locking the handle sections together in retracted position. The shaft or handle may be of standard length, e.g. 37½ inches when retracted, but may thus extend to 64 inches, for example.

The ball striking head **1** is attached to the end of the tubular shank **3** by means of a wrist connection **15** which redirects the axis of the club from substantially upwardly inclined to substantially horizontal. The wrist **15** is then joined to the hand or head **1** by means of a circular collar **16** and the hand may be held in place by a set screw **17** or other like fastener shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Whereas the hand illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 is a left hand and the hand shown in FIG. 3 is a right hand, such hands are allochirally identical in form and they will be treated for the purposes of this discussion as the same hand. Hand **1** may be provided with an annular portion adjacent the wrist telescoping within the collar **16** and accordingly the hand may be rotated about its horizontal axis by a simple adjustment of the set screw **17**. However, once properly in position for the user, the hand will not normally be then adjusted at the wrist.

As is apparent from the drawing, the ball striking head **1** is in the form of a human hand and is preferably of hollow plastic molded construction. The back of the hand **18** is generally planar and will normally rest against the ground when the novelty is employed as a golf club. The thumb **19** is elevated from the plane of the back of the hand and extends slightly over the palm **20**. This elevation of the thumb **19** exposes the base of the index finger **21** for use as a ball striking surface as indicated by the ball striking surface insert **22** which extends along the first knuckle **23** of the index finger. The opposite side of the back of the hand or the heel extending up to the little finger **24** is also provided with a ball striking insert **25**. The ball striking surface **25** is considerably longer and heavier than the ball striking surface **22**, extending from the first joint of the little finger almost to the wrist. It is this striking surface along the heel of the hand which will normally be employed when the novelty is used as a golf club.

The middle and fourth fingers **27** and **28** are curved as are the thumb, index and little fingers **19**, **21** and **24**, respectively. These curved fingers cooperate to produce a ball receiving pocket shown generally at **30** and with

the handle **2** extended, it will readily be seen that the novelty is capable of functioning as a ball retriever.

The hand **1** of the novelty may be molded of a suitable plastic material such as fiber glass reinforced polyester resins. While polyester and alkyd molding materials and compounds have been found quite suitable, it will, of course, be understood that other thermosetting or thermoplastic resins may be employed. For example, epoxy molding compounds, silicone molding compounds and urea formaldehyde molding compounds may also be employed. In the thermoplastics, high density polyethylene may be employed as well as certain types of nylon molding compounds. Polystyrene compounds and also acetal polymer and copolymer may be employed. Ball striking surfaces **22** and **25** may be formed integrally with the rest of the hand or may comprise inserts in the mold of such material as the more rigid polyurethanes and it will, of course, be understood that wood or metal inserts may also be provided as the ball striking inserts. The hand may be produced by conventional injection or extrusion molding procedures. Since it is desirable to have the club as light-weight as possible, certain blow molding techniques may also be employed which produces a hollow hand having a central hollow or opening **32** therein as seen in FIG. 5. Also as seen in FIG. 5, the inserts **22** and **25** may be provided with dovetail grooves extending longitudinally of the hand shown at **33** and **34** respectively more securely to hold such inserts to the molded plastic hand. When the hand article is molded, the plastic material of the hand may be such as to create a bond to the plastic material of the inserts further to increase the integrity and rigidity of the resultant structure. The hand, of course, may also be made of metal, hard rubber or wood and such hand will be desirably flesh colored and as close in appearance to the human hand as possible.

It can now be seen that there is provided a novelty certain to create comment when seen projecting from a golfing bag. It can be carried in the bag with the fingers overlapping the top edge. Such novelty also functions as a golf club having both right and left hand ball striking surfaces and when the handle **2** is extended, the curled fingers of the hand provide a pocket **30** to receive or retrieve a ball from inaccessible positions.

Other modes of applying the principle of the invention may be employed, change being made as regards the details described, provided the features stated in any of the following claims or the equivalent of such be employed.

I, therefore, particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:

1. A golf novelty comprising a golf club head in the form of a substantial replica of a human hand having a substantially planar back adapted to rest against the ground when used as a golf club and including a thumb and four fingers bent upwardly to form a ball receiving pocket, an elongated handle connected to said hand and extending upwardly at a substantial angle to the back thereof, and a ball striking surface on one edge of said hand, said novelty being thus useable as a golf club and as a ball retriever.

2. A golf novelty comprising a substantial replica of a human hand including a substantially planar back adapted to rest against and parallel to the ground when such novelty is used as a golf club and including a thumb and four fingers bent upwardly to form a ball receiving pocket on the top of said hand, an elongated handle connected to said hand and extending upwardly at a substantial angle to the back thereof, and ball striking surfaces on opposite edges of the hand whereby the novelty may be employed as a right or left handed golf club, said hand being molded plastic, and said ball striking surfaces comprising molded plastic inserts adjacent the index finger and adjacent the little finger of such hand.

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