March 3, 1959 R. H. H. HUGMAN 2,876,010

CUSTOM POSITIONED GOLF CLUB GRIP

Filed Dec. 29, 1955

Fig. 1.

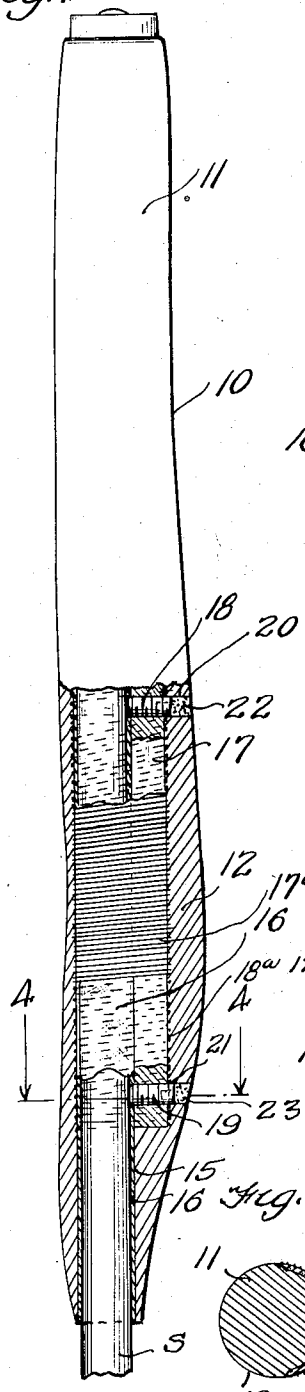


Fig. 2.

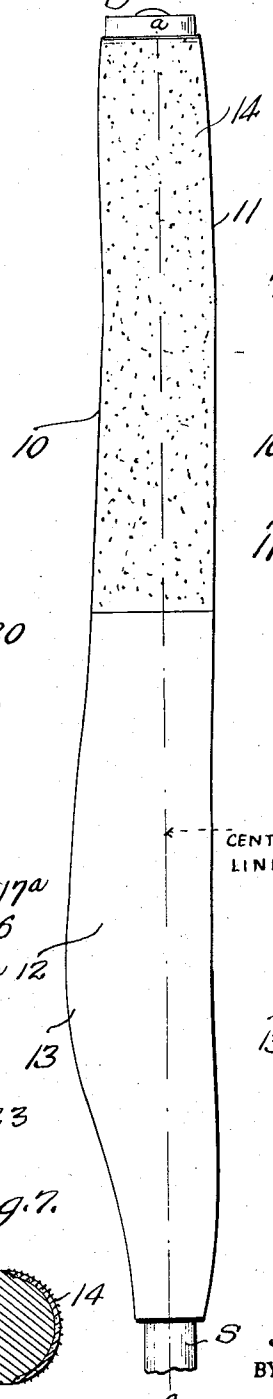


Fig. 3.

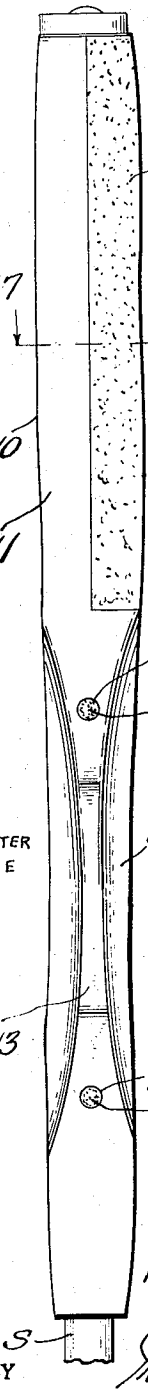


Fig. 5.

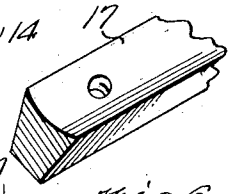


Fig. 6.

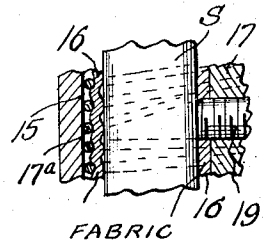


Fig. 4.

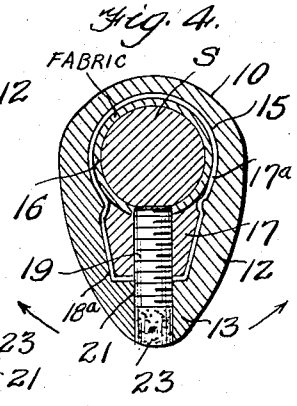


Fig. 7.

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CUSTOM POSITIONED GOLF CLUB GRIP

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5 Claims. (Cl. 273—81.2)

This invention relates to a custom positioned golf club grip, and has for one of its objects the production of a golf club grip which is adjustable to a selected position on the shaft of a club and which may then be fixed in a desired position and sealed so that the position of the grip may not be changed or tampered with after once being fixed in position.

