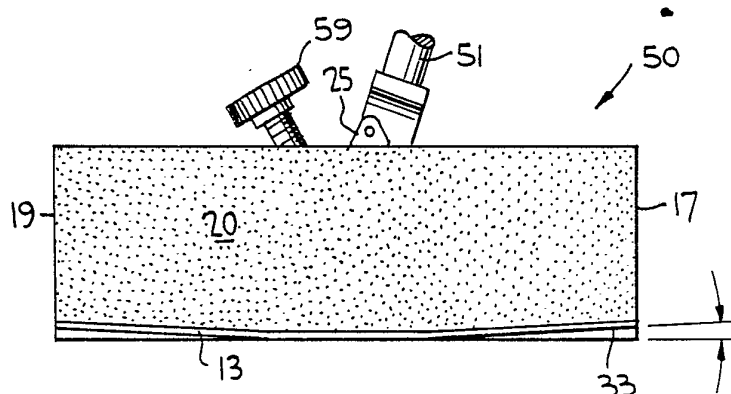




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(54) Title: GOLF PUTTER		

**(57) Abstract**

A golf putter has a club head (10, 30, 40, 50) with a golfer's sighting device in the form of an elongated prism (25) positioned at the top of the club head (10, 30, 40, 50) and aligned with the intended location of ball impact on the club head putting face (20). An elongated colored strip (29) is disposed in or under the prism (25) and appears maximally wide when viewed from above the prism (25) and appears maximally wide in a vertical alignment plane which includes the impact spot and the upper edge (27) of the prism (25) thereby indicating that the golfer's head is properly positioned over the club head (10, 30, 40, 50). The indicator (25) can be used during actual play and/or, in conjunction with a pivotable shaft (51) in fabricating a custom putter (50). An aluminum or other oxide coating on the club head (10, 30, 40, 50) provides the putting face (20) with a greater friction and facilitates adherence of a material (13) having low friction characteristics, such as TEFLON to the bottom surface of the club head (10, 30, 40, 50). The edge (33) between the putting face (20) and bottom surface tapers upwardly toward opposite ends (17, 19) of the head (10, 30, 40, 50) from the general location of intended impact with the ball to reduce the likelihood of erratic putting strokes due to unevenly cut grass. The TEFLON coating (13) reduces friction between the bottom surface of the putter and the grass to thereby further assure steady, even putting strokes.

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1 TITLE: GOLF PUTTER

2 Background of the Invention

3 Technical Field

4 The present invention relates to improvements in
5 golf putters and, more particularly, such improvements
6 which enhance putting effectiveness and facilitates
7 custom putter fabrication.

8 Discussion of the Prior Art

9 There are numerous devices in the prior art
10 which are intended to facilitate alignment of the
11 golfer's line of sight in a vertical plane which includes

1 the golf ball and the cup or hole. Examples of such
2 devices may be found in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,548,504
3 (Sykes), 4,167,268 (Lorang), 3,698,093 (Marshall),
4 4,136,877 (Antonious), 4,231,576 (Perkins) and 3,880,430
5 (McCabe). All of these devices require that two
6 vertically-spaced members be aligned or centered in the
7 golfer's line of sight so that the golfer's head will
8 then be properly positioned over the club head and ball.
9 In order to effectively use such devices, the golfer
10 must have nearly perfect vision. In other words, if the
11 golfer has less than twenty-twenty vision, there is a
12 range of positions for the golfer's head wherein the two
13 spaced members will appear to be aligned, such range
14 becoming larger as the golfer's vision becomes worse.
15 This permits slight mis-alignment of the golfer's head
16 and improper alignment between the club head and the
17 ball. Apart from the foregoing, the prior art alignment
18 devices take considerable time to use as the golfer moves
19 his or her head back and forth in an effort to center or
20 align the alignment members.

21 Many prior art putters suffer from the problem
22 of frictional drag forces exerted by grass along the
23 bottom surface of the putter during a putting stroke.
24 Such drag results in turning of the club head and/or

1 erratic forward motion of the club head. In either case,
2 frictional drag causes the ball to be stroked
3 inaccurately.

4 Proper putter selection is crucial to a
5 golfer's game, the weight of the club head and the angle
6 of the club's shaft relative to the club head are two
7 important parameters which can vary greatly from golfer
8 to golfer. The proper angle of the shaft for a particular
9 golfer depends very much on the golfer's stance,
10 including the position of the golfer's head during the
11 putting stroke. In particular, it is important that the
12 shaft be at a comfortable angle when the golfer's head is
13 positioned over the club with his or her line of sight in
14 the vertical plane that includes the ball, the cup and
15 the desired impact point on the club head. This position
16 of the golfer's line of sight is most often not taken
17 into consideration when custom putters are designed.

18 Objects and Summary of the Invention

19 It is therefore an object of the present
20 invention to provide a sighting device for use with a
21 putter which provides a simple "go-no go" type of

1 indication when the golfer's line of sight is properly
2 aligned with the desired ball-impact point on the club
3 head.

4 It is another object of the present invention to
5 provide a sighting device for a golf putter which can be
6 readily used while playing or in conjunction with an
7 adjustable model putter intended for use in selecting
8 characteristics of a custom putter.

9 A further object of the present invention is to
10 provide a golf putter which permits a golfer to quickly
11 position his or her head so that the golfer's line of
12 sight is perfectly aligned with the ball, cup and desired
13 impact point of the ball on the club head.

14 Yet another object of the present invention is
15 to provide an alignment device for putting which can be
16 used for practice and/or tournament play and which does
17 not require perfect vision for use.

