Nov. 10, 1964 E. C. WESTHOFF 3,156,000

BALL CLEANER ATTACHMENT FOR GOLF CART

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Fig. 1.

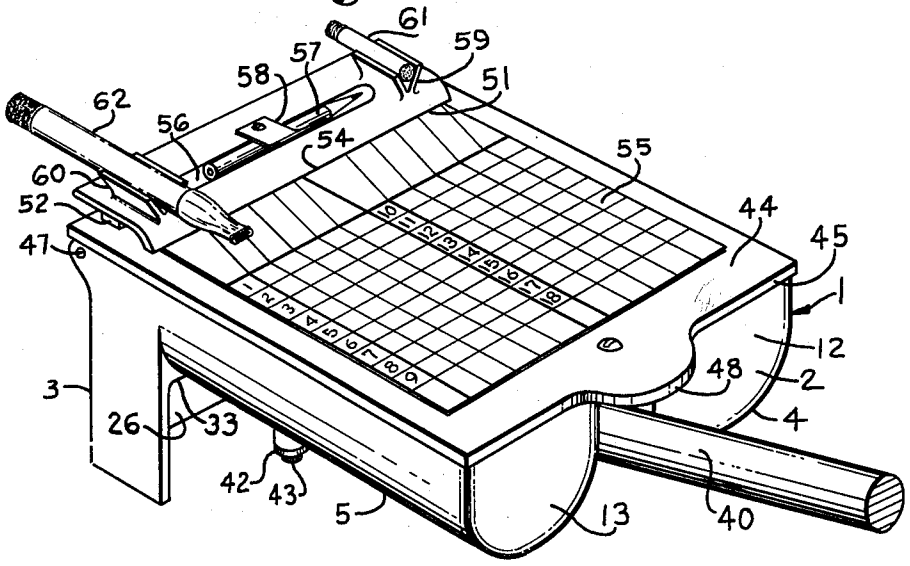
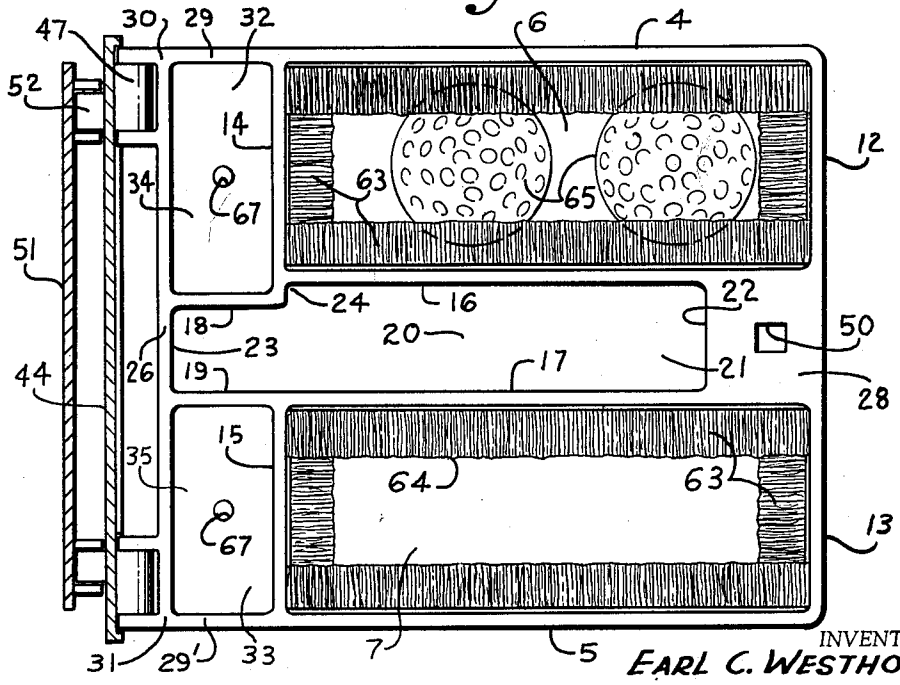


