United States Patent [19]

Brisendine

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[54] **GOLF BALL PUTTING CUP**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/34 B,** 273/176 H

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 69/36,** A63b 57/00

[58] **Field of Search** 273/34, 195, 176, 178, 273/177, 179, 180

[56] **References Cited**

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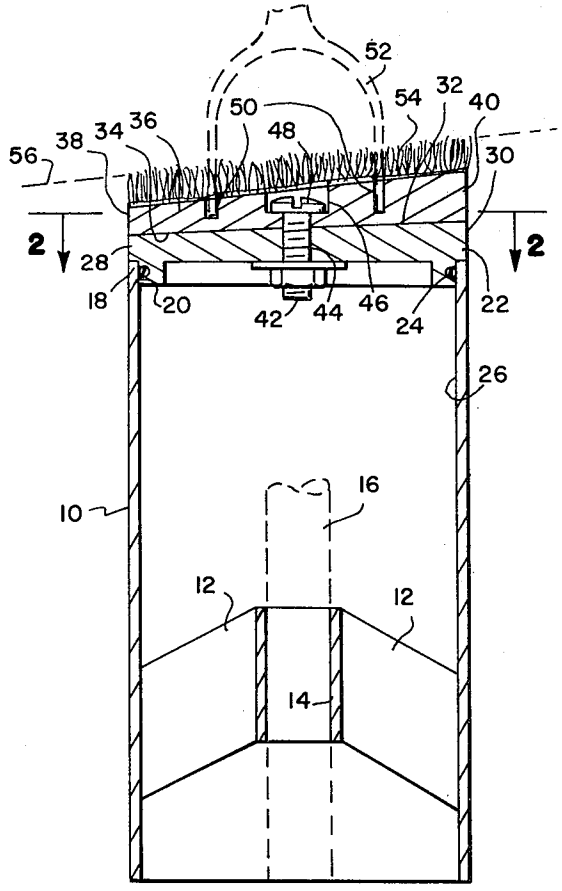
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Primary Examiner—George J. Marlo

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A synthetic turf cap for golf ball cups for use in enclosing the upper open ends of golf ball cups on the greens of golf courses so as to change the location of the cup area being used in order to avoid undue wear on the green due to traffic, and also to facilitate the changing of the cup locations and to avoid the brown-out usually encountered when a disc of natural green is transplanted in the cup area. The disclosure also relating to adjustability of the synthetic turf cap so as to allow adjustments in elevation as well as grade inclination in order to match the natural turf on the golf course green.

8 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



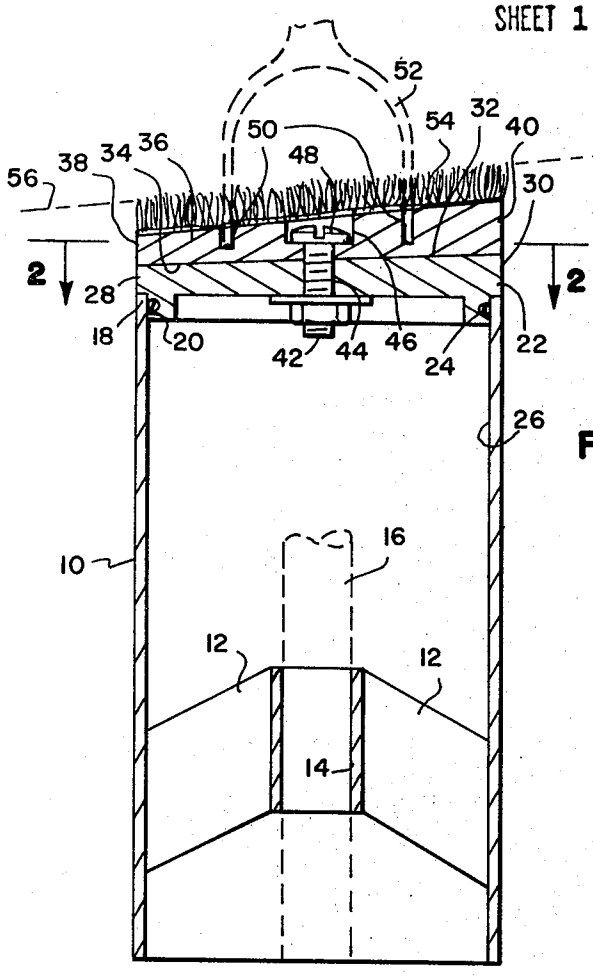


FIG.1.

