

Sept. 2, 1952

J. R. DUFF
GOLF BALL CLEANER
Filed Aug. 3, 1946

2,608,705

FIG. 1.

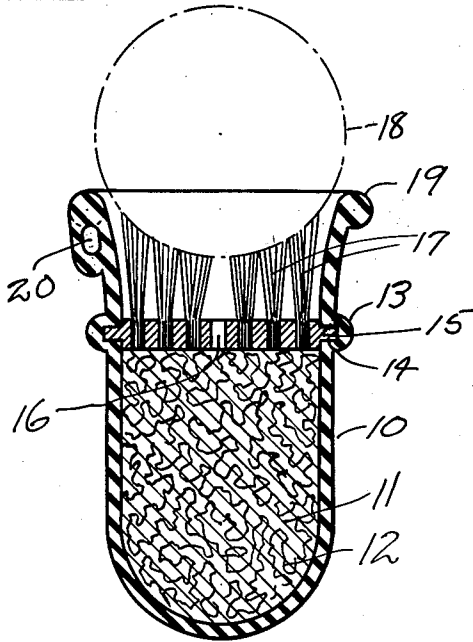


FIG. 2.

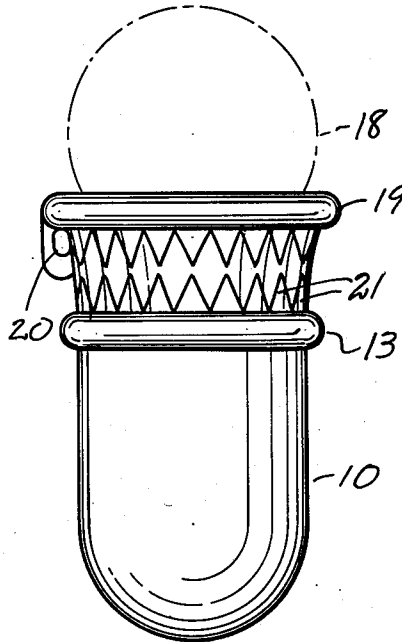


FIG. 3.

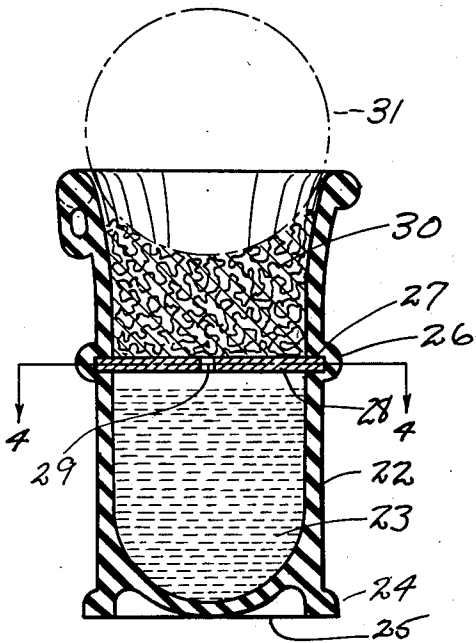
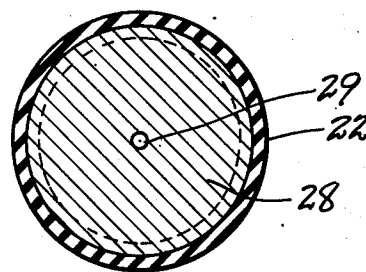


FIG. 4.



INVENTOR.
John R. Duff.
BY
W. B. Langman
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,608,705

GOLF BALL CLEANER

John R. Duff, Youngstown, Ohio

Application August 3, 1946, Serial No. 688,284

2 Claims. (Cl. 15—136)

1

This invention relates to a device for cleaning golf balls.

The principal object of the invention is the provision of a manually operable device for cleaning golf balls.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device for cleaning golf balls and incorporating a liquid receptacle and brush combination which may be conveniently held in one hand and used to clean a golf ball held in the other hand.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a device for cleaning a golf ball and incorporating a liquid receptacle and an abrasive member for frictionally engaging a golf ball to remove soil therefrom.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a golf ball cleaning device which may be economically formed and which will efficiently perform its intended function.

The golf ball cleaning device shown and described herein has been designed to form a simple and inexpensive appliance of a portable nature which may be conveniently carried by a golfer and used to simply and efficiently clean a golf ball.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a vertical cross section of the golf ball cleaning device.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the golf ball cleaning device.

Figure 3 is a vertical cross section of a modified form of the golf ball cleaning device.

Figure 4 is a horizontal cross section of the golf ball cleaning device taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

By referring to the drawings and Figures 1 and 2 in particular it will be seen that a golf ball cleaning device has been illustrated which consists of a body member 10 preferably formed of an elastic material such as rubber and including a liquid reservoir 11 which is filled with a liquid abrasive material such as a sponge and indicated by the numeral 12. The upper portion of the body member 10 is provided with an annular rib

2

13 which forms an annular inner channel 14 for the reception of the periphery of a disc 15. The disc 15 is provided with a central orifice 16 and a plurality of tufts 17 of brush-like bristles. The tufts of brush-like bristles may be formed of any suitable material and their uppermost ends are preferably formed in a concave shape approximating the shape of a golf ball, illustrated in broken lines and indicated by the numeral 18.