Another object of this invention is the production of a golf club grip which is specially shaped to give the lower hand placed on the grip a scientific hold and a hard or tight grip, the grip being off-center in the direction of the intended golf stroke, so that the thumb and first finger may be placed in advance of the center line of the shaft for maximum accuracy and control of the desired shot, while the upper hand is on the center line of the shaft.

A further object of this invention is the production of an efficient non-slip gripping surface for all fingers of the upper or hinging hand with the exception of the thumb while at the same time providing a slick surface for the power or lower hand, to thereby facilitate an efficient stroke by the golfer.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear throughout the following specification and claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the golf club grip, partly shown in section;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the golf club grip looking at the opposite side thereof from that shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an edge elevational view of the golf club grip;

Figure 4 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of the reinforcing bar;

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of the grip showing the gripping of the shaft by the fabric lining and also showing the reinforcing wire wrapping;

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view taken on line 7—7 of Figure 3.

By referring to the drawing in detail, it will be seen that 10 designates the golf club grip, the upper portion 11 of which is substantially circular in cross section for about one-half of the length thereof. The lower portion 12 of the grip 10 bulges and tapers laterally off-center as indicated at 13, which is and should be in the direction of the intended golf stroke. This shape is designed to give the lower hand placed on the grip a scientific hold and a hard positive grip. The lower hand affords the power to the stroke, and it is this lower hand that betrays the golfer if the shape of the grip for the power hand, is not correct. Therefore, this grip is off-center in the direction of the intended golf stroke, and the thumb and first finger of the lower hand are placed in advance of the center line, *a—a*, see Figure 2, for maximum

or great accuracy and control of the shot. The upper hand on the shaft is the hinging hand, and therefore it should be on the center line of the shaft when gripping the upper portion 11.

The upper portion 11 is provided with a non-slip gripping surface formed of roughened leather or other non-slip material 14. This gripping surface 11 extends over about one-half of the circumference of the upper portion 11 and about one-half the length of the grip 10. All of the fingers of the upper, hinging hand for efficient operation should engage the non-slip gripping surface 14 with the exception of the strong thumb which may engage the slick surface of the grip 10. The lower striking hand should be placed on the slick surface of the lower portion 12 so as not to allow one finger to grip and exert undue pressure to unconsciously turn the club head and produce a bad shot.

The golf club grip is mechanically fastened to the shaft S and may be fixed in any desired or selected position by the golfer, instead of being fixed to the shaft by the producer, in other words, it has a custom-built character, built-in by virtue of the structure herein set forth. The grip is provided with a shaft receiving socket 15 which is lined throughout its length with a fabric lining 16 to eliminate metal to metal contact and vibration between the shaft and grip. A metal reinforcing bar 17 extends longitudinally along one side of the socket 15, and fits within a recess 18[a] formed along one side of the socket 15, the lining 16 also being interposed between the bar 17 and the shaft S, as shown in Figure 1.

A thin spirally wound strand of wire is wrapped around the lining 16 and the bar 17 to reinforce the lining and bar. Transverse set screws 18 and 19 are threaded through the bar 17 and the lower portion 12 of the grip 11. The grip 10 may be formed of plastic or other similar material common to the trade and the metal bar 17 which is embedded in the grip 10 will provide an efficient set-screw carrying element for the grip. The grip 10 is provided with apertures 20 and 21 through which the respective set-screws 18 and 19 are also fitted while passing through the bar 17.

The set-screws 18 and 19, when securing the shaft S in an adjusted position in the socket 15, are inset within the apertures 20 and 21 so that the outer ends of these apertures define plug receiving recesses which may be sealed with a plastic stick-and-glue sealing wax, or any other hardening compound defining sealing plugs 22 and 23, respectively. This sealing of the set-screw sockets will prevent free access to the set-screws and thereby prevent tampering with the screws by others, so that the golfer may have no question of the golf club having been adjusted by others during a round of official tournament play. The apertures 20 and 21 constitute deep receptacles for receiving the sealing plugs 22 and 23, which are formed as stated above of hardening compound.

It should be noted that the grip may be positioned in a selected or adjusted position upon the shaft S relative to the golf club head to suit the golfer so as to produce the ball action which he intends, for without a grip so exactly positioned he unconsciously gets a contrary golf ball action. This grip by being adjustable in a rotary manner upon the shaft S enables the golfer to adjust and lock the grip and seal the same in a position which best suits his conscious and unconscious strike action. This is proven only by use, and is then set, locked and healed.

