United States Patent

[11] 3,622,157

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[54] **GOLF GREEN REPAIR TOOL AND GOLF BALL MARKER ASSEMBLY**
3 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/32 A, 273/32 B**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 57/00**
[50] **Field of Search** 273/32, 162

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

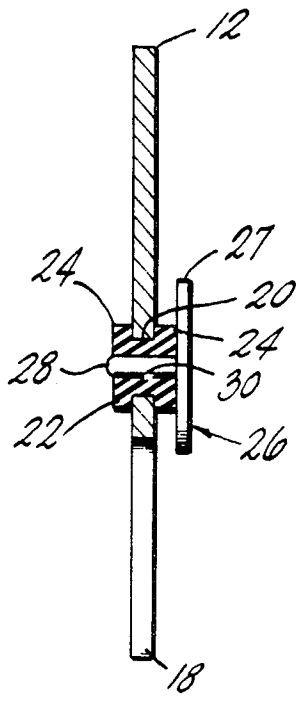
3,120,388	2/1964	Doble	273/32 B
2,261,959	11/1941	Buttikofer	273/162 D

FOREIGN PATENTS

1,043,683	9/1966	Great Britain	273/162 D

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ABSTRACT: A golf ball position marker is frictionally connected to a golf green repair tool. The marker includes a thin circular head and an integral elongated stem. The tool includes a flat handle at one end and prongs at the other end. An aperture is provided in the repair tool midway of the ends thereof for frictionally retaining the stem of the marker. The repair tool may be made from plastic or aluminum and, when made from aluminum, the aperture therein may include a resilient grommet. By locating the marker between the end portions of the repair tool, advertising space is provided on the handle end of the repair tool.



