April 15, 1947. G. J. SPOHRER 2,419,175

GOLF CLUB CARRIER

Filed July 7, 1944

Fig. 1.

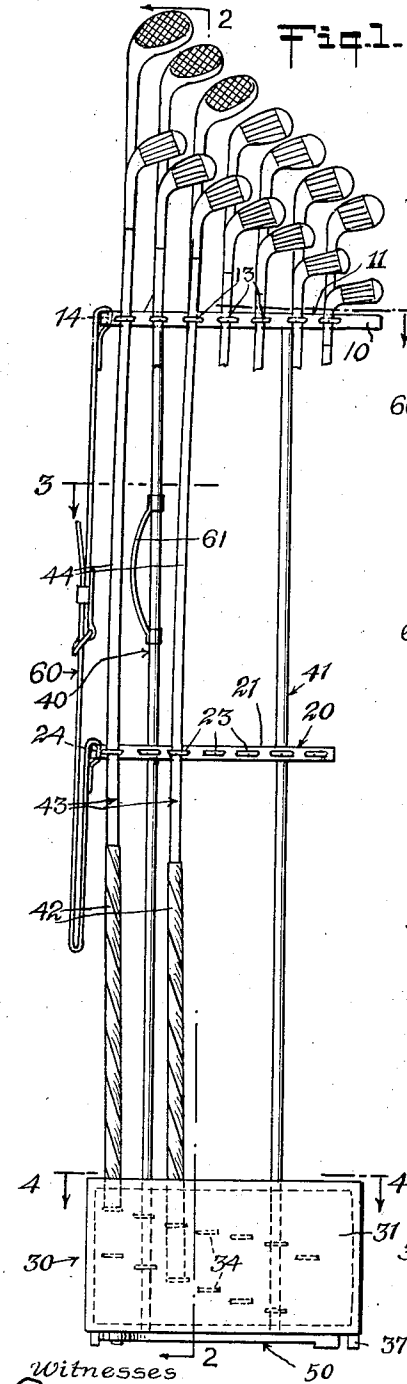


Fig. 3.

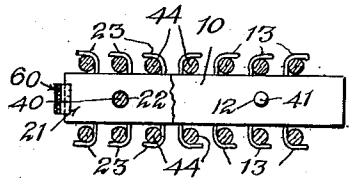


Fig. 6.

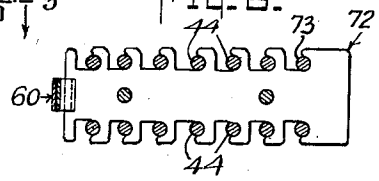


Fig. 7.

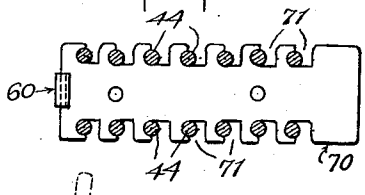


Fig. 5.

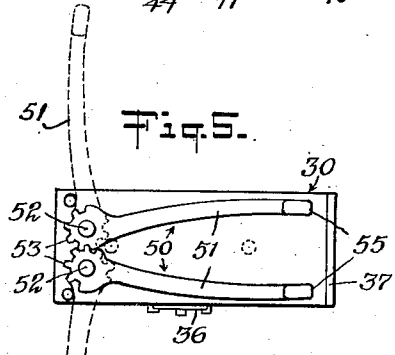


Fig. 4.