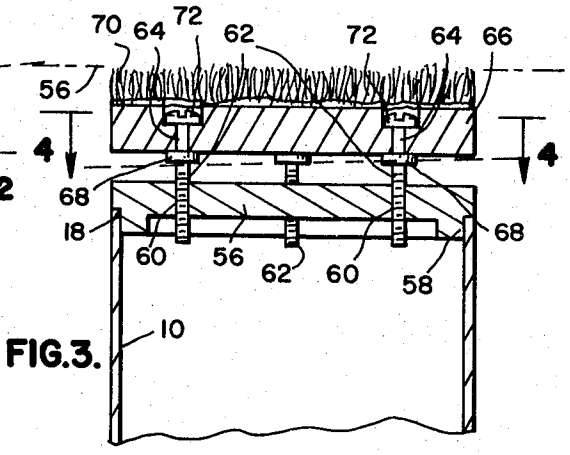


FIG.3.

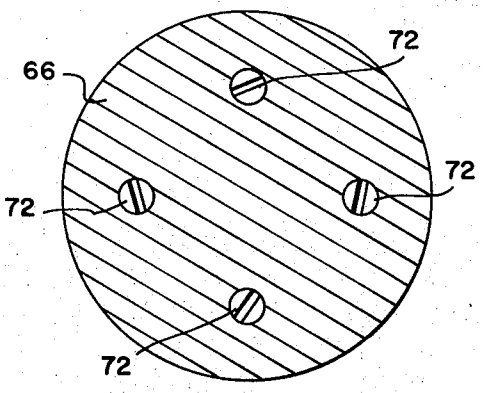


FIG.4.

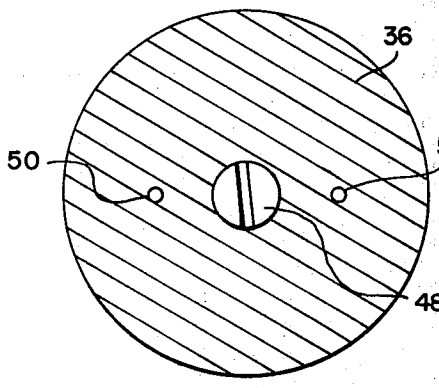


FIG.2.

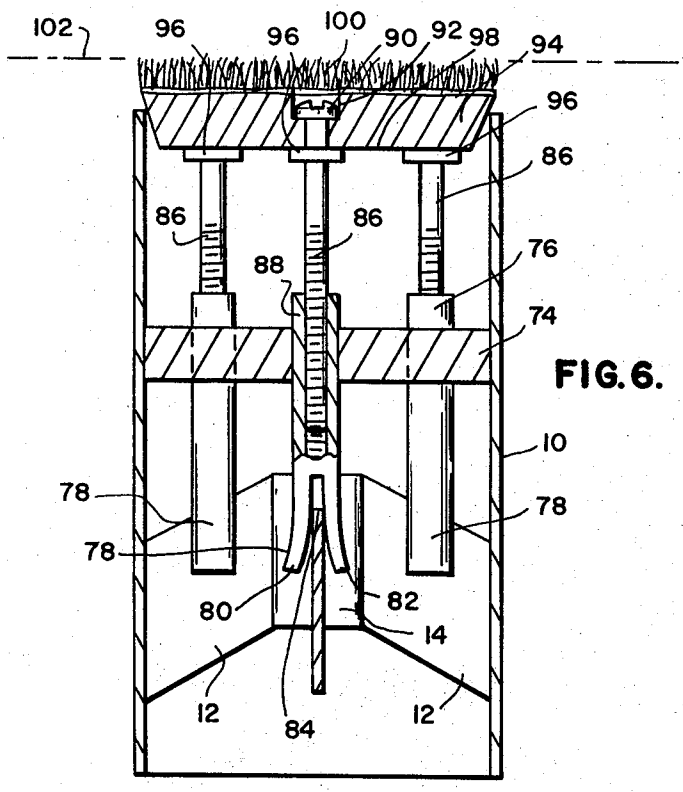

102
96
96
100
90
92
98
94
96
86
86
86
88
76
74
10
78
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80
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14
12
12
84

FIG. 6.

