GOLF BAG HAVING A LID

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ABSTRACT
A golf bag may include a body portion and a lid portion. The body portion may include an elongated cavity, a base, and an open end. The elongated cavity may be adapted to at least partially receive at least one golf club. The lid portion may be connected to the body portion and adapted to selectively cover the opening. The lid portion may include a club head cavity adapted to cooperate with the elongated cavity of the body portion. The lid portion may include a likeness of a physical characteristic of at least one of an article of athletic equipment, an animal, and a character.
GOLF BAG HAVING A LID
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 12/536,918 filed on Aug. 6, 2009. The entire disclosure of the above application is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates to golf equipment, and more particularly, to a golf bag having a lid.

BACKGROUND

[0003] This section provides background information related to the present disclosure which is not necessarily prior art.

[0004] Golf is a sport that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. In recent years, the sport has enjoyed an increase in popularity, particularly amongst children. Many golfers choose to express themselves through their golf equipment and accessories. The golf equipment and accessories industry attempts to cater to the tastes and preferences of a wide variety of people. The teachings of the present disclosure provide improved functionality and light-heartedness to the golf equipment and accessories industry and allow adults and children to expand their means of personal expression beyond that which has been traditionally available.

SUMMARY

[0005] This section provides a general summary of the disclosure, and is not a comprehensive disclosure of its full scope or all of its features.

[0006] In one form, the present disclosure provides a golf bag that may include a body portion and a lid portion. The body portion may include an elongated cavity, a base, and an open end. The elongated cavity may be adapted to at least partially receive at least one golf club. The lid portion may be connected to the body portion and may be adapted to selectively cover the opening. The lid portion may include a club head cavity adapted to cooperate with the elongated cavity of the body portion. The lid portion may include a physical characteristic of a head of a character.

[0007] In another form, the present disclosure provides a golf bag that may include a body portion having a base and an elongated cavity. The elongated cavity may include a closed end and an open end and may be adapted to at least partially receive at least one golf club. The body portion may include a shape having features of a body of a character.

[0008] In yet another form, the present disclosure provides a golf bag accessory that may include a hollow sleeve adapted to be removably secured around a body portion of the golf bag. The hollow sleeve may include an outer surface having a physical characteristic of a character formed thereon. The hollow sleeve may include at least one opening to allow access to a cavity in the golf bag adapted to receive a golf club.

[0009] In still another form, the present disclosure provides a golf bag that may include a body portion and a lid portion. The body portion may include an elongated cavity, a base, and an open end. The elongated cavity may be adapted to at least partially receive at least one golf club. The lid portion may be connected to the body portion and adapted to selectively cover the opening. The lid portion may include a club head cavity adapted to cooperate with the elongated cavity of the body portion. The lid portion may include a likeness of a physical characteristic of at least one of an article of athletic equipment, an animal, and a character.

[0010] In still another form, the present disclosure provides an accessory for a golf bag that may include a hollow shell, a base portion, and a hinge. The shell portion may include an opening. The base portion may be connected to the shell portion and may include means for removable securing the base portion to the golf bag. The hinge may be connected to the shell portion to allow at least a portion of the shell portion to pivot relative to the base.

[0011] In still another form, the present disclosure provides an accessory for a golf bag that may include a hollow shell having an opening, at least one member forming a cage extending across at least a portion of the opening, and means for securing the hollow shell to the golf bag.

[0012] Further areas of applicability will become apparent from the description provided herein. The description and specific examples in this summary are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

DRAWINGS

[0013] The drawings described herein are for illustrative purposes only of selected embodiments and not all possible implementations, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

[0014] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a golf bag having physical characteristics of a character according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the golf bag of FIG. 1 having a lid portion in an open position;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a golf bag having physical characteristics of a character according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0017] FIG. 4 is an exploded view of yet another embodiment of a golf bag having physical characteristics of a character according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0018] FIG. 5 is an exploded partial perspective view of a golf bag having a lid portion according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0019] FIG. 6 is a partial perspective view of the golf bag of FIG. 5 having the lid portion in a closed position;

[0020] FIG. 7 is a partial perspective view of the golf bag of FIG. 5 having the lid portion in an open position;

[0021] FIG. 8 is an exploded cross-sectional view of a base of the lid portion and a rim of the golf bag according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0022] FIG. 9 is a side view of another embodiment of a lid portion in a closed position according to the principles of the present disclosure;

[0023] FIG. 10 is a side view of the lid portion of FIG. 9 in an open position according to the principles of the present disclosure.