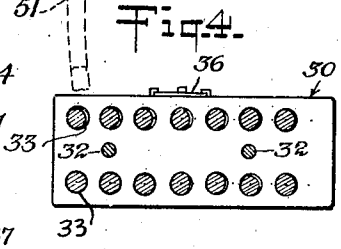
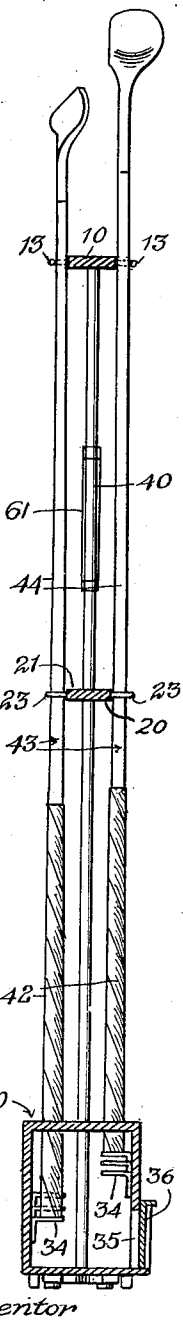


Fig. 2.



Witnesses
Geo. V. Taylor
John H. Glaccum

Inventor
Gregory J. Spohrer
BY
Munn, Liddy & Glaccum
Attorneys

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GOLF CLUB CARRIER

Gregory J. Spohrer, East Orange, N. J.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.5)

1

This invention relates to golf club carriers and, more particularly to a carrier in which the clubs themselves form the outside or outer walls of the device. The present-day carriers are mostly in the nature of bags made of leather, fabric or similar material and the clubs are hidden from view except for the heads. The player must therefore select his club without seeing the entire club. In the present-day bag the shafts of clubs are normally loose within the bag and are subject to considerable chafing and rubbing. This injures the leathers and, in the case of metal clubs which are in general use today, has a tendency to mar the shafts.

Another objection to the present-day golf bag rests in the fact that it will not normally stand upright and in the further fact that it is heavy and cumbersome to handle.

When clubs are used in wet weather and left in the bag there is a tendency to mar the finish of the shafts and also a tendency for the leathers to mildew or gather mold.

In my improved construction the shafts are always open to the air and will dry out quickly.

An object of the invention is to provide a carrier in which the clubs themselves form the walls of the carrier and in which the clubs are at all times in full view. This is particularly desirable in match play where the audience is interested in watching which club the player elects.

A further object is to provide a carrier in which the clubs may be attractively displayed.

My new carrier consists of three sections rigidly spaced by a pair of uprights and can be made of any suitable material. Its weight is much less than that of a heavy bag and its cost would likewise be less. Its structure is such that all of the clubs are fixed in their place and there is no danger of them banging together or breaking. My device is adapted to stand upright or to be placed upon the ground lengthwise.

It will be noted that the top plate and the base are so constructed that when laid lengthwise on the ground the clubs do not touch the ground.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the accompanying description and drawing.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a side view of the golf club carrier herein claimed;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 of said golf club carrier;

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view, partly broken away, of the top and middle club holding members of said golf club carrier on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

2

Fig. 4 is a sectional plan view of the bottom club holding member on line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a bottom view of the geared arms which comprise, when swung apart, the stand of said golf club carrier;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of another preferred form of the middle club holding member of said golf club carrier; and

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the complementary top club holding member thereof.

Referring to Figures 1 to 5, inclusive, the golf club carrier herein claimed comprises a top club holding member 10, a middle club holding member 20, a bottom club holding member 30, upright members 40 constituting the framework of the carrier, a positionable supporting stand 50 and the shoulder or carrying strap 60.

Top club holding member 10 comprises a horizontally disposed, rectangular plate 11 which may be made of wood or of metal or of any other suitable material. It has a pair of spaced apertures 12 formed therein, on a center line running longitudinally thereof. The purpose of these apertures will hereinafter appear. Affixed to the side edges of said plate is a plurality of spaced, horizontally aligned hooks 13, all of which open in a common direction. A transverse slot 14 is formed adjacent one of the ends of said plate. The function of said slot will hereinafter be described.