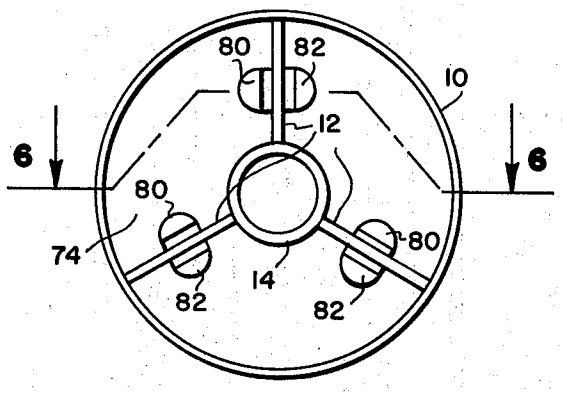

80
82
10
12
6
6
80
74
14
80
82
82

FIG. 5.

GOLF BALL PUTTING CUP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On golf courses, the foot traffic converges on the greens and when a golf ball cup is left in a given location for any length of time, the foot traffic wears the grass around the cup and it is necessary to change the location of the cup quite often in order to avoid wearing paths in the grass around the cup.

The usual procedure is to cut a vertical hole in the turf and change the position of the cup and then to cut another piece of natural turf and place it on compacted dirt in the hole and level with or flush with the natural turf on the green. Accordingly, the disc of turf which is transplanted tends to change color and sometimes turns quite brown. Additionally, it has been necessary to move the locations of the cups very often during a tournament or during certain seasons and such maintenance work is quite expensive.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention comprises a synthetic turf cap for golf ball cups whereby several cups may remain in position on a golf course green and the synthetic cap on one of them may be removed to allow play into the respective cup so that the problems of transplanting natural green are obviated.

On each green, according to the invention, several cups are properly located so that traffic may be dispersed by rotating the open position of one of the cups covered by a synthetic turf cap of the invention, and in this manner the transplanting of natural green as well as the cost thereof is obviated. The invention also comprising a novel means for adjusting the elevation of the synthetic cap of the invention as well as its inclination so as to match the elevation and the grade of the natural turf surrounding the cup. The invention comprises several means for adjusting the synthetic turf cap of the invention comprising relatively rotatable wedge shaped discs as well as plates having a pluarlity of adjustable screws supported in the golf ball cups in various ways. These devices for adjustably supporting the synthetic turf caps are all readily placable and removable relative to a conventional golf ball receiving cup.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a simple synthetic turf cap means for golf ball cups on golf course greens to simplify the diversion of traffic from one area to another without the usual problems of transplanting natural green and the attendant costs thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a very simple synthetic turf cap for golf ball cups which may be readily placed in the upper open end of a golf ball cup or readily removed therefrom as desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a synthetic turf cap for golf ball cups which may readily be adjusted to provide elevational and inclinational adjustment of the upper surface of the synthetic turf on the cap so as to match the elevation and the grade of the natural green surrounding the synthetic turf cap of the invention.

