Jan. 28, 1969 J. P. ROBERTSON 3,424,457

GOLF TEE

Filed Dec. 20, 1965

FIG. 1

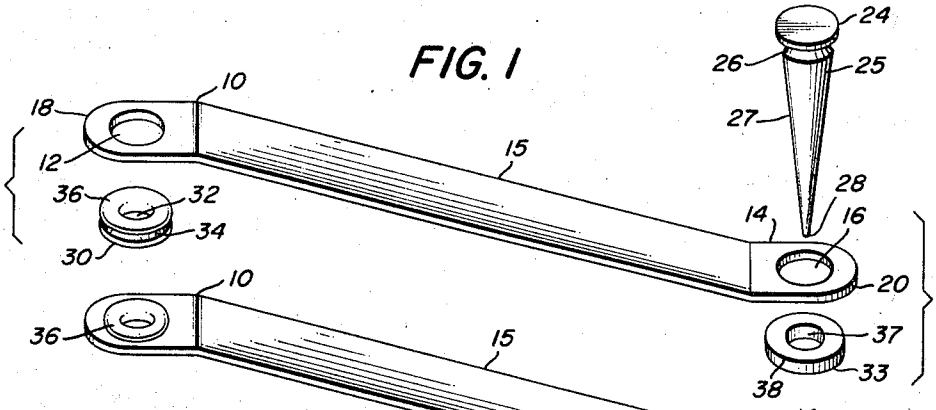


FIG. 2

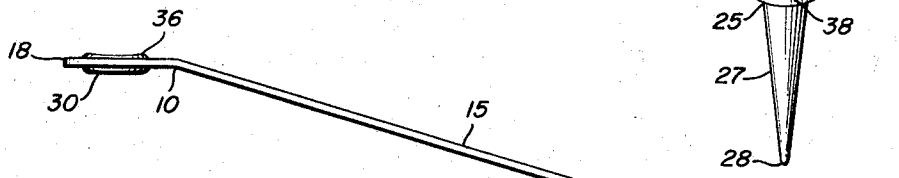


FIG. 3

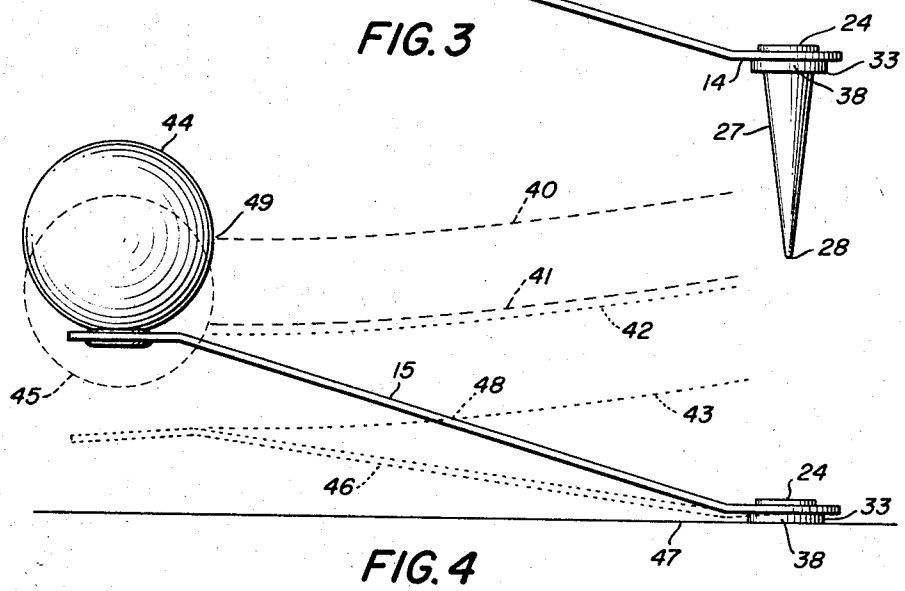


FIG. 4

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GOLF TEE

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Int. Cl. A63b 57/00

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A golf ball tee having a sloping support and aligned with the intended line of flight of a golf ball. The upper end of the arm has a ball seat ring. The lower end of the arm is held in place on the ground by a spike having a neck portion. There is a resilient washer placed adjacent the support arm and in underlying relation thereto and both engage the neck portion of the spike. When the spike is inserted in the ground the resilient washer acts as a spacer between the ground in the support arm.

This invention relates to apparatus used in playing the game of golf, and more particularly to an accessory for placing a golf ball in an elevated position in preparation for its being driven a long distance by the force exerted on it when struck by the face of a golf club head.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a device which will allow the golf ball to drop to a lower elevation when the arc followed by the golf club head is slightly lower than the arc which would be followed for perfect contact with the ball when it is resting in its initially placed position, thereby allowing it to drop to a position nearer the line of arc of the lower swing and in a position to come in contact nearer the point on the face of the golf club head behind which the greatest weight is concentrated, and thus increasing the probability of a better drive than would result had not the ball dropped to a lower position.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device which will tend to stay in its anchored position after having been used for its basic purpose, thereby lessening the probability of its loss.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device which will keep a golf ball elevated and immobile.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a golf ball tee which can be produced, packaged, and sold in large quantities at a comparatively low cost, and which, due to hardy materials and sturdy construction, will withstand a great amount of punishing use, thereby providing a device which can be economically utilized wherever needed.

Still additional objects, benefits, and advantages will become evident from a study of the following detailed description given in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the golf tee comprising the instant invention in a disassembled state.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the golf tee comprising the instant invention in an assembled state.