Middle club holding member 20 comprises a horizontally disposed, rectangular plate 21 of substantially the same size and shape as plate 11, and made of the same material. It has a pair of apertures 22 of the same dimensions as apertures 12 and correspondingly spaced and situated. Affixed to the side edges of plate 21 is the same number of hooks 23 as are affixed to plate 11. Hooks 23 are of substantially the same type, shape and dimensions as hooks 13 and they are correspondingly spaced. Like hooks 13 they all open in a common direction, but the direction is opposite that of hooks 13. Like hooks 13 they are horizontally aligned. As will hereinafter appear, hooks 23 do not register with hooks 13. A transverse slot 24, corresponding to slot 14 is formed adjacent one of the ends of plate 21.

Bottom club holding member 30 comprises a box 31 whose length corresponds to the length of plates 11 and 21 and whose width exceeds that of plates 11 and 21 to a predetermined extent, measured by the thickness of at least two golf sticks laid side by side. Box 31 may be made of

the same material as plates 11 and 21. Box 31 has six sides, the top and bottom having each a pair of apertures 32 formed therein of the same dimensions as apertures 12 and 22 and correspondingly spaced and situated. Two rows of apertures 33 flank apertures 32, said apertures 33 being large enough to accommodate the butt or handle ends of golf sticks and being situated and spaced to correspond with hooks 13. As will hereinafter appear, apertures 33 register, when the carrier as a whole is assembled, with hooks 13.

Situated within box 31, directly below apertures 33 are rests or stops 34, said rests being uniformly staggered at different heights, each rest lying in a horizontal plane different from the planes of the other rests. As shown in Figure 2, these rests may consist of inverted L shaped members whose vertical portions are affixed to the inside walls of box 31.

Instead of individual staggered rests or stops a continual strip may be placed in the box 30 at an angle to engage the bottoms of the clubs.

An opening 35 is formed in one of the sides of box 31 and a sliding door 36 is slidably affixed to said box to close said opening. The purpose of the rests 34 and the opening and door 35 and 36 will shortly appear.

Four short legs 37 are affixed to the bottom of box 31, one at each corner thereof.

Upright members 40 comprise a pair of elongated rods 41 whose diameter corresponds to the diameter of apertures 12, 22 and 32. These upright members constitute the vertical framework of the golf club carrier, which is assembled as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The rods may be made of metal or of wood and they may be of solid or hollow construction. The rods 41 are inserted into said apertures and plate 11 is affixed to the top of said rods, plate 21 is affixed to the middle of said rods, and box 31 is affixed to the bottom of said rods. It is thus that the plates and box are maintained in fixed spaced relation.

When the golf club carrier is assembled, only hooks 13 register with apertures 33. Hooks 23 do not register either with hooks 13 or with apertures 33. When the butt or handle end 42 of a golf club 43 is inserted into box 31 by way of one of the apertures 33, the shank 44 of said golf club will engage the corresponding hook 13 readily enough but not the corresponding hook 23. To engage the latter as well as the former, the golf club must be bent slightly in the middle, as shown in Figure 1, in the direction of said latter hook 23. The spring tension of the golf club resulting from the bending thereof will tend to maintain said club in pressure engagement with said hooks 13 and 23 and with said aperture 33. As shown in Figure 1 the tendency of the shank at hook 13 and of the handle at aperture 33 is to press and move to the left, and of the shank at hook 23 to press and move to the right, this tendency simply representing the inherent urge of the golf club to return to its normal, unbent condition. As shown in Figure 3, hook 13 is open to the right, and hook 23 to the left, thus preventing leftward movement of the shank at hook 13 and rightward movement thereof at hook 23. Aperture 33, being a circular aperture, also prevents leftward movement of the handle and of the golf club.

The staggered rests 34 serve as steps upon which the golf clubs rest or stand at staggered heights. The purpose is to render the golf clubs

conveniently available for quick selection and removal from the golf club carrier.

Box 31 serves as a golf ball holder or container, in addition to its function above indicated. Golf balls are inserted into and removed from, box 31 through opening 35. They are prevented from falling out of the box by means of sliding door 36.