18 It is still a further object of the present
19 invention to provide a golf putter which is configured to
20 minimize frictional drag by grass along the bottom of the
21 club head during a putting stroke.

1 In accordance with the present invention a
2 putter is provided with a sighting device in the form of
3 a prism which includes two converging sides intersecting
4 at a top edge. In the preferred embodiment the prism is
5 an isosceles or equilateral triangle. The prism is
6 affixed to the top surface of the club head with the top
7 edge of the prism aligned with and extending rearwardly
8 from the desired ball-impact point on the putting face.
9 An elongated member, preferably colored red, is disposed
10 within the prism parallel to and in the same vertical
11 plane as the top prism edge. When the golfer's line of
12 sight is properly positioned above the prism in a
13 vertical plane which includes the top prism edge, the
14 elongated member and the desired impact point on the club
15 head, a maximum width of the elongated object appears in
16 the prism. The range at which this maximum width appears
17 is relatively small so that a precise positioning of the
18 golfer's line of sight can be easily achieved by simply
19 noticing a dramatic color contrast in the prism.

20 The putter may also be coated with aluminum
21 oxide, particularly on its front surface to facilitate
22 frictional engagement between the putting space and the
23 golf ball, thereby permitting top spin to be applied to
24 the ball during a golf stroke. The aluminum oxide also

1 facilitates adherence of Teflon to the bottom surface of
2 the club head, thereby reducing the coefficient of
3 friction of the bottom surface of the club head when it
4 passes over grass during a putting stroke.

5 Further reduction of friction along the bottom
6 surface is achieved by tapering the forward portion of
7 the bottom surface of the club so that the proximal and
8 distal ends of the club head are raised above the ground
9 at the putting face. This provides a forward face which
10 is vertically thicker at the point of ball impact than at
11 the club head ends so that only a relatively narrow
12 portion of the bottom edge of the putting face contacts
13 the grass during a putting stroke.

14 The prism alignment arrangement can be secured
15 by adhesive or like to the top surface of the club head.
16 Alternatively, the prism may be removably secured to the
17 club head by inserting it into a suitably provided
18 channel defined in the top surface of the club head. In
19 either case, the alignment prism may be employed with an
20 adjustable putter designed for use in selecting a custom
21 putter configuration. Specifically the putter shaft may
22 be pivotably secured to the head so that the golfer can
23 adjust the shaft angle to that which is most comfortable

7

1 when the golfer's head is properly aligned above the
2 prism. In addition, the club head may be provided with
3 adjustable weights so that the desired heft and feel of
4 the club may be custom-selected. Once the club head
5 weight and shaft angle are selected by the golfer, a
6 custom putter may be fabricated.

7

Brief Description of the Drawings

8 These and other objects, features and many of
9 the attendant advantages of the invention will be better
10 understood upon a reading of the following detailed
11 description when considered in connection with the
12 accompanying drawings wherein like parts in each of the
13 several figures are identified by the same reference
14 numerals, and wherein:

15 Figure 1 is a view in perspective from behind of
16 a golf putter club head and part of a shaft constructed
17 in accordance with the present invention;

18 Figure 2 is a view in perspective similar to
19 that of Figure 1 for a modified golf putter club head and
20 shaft according to the present invention;

1 Figure 3 is a front view in elevation of a
2 putter constructed in accordance with the present
3 invention, the figure also illustrating the desired line
4 of sight of a golfer relative to the club head;

5 Figure 4 is an illustration in perspective of a
6 golfer utilizing the putter of the present invention and
7 showing the vertical alignment plane between the golfer's
8 line of sight, the club head, the ball and the cup;

9 Figure 5 is a plan view from above of a club
10 head of the present invention wherein the line of sight
11 is slightly off center with respect to the alignment
12 device;

13 Figure 6 is a view from above of the club head
14 of Figure 5 but wherein the line of sight is
15 substantially centered with respect to the club sighting
16 device;

17 Figure 7 is a view taken along lines 7-7 of
18 Figure 5;

19 Figure 8 is a view taken along lines 8-8 of
20 Figure 6;

1 Figure 9 is a view in perspective of a putter
2 club head showing one possible means for securing the
3 sighting device to the club head;

4 Figure 10 is a view in perspective of a putter
5 club head showing an alternative means of securing the
6 sighting device to the club head;

7 Figure 11 is a view in perspective from behind a
8 club head according to the present invention wherein the
9 club head may be adjustable weighted and a shaft may be
10 positioned at an adjustable angle with respect to the
11 club head;

12 Figure 12 is a rear view in elevation of the
13 club head of Figure 11;

14 Figure 13 is an exploded view in perspective
15 showing the manner in which the club head of Figures
16 11-13 may be adjustably weighted;

17 Figure 15 is a diagrammatic view illustrating
18 the manner in which the angle of the club shaft of the
19 golf club of Figures 11-14 may be measured for purposes
20 of fabricating a custom putter; and

10

1 Figure 16 is a partial end view in elevation of
2 the club head of the putter of Figures 11-15.

3 Description of the Preferred Embodiments

4 Referring specifically to Figure 1 of the
5 accompanying drawings, a golf putter constructed in
6 accordance with the present invention includes a club
7 head generally designated by the reference numeral 10 and
8 a shaft 11 secured to the club head. The club head 10 is
9 made of steel, aluminum, or other suitable material and
10 is provided with a coating 13 of low friction material,
11 such as Teflon, on its bottom surface. The coating 13 is
12 adhered to the bottom of a generally rectangular base
13 having its major dimension extending between the proximal
14 end 17 and distal end 19 of the club head, and having its
15 minor dimension extending between the forward or putting
16 face 20 and the rear edge 21 of the club. The height of
17 base 15 is considerably lower than the putting face 20
18 and the sidewalls defining proximal end 17 and distal end
19 19. Consequently, the club head may be looked upon as a
20 box which is closed on three sides and along its bottom
21 but is open at its top and along its rear above edge 21.
22 A central support member 23 extends upwardly in the open

