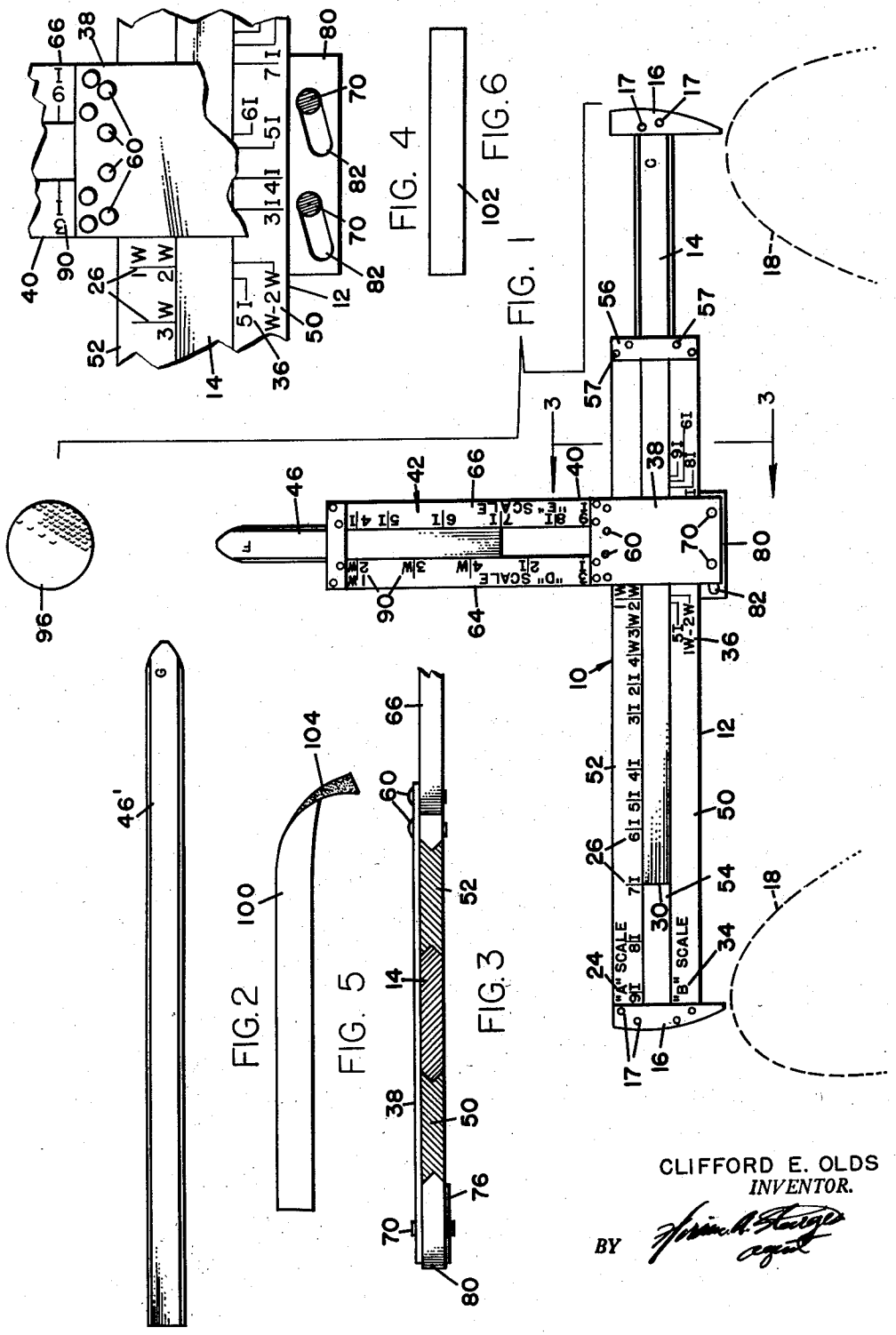
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GOLFER'S STANCE GAUGE

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CLIFFORD E. OLDS
INVENTOR.

BY William A. Strauch
agent

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GOLFER'S STANCE GAUGE

Clifford E. Olds, Fremont, Nebr.

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This invention relates to golfers' stance gauges and more particularly it is an object of this invention to provide a golfer's stance gauge in which a forwardly projecting ball positioning section is slidable along a transversely disposed foot positioning section.

