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DEVICE FOR PRACTICING GOLF

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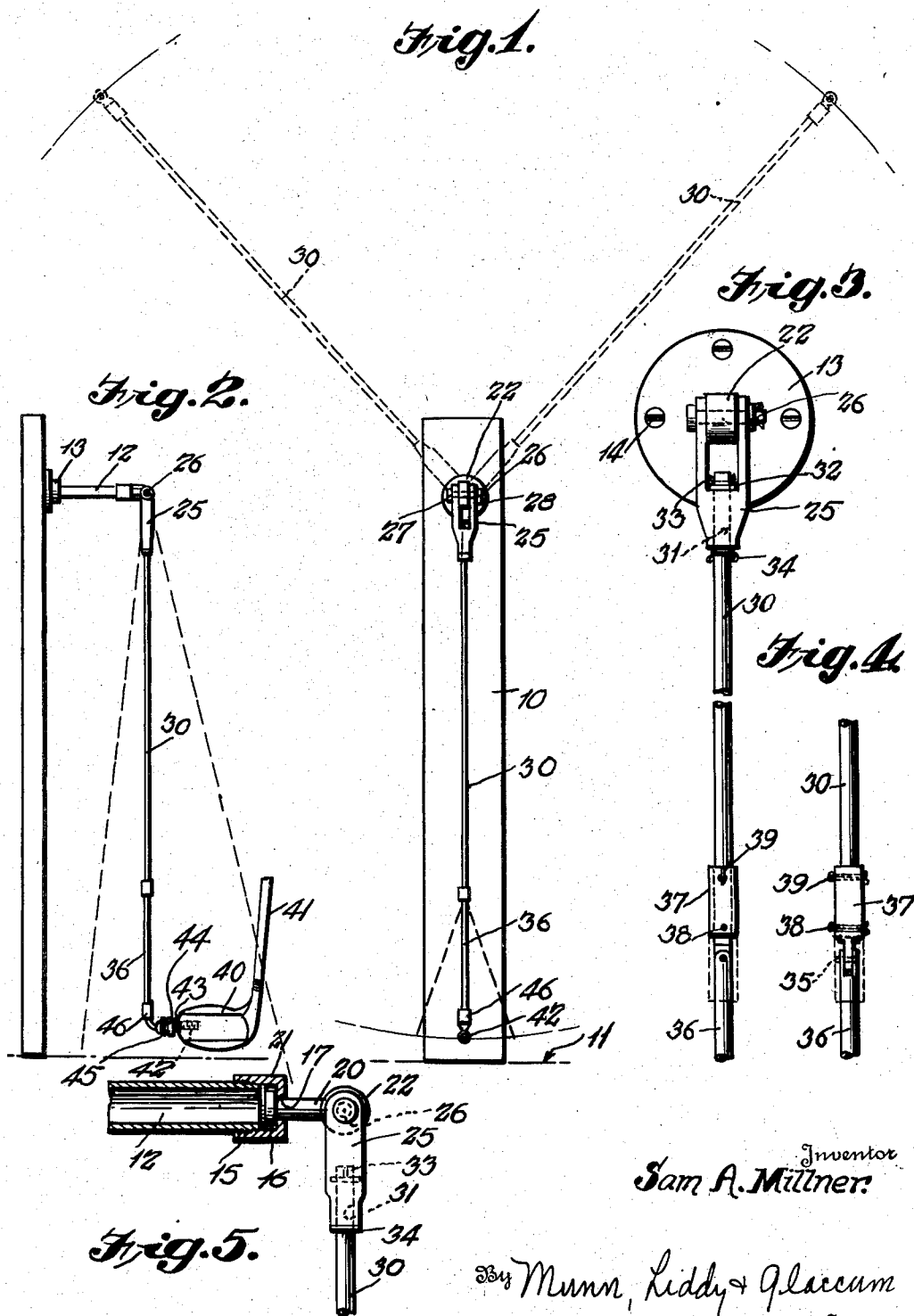
Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



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DEVICE FOR PRACTICING GOLF

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273-35)

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This invention relates to a device for practicing golf.