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

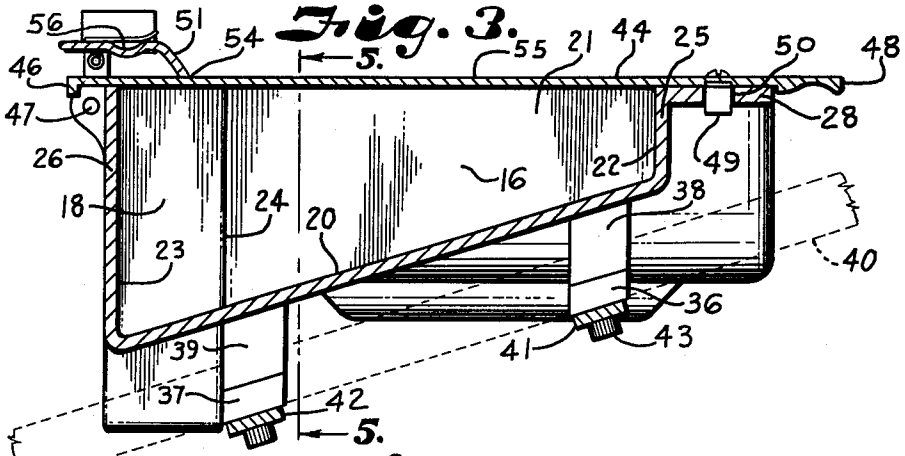


Fig. 4.

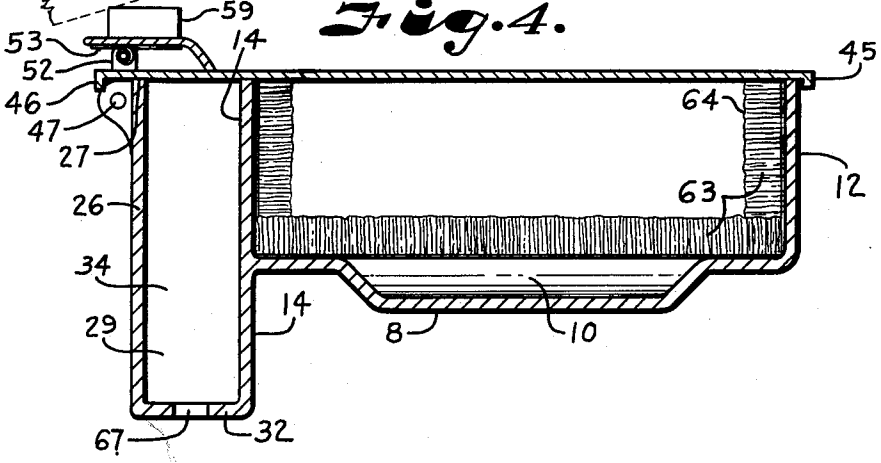
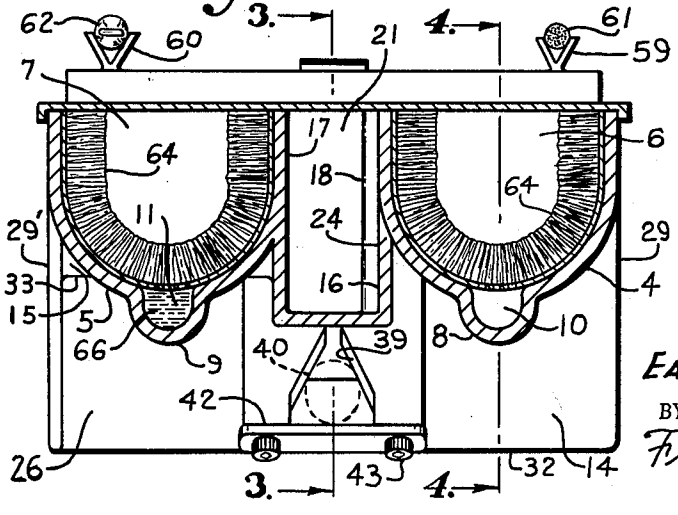


Fig. 5.



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BALL CLEANER ATTACHMENT FOR GOLF CART

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Filed Oct. 29, 1962, Ser. No. 233,673
4 Claims. (Cl. 15—513)

This invention relates generally to golf ball cleaning devices, and more particularly to devices of this character for attaching to a sloping golf cart handle.

