Dec. 31, 1968 S. J. POGGIOLI 3,419,276

GOLFER'S ARM BEND INDICATOR

Filed June 27, 1967 Sheet 1 of 2

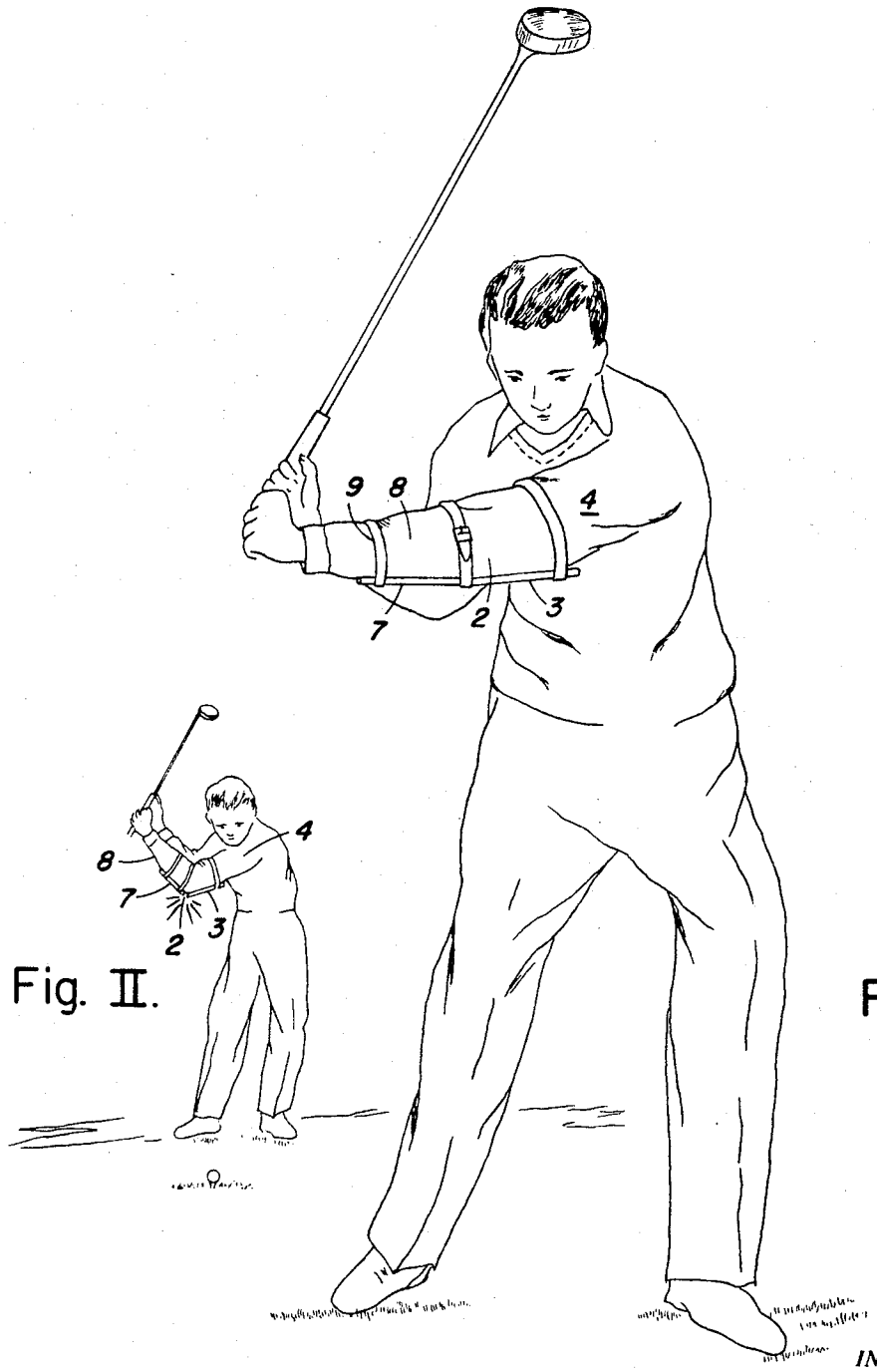


Fig. I.

Fig. II.

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Fig. IV.