[0024] Corresponding reference numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0025] Example embodiments will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0026] Example embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough, and will fully convey the scope to those who are skilled in the art. Numerous specific details are set forth such as examples of specific components and devices, to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that specific details need not be employed,
that example embodiments may be embodied in many different forms and that neither should be construed to limit the scope of the disclosure. In some example embodiments, well-known processes, well-known device structures, and well-known technologies are not described in detail.

[0027] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular example embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" may be used interchangeably to signify the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. The terms "comprises," "comprising," "including," and "having," are inclusive and therefore signify the presence of cited features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

[0028] When an element or a layer is referred to as being "on," "engaged to," "connected to," or "coupled to" another element or layer, it may be directly on, engaged, connected or coupled to the other element or layer, or intervening elements or layers may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on," "directly engaged to," "directly connected to," or "directly coupled to" another element or layer, there may be no intervening elements or layers present. Other words used to describe the relationship between elements should be interpreted in a like fashion (e.g., "between" versus "directly between," "adjacent" versus "directly adjacent," etc.). As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

[0029] Although the terms first, second, third, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms may be only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another, region, layer or section. Terms such as "first," "second," and other numerical terms when used herein do not imply a sequence or order unless clearly indicated by the context. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the example embodiments.

[0030] Spatially relative terms, such as "inner," "outer," "beneath," "below," "lower," "above," "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. Spatially relative terms may be intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as "below" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "above" the other elements or features. Thus, the example term "below" can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

[0031] With reference to FIGS. 1-3, a golf bag 10 is provided and may include a body portion 12 and a lid portion 14. The body portion 12 and/or lid portion 14 may be formed from or include a layer of nylon, plastic, and/or leather, for example, to protect contents of the golf bag 10 (and the golf bag itself) from water damage. It will be appreciated that the body portion 12 and/or lid portion 14 may be formed from other materials, such as cloth or any other textile material.

[0032] The body portion 12 may be generally cylindrical and may include an elongated generally cylindrical cavity 16, a base 18, and an open end 20. Structural members (not shown) formed from a polymeric, metallic, or wooden material may provide the body portion 12 with sufficient rigidity to maintain its shape. The cavity 16 may receive one or more golf clubs 22 through the open end 20. The cavity 16 may include one or more dividers 24 adapted to facilitate organization of a plurality of golf clubs 22 within the cavity 16. When fully inserted in to the cavity 16, the golf clubs 22 may extend beyond the open end 20 such that club heads 25 of the golf clubs 22 may be easily viewed and accessed by a golfer.

[0033] An outer portion of the body portion 12 may be formed in a shape of a character 26 or a body of the character 26. For example, the body portion 12 may include legs 32, arms 34, a tail 36, and/or any other appendage, feature, shape, or physical characteristic of the body of the character 26. The legs 32 and/or arms 34 may include additional features of the character 26, such as hands, feet, fingers, toes, and/or claws, for example. The legs 32, arms 34, and/or tail 36 may include one or more pockets 38 adapted to store personal items such as keys or watches, golf equipment or accessories, such as balls, tees, gloves, and/or rain gear, and/or any other item that a golfer typically stores in a golf bag before, during or after playing golf.

[0034] The legs 32, arms 34, and/or tail 36 may be at least partially filled with cotton (not shown) or other stuffing material to provide a three-dimensional form or likeness of the character 26. The stuffing may be of the type used to fill stuffed animals or other toys, for example. Additionally or alternatively, at least partially filling the pockets 38 with the golfer's belongings (not shown) may provide the three-dimensional form of the character 26. Additionally or alternatively, plastic, wood, or metallic support members may form a frame shape of the features, form or physical characteristics of the character 26. Alternatively, a molded plastic or metallic shell may be formed in the shape of the features, form or physical characteristics of the character 26.

[0035] As used herein, the term "character" may include an animal, a person, a mascot, a cartoon character, a fantasy character, or a television or movie character, for example, or any other fictional or non-fictional character, figure, personage, animate or inanimate object. It will be appreciated that the body portion 12 may include physical characteristics of a particular character rather than or in addition to the legs 32, arms 34, and/or tail 36 described above and shown in the Figures.

[0036] The body portion 12 may include a shoulder strap 40 and a stand mechanism 42. The shoulder strap 40 may extend from a back or spine portion 43 of the character 26 and may be integrally formed with one or more physical characteristics of the character 26. For example, while not specifically shown in the Figures, the shoulder strap 40 may be integrally formed with one or more spikes 44 disposed on the back of the character 26. The shoulder strap 40 may be placed on a golfer's shoulder to distribute the weight of the golf bag 10 over the golfer's shoulder such that the golf bag 10 may be easily carried before, during and after a round of golf. It will be appreciated that the golf bag 10 could alternatively include double shoulder straps (known in the art) adapted to be worn on both of the golfer's shoulders simultaneously to further distribute the weight of the golf bag 10. While not specifically shown, the body portion 12 may also include one or more handles to further facilitate transportability of the golf bag 10.