11

1 space of the club to the level of the tops of the forward
2 putting face 20 and the side walls 17, 19. Shaft 11 is
3 secured to the central support member 23 in any suitable
4 manner, including adhesively securing the shaft in a bore
5 defined in support member 23. A prism 25 is secured at
6 the top of support member 23 by adhesive, or the like.
7 Prism 25 is elongated in the minor dimension of base 15
8 and has a substantially equilateral triangular cross
9 section. By means of this configuration, the prism has
10 two converging sides which intersect at an upper edge 27
11 that is aligned with the desired transverse location on
12 the putting face 20 at which the club is to strike a golf
13 ball. An elongated object 29 is disposed within prism 25
14 below and parallel to upper edge 27. Elongated object 29
15 and upper edge 27 are disposed in a common vertical plane
16 which, when the putter is properly used, includes the
17 golfer's line of sight and the desired ball-impact
18 location on putting face 20.

19 The bottom surface of the club head 10 tapers
20 upwardly from the region below central support member 23
21 to each of the proximal end 17 and distal end 19. This
22 taper, in the embodiment of Figure 1, serves to raise all
23 of the bottom surface of club head 10, except for the
24 transverse mid portion thereof, above the grass on the

1 putting green when the putter is in use. Typically, the
2 angle of taper is approximately $2-1/2^{\circ}$. The purpose of
3 the taper is to minimize the possibility that a portion
4 of the club face will strike an uneven portion of the
5 green during a putting stroke and result in erratic
6 stroking or turning of the club. The low friction
7 coating 13 reduces any frictional drag that might occur
8 between the bottom of the club and the putting green
9 during a putting stroke.

10 The putter of Figure 2 includes a club head 30
11 and shaft 31 and is very much similar to the putter of
12 Figure 1 with two important exceptions. First, shaft 31
13 is formed integrally with club head 30 at the central
14 support member 23 rather than being assembled to the club
15 head during manufacture. Second, the taper in the bottom
16 surface of the club head 30 exists only at the forward-
17 most portion 33 of the club head, leaving the entire
18 rear section of the bottom surface, between proximal end
19 17 and distal end 19, flush with the ground. This
20 partial taper configuration 33 permits the bottom edge of
21 the putting face 20 to avoid uneven sections of the green
22 during the putting stroke while also permitting the club
23 head 30 to rest stably on the ground rather than rocking
24 as would be the case for the club head 10 of Figure 1.

1 The forward taper in club head 30 at proximal end 17 is
2 visible in Figure 2 and is generally designated by the
3 reference numeral 33.

4 Either of club heads 10 and 30 may be coated
5 with an oxide layer, such as alumimun oxide, along any or
6 all of its exposed surfaces. By so coating the front or
7 putting face 20, that face is dulled against reflection,
8 is made more durable, and, most importantly, provides
9 more of a frictional contact with the golf ball so as to
10 permit application of overspin to the golf ball during a
11 putting stroke. Coating of the bottom of clubs 10 or 30
12 facilitates adherence of the low friction coating 13
13 thereto, particularly when such coating is a layer of
14 Teflon.

15 In the preferred embodiments of both club heads
16 10 and 30, the front face 20 tapers slightly from the
17 vertical so that its bottom edge is slightly more forward
18 than its top edge. Typically, this taper is on the order
19 of 10° or less. This taper or loft also facilitates
20 application of top spin to the golf ball during a
21 stroke.

1 The illustrations in Figures 3 and 4 indicate
2 the matter in which the golf putter of the present
3 invention is utilized to properly align a putt.
4 Specifically, a golfer 39 stands with his or her head
5 over the club 30 so that his or her vertical line of
6 sight 35 is directly above the upper edge 27 of prism
7 25. This places the line of sight 35 in a vertical plane
8 37 which includes upper edge 27 of prism 25, the hole or
9 cup 38, the ball 36 and the desired point of contact on
10 the club face. The manner in which the golfer
11 immediatley determines whether or not his or her line of
12 sight is properly aligned in plane 37 is illustrated in
13 Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8. Specifically, when the golfer's
14 line of sight is not properly positioned directly over
15 the upper edge or apex 27 of the prism, the view of the
16 prism appears as illustrated in Figures 5 and 7.
17 Specifically, when the line of sight 35' (Figure 7) is
18 offcenter, the observer views the object 29 only through
19 a single face of prism 25 and therefore sees a relativley
20 narrow refracted image of that object. If, however, the
21 observer's line of sight 35 is directly over the apex or
22 top edge 27 of the prism, the view of object 29 is
23 through parts of both of the converging surfaces of the
24 prism and a very broad image of object 29 is seen.

1 This is virtually a "go-no-go" indication since the broad
2 image of object 29 narrows immediately upon slight change
3 of the line of sight from vertically above the apex 27.
4 In this manner, the golfer can easily properly align his
5 or her line of sight in plane 37 (Fig.4) to achieve the
6 optimum position for putting relative to the cup 38.