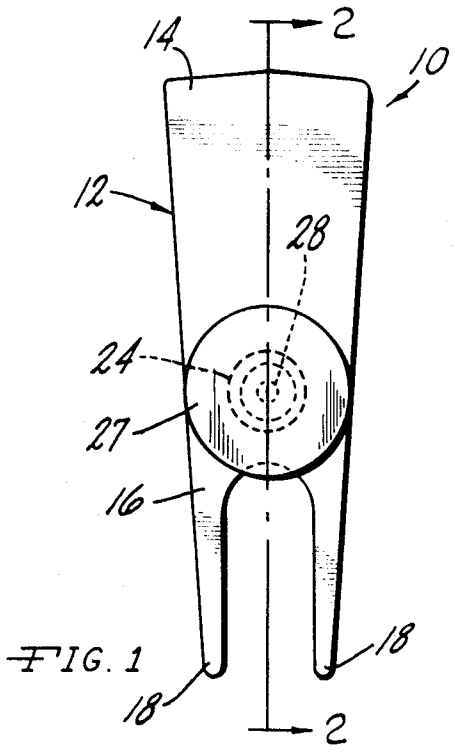


FIG. 1

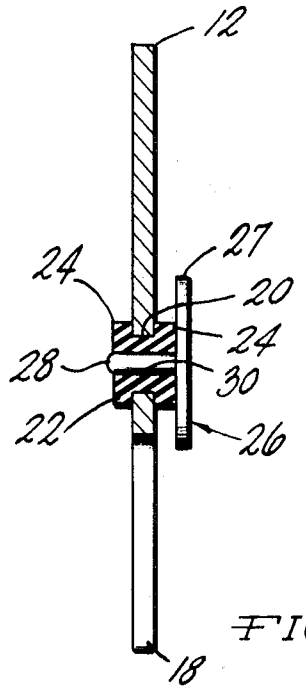


FIG. 2

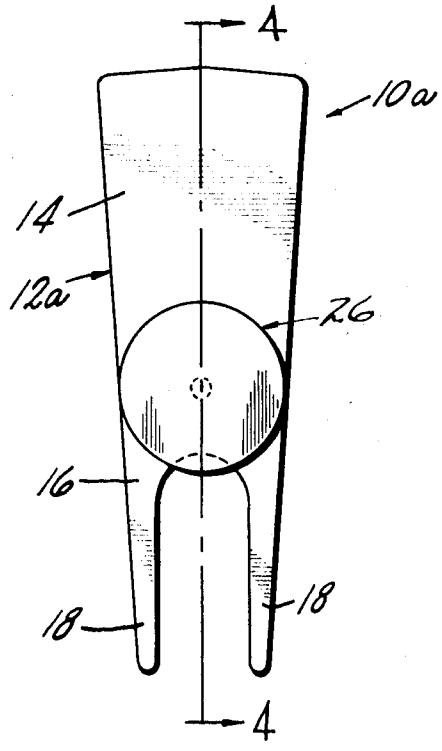


FIG. 3

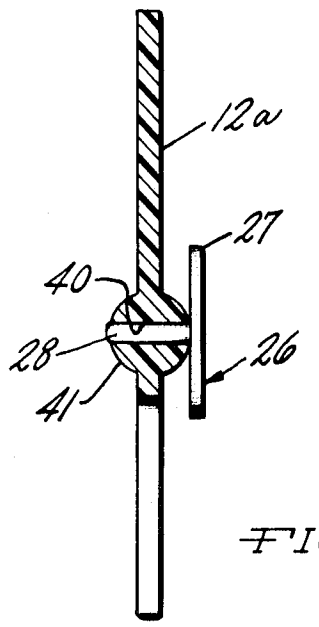


FIG. 4

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GOLF GREEN REPAIR TOOL AND GOLF BALL MARKER ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The general concept of a golf green repair tool and golf ball marker assembly is known, as evidenced by U.S. Pat. No. 3,120,388 which illustrates an assembly of this general type. However, the assembly illustrated in the aforementioned patent requires the use of a magnet to retain the tool and the ball marker in assembly relation and does not provide adequate space at the grip end of the tool for inclusion of desirable advertising or other information thereon. It is an object of this invention, therefore, to provide an improved assembly of this general type which is economical to manufacture, is readily adaptable to mass production procedures, and provides a repair tool of improved shape adapted for the inclusion thereon of advertising or other informative printed information.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one form of the assembly of this invention, the repair tool is formed of anodized aluminum and consists of a flat body member having a first enlarged end portion of a width to fit the thumb and a second fork shape end portion having prongs for digging into the turf. The body member has a rubber grommet installed thereon between the end portions, the grommet having a through opening of a size in which the integral elongated stem of a conventional ball marker can be frictionally retained. In another form of the invention, the tool, which is of the same shape as the metal tool, has a through hole of a size to frictionally retain the ball marker stem. The tool, in both forms of the invention, is readily manufactured in large quantities at economical costs and provides adequate space on the first end portion for the inclusion of advertising or other informative printed information. It is to be understood, however, that in general the tool of this invention can be made out of metal or plastic or any other suitable material.

Further objects, features and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following description, the appended claims, and the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of one form of the golf green repair tool and golf ball marker assembly of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the assembly of this invention as seen from substantially the line 2—2 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of another form of the golf green repair tool and golf ball marker assembly of this invention; and

FIG. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of the assembly of this invention as seen from substantially the line 4—4 in FIG. 3.

With reference to the drawing, the golf green repair tool and golf ball marker assembly of this invention, indicated generally at **10**, is illustrated in FIG. 1 as consisting of a body **12** of flat plate shape configured so that it has a flat hand grip portion **14** at one end and a fork portion **16** at the opposite end which terminates in a pair of ground engaging prongs **18**. Intermediate the hand grip portion **14** and the fork portion **16**, the body **12** is formed with a through hole **20**, and a grommet **22**, formed of a resilient material such as rubber, is extended through the hole **20**.

As shown in FIG. **2**, the grommet **22** has flanged ends **24** which engage the body **12** so as to maintain the grommet **22** in a fixed position within the hole **20**. A conventional golf ball marker **26** having a flat circular head **27** and a stem **28** is assembled with the body **12** by pushing the stem **28** through a

central opening **30** in the grommet **22** to a position in which the circular head **27** engages a grommet flange **24**. The stem **28** is of a diameter sufficiently large relative to the opening **30** in the grommet **22** to cause the grommet **22** to expand so that it resiliently and frictionally grips the stem **28** and retains the marker **26** in the position shown in FIGS. **1** and **2** until removal of the marker **26** for use is desired.

In the use of the assembly **10**, an indentation in a golf course green can be readily repaired by gripping the portion **14** of the body **12** between the thumb and forefinger and inserting the prongs **18** into the green turf at an inclined angle relative to ground level. The body **12** is then manipulated so as to pry the indentation in the green upwardly by the application of force on the body **12** with the thumb. Whenever it is desired to mark the position of a golf ball on the green, the marker **26** is readily pried loose from the grommet **22** and used in the conventional manner.

The body **12** is preferably formed of an anodized aluminum material and the broad thumb sized portion **14** of the body **12** provides adequate space for advertising or other informative printed material.

The modified form of the assembly of this invention, indicated generally at **10*a*** in FIG. **3**, includes a body **12*a*** which is of a shape identical to the shape of the body **12**. The body **12*a*** thus has portions **14** and **16** and prongs **18** like the corresponding portions of the body **12**. The body **12*a*** also has a through hole **40** located between the portions **14** and **16**. The body **12*a*** differs from the body **12** in that it is formed of a plastic material instead of aluminum. The plastic from which the body **12*a*** is formed has sufficient rigidity to enable it to be used like the body **12** to pry up portions of a golf green, but the body **12*a*** will yield sufficiently to enable the stem **28** of the ball marker **26** to be frictionally inserted through the opening **40** in the body **12*a***. To provide additional length to the opening **40**, and thus additional friction retaining surface for the stem **28**, the body **12*a*** can be provided with a bulb portion **41** at the opening **40**, as shown best in FIG. **4**. Thus, in the assembly **10*a***, the ball marker **26** is readily assembled with the body **12*a*** by forcing the stem **28** through the opening **40** to a position in which the ball marker head **26** engages one side of the bulb portion **41** on the body **12*a***. The assembly **10*a*** can then be used like the assembly **10**.

From the above description it is seen that in both the assembly **10** and the assembly **10*a***, the repair tool **12** and **12*a***, respectively, is of a shape to be readily manufactured in large quantities at an economical cost. In both cases, the end portion **14** is of a size to provide substantial space on which advertising or other informative printed information can be placed. This latter advantage is due to the disposition of the ball marker **26** between the end portions **14** and **16** instead of in the end portion **14**, as is the case with prior art devices.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf green repair tool and golf ball marker assembly comprising a flat body member having a first end portion of a width to fit the thumb and a second fork shape end portion having prongs, said body member having means between said end portions providing a retaining opening, a marker having a circular head and an integral elongated stem, said stem being extended through said retaining opening in frictional retained engagement with said means forming said opening.

2. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said means providing said opening is a grommet formed of a resilient material and having flanges engaged with opposite sides of said body.

3. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said body is formed of plastic and said marker stem is extended through said body.

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