June 9, 1964 L. S. SCHAPER 3,136,547

BALL POSITION MARKER

Filed Nov. 9, 1961

Fig 1

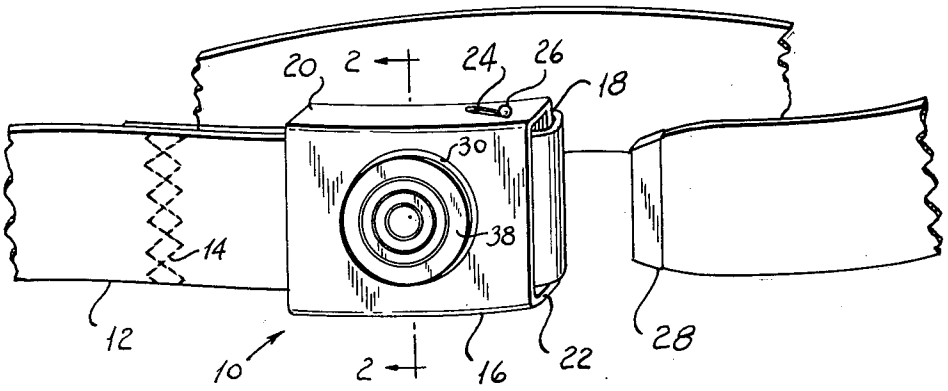


Fig 2

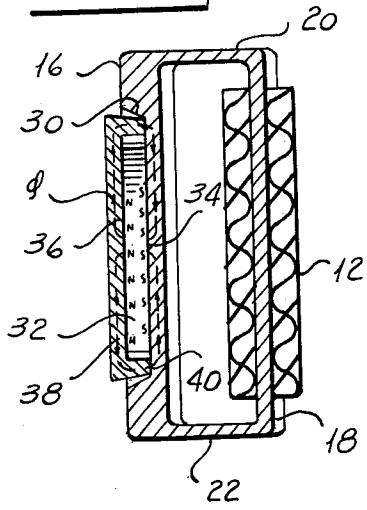


Fig 3

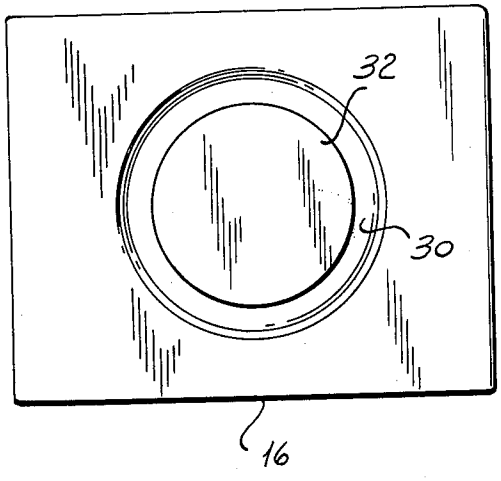
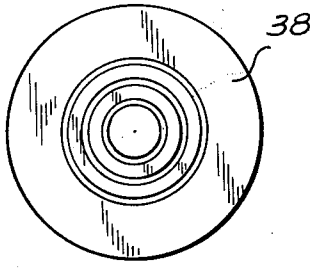


Fig 5



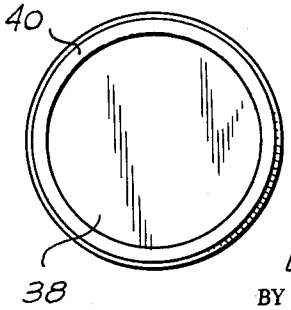


Fig 4

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BALL POSITION MARKER

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My invention relates to a ball position marker and more particularly to a device for releasably holding a marker element in a readily accessible position on the person of a golfer.

As is known, in the game of golf it is customary for the player whose ball lies furthest from the hole to shoot first. When the players have arrived at or in the vicinity of the green and a ball is in the path from the player's ball to the hole, a stymie results. That is, the player who is furthest away is required to avoid the ball lying in the path between his ball and the hole. Under the old rules of golf this presented a nearly impossible situation to the player. Owing to this fact the rules were changed to permit the player whose ball lay in the path of the ball of another player to move his ball so that the player furthest from the hole would have a clear path to the hole. It will readily be apparent that in order that the game be played properly it is necessary that some means be provided for marking the position from which the ball was moved. Obviously, such a marker cannot be of such a configuration that it will block the path from the ball being played to the hole. It must be readily visible. It must not be such that it will easily blow away from the spot in which it has been placed.

I have invented a ball position marker which permits a player to mark the position from which his ball has been moved without interfering with the movement of a ball being played. The marker element is heavy enough to remain in the spot at which it is placed without being anchored. My device retains the marker element in an easily accessible location on the player's body. It is readily removable from and replaceable on the carrier so that it can be used and reused. While being readily removable the marker is at the same time firmly held on the wearer's body so that it cannot accidentally be lost as by being knocked off the carrier and falling in the rough, for example.

One object of my invention is to provide a ball position marker which can be used to mark the place from which a ball was removed while at the same time not interfering with the movement of a ball being played toward the hole.

Another object of my invention is to provide a marker element which stays on the spot at which it is placed without being anchored.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a ball position marker which is simple and inexpensive.

A further object of my invention is to provide a ball position marker in which the marker element is held in an easily accessible location on the player's person.

Yet another object of my invention is to provide a ball position marker which is readily removable from and replaceable on the carrier on the wearer's person.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a ball position marker in which the marker element is firmly held on the wearer's person to avoid the danger of its being accidentally lost.

Other and further objects of my invention will appear from the following description.