7 Another embodiment of the present invention is
8 illustrated as club head 40 in Figure 9. The putter club
9 head 40 has a shaft 43 secured thereto and has a channel
10 41 defined in its top surface 42. Channel 41 is
11 configured to receive prism 25 therein in a slidable
12 engagement and therefore extends generally rearward from
13 the putting face of the club head 40. The transverse
14 position of channel 41 is such that the prism 25 is
15 received therein with its apex or upper edge 27 aligned
16 in a vertical plane with the desired impact location on
17 the club during a putting stroke. The prism 25 may be
18 secured in channel 41 by means of an adhesive, or the
19 like; the prism may also be frictionally engaged in the
20 channel 41. A substantially identical putter club head
21 is illustrated in Figure 10 wherein channel 41 has been
22 removed and the prism 25 is secured to the top surface 42
23 of the club head by means of adhesive or the like.
24 Either embodiment is useful and feasible.

16

1 The alignment device embodied by prism 25 has
2 been described as serving the function of aligning the
3 golfer's line of sight in the appropriate vertical
4 alignment plane so as to facilitate proper putting
5 strokes during play. The same alignment prism may be
6 employed in conjunction with a universal template type of
7 golf putter which permits a golfer to have the optimum
8 putter configuration customized for him or her.
9 Specifically, and referring to Figures 11-16, a putter
10 club head 50 is configured in a manner similar to club
11 heads 10 and 30 of Figures 1 and 2, respectively. Club
12 head 50 has a bottom layer 13 secured to the underside of
13 a rectangular base member 15. Proximal end wall 17 and
14 distal end wall 19 are interconnected by the front face
15 20 to provide the enclosure which is open at its top and
16 at the rear end above the rear wall 21 of the base member
17 15. A central support member 23 has prism 25 secured at
18 its top and aligned in the same manner as described in
19 relation to club heads 10 and 30. A shaft 51 has a
20 horizontally extending cylindrical bar 53 projecting into
21 central support member 23 through a hole 55 in the rear
22 side of the support member. A tapped bore 57 projects
23 radially through central support member 23, terminating
24 at the periphery of hole 55. Bore 57 receives a thumb
25 screw 59 in threaded engagement such

17

1 that the thumb screw can be inserted selectively into
2 bore 57 to lock the rotational position of cylindrical
3 member 53 in hole 55. This arrangement permits the angle
4 of shaft 51 relative to club head 50 to be adjusted and
5 then locked in place. A protractor-like gauge 60 may be
6 employed to measure the shaft angle at which a golfer is
7 most comfortable when the golfer's line of vision is
8 aligned in the vertical alignment plane above the upper
9 edge 27 of prism 25.

10 The central support member 23 subdivides the
11 space between end walls 17 and 19 into two compartments,
12 each of which has a tapped hole 61 extending downwardly
13 into base member 15. Each tapped hole 61 is adapted to
14 receive a screw member 63 on which a plurality of washers
15 65 may be placed. In the embodiment of Figures 11 and
16 12, the washers are locked in place on screw 63 by means
17 of a nut 67. Alternatively, screw 63 may have a head 69
18 of the type which can be actuated by the two-pronged tool
19 70 used by golfers to adjust their spikes. In either
20 case, the weight of the club head can be adjusted by
21 adding or removing washers 65 from screw 63. When a
22 putter weight is achieved which is comfortable to the
23 golfer, this weight can be recorded and utilized in
24 conjunction with the optimum putter for that particular
25 golfer.

1 Another approach to adjustably weighting this
2 putter, which approach can be used either for the custom
3 fabrication template or for actual use in play, involves
4 providing an elongated slot 71 extending through base
5 member 15 from one of the side walls 17. This slot is
6 adapted to receive a weighted plate 73 in slidable
7 engagement. Plates 73 of different weight may be
8 inserted into the slot 71 until the user is comfortable.
9 Since plate 73 is disposed relatively low within the club
10 head profile, it serves to lower the center of gravity of
11 the club head. A lower center of gravity is advantageous
12 for shots made from the fringe of the putting green
13 without requiring that the lower surface of the putter be
14 placed down into the relatively high grass. In
15 addition, plate 73, by extending substantially across the
16 width of the club head, permits a proper follow through
17 to be obtained even with a slight off-center mis-hit of
18 the ball. It will be appreciated that a golfer can
19 insert differently weighted plates 73 into slot 71 to
20 achieve the desired effect for different shots.

21 The representation in Figure 16 illustrates the
22 configuration previously described in relation to Figure
23 2 wherein only the forward portion of the club has the
24 transverse upward taper from the center of the club out

19

1 towards ends 17 and 19. This configuration is useful
2 with either the customizing template or the putter
3 actually used to play in accordance with the present
4 invention.

5 As noted above, the taper 33 is at an angle of
6 approximately $2\text{-}1/2^\circ$ and prevents stubbing of the leading
7 edge of the putter by grass. Such stubbing tends to turn
8 the club during the putting stroke, resulting in an
9 errant put.

10 The plate 73 which may be added to the putter to
11 lower its center of gravity permits the upwardly rising
12 or lofted putter face 20, upon contact with the ball, to
13 strike the ball at the lower part of the head where the
14 center of gravity is disposed. This, in effect, creates
15 an effective "sweet spot" and permits more effective
16 putting action. The plate 73 is preferably made of lead
17 or tungsten steel.

18 From the foregoing description it will be
19 appreciated that an improved golf putter has been
20 provided wherein a "go-no go" alignment prism permits
21 more efficient alignment of the golfer's line of sight
22 than has heretofor been possible. In addition, the

1 Teflon or other low friction coating on the bottom of the
2 putter minimizes frictional engagement between the bottom
3 surface of the putter and grass during a putting stroke.
4 Still further, the taper at the bottom of the putter
5 eliminates the possibility that an unevenly cut segment of
6 grass will impede the putting stroke and cause an errant
7 putt. Additional features of the invention include the
8 utilization of a weighted plate 73 to lower the center of
9 gravity of the putter and a coating of aluminum oxide or
10 other similar coating to provide for friction on the
11 putting face and to facilitate adherence of the low
12 friction coating to the underside of the putter.