An object of the invention is the provision of a device adapted to be connected to the head of a golf club and suspended from a support located sufficiently above the floor so that when the golfer swings the club said device will guide the head of the club through substantially a circle in simulation of the proper stroke for driving a golf ball.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a vertically disposed rod suspended from a support with the rod acting as the radius of a circle through which the head of the golf club is directed when the club is swung, said rod having a universal joint connection with the support and head with the head of the golf club.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device for teaching an embryo the proper method of directing the head of a golf club through a circular path and also for directing the head of the golf club through a pre-determined arcuate path during the putting operation, said device including a pair of aligned rods suspended by a support with the adjacent ends of the aligned rods being pivotally connected together with means for rendering the pivotal connection inoperative so that the combined rods act as a radial support for a golf club head or the lowermost rod may be employed for directing the movement of the golf head.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device for teaching the proper path through which a golf club is to be directed, said device including a vertically disposed rod having a universal joint connection at a point in a horizontal plane which passes through the shoulders of the player, the lower end of the rod having means for removably connecting the head of the golf club to the lower end of the rod so that when the operator swings the golf club, the head will be forced to pass through a circular path, the connections to the support and to the golf head being of the universal joint type.

This invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description, in view of the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification; nevertheless, it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the disclosure, being susceptible of such changes and modifications as define no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front view in elevation of a device

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for aiding and directing the proper path of the head of a golf club.

Fig. 2 is a side view in elevation of the device.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary front view of the device shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary side view which is at right angles to the view shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary side view partly in section of the universal connection between a support and a suspended supporting rod.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 10 19 designates a standard or post which is rigidly secured in the ground or in the floor 11 of a building. The standard is of such a height that 15 a horizontal support 12 will be in a plane passing substantially through the shoulders of a player.

The support 12 is in the form of a bar or rod 20 secured to a base member 13 which is connected 25 in any approved manner as by screws 14 to the outer face of the standard. The outer end of the rod 12 is externally threaded as shown at 15 and upon which is screwed a cap 16. The outer end of the cap is provided with a central passage 25 as shown at 17.

A pin 20 is received by the opening 17 in the cap 16 and is provided with a head 21 located within the cap and between the inner face of said cap and the outer end of the rod 12. In 30 other words, the pin 20 swivels in the cap 16 for rotation in either direction. The outer end of the rod 20 is in the shape of a flat circular disk 22.

A yoke 25 is pivotally mounted on a pin 26 35 mounted in a perforation in the disk 22. This pin or bolt has a head 27 at one end and a nut 28 threaded on to the other end. This suspension permits the yoke to swing in a vertical plane and also to swing in a second vertical plane which is at right angles to the first mentioned vertical 40 plane. In other words, the pin 20 with its pivotal and rockable connections forms a universal joint so that a rod 30 suspended from the yoke 25 will have a universal mounting on the outer end of the support 12.

The rod 30 has its upper end inserted through 45 the passage 31 in the lower end of the yoke 25. A washer 32 is received by the upper end of the rod 30 below a cotter pin 33 received by a passage in the upper end of the rod. A second cotter pin 50 34 is received by a passage in the rod 30 below the lower end of the yoke 25 for securing the upper end of the rod in the yoke.

The lower end of the rod 30 has a pivotal connection as shown at 35 with the upper end of an 55 auxiliary rod 36 which is in alignment with the

rod 30 and which is maintained in alinement or restrained against pivotal movement by a sleeve 37. This sleeve when in operative position is moved downwardly over the pivoted connection 35 as indicated by dotted lines in Figs. 3 and 4. The sleeve is held in such operative position by a cotter pin 38 which is inserted through alined passages in the sleeve and the lower end of the rod 30. A second cotter pin 39 is received by alined passages in the sleeve 37 and the rod 30 for aiding and maintaining the sleeve in its upper or inoperative position. When the sleeve 37 is in its lowermost position, it will act to retain the rods 30 and 36 in vertical alinement; and these rods will swing as a single unit at that time. Otherwise, when the sleeve is in its upper position, the auxiliary rod 36 can be rocked on the pivot 35 independently of the rod 30.