A further object of the invention is to provide a stance gauge as described in which the ball positioning section and the foot positioning section are formed of telescoping portions having mutually cooperating gauge indicia for indicating their relative amount of telescoping.

A further object is to provide a gauge as described in which the indicia are in terms of various types of golf clubs for more speedy operation.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an effective device for locking and unlocking the sliding ball spacing section rigidly to and quickly from the foot spacing section.

A further object of the invention is to provide the ball spacing portion of the gauge with an auxiliary forward portion of longer length to be used interchangeably with a shorter forward portion, the shorter forward portion being for shorter golf shots and the longer portion being for longer golf shots, with two scales on the rearward portion of the ball spacing section each cooperative with one of the forward portions of the ball spacing section.

A particular object of the invention is to provide a golfing gauge which is adapted to be especially marked by an instructor in accordance with the particular stature and golf swinging characteristics of the individual.

Another object is to incorporate or absorb in the indicated measurements of the ball positioning section of the device a three inch space between the end of the ball positioning section and the ball position to prevent contact of the club with the device during use.

Other and further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, drawings and claims, the scope of the invention not being limited to the drawings themselves as the drawings are only for the purpose of illustrating a way in which the principles of this invention can be applied.

Other embodiments of the invention utilizing the same or equivalent principles may be used and structural changes may be made as desired by those skilled in the art without departing from the present invention and the purview of the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the gauge of this invention shown in a use position with respect to a ball and to the feet of the user which latter are shown in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a view showing an auxiliary and interchangeable longer forward portion of the ball spacing section for long shots.

Fig. 3 is a view-in-section taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the locking device portion of the invention, with parts broken away.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of one of a pair of adhesive backed blank overlay strips which may be placed over the indicated "A" and "B" scales for recording individual measurement if desired.

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of one of a pair of overlay strips similar to that shown in Figure 5 designed for the "D" and "E" scales.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Fig. 1, we find that the golfer's stance gauge has a foot spacing section generally indicated at **10** having inner and outer mutually telescoping portions **12** and **14** respectively, the terminal ends of the portions **12** and **14** having rearwardly projecting transverse pieces **16** attached thereto and which are adapted to be positioned in use at the forward ends of the golfer's shoes **18**. The pieces **16** are secured to the ends of the respective portions by rivets **17**.

The portions **12** and **14** of the foot spacing section **10** have mutually cooperating gauging indicia thereon for determining the extent of telescoping. Such indicia include a scale **24** which is designated "A" in the drawing.

The "A" scale has a plurality of spaced markings **26** each of which is labeled with a numeral and a letter. The letters are either "I" for iron or "W" for wood, referring to the type of golf club. The numeral indicates the size of the club. Measurements on the "A" scale are read from the left end edge **30** of the outer telescoping portion **14** and are to determine the width of the golfer's stance.

At **34** a "B" scale is indicated and has similar indicia **36** and when the right hand edge **38** of the rearward portion **40** of the ball positioning section **42** is aligned with a selected indicia **36** indicates the ball **96** position with relation to the stance.

The ball positioning or spacing section **42** extends forwardly from and transversely of a foot spacing section **10** and also comprises a forward portion **46** which is mutually telescoping with respect to the rearward portion **40**.

Suitable means are provided for connecting the rearward end of the rearward portion **40** of the ball spacing section **42** to the outer portion **12** of the foot spacing section **10**. The outer portion **12** of the foot spacing section **10** is so called because the outer portion **12** has two parts **50** and **52** which are disposed on opposite sides of the space **54** in which the inner portion **14** is received. The parts **50** and **52** are held together at their ends by the member **16** at one end and a certain interconnection member **56** at their other ends, the member **56** being secured also by rivets **57**.

The parts **50** and **52** are recessed on their inner longitudinal edges for receiving outwardly protruding longitudinal side edges of the inner telescoping portion **14**.

The member **38** is suitably attached by rivets **60** or the like to the rearward ends of side pieces **64** and **66** of the rearward portion **40** of the ball positioning section **42**, and the rearward ends of the parts **64** and **66** slidably engage the forward side of the outer portion **12** of the ball positioning section **42**.

The member **38** extends transversely across the top of the outer portion **12** of the foot spacing section and has two pins **70** extending downwardly therethrough in positions spaced on the rearward side of the outer portion **12** of the foot spacing section **10** as best seen in Fig. 4.