13 Having described several embodiments of the new
14 and improved golf putter constructed in accordance with
15 the present invention, it is believed that other
16 modifications, variations and changes will be suggested
17 to those skilled in the art in view of the above
18 description. It is therefore to be understood that all
19 such variations, modifications and changes are believed
20 to fall within the scope of the invention as defined in
21 the appended claims.

1 I CLAIM: 21

2 Claim 1. A golf putter including a club head
3 comprising:

4 a top surface;

5 a bottom surface;

6 proximal and distal ends;

7 a forward-facing putting face extending
8 lengthwise between said proximal and distal ends and
9 extending depthwise between said top and bottom surfaces;
10 wherein said putting face and said bottom
11 surface intersect in a lengthwise-extending forward
12 bottom edge of the club head;

13 wherein said forward bottom edge includes a
14 substantially straight intermediate segment spaced from
15 both of said distal and proximal ends, and first and
16 second straight end segments extending from opposite ends
17 of said intermediate segment to said proximal and distal
18 ends, respectively, said first and second end segments
19 being mutually divergent depth-wise of said putting face
20 in a direction toward said top surface; and

21 wherein said bottom surface includes: a flat
22 planar base portion extending lengthwise between said
23 proximal and distal ends and extending widthwise to

1 include said intermediate segment, said base portion
2 having a length which is greater than said intermediate
3 segment; a first recessed portion bounded by said first
4 end segment, said proximal end and said base portion;
5 and a second recessed portion bounded by said second end
6 segment, said distal end and said base portion.

7 Claim 2. The golf putter according to claim 1
8 wherein said first and second recessed portions are
9 respective flat planar areas of said bottom surface which
10 intersect said base portion.

11 Claim 3. The golf putter according to claim 2
12 wherein said flat planar recessed portion areas are of
13 substantially identical configuration and intersect said
14 base portion at substantially identical angles.

15 Claim 4. The golf putter according to claim 3
16 wherein said angles are 2.5° degrees.

17 Claim 5. The golf putter according to claim 1
18 wherein said base portion of said bottom surface includes
19 all of said bottom surface with the exception of said
20 first and second recessed portions.

1 Claim 6. The golf putter according to claim 1
2 further comprising a club shaft secured to said club head
3 at a location which is centered between said proximal and
4 distal ends.

5 Claim 7. The golf putter according to claim 6
6 further comprising sighting means disposed on said top
7 surface of said club head and centered longitudinally of
8 said intermediate segment for facilitating alignment of a
9 player's line of sight with a position centered
10 lengthwise of said intermediate segment.

11 Claim 8. The golf putter according to claim 7
12 wherein said intermediate segment is substantially
13 centered between said proximal and distal ends, and
14 wherein said first and second end segments have
15 substantially equal lengths.

16 Claim 9. The golf putter according to claim 8
17 further comprising weighting means for lowering the
18 center of gravity of said club head, said weighting means
19 comprising a plate of relatively heavy material disposed
20 within said club head.

1 Claim 10. The golf putter according to claim 1
2 further comprising sighting means disposed on said top
3 surface of said club head, centered longitudinally of
4 said intermediate segment, for facilitating alignment of
5 a player's line of sight with the position centered
6 lengthwise of said intermediate segment.

7 Claim 11. The golf putter according to claim 1
8 further comprising means for lowering the center of
9 gravity of said club head and including a plate of
10 relatively heavy material disposed within said club
11 head.

12 Claim 12. A golf putter comprising a club head
13 having a bottom surface intersecting a forward-facing
14 putting face to define a bottom edge, said club head
15 having length dimension defined between a proximal end
16 and a distal end, said bottom surface having a lowermost
17 flat portion with different lengths along said bottom
18 surface, the shortest of said lengths being disposed at a
19 straight intermediate segment of said bottom edge,
20 wherein said bottom edge includes first and second
21 straight end segments which are coplanar with and flank
22 said intermediate segment, said end segments each sloping

1 upward and away from said intermediate segment in
2 respective opposite lengthwise directions along said club
3 head.

4 Claim 13. The golf putter according to claim 12
5 wherein said putter face includes an optimal
6 ball-striking location which is centered with respect to
7 said intermediate segment.

8 Claim 14. The golf putter according to claim 12
9 wherein said bottom surface includes first and second
10 flat planar recessed portions, said first recessed
11 portion being bounded by said first end segment, said
12 proximal end segment and said base portion, wherein said
13 second recessed portion is bounded by said by said
14 second end segment, said distal end and said base
15 portion.

16 Claim 15. The golf putter according to claim 12
17 further comprising a club shaft secured to said club head
18 at a location which is centered between said proximal and
19 distal ends.

20 Claim 16. The golf putter according to claim 12
21 further comprising sighting means disposed on said top

26

1 surface of said club head and centered longitudinally of
2 said intermediate segment for facilitating alignment of a
3 player's line of sight in a position centered lengthwise
4 of said intermediate segment.

5 Claim 17. The golf putter according to claim 12
6 further comprising weighting means for lowering the
7 center of gravity of said club head, said weighting means
8 comprising a plate of relatively heavy material disposed
9 within said club head.