The uppermost edge of the body member 10 is provided with an annular lip 19 and with an eyelet 20 formed as a depending member in conjunction with the annular lip 19 to enable the golf ball cleaning device to be tied or otherwise affixed to the golf bag usually carried by a golfer.

The outer surface of the golf ball cleaning device is provided with an irregular surface pattern as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings and indicated by the numeral 21. This irregular surface pattern, together with the annular lip 19 and the annular rib 13, forms convenient means for holding the golf ball cleaning device in the user's hand as the fingers of the hand may easily encircle the golf ball cleaning device and are automatically positioned on the irregular surface pattern 21 between the lip 19 and the rib 13.

In operating the golf ball cleaning device, it will be obvious that it may be grasped in the hand of the user and the golf ball 18 held in the fingers of the user's other hand and, due to the formation of the device from distortable material, it may be distorted to cause liquid in the reservoir 11 to move upwardly through the orifice 16 in the disc 15 and into the area of the tufts 17 of the bristle-like material which will, in connection with the liquid, provide a convenient means of scrubbing the golf ball as it is rotated in the uppermost end of the golf ball cleaning device.

The golf ball may be held between the user's fingers and the cleaning device rotated or moved about the ball to effect a complete cleaning operation.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that modifications in the golf ball cleaning device hereinbefore disclosed may be made and two such modifications are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings wherein a golf ball cleaning device consisting of a body 22 is illustrated. The lower half of the body member 22 forms a liquid receiving chamber 23 and the lowermost portion of the body 22 has an annular downturned flange 24 thereon forming a flat, lower surface 25 to enable the golf ball cleaning device to be stood upright on any supporting article. The upper portion of the body 22 is provided with an an-

nular rib 26 which defines an inwardly formed channel 27 which is adapted to receive the periphery of a disc 28 which has an orifice 29 therein thus forming, in conjunction with the lower half of the body member 22, the liquid receiving chamber 23. The upper portion of the golf ball cleaning device, above the disc 28, is filled with a sponge-like abrasive containing material 30 having intercommunicating passages therethrough so that liquid from the liquid receiving chamber 23 may move upwardly through the orifice 29 in the disc 28 and through the sponge-like abrasive containing material 30 and hence into contact with a golf ball, shown in dotted line representation and indicated by the numeral 31.

In this form of the invention, the cleansing liquid is moved by manually distorting the body member 22 to force the liquid up through the orifice 29. The sponge-like material 30 may consist of sponge rubber, natural sponge, sponge-like material formed of a synthetic resin of natural resin base, or any other material through which the liquid may travel, and which material possesses the desired degree of frictional engagement with the surface of the golf ball 31 to enable the soil and other discoloration to be removed from the golf ball without harming the paint thereof.

In Figure 4 of the drawings a horizontal cross section of the device illustrated in Figure 3 is shown and the orifice 29 is disclosed as being centrally located with respect to the disc 28 positioned in the body member 22. It will be obvious that one or more of the orifices 29 may be provided, if desired.

It will thus be seen that a simple and efficient golf ball cleaning device has been disclosed which may be simply and economically formed and hence sold to golfers at a reasonable price. In operation, the golf ball cleaning device will satisfactorily clean a golf ball, and, by reason of its size and weight, be portable to the extent of being attachable to a golf bag and carried about a golf course so as to be available for use at any time.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A golf ball cleaner comprising an elongated distortable tubular body member closed at its bottom end and open at its top end and having an annular groove formed in the wall thereof inwardly from the top end thereof, a disc-like partition having a plurality of orifices therein and engaged in said annular groove, tufts of suitable bristles in a majority of said orifices, the upper free ends of said tufts being shaped and arranged to form a spherical cavity and positioned wholly within said body member and for frictionally engaging a golf ball for cleaning the same, said closed end of the body member beneath the disc-like partition defining a liquid receptacle in communication with said spherical cavity through at least one of said orifices.

2. A golf ball cleaner as set forth in claim 1 and further characterized by the formation of the disc-like partition from distortable material.

JOHN R. DUFF.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
138,662	Leet	May 6, 1873
305,305	Hammer et al.	Sept. 16, 1884
395,905	Jensen	Jan. 8, 1889
489,697	Taylor	Jan. 10, 1893
792,278	McCarthy	June 13, 1905
823,298	Smith	June 12, 1906
1,500,681	Mudra	July 8, 1924
1,614,914	Boeckh	Jan. 18, 1927
1,710,816	Evans	Apr. 30, 1929

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
8,283 of 1896	Great Britain	Mar. 6, 1897