Golf ball cleaning devices are commonly placed in strategic locations on golf courses, however, during winter months or with muddy fairways such devices are often inadequate in number and location or not properly serviced so as to be available or function when needed. Also, such devices usually cannot selectively clean a spot on a golf ball but tend to abrade the ball even where clean, dulling the finish.

The principal objects of the present invention are: to provide a golf ball cleaning device which is constantly available to the golfer; to provide such a device for attaching to the handle of a golf cart which is adapted to efficiently clean golf balls and selectively clean spots thereon if desired; to provide such apparatus which includes a lid; to provide such a device having a molded integral body for ease of production while imparting high strength and light weight thereto; to provide such a device having semi-cylindrical chambers lined with a deep pile of water-retentive material for receiving golf balls therein for celaning, drying or storing; to provide such an apparatus which when secured to a normally sloping golf cart handle presents ball cleaning chambers and a lid in a horizontal position for convenience, however, will not spill liquid from the cleaning chambers if tilted; and to provide such a device which is simple in construction and well suited for its intended purpose.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein are set forth by way of illustration and example certain embodiments of this invention.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the golf ball cleaning device shown assembled with a portion of a sloping golf cart handle.

FIG. 2 is a top view of the device with the lid raised and shown partially in section.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view through the device taken on the line 3—3, FIG. 5, particularly showing the golf cart handle clamps depending from an intermediate bottom wall.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view through the device taken on the line 4—4, FIG. 5, particularly showing a ball cleaning chamber with a deep pile water-retentive material therein.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view through the device taken on the line 5—5, FIG. 3, particularly showing the semi-cylindrical form of the ball cleaning chambers.

Referring to the drawings in more detail:

The reference numeral 1 generally indicates an integral rigid body molded of a suitable lightweight rugged material such as die-cast aluminum or a plastic resin and having a forward portion 2 and a rear portion 3. The body 1 includes a pair of curved walls 4 and 5 forming a pair of laterally spaced parallel horizontally extending elongated upwardly open substantially cylindrical chambers 6 and 7 respectively. Lower depending bulging portions 8 and 9 respectively extend longitudinally of the chambers 6 and 7 and form reservoirs 10 and 11 respectively opening upwardly into the chambers 6 and 7.

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Spaced chamber front end walls 12 and 13 and spaced chamber rear end walls 14 and 15 extend across the respective chambers 6 and 7 forming enclosures therefor. The chamber rear end walls 14 and 15 depend below the chambers 6 and 7 as best illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5. Spaced parallel inner side walls 16 and 17 depend respectively from and between the curved walls 4 and 5 and extend longitudinally of and rearwardly past the chambers 6 and 7 at 18 and 19. A downwardly and rearwardly sloping central bottom wall 20 extends between said inner side walls 16 and 17 forming therewith an increasing depth upwardly open channel 21 bers 6 and 7. The channel 21 has a forward end 22 extending both between and rearwardly of the chambers 6 and 7. The channel 21 has a forward end 22 located rearwardly of the chamber front end walls 12 and 13 and a rear end 23 located rearwardly of the chamber rear end walls 14 and 15.

The inner side wall 16 has a jog at 24 toward the inner side wall 18 adjacent the chamber rear end wall 14 for a purpose later described. A channel forward end wall 25 extends across the channel 21 and closes the channel forward end 22. A body rear end wall 26 has an upper edge portion 27 and is spaced rearwardly of the chamber rear end walls 14 and 15 and extends across and closes the channel rear end 23. A horizontal wall 28 extends between the chambers 6 and 7 adjacent the chamber front end walls 12 and 13.

A pair of outer parallel depending side walls 29 and 29′ join and extend rearwardly of the chamber rear end walls 14 and 15 and join the body rear end wall 26 at positions 30 and 31 spaced laterally outwardly of the channel rear end 23. A pair of outer bottom walls 32 and 33 of different elevation join the outer side walls 29 and 29′ and chamber rear end walls 14 and 15 and the body rear end wall 26 forming therewith a pair of upwardly open receptacles designated 34 and 35 of different depth respectively located directly rearwardly of the chambers 6 and 7, the chamber 34 being of greater depth for reasons discussed hereinafter.