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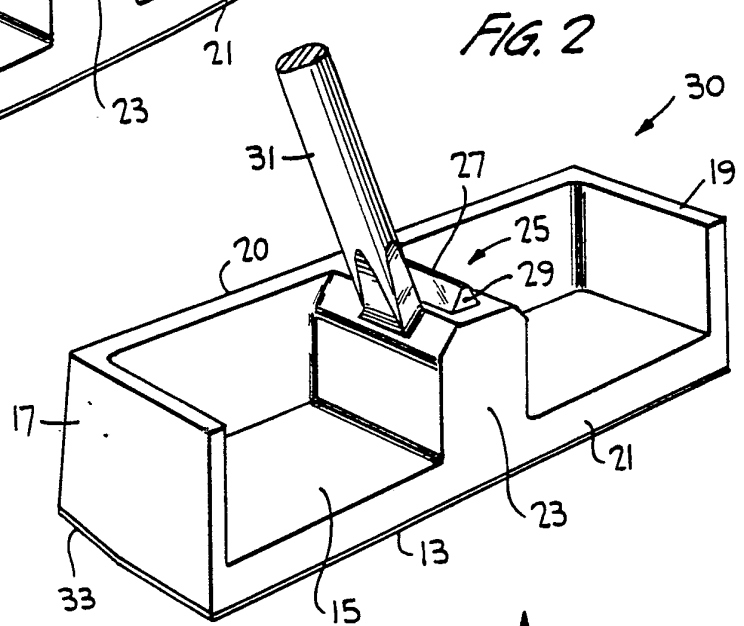
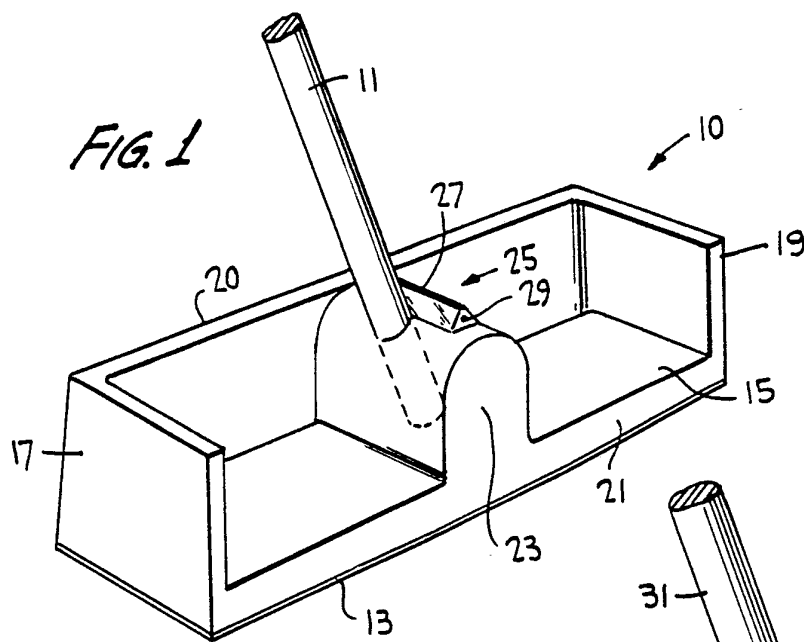