A head 40 of a golf club 41 has an internally threaded passage 42 at its forward end, generally designated as the toe of the club head, which receives a threaded bolt 43 forming part of a member 44 of a universal joint. The other element 45 of the universal joint as shown in Fig. 2 is secured to the lower end 46 of the auxiliary rod 36. Thus, it will be seen that the head 40 of the golf club 41 has a universal joint connection with the lower end of the rod 36. Moreover, the attachment of the toe of the club head to the stroke practicing instrument is particularly important in aiding the player in learning how to develop wrist action in coordination with his down swing so that the face of the club head "closes" properly at the point of impact with the ball and "follows through" on the desired line of flight of the ball. The rear side of the club head which is in line with the shaft is termed the heel and a player omitting the proper wrist action will on certain shots either allow this heel to lead the toe in one instance or to follow the toe. In either case the face of the club head at the moment of impact with the ball will be at an angle to the intended line of flight of the ball creating either a so-called sliced or a hooked ball. The toe connection it will be seen is at a distance from the club shaft equal to the length of the head and therefore creates a resistance tending to prevent the player, as the club head approaches the bottom of the swing from allowing the shaft to twist in his hands to create a slice, or from exerting a so-called crossing over or rolling movement of the wrists thus causing a hook. The follow-through may therefore be performed with the face of the club head at right angles to the desired line of flight of the ball from the instant of contact with the ball until well after the ball has gathered momentum and passed away from the club face.

The threaded bolt 43 is employed in connection with the heads of golf clubs of the driver type. On the other hand, where the irons are employed, the bolt 43 may be replaced by a clamp which is removably secured to the outer free end or toe of the head of the iron or as desired the bolt 43 may be threaded into an opening in the iron.

It will be noted from this construction that the support 12 is so positioned that it will be approximately at the center of a circle through which

the arms of the player will move during a complete stroke. In other words, the head 40 of the golf club will be directed through a path for driving the ball, for the perfect back swing and for an efficient follow-through.

On the other hand, the sleeve 37 may be raised to permit swinging movement of the auxiliary rod 36 for practicing a chip shot or for putting, thereby providing an easy back wrist swing and a follow-through. In other words, the golf club will be guided through the proper circle or arc and such practice will be continued until the player has become sufficiently proficient to practice in the open.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for guiding a golf club head in practice swings, comprising a support, a universal joint fixed thereto at shoulder height of a player, a guide member composed of a rod having a portion of major length suspended from said joint and a minor portion pivotally suspended from said major portion and extending to a level adjacent that at which the club head is to engage a golf ball, a universal joint carried on the lower end of said minor portion of the arm having a part adapted for attachment to a golf club head.

2. An apparatus for guiding a golf club head in practice swings, comprising a support, a universal joint fixed thereto at shoulder height of a player, a guide member composed of a rod having a portion of major length suspended from said joint and a minor portion pivotally suspended from said major portion and extending to a level adjacent that at which the club head is to engage a golf ball and movable through a smaller arc, and a sleeve on said rods for rendering their jointed connection inoperative so that the combined portions will swing through a circle of greater diameter, a universal joint carried on the lower end of said minor portion of the arm having a part adapted for attachment to a golf club head.

3. A device for practicing golf strokes comprising a support mounted substantially at shoulder height, a rod suspended from the support and connected thereto for universal swinging movement, and a universal joint connection between the lower end of said rod and the toe portion of the head of a golf club serving to direct said head through an arcuate path when the club is swung in simulation of a driving stroke.

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