A pair of clamping members 36 and 37 have downwardly open notches 38 and 39 respectively for receiving a golf cart handle 40 thereinto. The clamping members 36 and 37 are spaced longitudinally of the channel 21 and depend substantially equal lengths from the central bottom wall 20. The clamping members 36 and 37 have clamping bars 41 and 42 respectively associated therewith and removably secured thereto with suitable screws 43 threadedly engaged in the members 36 and 37 for covering the respective notches 38 and 39 to easily and quickly clamp the body 1 on the golf cart handle 40. It is noted that the golf cart handle 40 slopes diagonally upwardly as best shown in FIG. 3 when the golf cart (not shown) is placed in an upright position to present golf clubs (not shown) for selection. Due to the difference in elevation of the clamping members 36 and 37, however, when the golf cart handle 40 is in this sloping position the chambers 6 and 7 are maintained sub-

stantially horizontal or level for ease in cleaning golf balls as described more fully hereinafter.

A normally horizontally extending planar rigid lid **44**, which may be of the same or other suitable material as the body **1**, has a front edge **45** and a rear edge **46**. The lid **44** is hingedly secured by suitable hinges **47** adjacent the rear edge **46** to the body rear end wall **26** at the upper edge portion **27** thereof. The lid **44** is adapted to selectively cover and hinge upwardly to provide access to the chambers **6** and **7**, the receptacles **34** and **35** and the channel **21**. The lid **44** has a forwardly extending finger grasping portion **48** for ease in hinging same upwardly with respect to the body **1** and a suitable latch **49** is secured adjacent the grasping portion **48** and adapted to engage into an opening **50** extending through the horizontal wall **28** for selectively latching the lid **44** closed when desired.

The lid **44** has a clip **51** pivotally secured thereto at **52** and urged by springs **53** into a resilient closure against the lid **44** at **54**. The clip **51** extends laterally of the lid **44** near the lid rear edge **46** and resiliently clamps the upper edge of a golf score card **55** for retaining the golf card in writing position on the lid **44**. It is to be understood that the clip **51** will release the score card **55** by pressing downwardly adjacent the rear edge thereof causing an opening between the clip and lid at **54**.

The clip **51** has a groove **56** extending therealong transversely of the lid **44** which is adapted to receive a short pencil **57** thereinto for maintaining same in a convenient position for grasping and marking the score card **55**. A retaining member **58** is secured to the clip **51** and extends over the groove **56** for resiliently retaining the pencil **57** in the groove and prevent accidental loss during normal movement of the golf cart (not shown). The clip **51** has suitable upwardly extending Y-shaped members **59** and **60** thereon for temporarily retaining a burning cigarette **61** or cigar **62** during a golf shot. It is noted that the member **60** is larger than the member **59** for extra convenience in holding the greater diameter cigar.

Referring particularly to FIGS. 2, 4 and 5, an interior lining **63** of deep pile capillary wicking water-retentive material such as a fleece-like synthetic shearling such as sold under the trademark "Dynel" is suitably secured to the curved walls **4** and **5** and chamber end walls **12**, **13**, **14** and **15** for covering the interior of the chambers **6** and **7**. The exposed surface **64** of the water-retentive lining **63** presents an internal diametrical dimension within the chambers **6** and **7** which is substantially smaller than the outside diameter of golf balls **65** which may be inserted into the respective chambers. The retentive lining **63** is resiliently deformed by golf balls **65** and thus rubs on the surface thereof when the ball is longitudinally reciprocated in the respective chambers.

