

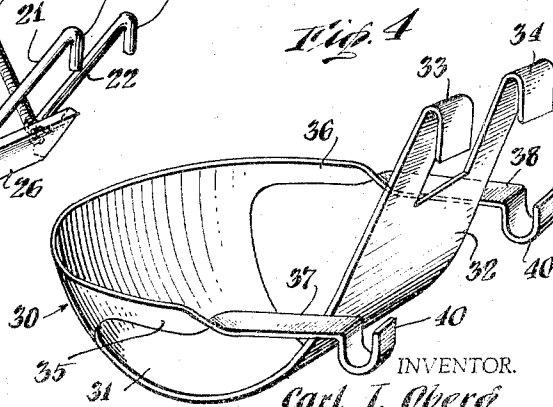
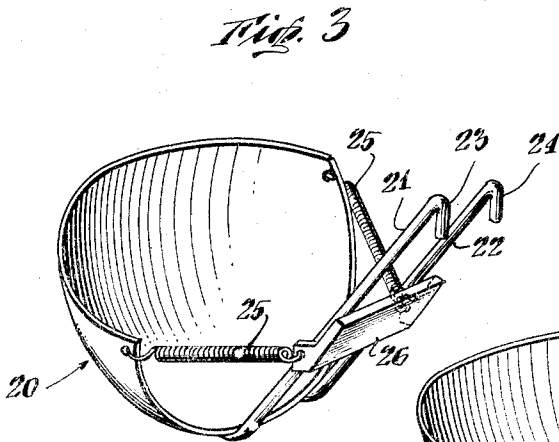
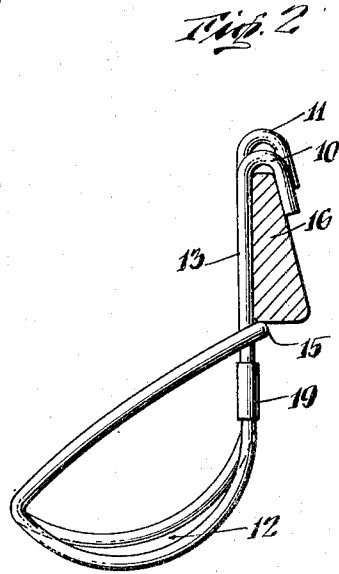
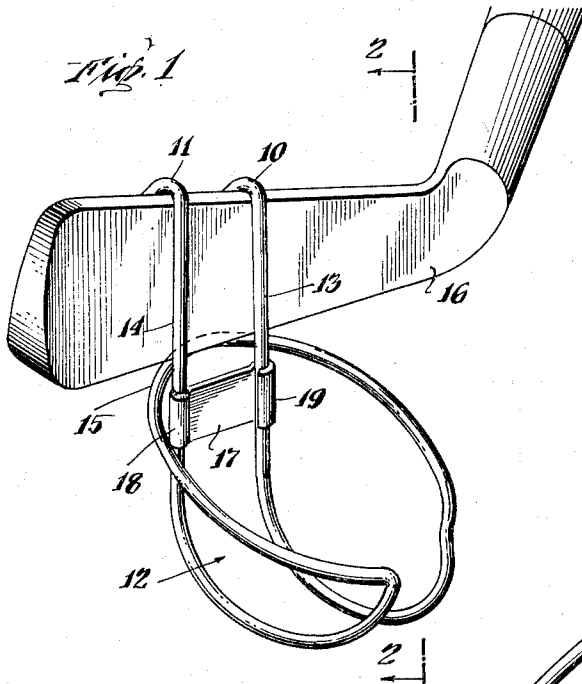
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GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

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GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 294—19)

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This invention relates to sporting goods, and in particular to a device to facilitate the recovery of golf balls or the like from ponds, ditches, or otherwise inaccessible places.

It is a particular object of the invention to provide a simple, inexpensive golf club accessory by means of which the golf club itself may be used to retrieve the ball.

It is another object of the invention to provide an accessory which fits removably upon the head of the club and which provides a receptacle within which to pick up a golf ball.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a golf club accessory as aforesaid which will not damage the head of the club, and which may be readily attached to and removed from the club.

It is another object of the invention to provide a retriever for golf balls which may be firmly and securely mounted on the club without the use of permanent fastenings or permanent attachment to the club.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a device for retrieving golf balls, said device being readily attachable to the head of a golf club and self conforming to the curvature or angular shape of the club head.

In a presently preferred form, the invention comprises a cup-like pocket formed of a single piece of preferably hard-drawn wire. The extremities of the piece form two hook portions which may fit over the upper edge of a golf club head, particularly a golfing iron. An interrupted peripheral rim of the cup portion extends behind the hook members to provide a spring shoulder or support opposing the hooks, and against which the lower edge of the club head rests. The head is firmly gripped between the hooks and the rim of the cup.

A further feature of the presently preferred embodiment of the invention resides in the provision of means for maintaining a fixed spacing for the respective hook members. Said spacing means may comprise a rigid web having tubular end portions through which the hook members pass. One of the said hook members may be fixedly secured to the spacer, whereas the other hook passes slidably through the spacer end, thus providing for a longitudinal displacement of one hook with respect to the other to be self-adjusting with respect to the usual angularity of the upper edge of the golf club with respect to the lower edge or foot thereof.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter be described.

