United States Patent

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[54] **GOLF BALL RETRIEVER**
7 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **294/19**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 57/00, 57/00,** A63b 47/02
[50] **Field of Search** 294/19, 19.1

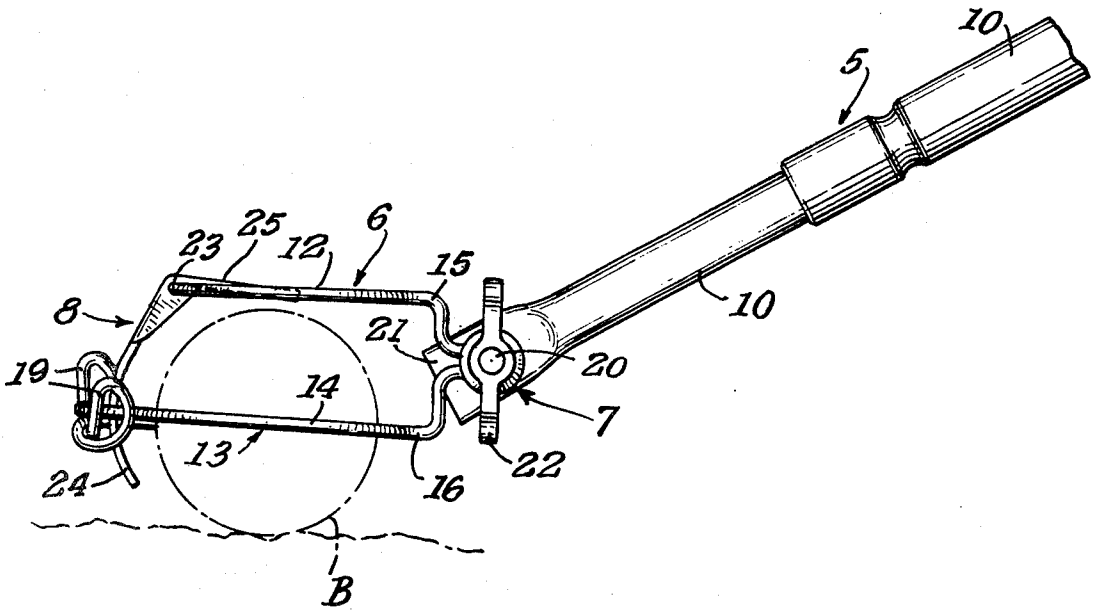
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ABSTRACT: A length-adjustable handle, at one end pivotally and adjustably mounts a spring wire ball-engaging member, a portion thereof pivotally carrying a trigger that is set and held in cocked position by another portion of said member so the latter portion is retained in spread, ball-receiving position, the cocked trigger, when encountering a ball in the latter position, being pivotally released by withdrawing the detent portion of the trigger from between said spread portion of the wire member, allowing the latter to close around the ball to retain the same captive during retrieving thereof.



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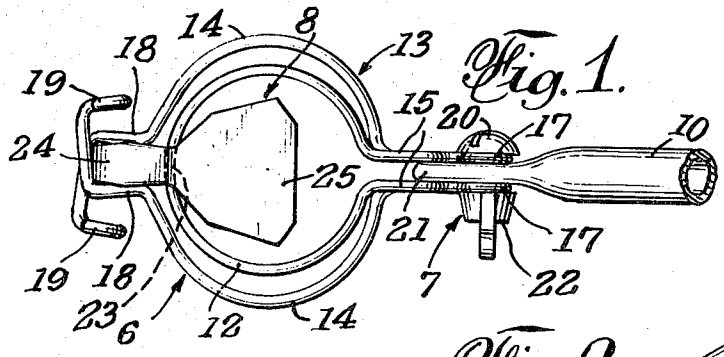


Fig. 1.