FIG. 3 is a side elevational view of the instant invention.

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the assembled invention to be used to describe its action in use.

Referring now specifically to the drawing, a golf tee, FIGURE 2, made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a ball support shaft **15** which may be constructed of sheet aluminum or similar durable material and which will have a circular opening **12** between the tip end **18** and obtuse angle **10**, and another circular opening **16** between the base end **20** and obtuse angle **14**. The obtuse angles **10** and **14** will be equal in degree but opposite in angle.

Golf tee, FIGURE 1 is also shown to include a ball seat ring **32** which may be constructed of a flexible material such as rubber, and which will be in the shape of a ring, with a groove **34** separating the ball seat **36** and the ball seat base **30**.

Golf tee FIGURE 1 is also shown to include a resilient washer **38** which is constructed of a resilient material such as sponge rubber of considerable density, and which is of a circular shape with a small hole in the center.

Golf tee, FIGURE 1 is also shown to include an anchor spike **27** which is constructed of a hard material such as aluminum alloy, or of a hard plastic material. This anchor spike is generally conical in shape, with a flat top **24**, directly beneath which is a groove **26**, then tapering to a point **28**. The top **24** is somewhat larger in circumference than groove edge **25** which is of the same circumference as circular opening **16** in the ball support shaft **15**.

Assembly of the device, FIGURE 2, is accomplished in the following manner:

The ball seat **36** is inserted upward through circular opening **12** of ball support shaft **15** and since the circumference of groove **34** is the same as that of circular opening **12**, circular opening **12** acts as a collar to hold the ball seat ring **36** snugly and firmly in place.

The point **28** of anchor spike **27** is inserted downward through circular opening **16** of ball support shaft **15** and continues on through small hole **37** of resilient washer **38**. The resilient washer **38** is then pushed over groove edge **25** of anchor spike **27** until it fits into groove **26**. Due to the elasticity of the resilient washer, and since groove edge **25** is of greater circumference than small hole **37**, and as the top **24** of anchor spike **27** is of greater circumference than circular opening **16** in ball support shaft **15**, the anchor spike **27** and the ball support shaft **15** will be held in this position by the pressure of the resilient washer **38** as it fits into groove **26**.

Referring now to FIGURE 4, the operation of this device will be readily understood.

The anchor spike **27** is inserted into the teeing ground, herein represented by line **47**, and pressure applied until the base **33** of resilient washer comes in firm contact with the teeing ground **47**. The tip **18** of ball support shaft is to point in the direction of the intended drive. A golf ball **44** is then placed in ball seat **36**, where it will rest in an elevated position.

In the event the golfer makes what would be a perfect swing for a normally intended drive, the point on the face of the club head behind which the greatest weight of the club head is concentrated would follow the arc represented by broken line **40**, and this point would come in contact with point **49** on the ball, which would be ideal. The sole of the golf club head would follow broken line **41**, and there would be only slight disturbance to the golf tee.

However, in the event the arc followed by the club head was slightly lower, the following action would result. In the illustration, dotted line **42** represents the arc followed by the point on the club head face behind which the greatest weight is concentrated, and dotted line **43** represents the arc followed by the club head sole. In this representation it will be noted that the sole of the golf club head comes in contact with the ball support shaft at point **48**. This contact forces the ball support shaft to the position represented by dotted line **46**. This action removes support for the golf ball **44**, and it will drop to a lower position as represented by circular broken line **45**.

Due to the speed of the golf club head, this new position **45** would not be low enough for the point on the face of the club head behind which the greatest weight is con-

centrated to come in contact with point **49** on the ball. Nevertheless, more of the effect of the concentrated weight of the club head will be transmitted to the ball than would have been possible had the ball been hit from a conventional tee, due to the fact that the contact came nearer to the concentrated weight.

Other action that would result from the club head coming in contact with the ball support shaft along its surface **15** would be the prying action of angle **14** against the top **24** of the anchor spike. However, since the resilience of washer wall **38** absorbs a portion of the shock, the anchor stem **27** is less likely to be pulled from the ground. The washer **38** also serves to return the ball support shaft to its original position.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the construction shown in the detail drawing, and while various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus completely and fully described the invention, what is now claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States, is

1. A golf tee, comprising, in combination, a ball support shaft of generally slender rectangular shape, extending in a diagonal direction upward from an anchored end at ground level, with a ball seat ring attached to the extended end of the shaft for the purpose of keeping the ball resting immobile, an anchor spike of generally conical shape for the purpose of keeping the shaft anchored to the ground, and a resilient washer which fits over the anchor spike below the anchored end of the ball support shaft and acts as a resilient base in order that

any weight or pressure greater than the weight of a golf ball on the extended end of the ball support shaft, or on being struck by any degree of force along the surface of the ball support shaft will cause the extended tip of the ball support shaft to drop to a lower position, and thus remove support for the golf ball, but will return to its original position when the weight or force is removed.

2. A golf tee as set forth in claim **1**, wherein said ball support shaft comprises a diagonal center portion and two end portions, the connections between said end portions and said center portion comprising obtuse angles of like degree but of opposite angle such that two end portions are in parallel spaced relation to each other, and parallel to the supporting surface on which they are anchored.

3. A golf tee as set forth in claim **1**, wherein the anchor spike comprises a flat head below which a groove extends around the circumference of a shaft, after which said shaft tapers to a pointed end.

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