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In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the head of a golf club with a preferred form of the invention mounted thereon;

Fig. 2 is a section taken on lines 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Figs. 3 and 4 are perspective views of other embodiments of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, the ball retriever in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 consists preferably of a single strand of relatively hard, stiff wire bent to form a pair of hook portions 10, 11 and an open cup portion 12. The extensions 13, 14 of the respective hooks are disposed in front of the peripheral spring portion 15 of the cup, which is primarily the clamping spring of the device. The hook extensions are themselves biased to rest tightly and resiliently against the peripheral spring 15.

All open spaces in the bottom of the cup are of course smaller than golf-ball size.

Advantageously, the spacing between the extensions 13, 14 is maintained by a spacer having a web 17 and sleeves 18 and 19. One of the extensions, such as 14, is welded or otherwise fixedly secured within the sleeve 18, whereas the other extension is slidable within its associated sleeve 19. Such construction makes it possible for one hook to shift relative to the other to a position above or below the opposite hook member and thus accommodate variant angles of slope of the top edge and the sole or lowermost edge of a golf club iron, as appears in Fig. 2.

The normal spacing between the hooks and the spring member 15 is substantially less than the height of blade of the usual golf club iron.

In use the device is affixed to the head 16 of the golf club as shown in Fig. 2, by engaging the hook members with the upper edge of the head, pressing the peripheral member downwardly to accommodate the width of the head, and then snapping said peripheral member beneath the sole of the club head. Because of the inherent stiffness of the spring material and the normal or relaxed spacing between the hooks and spring 15, the spring flexes downwardly, and the head is firmly grasped or clamped between the hooks and the spring. The club may safely be used for retrieving a ball from a pond, ditch, or other inaccessible place without danger of loss of the device.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, the retriever comprises a stamped metal or molded plastic cup portion 20 which may be slightly greater than a quarter sphere. Riveted or

otherwise securely secured to the cup are the springable rods 21, 22, which respectively terminate in hooks 23, 24, and secured to the upper rim of the cup and extending about the rear of the hook rods is a spring 25, which may be a wire or band of spring material, or a relatively stiff coil spring. When a coil spring is used, as shown in Fig. 3, a butt block 26 or equivalent may be threaded thereon. The butt block appears to be advantageous in providing a flat or shouldered surface which grips the sole of certain types of golfing irons.

The embodiment of Fig. 3 is applied in substantially the same way as that previously described. If the spacing between the hook and the normal positioning of the coil spring is substantially less than the width of the club head, so that upon application of the device to the club head, the club head will be clamped between the hook members 23, 24 and the spring 25. The butt block 26 forms a clamping jaw which also offers a firm base against which the club head is pressed. In the device of Fig. 3, the hook-rod spacer may be eliminated, as desired. The relative self adjustability of the spring 25 makes the device readily conformable to the slope of the club head surfaces.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4 the retriever 30 is advantageously made from a single metal stamping, and can be stainless steel, phosphor bronze or other springable material. Extending upwardly from the rear of the relatively deep cup portion 31 is a back plate 32 which is preferably bifurcated to provide for a pair of hooks 33, 34. Extending as a continuation of the rim of the cup portion are arms 35, 36 which may advantageously be twisted at their ends to form the relatively flat spring portions 37, 38. Each said spring portion preferably terminates in a hook or club receiving portion 40.

The Fig. 4 embodiment is applied in substantially the same manner as has been previously described. The relaxed spacing between the opposed upper and lower hook portions is considerably less than the width of the golf club blade, whereupon the retriever may be firmly clamped between the respective hooks. The individual springs 37 and 38 allow the self adjustability which is desirable to accommodate the relative angles of the upper and lower edges of the golf club blade.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a simple and inexpensive ball retriever which may be easily clamped on the blade of a golfing iron, to permit the club itself to be used to retrieve a golf ball from a pond, ditch or otherwise inaccessible place. The club handle, as well as the hand of the user, does not get wet when the device is used for retrieving a ball from a water hazard and hence there is no discomfort for the user and no possibility of water damage to the handle or the wrapping or grip portion thereof.

Although the invention has been described by making a full detailed reference to the certain presently preferred embodiments, such detail of description is to be understood in an instructive rather than a limiting sense, many changes be-

ing possible within the scope of the claims hereto appended.

I claim:

1. A ball retriever for attachment to a golf club head, comprising a cup portion, spaced hook means extending upwardly from the rear thereof and engageable with the upper edge of said head, and spring means integral with and extending from the rim of said cup portion to a location beneath the hook means, said spring means having means for engaging with the sole of said head; the normal spacing between said hook means and the sole-engaging portion of said spring means being substantially less than the height of said club head, whereby said head may be clamped between the hook means and the sole engagement portion of said spring means.

2. A golf ball retriever to be removably clamped to the head of a golf club, comprising a cup portion to receive the ball, spaced hook portions extending upwardly from said cup portion and engageable with the upper edge of said club head, and a spring member forming a portion of the rim of the cup and extending rearwardly of and beneath and around said hook portions, said spring member being engageable with the sole of said head and in such position, being spring-biased in the direction of said hook portions.

3. A device of the class described comprising a single piece of spring wire formed to provide an open cup, spaced hook members extending upwardly from the rear of said cup and a peripheral spring member defining the rim of the cup and extending transversely across said hook members at the rear thereof; and a rigid spacer secured between said hook members to maintain a desired space relationship thereof.

4. A device of the class described comprising a single piece of spring wire formed to provide a cup portion and members extending therefrom and terminating in hook means, a spring disposed beneath said hook means, and a spacer engageable with the respective hook members for maintaining a fixed space relationship of said hook members, at least one of said hook members being in slidable engagement with respect to said spacer.

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