Slots 14 and 24 in plates 11 and 21 serve to engage shoulder or carrying strap 60 in the usual way, and a handle 61 is likewise provided.

The entire structure stands on legs 37 when the same is not being carried. In addition to said legs, positionable supporting stand 50 is provided for the added stability of a broader base. Stand 50 consists of a pair of pivoted arms 51 which pivot horizontally around vertical pivots 52, said pivots being affixed to the bottom of box 31. The pivoted ends of arms 51 are provided with gear teeth 53 which are in mesh. Thus when one of the arms is swung around on its pivot, the other arm, being geared to the first arm, is caused to swing outward in the opposite direction. The dotted representation 54 of said arms shows their position when in use as a base. The solid lines show their folded position when not in use as a base. It will be noted that arms 51 are provided at their free ends with pads 55. The thickness of these pads equals the height or length of legs 37.

In Figures 6 and 7 another embodiment of the invention, and specifically of the plate members, is shown. These plates are made, preferably, of metal, stamped into the form shown in the drawing. Any other suitable material may be used such as plywood. Top plate 70 is provided, at its side edges, with bayonet slots 71 opening in a common direction. Middle plate 72 is provided at its side edges with bayonet slots 73 opening in the opposite direction. These bayonet slots perform the same function as the hooks 13 and 23 above described.

This invention is of the type that admits of considerable variation without departure from the principles of the invention. Thus, instead of L-shaped hooks 13 and 23, ?-shaped hooks might be used. Instead of a pair of upright members 40, a single, perhaps thicker and stronger upright member would serve the purpose.

Other variations, additions and subtractions are possible and are herein contemplated.

I claim:

1. A golf club carrier comprising a pair of vertically extending rods, a horizontally extending plate affixed to the top of said rods, a second horizontally extending plate affixed to the middle of said rods, and a horizontally extending box affixed to the bottom of said rods, the top plate having a set of spaced hooks affixed to its side edges, said hooks opening in a common direction, the second plate having a corresponding set of spaced hooks affixed to its side edges, said hooks opening in a common direction opposite the direction in which the top plate hooks open, the box having a corresponding set of spaced apertures formed in its top wall, only said top plate hooks being disposed to register in vertical alignment with said apertures, with the middle plate hooks being slightly displaced laterally from such registry, whereby the individually supported shaft of a golf club is gripped frictionally by its supporting means.

2. A golf club carrier comprising at least three longitudinally spaced members, a plurality of golf club engaging members on said spaced members, the engaging members on one of said

spaced members being out of alignment with the engaging members on the other two spaced members and facing in the opposite direction therefrom, said engaging members being thereby positioned to engage the golf clubs only when said clubs are bent out of true alignment, the degree of misalignment between said engaging members which are in alignment with each other and the engaging members which are out of alignment being such that when the golf clubs are bent out of true alignment into engagement with said engaging members, the spring tension inherent in said clubs and which normally urges them back into true alignment, is sufficient to hold said clubs in tight contact with said engaging members thereby preventing accidental displacement of said clubs relative to said engaging members.

3. A golf club carrier comprising a vertical frame, three longitudinally spaced horizontal members affixed to said frame, golf club engaging members on all of said horizontal members, the engaging members on the top and bottom, horizontal members being in alignment respectively with each other and facing in a common direction, the engaging members on the intermediate horizontal member being out of alignment respectively with the engaging members on the other two horizontal members and facing in the opposite direction therefrom, said engaging members being thus adapted to engage the golf clubs only when said clubs are bent out of true alignment in correspondence with the misalignment of the engaging members of the intermediate horizontal member relative to the engaging members of the other two horizontal members, the degree of misalignment being such, that the golf clubs are put under sufficient tension when brought into engagement with said engaging members to urge them into tight contact with said engaging members sufficient to prevent their accidental displacement therefrom.

GREGORY J. SPOHRER.

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