It should be further noted that by clamping the set-screws 18 and 19 in binding contact with the shaft S, the shaft S will be firmly clamped in the socket 15 against the fabric lining 16, which lining 16 in turn is clamped against the convolutions of the coiled or wrapping wire 17[a] defining a plurality of closely arranged gripping or binding ribs interposed between the wall of the socket

15 and the fabric lining 16. In this way an efficient clamping connection is provided between the grip 10 and the shaft S which is locked against accidental adjustment or tampering. The wrapping wire 17a also binds the reinforcing bar 17 and fabric lining 16 together.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new is:

1. In combination with a golf club shaft, a golf club grip connected to said shaft and comprising an upper portion substantially circular in cross section in line with the center line of said shaft and adapted to be gripped by the upper hinging hand of a golfer around the center line of said shaft, a lower portion of said grip having an off-center area extending off-center relative to the center line of said shaft and constituting a grip portion for the thumb and first finger of the lower power hand of a golfer in advance of the center line of the shaft for great accuracy and control of the shaft, the off-center area of said golf club grip being adapted to extend in the direction of the intended golf stroke, the shape of the lower portion of the grip providing a scientific hold and a hard positive grip for the lower power hand of a golfer, the upper portion of said grip being provided with a non-slip surface for a portion of its circumference for engagement by all four fingers of the upper hand of a golfer, and said grip also being provided with a slick surface for the remaining portion of its circumference for engagement by the thumb of the upper hand of a golfer, the lower portion of said grip having a slick surface for engagement by all fingers and the thumb of the lower power hand of a golfer to assume uniform gripping action by all fingers and the thumb of the lower hand upon the lower portion of the grip.

2. In combination with a golf club shaft, a golf club grip connected to said shaft and comprising an upper portion substantially circular in cross section in line with the center line of said shaft and adapted to be gripped by the upper hinging hand of a golfer around the center line of said shaft, a lower portion of said grip having an off-center area extending off-center relative to the center line of said shaft and constituting a grip portion for the thumb and first finger of the lower power hand of a golfer in advance of the center line of the shaft for great accuracy and control of the shaft, the off-center area of said golf club grip being adapted to extend in the direction of the intended golf stroke, the shape of the lower portion of the grip providing a scientific hold and hard positive grip for the lower power hand of a golfer, said grip being provided with a shaft receiving socket and a layer of fabric and a layer of wound thin strand of wire being interposed between said shaft and grip within said socket thereby defining a plurality of closely arranged gripping and binding ribs interposed between the wall of the socket and said shaft.

3. In combination with a golf club shaft, a golf club grip connected to said shaft and comprising an upper portion substantially circular in cross section in line with the center line of said shaft and adapted to be gripped by the upper hinging hand of a golfer around the center line of said shaft, a lower portion of said grip having an off-center area extending off-center relative to the center line of said shaft and constituting a grip portion for the thumb and first finger of the lower power hand of a golfer in advance of the center line of the shaft for great accuracy and control of the shaft, the off-center area of said golf club grip being adapted to extend in the direction of the intended golf stroke, the shape of the lower portion of the grip providing a scientific hold and hard positive grip for the lower power hand of a golfer, said grip being provided with a shaft receiving socket and a layer of fabric and a layer of spirally wound thin strand of wire interposed between said shaft and grip within said socket thereby defining a plurality of closely arranged gripping and binding ribs interposed between the wall of the socket and said shaft.

4. In combination with a golf club shaft, a golf club grip connected to said shaft and comprising an upper portion substantially circular in cross section in line with the center line of said shaft and adapted to be gripped by the upper hinging hand of a golfer around the center line of said shaft, a lower portion of said grip having an off-center area extending off-center relative to the center line of said shaft and constituting a grip portion for the thumb and first finger of the lower power hand of a golfer in advance of the center line of the shaft for great accuracy and control of the shaft, the off-center area of said golf grip being adapted to extend in the direction of the intended golf stroke, the shape of the lower portion of the grip providing a scientific hold and hard positive grip for the lower power hand of a golfer, said grip being provided with a socket to receive said shaft, locking means including a reinforcing bar fitted longitudinally in said socket and having longitudinal gripping action upon said shaft, and means operable by an individual golfer and the like engaging said bar for locking said shaft, reinforcing bar and grip together in a selected set position.

5. In combination with a golf club shaft, a golf club grip connected to said shaft and comprising an upper portion substantially circular in cross section in line with the center line of said shaft and adapted to be gripped by the upper hinging hand of a golfer around the center line of said shaft, a lower portion of said grip having an off-center area extending off-center relative to the center line of said shaft and constituting a grip portion for the thumb and first finger of the lower power hand of a golfer in advance of the center line of the shaft for great accuracy and control of the shaft, the off-center area of said golf club grip being adapted to extend in the direction of the intended golf stroke, the shape of the lower portion of the grip providing a scientific hold and hard positive grip for the lower power hand of a golfer, said grip being provided with a socket to receive said shaft, a reinforcing bar fitted longitudinally in said socket and engaging said shaft, means for locking said shaft, reinforcing bar and grip together in a selected set position, and a spirally wound thin strand of wire encircling said shaft and reinforcing bar within said socket thereby defining a plurality of closely arranged spirally wound gripping and binding ribs interposed between said shaft and the wall of said socket.

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