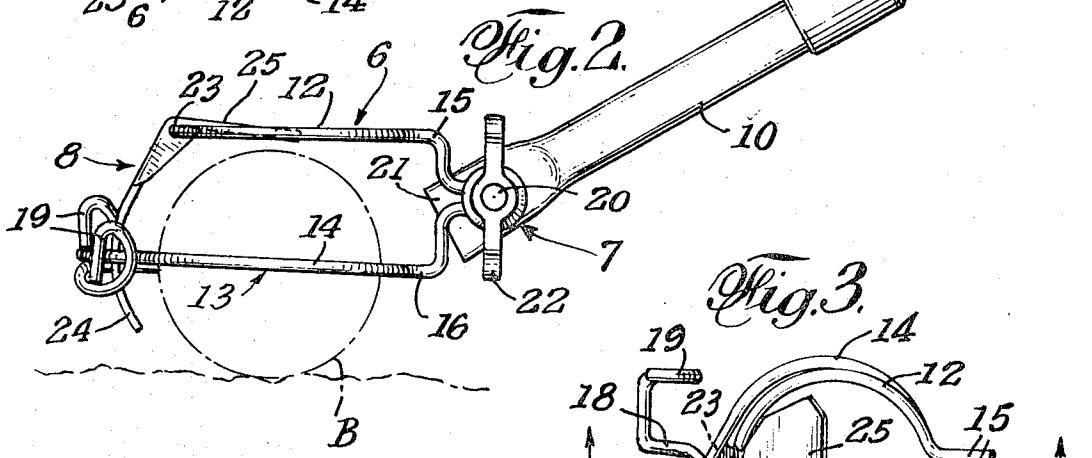


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

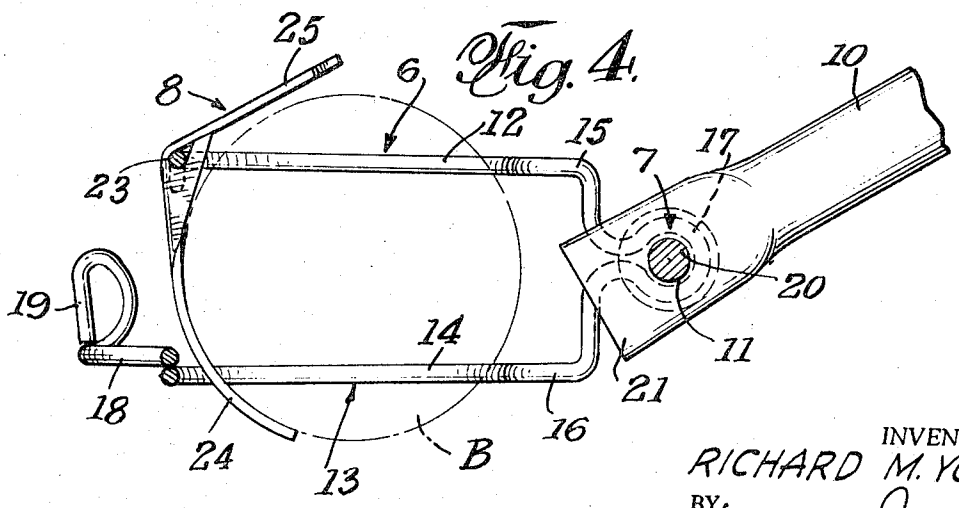


Fig. 4.

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GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present retriever, while useful for retrieving objects of various shapes and sizes and under a variety of conditions, is especially adapted for retrieving golf balls from water hazards on golf courses if within the range of use of the present retriever.

An object of the present invention is to provide a golf ball retriever of the character referred to that, when not in use, has a contracted, elongated form that may be conveniently stored in a golf bag and, when required for retrieving a golf ball from a pond or other area of water, may be quickly and easily extended to the desired length, the ball-engaging means thereof as easily set to a convenient angle of use, and the latter cocked to ball-receiving position—all in a time-saving and expeditious manner.

This invention also has for its objects to provide such means that are positive in operation, convenient in use, easily installed in a working position and easily disconnected therefrom, economical of manufacture, relatively simple, and of general superiority and serviceability.

The invention also comprises novel details of construction and novel combinations and arrangements of parts, which will more fully appear in the course of the following description, which is based on the accompanying drawing. However, said drawing merely shows, and the following description merely describes, one embodiment of the present invention, which is given by way of illustration or example only.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present ball retriever comprises, generally, a handle **5**, retriever means **6** pivotally connected at **7**, and a trigger **8** mounted on said means **6** to cock said means to a position receptive of a golf ball B submerged in water or otherwise difficult of access, when actuated by encounter with the ball, releasing said means **6** to so close around the ball as to retain the same captive for easy removal from its submerged or other place difficult to reach.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing, like reference characters designate similar parts in the several views.

FIG. **1** is a top plan view, in cocked position, of a ball retriever according to the invention, the handle thereof being broken away.

FIG. **2** is a side view of the retriever, as in FIG. **1**, an extending portion of the handle being shown.

FIG. **3** is a top plan view, with the handle omitted, showing the retriever in released ball-retaining position.

FIG. **4** is an enlarged cross-sectional view as taken on the plane of line **4–4** of FIG. **3**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The handle **5** preferably comprises a plurality of telescopically connected sections **10** which, in practice, may be contracted to a length of some 20 inches and, when extended, may have a length of several feet, depending on the number of sections **10**. The sections **10** comprising the handle may, at one end, be provided with a hole **11** for the pivotal connection **7**. Of course, the handle **5** need not be telescopically retractable; it may be foldable or of one-piece construction.