In use, water and detergent or other suitable liquid cleaner **66** may be introduced into at least one of the chambers, in the illustrated example, chamber **7**, which liquid cleaner settles through the retentive lining **63** and is at least partially stored within the reservoir **11**. The motion of the body **1** during movement with the golf cart between golf shots agitates the liquid cleaner **66** so that it is constantly moved into contact with the under surface of the lining **63** from which it is wicked up from the reservoir into the retentive lining, presenting a brush or sponge-like cleaning surface which is wetted for efficient cleaning. The retentive lining prevents the liquid from running or splashing out of the chambers unless a liquid quantity greatly in excess of that required for efficient cleaning is introduced thereinto. A golf ball **65** may then be rotated and reciprocated longitudinally within the chamber **7** and the rubbing or friction of the lining **63** will cause the surface of the golf ball to be cleaned. If only spot cleaning is desired, the ball need not be rotated but only reciprocated with the spot exposed to the lining. In the preferred use of the device, the golf ball is then transferred to the other chamber **6** which is dry in that it does not have liquid cleaner therein and the ball is similarly reciprocated and rotated which will cause the surface of the ball to be dried for proper golf use. It is further noted that if desired one or more golf balls may be stored within the dry chamber for use during the game, for example, when an extra fine ball is needed for putting. It is to be understood that both chambers may be loaded with liquid cleaner if desired and the ball then dried on a towel or the like. Thus, a convenient golf ball cleaner is provided which eliminates dependence on stationary golf ball washers which may be inoperative or not properly located for use when needed.

The receptacle **34**, due to the jog **24**, is larger in width and as noted above greater in depth than the receptacle **35** to permit the insertion thereinto of a standard or "king" sized pack of cigarettes (not shown) for retention in a convenient place during the golf game. If desired, tees (not shown) may be retained in the receptacle **35** which is relatively shallow to aid in grasping those on the bottom. It is noted that suitable openings **67** extend through the bottom walls **32** and **33** of the receptacles **34** and **35** for draining liquids therefrom which may accidentally be dropped therein. Additional convenient storage space is provided by the channel **21** for such personal items as change, car keys, wrist watches, cigarette lighters and other items (not shown) which the average golfer does not want to carry on his person during a golf match. The score card **55** may be stored beneath the closed lid **44** in case of inclement weather.

It is to be understood that while one form of this invention has been illustrated and described, it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown except insofar as such limitations are included in the claims.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A golf ball cleaning device for attaching to a golf cart handle comprising:
   - (*a*) a body having an elongated rigid wall substantially semi-cylindrical in shape, the ends of which are closed to form a chamber,
   - (*b*) a clamping member with a golf cart handle receiving portion therein, said clamping member being fixed with respect to said body and having means associated therewith for clamping said body on the golf cart handle, means forming a reservoir opening into said chamber, and
   - (*c*) an interior lining of capillary deep pile liquid cleaner-retentive material on said wall in said chamber and dividing said chamber from said reservoir, said pile presenting an interior surface with a diametrical dimension smaller than the outside diameter of a golf ball,
   - (*d*) whereby a liquid cleaner may be introduced into said reservoir and wicked up in said absorbent material and a golf ball may be rotated and reciprocated longitudinally within said chamber for cleaning same.

2. The device as set forth in claim 1 including:
   - (*a*) a planar rigid lid having a front edge and a rear edge, said lid being hingedly secured adjacent said lid rear edge to said body and adapted to selectively cover and provide access to said chamber.

3. The device of claim 1 including:
   - (*a*) a planar rigid lid hingedly secured to said body and adapted to selectively cover and provide access to said chamber, and
   - (*b*) latch means on said lid and adapted to engage said body for selectively maintaining said lid in closed position.

4. A golf ball cleaning device for attaching to a golf cart handle comprising:
   - (*a*) a body having an elongated rigid wall substantially semi-cylindrical in shape, the ends of which are closed to form a chamber,

(*b*) a clamping member with a golf cart handle receiving portion therein, said clamping member being fixed with respect to said body and having means associated therewith for clamping said body on the golf cart handle,

(*c*) an interior lining of deep pile liquid cleaner-retentive material on said wall in said chamber, said pile presenting an interior surface with a diametrical dimension smaller than the outside diameter of a golf ball, and

(*d*) a lower depending bulging portion on said wall and extending longitudinally of said chamber, said bulging portion forming a reservoir opening upwardly into said chamber for receiving a liquid cleaner.

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