Other objects and advantages of the invention may be apparent from the following specification, accompanying drawings and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a vertical sectional view through a conventional golf ball cup showing a synthetic turf cap means for the cup in connection therewith and related to the level or surface of a golf course green and also showing by broken lines a spanner wrench adapted to adjust the upper plate structure of the synthetic turf cap to provide for elevational as well as inclinational adjustments of the synthetic turf relative to natural turf on the golf course green;

FIG. 2 is a plan sectional view taken from the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to FIG. 1, but showing a modification of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a plan sectional view taken from the line 4—4 of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a bottom plan view of a further modification of the invention; and

FIG. 6 is a vertical sectional view similar to FIG. 1, but taken from line 6—6 of FIG. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As shown in FIG. 1 of the drawings, a conventional golf ball cup **10** is provided with the usual radial struts **12** located inwardly thereof and supporting a conventional ferrule **14** which is adapted to support a conventional flag pole shown fragmentarily by broken lines **16.** The conventional golf ball cup is provided with an upper open end **18** in which an annular flange **20** of a disc shaped member **22,** the disc shaped member **22** is provided with a peripheral portion **24** on the flange **20** which frictionally engages the inner sides **26** of the cup **10** for holding the disc shaped member **22** in fixed position there, but provides for removability thereof as desired.

The disc shaped member **22** is provided with a thin edge **28** at one side thereof and a relatively thick edge **30** at the opposite side thereof constituting a wedge shaped disc structure which has an inclined upper surface **32.**

Engaged with the upper surface **32** is a lower surface **34** of an upper turf supporting plate **36.** This plate **36** is provided with a thin edge **38** and a thick edge **40** thereby constituting a wedge shaped disc structure complemental to the wedge shaped disc structure **22.**

A bolt **42** extends through respective openings **44** and **46** in the disc shaped members **22** and **36.** The bolt **42** is provided with a head **48** recessed in the upper portion of the turf supporting plate **36.**

Spanner wrench openings **50** in the upper surface of the turf supporting plate **36** are adapted to receive ends of a spanner wrench as indicated by broken lines **52** in FIG. **1** of the drawings, for rotating the turf supporting plate **36** relative to the disc shaped member **22** so that the wedge shaped structures of the two plates provide for inclinational adjustment as well as elevational adjustment of synthetic turf **54** secured to the upper surface of the turf supporting plate **36.**

It will be understood that rotation of the plate **22** relative to the cup **10** and also rotation of the plate **36** either singly or in combination will result in elevational and inclinational adjustment of the synthetic turf **54** to match that of the natural turf as indicated by broken lines **56** in FIG. **1** of the drawings.

In the modification as shown in FIG. **3,** a disc shaped member **56** is provided with a peripheral flange **58** adapted frictionally to engage the inner wall of the cup **10** at its upper open end **18.** The plate **56** being pro-

vided with internally screw threaded bore portions **60** in which adjustment screws **62** are screw threadably adjustable. These screws **62** extend through bore portions **64** in a turf supporting plate **66** and are restrained axially by means of shoulder elements **68.** Thus the adjustment screws **62** cannot move axially with relation to the plate **66,** but may rotate in the opening **64,** and due to their screw threaded engagement with the plate **56** these screws may adjust the turf supporting plate **66** elevationally as well as on an inclinational basis since some of the screws may be adjusted to a higher elevation than others, there being a total of four screws shown as illustrated best in FIG. **4** of the drawings.

Supported on the upper surface of the turf supporting plate **66** is synthetic turf **70** having an upper level adapted to match the upper surface of natural turf **56.** It will be seen that the screws **62** are provided with heads **72** disposed in recesses in the upper portion of the plate **66** and that these screws are accessible through the synthetic turf **70** for adjustment of the elevation as well as the inclination of the turf supporting plate **66.**

In the modification, as shown in FIGS. **5** and **6,** the conventional cup **10** is the same as shown in FIG. **1** of the drawings, together with the struts and the flag pole holding ferrule **14.**

The modification shown in FIGS. **5** and **6** utilizes a plate **74** holding internally screw threaded elements **76** which are bifurcated at their lower ends **78.** The bifurcated portions each fitting over one of the struts **12** of the cup **10.** It will be seen that each bifurcated portion **78** is provided with a pair of leg portions **80** and **82** which straddle an upper edge portion **84** of one of the struts **12.**

The plate **74** holds the screw threaded nut structures in fixed position and the bifurcated portions **78** support the plate and the entire assembly vertically while externally screw threaded adjusting screws **86** are vertically adjustably screw threaded in internally screw threaded bore portions **88** of the internally screw threaded fixtures **76.**