FIG. 4

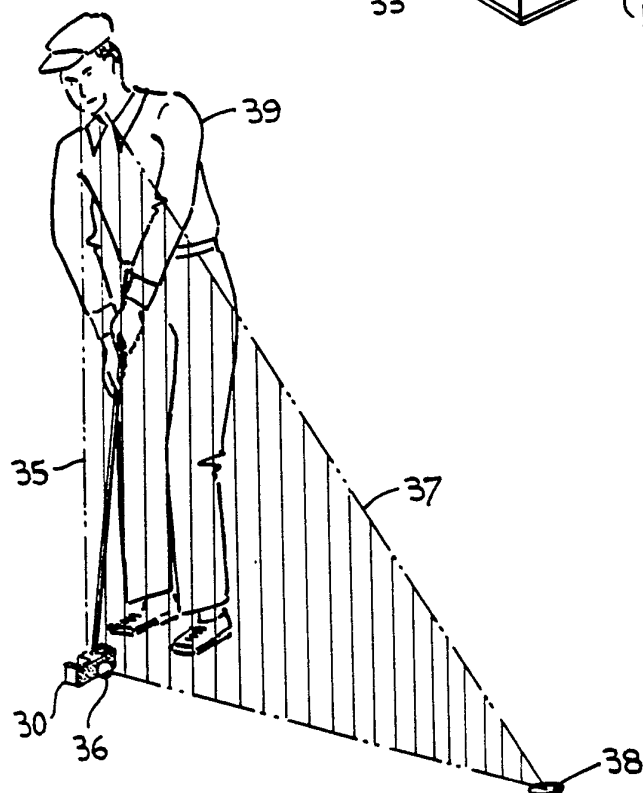
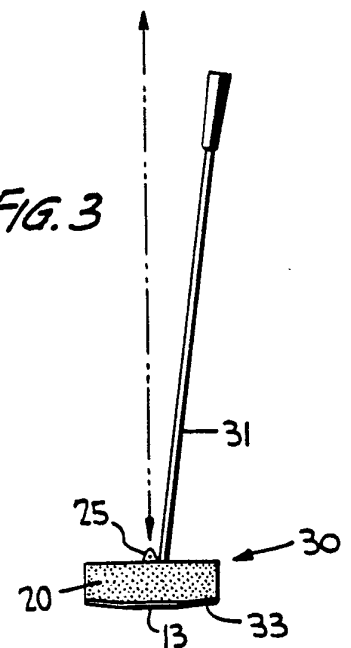
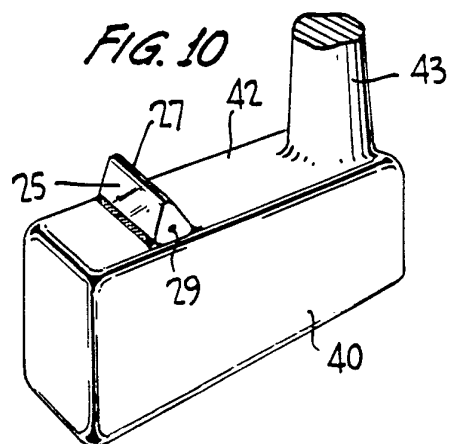
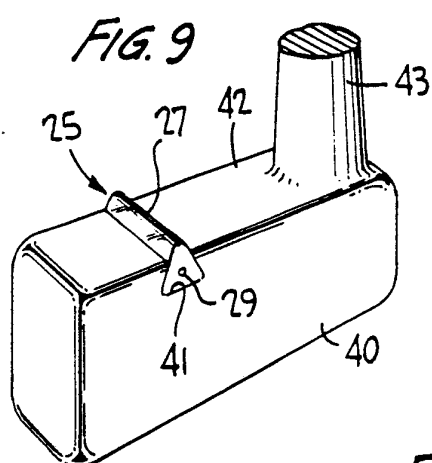
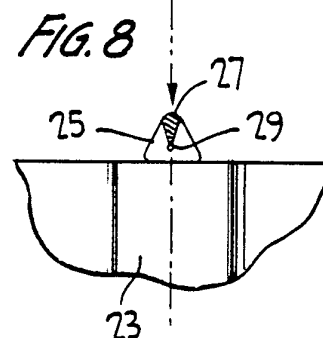
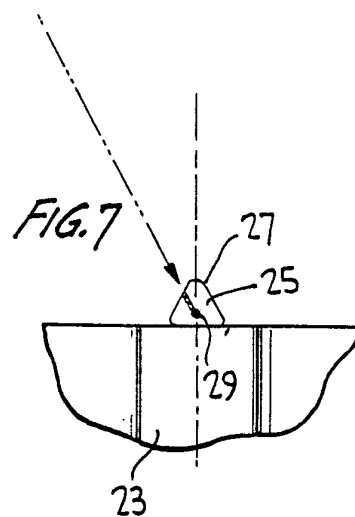
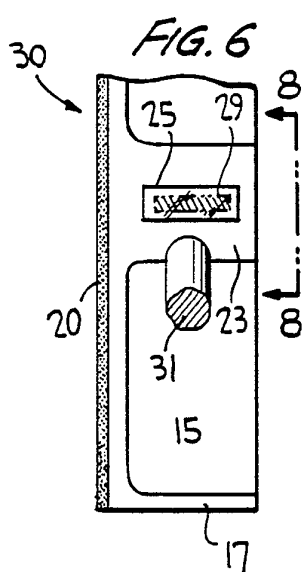
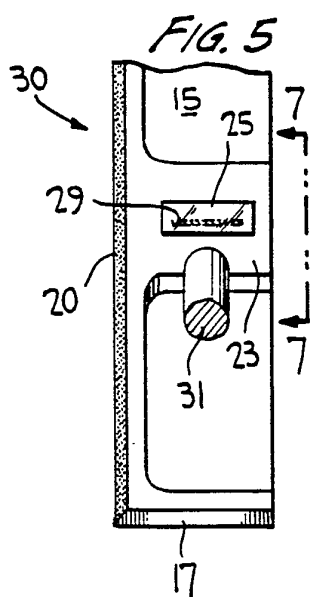
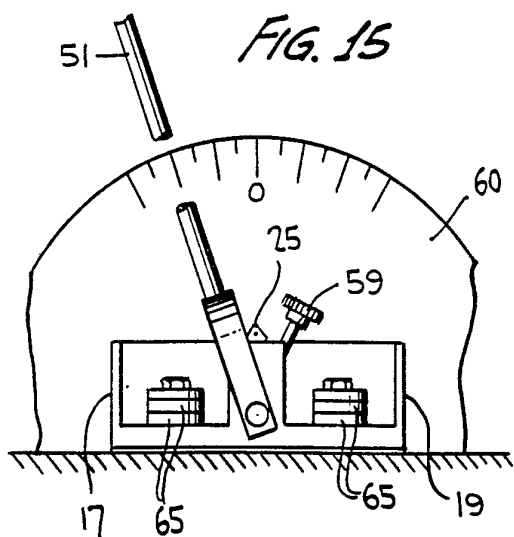
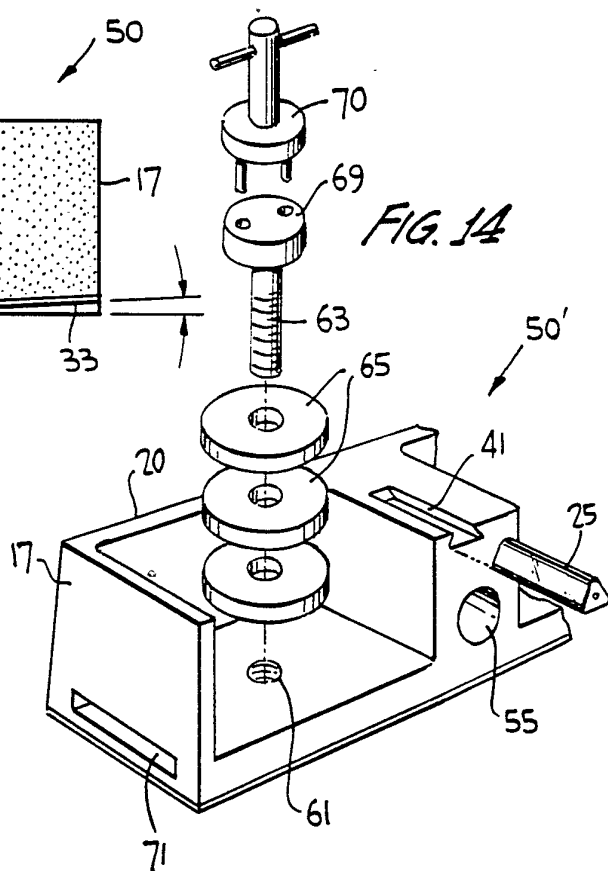
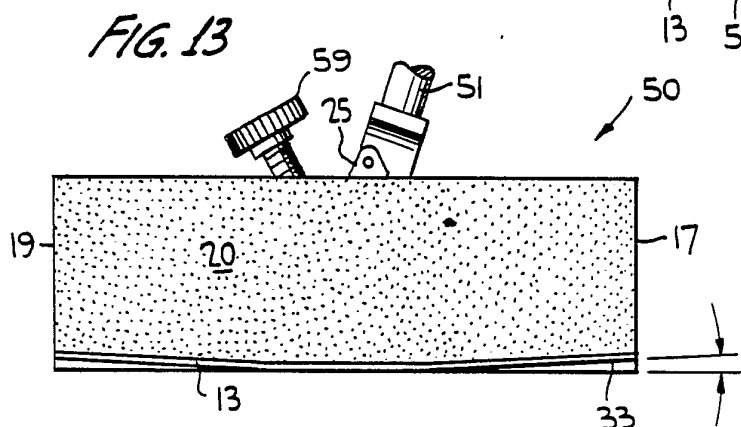
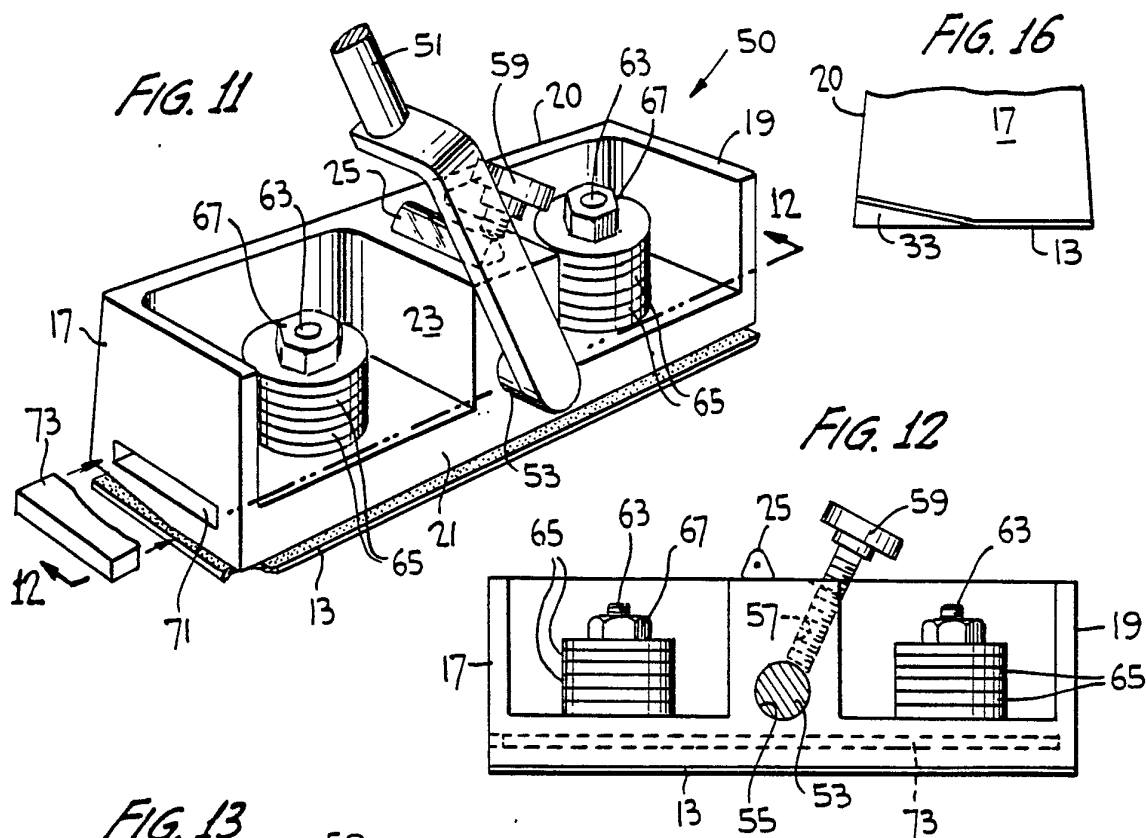


FIG. 3





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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US85/00974

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ³		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC A63B 69/36 A63B 15/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁴		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
USA	273-163R, 164, 167A, 169, 172, 173, 174, 183E D21-217, 218, 219	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁵		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ¹⁴		
Category *	Citation of Document, ¹⁶ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹⁷	Relevant to Claim No. ¹⁸
A	US, A, 2,155,830 25 April 1939 HOWARD	
A	US, A, 2,929,631 22 March 1960 GILLON	
A	US, A, 3,143,349 4 August 1964 MACINTYRE	
A	US, A, 3,199,873 10 August 1965 SURRATT	
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A	US, A, 4,231,576 4 November 1980 PERKINS	
A	US, A, 4,340,229 20 July 1982 STUFF	
A	US, A, 4,519,612 28 May 1985 TSAO	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>¹⁵ * Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ¹	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report ²	
3 July 1985	31 JUL 1985	
International Searching Authority ¹	Signature of Authorized Officer ²⁰	
ISA/US	G. Marlo <i>George J Marlo</i>	