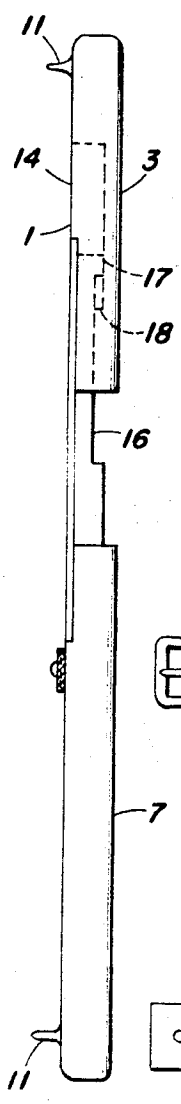


Fig. III.

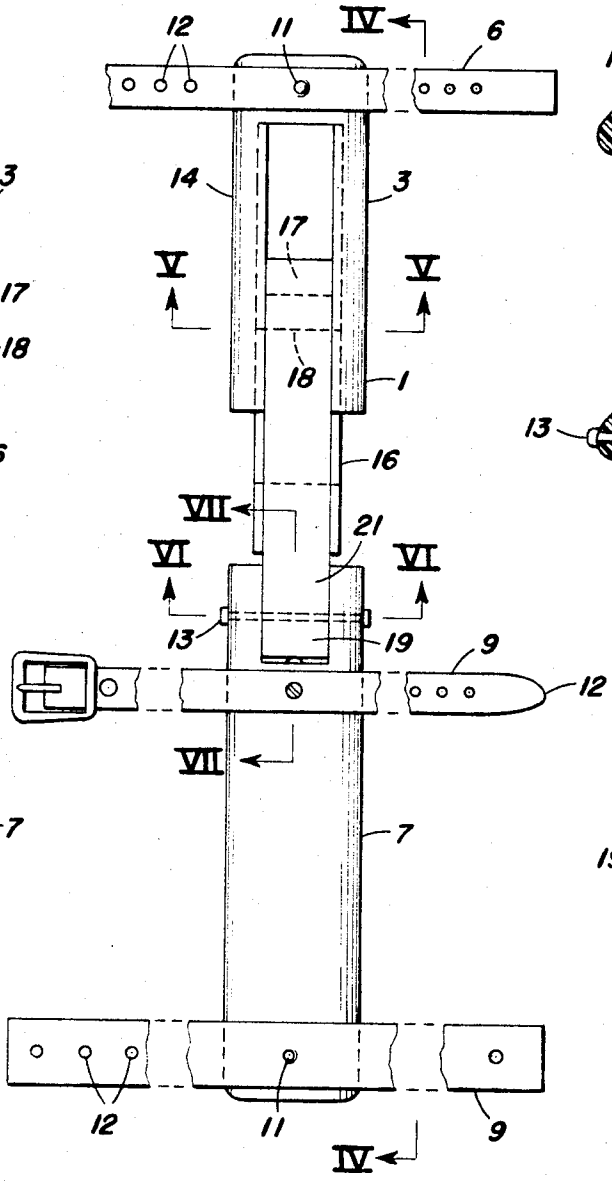


Fig. V.

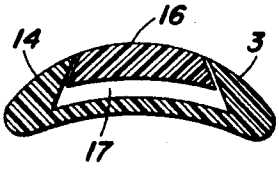


Fig. VI.

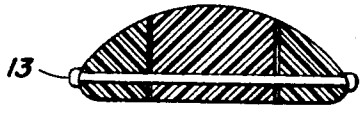
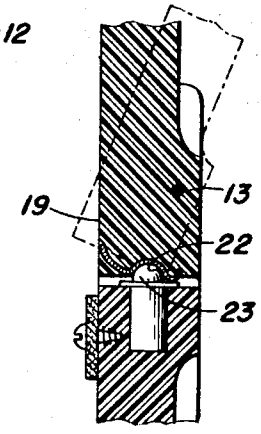


Fig. VII.



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GOLFER'S ARM BEND INDICATOR

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—183)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A training device for use by a golfer to correct bending of the elbow of his lead arm. A two-piece device is connected across the elbow. Relative motion between the pieces allows bending of the elbow so that the golfer's normal swing will neither be confined nor restricted. On relative motion in response to a bending of the elbow, an audible ball and socket sounding device announces to the golfer that this elbow has bent.

Background of invention

It is an accepted rule in the playing of golf that when a player is taking the club on its back swing his lead arm should be kept straight, the wrist being cocked at the top of the swing. Further at the top of the back swing body and arms should be steady with no relaxing of grip on the club. After beginning a down swing, there should be no hesitation, the swing should be carried right through. The device contemplated in the present invention is intended to assist golfers in improving their swings.