[0037] The stand mechanism 42 may include one or more legs 46 and an actuation mechanism 48. The legs 46 may be pivotally attached to the body portion 12. The actuation
mechanism 48 may be selectively actuated to move the legs 46 between a stowed position (shown in phantom lines in FIG. 1) and a deployed position (shown in solid lines in FIG. 1). In the stowed position, the legs 46 may be generally flush with the body portion 12. In the deployed position, the legs 46 may extend away from the body portion 12 and cooperate with the base 18 of the body portion 12 to form a tripod adapted to support the golf bag 10 in a generally upright position. As shown in FIG. 3, the legs 46 of the stand mechanism 42 may be formed from or may include the legs 32 of the character 26. It will be appreciated that the legs 46 of the stand mechanism 42 may include any other appendage or feature of the character 26 instead of or in addition to the legs 32 of the character 26.

Referring now to FIG. 4, a golf bag 100 is provided which may be retrofitted with a removable cover 102 and a lid 104. The golf bag 100 may be any golf bag known in the art and may include a body portion 106 having a base 107 and an open-ended cavity 108 adapted to receive at least one golf club 110. One or more pockets 112 may be disposed in the body portion 106 and may receive and store a golfer's personal items and/or golf equipment.

The removable cover 102 may be a sleeve having an inner surface 114, an outer surface 116, a first open end 118, and, optionally, a second open end 120. The removable cover 102 and/or lid 104 may be formed from or include nylon, plastic, leather, cloth and/or any other textile material. The cover 102 may receive the body portion 106 of the golf bag 100 and may be retained securely thereon. The inner surface 114 may be sized to fit snugly around the body portion 106. In some embodiments, the cover 102 may be formed from elastic or include an elastic portion to enable cover 102 to expand and contract to fit snugly around golf bags of various sizes. Additionally or alternatively, the cover 102 may include clips, tie straps, buttons, a zipper, hook-and-loop fastener, or any other means for fastening the cover 102 to the golf bag 100.

Referring now to FIG. 4, a golf bag 100 is provided which may be retrofitted with a removable cover 102 and a lid 104. The golf bag 100 may be any golf bag known in the art and may include a body portion 106 having a base 107 and an open-ended cavity 108 adapted to receive at least one golf club 110. One or more pockets 112 may be disposed in the body portion 106 and may receive and store a golfer's personal items and/or golf equipment.

Referring now to FIG. 4, a golf bag 100 is provided which may be retrofitted with a removable cover 102 and a lid 104. The golf bag 100 may be any golf bag known in the art and may include a body portion 106 having a base 107 and an open-ended cavity 108 adapted to receive at least one golf club 110. One or more pockets 112 may be disposed in the body portion 106 and may receive and store a golfer's personal items and/or golf equipment.
may be adapted to protect the golf clubs 110 from rain, moisture, and/or other damage. The golfer may selectively remove the lid 104 to access the golf clubs 110.

[0048] The lid 104 may be formed in the shape of a physical characteristic of the character 126, such as a head of the character 126, as shown in FIGS. 4. For example, the lid 104 may include physical characteristics of the character 126 including, for example, a neck portion 150 and a head portion 152 having eyes 154, a mouth 156, teeth 158, a nose 160, and/or other features or physical characteristics of a particular character. Any or all of the physical characteristics of the lid 104 or cover 102 may be three-dimensional or two-dimensional.

[0049] While the golf bag 10, cover 102, and lid 104 are described above as including a portrayal, form, feature, shape, likeness, or physical characteristic of a character, it will be appreciated that the golf bag 10, cover 102, and/or lid 104 could include a portrayal, form, feature, shape, likeness, or physical characteristic of an inanimate object such as, for example, a vehicle, a beverage container, a symbol, an object of popular culture, a building or any other object. In some embodiments, features of the character (e.g., arms, legs, wings, jaws, etc.) or the inanimate object may be equipped with a mechanism to allow movement thereof, thereby simulating movements made by the character or inanimate object that is being portrayed by the golf bag 10, cover 102, and/or lid 104. In some embodiments, the golf bag 10, cover 102, and/or lid 104 may include fur, feathers, skins, hides, teeth, claws, and/or other body parts harvested from live or dead animals.