The retriever means **6** is shown as a single length of spring wire that is formed to have an upper circular portion **12** smaller than the diameter of a golf ball or other such object, a lower portion **13** parallel to the portion **12** and formed of semicircular halves **14**, two generally parallel extensions **15** and **16** from each of said portions **12** and **13**, and an eye **17** connecting each extension **15** with an extension **16**, a detent **18** extending from each semicircular half **14** of the lower wire portion **13**, on the side of said portion opposite to the extensions **16**, and detent-setting ears **19** on said detents in crossed-over relation so that opposed finger pressure on said ears will spread the detent extensions from their crossed-over position of FIG. **3** to the trigger-cocking position of FIG. **1**.

The pivotal connection **7** is shown as a screw **20** that passes through the hole **11** in the end handle section and through the eyes **17** on either side of a flattened end **21** of the end handle section **10**, and a wing nut **22** on said screw **20** to tighten the connection at whatever angular position to which the retriever means **6** is adjusted relative to the handle **5**.

The trigger **8** is shown as a sheet metal liner that has a pivotal connection **23** on the circular portion **12** of the means **6** in centered relation to the detents **18** and on the side of said portion that is closest to said detents. Said lever comprises a concavely curved arm **24** that, generally, depends from said pivotal connection, and an arm **25** at an angle to arm **24** and directed toward the pivot **7**. The trigger is so balanced that the arm **25** seeks a lowered position, as in FIG. **2**. The arm **24** is in the form of a narrow, inwardly curved member that is adapted to be caught between the detents **18**, as in FIG. **1**, and frictionally retained therebetween under spring bias of the halves **14** of the lower portion **13** of the means **6**. The arm **25** extends across the portion **12** and, when the trigger is cocked as in FIG. **2**, is in the path of the crown of the ball B as the retriever is applied thereover. Said crown will engage and lift said arm **25** from the position of FIG. **2**, causing the arm **24** to be withdrawn from between the detents **18**, at which time the spring bias of the spread halves **14** will cause them to contract around the lower portion of the ball, as in FIG. **4**, holding the same captive in the means **6**. Upon restoration of the trigger to cocked position, the ball is released for removal thereof. It will be noted that as said spread halves **14** close around the ball, the ends thereof provided with the detents **18** resiliently press the curved arm **24** against the lower portion of the ball, as in FIG. **4**. This arm, when the retrieved ball is withdrawn, becomes recocked, readying the device for subsequent use. In any case, the arm **24** may be manually moved to cocked position.

While the foregoing has illustrated and described what is now contemplated to be the best mode of carrying out the invention, the construction is, of course, subject to modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, it is not desired to restrict the invention to the particular form of construction illustrated and described, but to cover all modifications that may fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A ball retriever comprising:
   a. a spring wire member formed to have an upper circular portion smaller than the diameter of a ball to be retrieved, a portion spaced below and parallel to the upper portion and comprising semicircular halves, and connecting extensions from said upper and lower portions; and
   b. a trigger member pivotally mounted on the upper portion on the side thereof opposite to said connecting extensions and comprising an arm extending over the space within the upper portion and an arm directed at a downward angle from the first arm; and
   c. each said semicircular half, on the end thereof opposite to said connecting extensions, being provided with a detent extension, said extensions, under bias of said spring halves, frictionally gripping the downwardly angled arm to cock the trigger member and to spread the mentioned halves so the same surround an inner space larger than and receptive of a ball to be retrieved, said first arm, when encountered by the ball during reception by the spring wire member, being moved thereby in a direction to withdraw the downwardly angled arm from between the detents, freeing the spread halves to contract around the ball and retain the same captive.

2. A ball retriever according to claim 1 provided with an elongated handle, a pivot connecting an end of the handle with the connecting extensions of the spring wire member, enabling pivotal adjustment of the handle and member, and

means to tighten said pivot to retain the angular adjustment between the handle and the wire member.

3. A ball retriever according to claim 2 in which the mentioned connecting extensions are formed to have parallel eyes adapted to engage opposite sides of the handle end and through which said pivot extends.

4. A ball retriever according to claim 3 in which the spring wire member is formed of a single length of wire in which the detent extensions comprise the opposite ends.

5. A ball retriever according to claim 1 in which each detent extension is provided with an end extending at an angle thereto, said ends being oppositely directed, and an ear on each said end serving as means, when pressed toward each other, to spread the detent extension for receiving the mentioned downwardly angled arm of the trigger between them.

6. A ball retriever according to claim 5 in which the last-mentioned arm of the trigger extends downwardly within the detent-provided end of the semicircular halves, said arm, when the halves contract around the ball, being pressed by said halves into ball-engaging position.

7. A ball retriever according to claim 6, the ball-engaging portion of said arm being curved to fit over the surface of the lower portion of the ball in captive position.