Summary of invention

The invention teaches a two-piece device connectable across the elbow of the golfer's lead arm. Motion (either elastic deformation, translation, rotation or combinations thereof) is provided to allow free swinging of the arm, even though the elbow may bend. Accordingly, the swing is neither impeded or changed. On relative motion of the pieces in response to bending of the golfer's elbow an audible sounding device announces to the golfer that his elbow has bent. This sounding device includes a ball audibly disengageable from a mating socket.

Description of drawings

The foregoing and other features will appear from the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIGURE I illustrates a golfer using the device according to this invention and with his lead arm straight.

FIGURE II shows the golfer with his elbow bent.

FIGURE III is a side view of the device.

FIGURE IV is taken along line IV—IV of FIGURE III.

FIGURE V is a section taken along line V—V of FIGURE III.

FIGURE VI is a section taken along line VI—VI of FIGURE III.

FIGURE VII is a broken detail taken along line VII—VII of FIGURE III and indicating a preferred embodiment of the sounding device according to this invention.

Description of preferred embodiment

As seen in the drawings element **1** (preferably made of wood or plastic) is connected across the golfer's lead elbow **2** and includes upper piece **3** attached to upper arm **4** by means of strap **6** as well as lower piece **7** attached to lower arm **8** by means of straps **9**. Each piece is arranged longitudinally relative the arm. Tips **11** formed in an injection molding process on upper piece **3** and lower piece **7** are received snugly in holes **12** of straps **6** and **9** to attach the pieces firmly across the golfer's elbow. A plurality of holes **12** can be provided to facilitate size adjustment. Also various other strap arrangements might be employed, such as plastic bands, pull tightening or the like.

In the preferred embodiment upper piece **3** and lower piece **7** are pivotally connected for rotation relative each other by means of pin **13**. To keep the device from sliding down golfer's arm on repeated swings, upper piece **3** includes fixed part **14** connected to upper arm **4** and movable part **16** which slides down to elongate upper piece **3** whereby a tug on strap **6** is eliminated. Boss **17** and stop **18** prevent separation of movable part **16** from fixed part **14**. It should also be understood that this device can be made with an integral upper piece.

It does not require much of a signal to announce to a golfer or to his teaching professional that the golfer's lead elbow is bending. Yet this bending is hardly perceptible to the unaided eye. While more elaborate signal devices were reviewed, the rugged apparatus shown in the drawing is deemed to be preferred. Upper piece **3** defines projection **19** which extends down the golfer's arm beyond pin **13**. Lower piece **7** defines recess **21** which is organized to accept projection **19**. Metal socket **22** is arranged to normally receive ball **23** in a snug fit. When the elbow is bent, ball **23** disengages from socket **22** producing the audible signal. Ball **23** and socket **22** are preferably made of brass or the like to take advantage of corrosion resistance and produce a distinctive tone with sufficient amplitude for the intended purpose.

It will be understood by those familiar with golfing accessories that wide deviations may be made from this disclosed embodiment without departing from the theme of invention set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for use by a golfer to indicate bending of his lead elbow while executing a golf club swing comprising an elongated element adapted to span a golfer's elbow, said element including an upper piece connectable to the upper part of a golfer's arm above the elbow and a lower piece connectable to said arm below the elbow, a pivot member connecting said upper and lower pieces and permitting free rotatable movement therebetween so that said element may accommodate bending of a golfer's elbow, a projection on said upper piece, a socket on said projection, a ball mounted on said lower piece, the relative arrangement of said ball and socket being such that said ball engages said socket when said upper and lower pieces are substantially longitudinally aligned, the characteristics of said ball and socket being such that relative rotation between said upper and lower pieces when substantially longitudinally aligned causes said ball to be disengaged from the socket and produce a sound audible to the user of said device.

2. The device of claim **1** wherein the upper piece includes a fixed part connectable to the golfer's upper arm and a moveable part slidable longitudinally relative to the golfer's upper arm to allow the elbow to bend without pulling on the fixed part.

3. The device of claim **2** wherein the upper and lower pieces are made of plastic and contoured to correspond to the shape of a golfer's upper arm and lower arm respectively.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein
the lower piece and the fixed part include small plastic projections,
straps for encircling the golfer's arm above and below the elbow,
the straps including holes,
said projections being engageable snugly in said holes whereby the straps may be connected to the lower piece and the fixed part respectively.

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GEORGE J. MARLO, *Primary Examiner.*

U.S. Cl. X.R.

273—189; 116—67