[0050] Referring now to FIGS. 5-8, a golf bag 200 and a lid 204 for the golf bag 200 are provided. The golf bag 200 may be any golf bag known in the art and may include a body portion 206 and an open-ended cavity 208 adapted to receive at least one golf club 210. One or more pockets 212 may be disposed in the body portion 206 and may receive and store a golfer’s personal items and/or golf equipment. A perimeter of the opening 208 may be defined by a rim 214 of the golf bag 200. The rim 214 may include a plurality of radially spaced male snaps 216 or buttons extending outwardly therefrom.

[0051] The lid 204 may include a hollow shell portion 220, a base portion 222, and a hinge 224. The lid 204 may be permanently secured to the golf bag 200 or removably secured thereto. The lid 204 may be moveable between a closed position (FIG. 6) and an open position (FIG. 7). In the closed position, the lid 204 may at least partially cover the golf clubs 210 to provide protection from impacts with foreign objects, scratches, and rain, for example. As will be subsequently described, a user may selectively move the lid 204 into the open position to access the golf clubs 210 and/or the cavity 208 of the golf bag 200. The lid 204 may include or be formed in the shape of a likeness of an article of athletic equipment, an animal, or a character, for example.

[0052] The shell portion 220 may be a generally rounded hollow member defining an enclosure or cavity 226 and an opening 228. Heads of the golf clubs 210 may be at least partially enclosed within the cavity 226. One or more members 230 may be attached to the shell portion 220 and extend across at least a portion of the opening 228. The shell portion 220 may be formed from a relatively rigid plastic, wood, or metal, for example. Alternatively, the shell portion 220 may be formed from a flexible material, such as a flexible plastic and/or a nylon, polyester, and/or cotton fabric material, for example.

[0053] In one embodiment, the shell portion 220 may be formed in a shape of a football helmet. The one of more members 230 may form a facemask 232 of the football hel-met. In other embodiments, the shell portion 220 could be formed in a shape of a hockey helmet or auto racing helmet, for example, in which case, the one or more members 230 could be formed in the shape of a protective visor of one of the types commonly worn in the sports of hockey and auto racing. It will be appreciated that the shell portion 220 could be formed in the shape of any other article of athletic headwear, such as a baseball helmet or hat, for example.

[0054] In still other embodiments, the shell portion 220 could be formed in the shape of an animal or character, for example. Additionally or alternatively, the shell portion 220 could include the likeness, image, or physical characteristics of any article of athletic equipment, any animal, and/or any character. While the shell portion 220 is shown in the figures being formed in the physical shape of an article of athletic equipment, it will be appreciated that a likeness, image, or character could be drawn, painted, airbrushed, or printed onto the shell portion 220, for example. Alternatively, the likeness or image could be ironed, stitched, or adhesively bonded onto the shell portion 220.

[0055] The shell portion 220 may be secured to the base portion 222. The base portion 222 may include an outer surface 240 and an inner surface 242 shaped to correspond with the opening 208 of the golf bag 200. The inner surface 242 may be sized to fit around the outer surface of the rim 214 of the golf bag 200. The inner surface 242 may include a plurality of female snaps 244 or buttons radially spaced apart from each other to correspond to the spacing between the plurality of male snaps 216 disposed on the rim 214 of the golf bag 200. In this manner, the female snaps 244 and the male snaps 216 may removably engage each other such that the base portion 222 may be removably secured to the rim 214 of the golf bag 200.

[0056] In another configuration, the base portion 222 may include a generally annular recess 250 (FIG. 8) defined by the outer surface 240 and the inner surface 242. In this configuration, the recess 250 may slidably receive the rim 214 of the golf bag 200. The fit between the rim 214 and the recess 250 may be a press, snap, or interference fit, for example. It will be appreciated that the base portion 222 could be otherwise secured to the golf bag 200, such as via fasteners, adhesive bonding, clips, clamps, and/or hook and loop strips (e.g., Velcro®), for example.

[0057] The hinge 224 may include a yoke 260 and a pin 262. The yoke 260 may be connected to or integrally formed with the shell portion 220. The pin 262 may be pivotally engaged apertures 264 in the yoke 260 and apertures 266 in the shell portion 220. In this manner, the hinge 224 may allow the shell portion 220 to pivot relative to the base portion 222 between the closed position and the open position about a longitudinal axis A of the pin 262, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7.