Upper end portions of the adjusting screws **86** are provided with heads **90** disposed in recess portions **92** in a turf supporting plate **94,** and shoulder portions **96** on the adjusting screws **86** bear against a lower surface **98** of the turf supporting plate **94** to prevent axial play of the screws relative to the plate **94.**

The screw heads **90** are accessible through the synthetic turf **100** supported on the upper surface of the plate **94** and the screws may be individually adjustable there being three of the screws **86** and thus providing for inclinational as well as elevational adjustment of the plate **94** to match the level and the grade of the natural turf as indicated by broken lines **102** in FIG. **6** of the drawings.

In use the invention may be located on several positions on a golf course green, and while there may be several cups **10,** only one of the them will be open and the remaining ones will be enclosed by the synthetic turf cap as hereinbefore described in its various forms.

When it is desired to redirect or relocate the traffic to the cup being used on the green, the open cup may be enclosed by one of the synthetic turf cap structures of the invention, and thereby opening another one of the cups so that the traffic on the green may readily be rerouted, it being noted that simple adjustment of the upper turf supporting plate of the invention may be accomplished in any manner as hereinbefore described or by any suitable means which allows for the adjustment of the elevation of the synthetic turf as well as the inclinational adjustment so as to match the level and the grade of the natural turf.

It will obvious to those skilled in the art that the invention alleviates all of the problems of transplanting natural turf and the browing thereof as well as the cost and time consumed in maintaining and changing golf ball cup locations on the golf course greens.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In a synthetic turf cap for golf ball cups used on golf course greens, the invention comprising: a golf ball cup having an open upper end, a cap on said upper open end; first means on said open end of said cup for supporting said cap at said open end of said golf ball cup; said cap having a plate disposed in close proximity to said upper open end of said cup; synthetic turf on said plate; and second means for adjustably supporting said plate relative to said first means; said second means disposed to provide elevational and inclinational adjustment of said plate relative to said first means, thereby permitting alignment of said synthetic turf relative to natural turf on a golf course green surrounding a golf ball cup thereon.

2. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein; said first means comprising a wedge shaped disc having an annular portion engagable with an upper open end of said golf ball cup; said plate being a wedge shaped disc structure; said second means being a wedge shaped disc structure of said plate; and a pivot member disposed centrally of and rotatably connecting said first and second means to allow relative rotation of said plate and said first means and rotation of said first means relative to said golf ball cup.

3. The invention as defined in claim **2** wherein said wedge shaped plate of said second means is provided with an annular shoulder portion adapted to fit frictionally tight in said upper open end of said golf ball cup.

4. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein: said first means comprising a support member removably supported on said golf ball cup; said second means comprising a plurality of adjusting screws; said plate being generally disc shaped and having bearing portions in which said screws are rotatable and axially restrained; said bearing portions and said screws being disposed in spaced relation to each other and spaced about a middle portion of said disc, said second means also comprising a plurality of screw threaded elements in which said adjusting screws are helically adjustable; and said second means also comprising mounting structure holding said screw threaded elements stationary relative to said golf ball cup.

5. The invention as defined in claim **4** wherein: said mounting structure comprising a plate engagable with said upper open end of said golf ball cup.

6. The invention as defined in claim **4** wherein said golf ball cup is provided with a flag holding sleeve therein; radial struts supporting said sleeve in said cup; said mounting structure comprising a plate holding said screw threaded elements; said plate adapted to fit in said cup above said struts; and bifurcated members carried by said last mentioned plate; each bifurcated member straddling one of said struts to hold said last men-

tioned plate and said screw threaded elements stationary in said cup.

7. The invention as defined in claim **3** wherein said support member of said first means is provided with an annular shoulder portion adapted to fit frictionally tight in said upper open end of said golf ball cup.

8. The invention as defined in claim **3** wherein said plate is provided with recess means below said synthetic turf; said synthetic turf having openings above said recess means whereby a tool such as a Spanner wrench may be inserted through said openings and into said recess means for rotating said plate relative to said wedge shaped disc of said second means.

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