The pins **70** extend downwardly through and are secured in a bottom plate **76** which is spaced below the marginal end edge of the member **38** and a locking member **80** is disposed therebetween, the locking member **80** has two parallel elongated slots **82** which latter are disposed inclining at an acute angle with respect to the adjacent edge of the part **50** whereby it will be seen that the member **80** comprises a wedge means cooperative with and movably attached to the overlapping member **38** for wedging and unwedging against the rearward side

of the part **50** of the outer portion **12** of the foot placing section **10** for locking and unlocking the ball positioning section **42** rigidly to and quickly from the foot spacing section **10**.

The ball spacing section **42** also carries on its forward and rearward portions **64** and **66** mutual cooperating gauging indicia for determining the extent of the telescoping.

Such indicia includes a "D" scale with markings **90** which indicate the number of the club and whether it is an iron or wood club. The "D" scale is used in cooperation with a long forward part **46'** and the scale is read opposite the rearward edge of the forward part **46'**.

A similar scale is indicated at "E" bearing different indicia differently spaced and the "E" scale is used with the part **46** and is read at the rearward end of the part **46**.

The scales indicated on the device have been calculated from experiment and trial and error as an average. However, I have found that a slight adjustment of stance or ball position by an individual may be advantageous in that such adjustment may be the difference between a bad and a good shot.

Therefore, it is further my concept to provide means by which a player or student may experiment to find his proper stance and ball position enabling him to repeatedly duplicate that particular stance and ball position.

Such means include, with reference to Figures 5 and 6, adhesive-backed blank overlay strips **100** and **102**.

The strips **100** are designed to overlay the scales "A" and "B" and the strips **102** are designed to overlay the scales "D" and "E."

It will be understood that the adhesive backing **104** is preferably of the type whereby the strips may be applied to the surface of the scales and removed therefrom without injury to either the scale or strip.

The upper surface of the strips **80** and **82** may be inscribed or marked upon with pen or pencil to indicate the adjustment for a particular stroke and club for the individual student.

When using the "memory" strips **80** and **82**, the student can quickly adjust any part of the device experimenting with stance and ball position until he finds those that produce the best results. All data can be noted and recorded on the strips during the most favorable playing for a later permanent record.

As thus described it will be seen that a professional can prescribe to a golfer the positions on the scale which best fit his particular golf swing characteristics. And it will be understood that the indicia can be erasable by a professional golf advisor and put in different places as seem to best fit the stature and golf stroke of the individual.

For that reason the indicia can either be erasable or blank guide strips can be provided so as to be laid over a printed scale if it should be discovered that a golfer's characteristics do not fit the printed scale.

The stance gauge serves as a memory device so that practice may be conducted using professionally indicated golfing positions.

As thus described, it will be seen that the stance gauge of this invention fulfills the above described objectives.

From the foregoing description, it is thought to be obvious that a golfer's stance gauge constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use, by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof, and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice, except as claimed.

I claim:

1. A golfer's stance gauge comprising: a foot spacing section having inner and outer mutually telescoping portions, the terminal ends of said portions being adapted to be positioned in use at the forward ends of the golfer's shoes, said portions of said foot spacing section having mutually cooperating gauge indicia for determining the extent of said telescoping, and a ball spacing section extending forwardly from and transversely of said foot spacing section, said ball spacing section comprising forward and rearward mutually telescoping portions, means slidably connecting the rearward end of the rearward portion of said ball spacing section to said outer portion of said foot spacing section in a manner whereby said rearward portion of said ball spacing section is movable along said outer portion of said foot spacing section only longitudinally of said outer portion of said foot spacing section, and said portions of said ball spacing section also having mutually cooperating gauge indicia thereon for determining the extent of said telescoping.

2. The golfer's stance gauge of claim 1 in which said indicia on said sections is marked in terms of the various types of golf clubs.

3. The golfer's stance gauge of claim 1 in which a part of said rearward portion of said ball spacing section slidably engages and abuts the forward side of the outer portion of said foot spacing section and in which said means for connecting said rearward portion of said ball spacing section to said outer portion of said foot spacing section comprises a member attached to the rearward end of the rearward portion of said ball spacing section and having an overlapping portion extending beyond the rearward side of the outer portion of the said foot spacing section, and wedge means cooperative with and movably attached by suitable means to said overlapping portion for releasably wedging against the rearward side of said outer portion of said foot spacing section for releasably locking said ball spacing section rigidly to said foot spacing section.

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