[0058] Referring now to FIGS. 9 and 10, another embodiment of the lid 204 is provided, in which the shell portion 220 may include a first portion 270 and a second portion 272. The first and second portions 270, 272 may be discrete pieces pivotally secured to one another via a hinge 274. The hinge 274 may include a yoke 276 integrally formed with or attached to one of the first and second portions 270, 272. A pin 278 may engage apertures 280 in the yoke 276 and apertures 282 in the other of the first and second portions 270, 272. In this manner, the first portion 270 may pivot relative to the second portion 272 between a closed position (FIG. 9) and an open position (FIG. 10), while the second portion 272 remains fixed relative to the golf bag 200.

[0059] The shell portion 220 may include female snaps 284 configured to removably engage the male snaps 216 of the
golf bag 200. In this manner, the shell portion 220 may directly engage the rim 214 of the golf bag 200. Alternatively, the shell portion 220 may be connected to the base portion 222, which in turn, may be connected to the rim 214, as described above. It will be appreciated that the shell portion 220 could be otherwise directly or indirectly secured to the golf bag 200, such as via fasteners, adhesive bonding, clips, clamps, and/or hook and loop strips, for example.

While the lid portion 204 is described above as having a hinge 224, 274, in some embodiments, the shell portion 220 may be fixed relative to the golf bag 200. In such configurations, a user may access the golf clubs 210 by removing the shell portion 220 (or a portion thereof) from the golf bag 200. Alternatively, the shell portion 220 could include an opening through which the golf clubs 210 could be removed from the golf bag 200 and/or placed into the golf bag 200. In still other embodiments, the shell portion 220 could include a zipper or buttons, for example, allowing a user to selectively open the shell portion 220 to provide access to the golf clubs 210.

The foregoing description of the embodiments has been provided for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention. Individual elements or features of a particular embodiment are generally not limited to that particular embodiment, but, where applicable, are interchangeable and can be used in a selected embodiment, even if not specifically shown or described. The same may also be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the invention, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:
1. A golf bag comprising:
a body portion including an elongated cavity, a base, and an open end, said elongated cavity being adapted to at least partially receive at least one golf club; and
a lid portion connected to said body portion and adapted to selectively cover said opening, said lid portion including a club head cavity adapted to cooperate with said elongated cavity of said body portion,
wherein said lid portion includes a likeness of a physical characteristic of at least one of an article of athletic equipment, an animal, and a character.
2. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said article of athletic equipment is a helmet.
3. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said lid portion is at least partially formed from a fabric material.
4. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said physical characteristic is three dimensional.
5. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said physical characteristic is two dimensional.
6. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said lid portion includes a hinge about which at least a portion of the lid portion is pivotable to allow access to said open end of said body portion.
7. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said lid portion is removably secured to said body portion.
8. The golf bag of claim 7, wherein said lid portion engages an outer perimeter of said body portion.
9. An accessory for a golf bag comprising:
a hollow shell portion having an opening;
a base portion connected to said shell portion and including means for removably securing said base portion to the golf bag; and
a hinge connected to said shell portion to allow at least a portion of said shell portion to pivot relative to said base.
10. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said shell portion includes a likeness of a physical characteristic of at least one of an article of athletic equipment, an animal, and a character.
11. The accessory of claim 10, wherein said article of athletic equipment includes headwear.
12. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said base portion includes a plurality of female snaps engaging a plurality of male snaps disposed on the golf bag.
13. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said base includes an annular recess slidably receive said rim.
14. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said shell portion includes a first portion and a second portion to pivot relative to said first portion to expose at least one golf club removably stored in the golf bag.
15. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said shell portion is formed from at least a one of a rigid plastic and a flexible plastic.
16. The accessory of claim 9, wherein said shell portion is formed from a flexible fabric material.
17. An accessory for a golf bag comprising:
a hollow shell having an opening;
at least one member forming a cage extending across at least a portion of said opening; and
means for securing said hollow shell to the golf bag.
18. The accessory of claim 17, wherein said means for securing said hollow shell to the golf bag includes a base adapted to engage a rim of the golf bag.
19. The accessory of claim 18, wherein said hollow shell is connected to said base and pivotable relative to said base.
20. The accessory of claim 18, wherein said base includes a plurality of female snaps engaging a plurality of male snaps disposed on the golf bag.
21. The accessory of claim 18, wherein said base includes an annular recess slidably receive said rim.
22. The accessory of claim 17, wherein said hollow shell includes a first portion, a second portion, and a hinge allowing said first portion to pivot relative to said second portion to expose at least one golf club removably stored in the golf bag.
23. The accessory of claim 17, wherein said hollow shell includes physical characteristics of an article of athletic equipment.
24. The accessory of claim 17, wherein said hollow shell is formed from at least a one of a rigid plastic and a flexible plastic.
25. The accessory of claim 17, wherein said hollow shell is formed from a flexible fabric material.