In general, my invention contemplates the provision of a ball position marker including a generally flat marker element of magnetic material which is retained in an accessible location on the golfer's person by a permanent magnet secured in a recess of a support such as the buckle

of the golfer's belt. The magnet is mounted with one of its pole faces exposed to receive the flat body of the marker element. A peripheral flange on the marker element surrounds the magnet to prevent the element from slipping off the pole face. At least the portion of the support in the area of the magnet is formed of magnetic material to complete the path for the magnetic flux. The recess and the periphery of the element are so shaped as to permit the element to be readily removed from the support by the player.

In the accompanying drawings which form part of the instant specification and which are to be read in conjunction therewith and in which like reference numerals are used to indicate like parts in the various views:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of my ball position marker disposed on the buckle of a golfer's belt.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view of the form of my ball position marker shown in FIGURE 1 of the drawings.

FIGURE 3 is a plan view of a belt buckle support carrying the magnet of my ball position marker.

FIGURE 4 is a bottom plan view of the marker element of my ball position marker removed from its support.

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view of the marker element of my ball position marker when removed from its support.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in the embodiment of my invention illustrated therein a belt buckle indicated generally by the reference character **10** forms the support for my marker. Buckle **10** is of the type which includes a front **16**, a back **18**, a top **20** and a bottom **22**. One end of a belt **12** is looped over the back **18** and secured on itself by any suitable means such as by stitching **14**. Respective inclined slots **24** receive a pin **26**. As is known in the art, when the free end **28** of the belt **12** is slipped through the buckle **10** pin **26** may be moved to a position at which it clamps the end **28** between pin **26** and the portion of the belt **12** overlying the back **18**. In this manner the belt is securely held on the wearer's body. It will readily be understood that the particular form of buckle shown and described is by way of illustration only. Any other suitable support or form of buckle could be used.

I form the front **16** of the buckle **10** from a suitable magnetic material such, for example, as steel and provide the front **16** with a generally circular recess **30**. I secure a disk-like permanent magnet **32** in the recess **30** by any suitable means such as by soldering, brazing or welding or the like. It is to be noted that magnet **32** is so oriented that one of its pole faces **34** is flush against the bottom of the recess **30** while its other pole face **36** is exposed.

The marker element **38** of my marking device has a generally flat body and is provided with a peripheral flange **40**. I form the marker element **38** from a suitable magnetic material such, for example, as iron or the like. The marker element **38** is adapted to fit over the magnet **32** with the underside of its body in engagement with the pole face **36** and with the peripheral flange **40** extending to the bottom of the recess **30**. With the marker element in this position as shown in FIGURE 2, the flux path for the permanent magnet **32** is completed through the body of the marker element **38** through the peripheral flange **40** and back through the magnetic material of the front **16**. Owing to the fact that the pole faces **34** and **36** are oriented in the manner described above, the marker element **38** is securely held in position on the buckle **10** by a relatively strong magnetic force. It is to be noted also that the flange **40** not only serves to complete the path for the magnetic flux but also it cooperates with the recess **30** and with the magnet to prevent the marker from slipping off the magnet. I taper the flange **40** inwardly of the marker and provide

an outwardly flaring periphery for the recess **30** to permit the element **38** to be readily removed from the magnet **32** when it is to be used.

In use of my ball marking device when a golfer is required to or desires to move his ball so that he must mark its position the marker **38** is removed from the magnet **32** in an expeditious manner by inserting a thumbnail, for example, between the flange **40** and the edge of the recess **30** and lifting the element off the magnet. While the force with which the magnet holds the marker is relatively strong still the marker can readily be picked off the magnet in this manner. After being removed from the support in this manner the marker element is placed at the location on the ground at which the ball lay with the flange **40** down. If required it may be pressed into the grass somewhat so as not to interfere with the passage of another ball thereover. It will be appreciated that the marker element is heavy enough that it will not be disturbed by a breeze and generally retains its position without having to be anchored to the ground. After the stymied ball has been played the marker can be removed and replaced on the buckle **10** by simply slipping the element over the magnet **32**. It will then be ready for the next use.

It will be seen that I have accomplished the objects of my invention. I have provided a ball position marker which marks the place from which a ball was removed and which does not interfere with movement of a ball being played toward the hole. It retains its position without anchoring.

My marker is simple to use and inexpensive to construct. It is held in an easily accessible location on the player's person. The marker element is readily removable from and replaceable on a carrier supported on the wearer's person. The marker element, while being readily removable, is held on the carrier securely so that there is little danger of its being accidentally lost.

It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed with-
This is contemplated by and is within the scope of my
out reference to other features and subcombinations.
claims. It is further obvious that various changes may

be made in details within the scope of my claims without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is therefore, to be understood that my invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A ball position marker including in combination a support formed of magnetic material, means for securing said support on the player's person in a readily accessible location, said support being formed with a circular recess, a cylindrical permanent magnet secured in said recess and a disk-like marker of magnetic material removably carried by said permanent magnet, said marker element having a peripheral flange adapted to fit around said magnet in said recess.

2. A device as in claim 1 in which said permanent magnet has one pole face directed into said recess and the other pole face directed out of said recess.

3. A ball position marker as in claim 1 in which said recess has an outwardly flared wall and in which said marker element peripheral flange has an inwardly flared wall to permit ready removal of said marker element from said magnet.

4. A ball position marker including in combination a support formed of magnetic material, means for securing said support on the player's person in a readily accessible location, said support being formed with a recess, a permanent magnet secured in said recess and a marker of magnetic material removably carried by said permanent magnet, said marker element having a shape corresponding generally to the shape of said magnet, said marker having a depending peripheral flange extending into said recess adjacent said magnet, said flange extending around said magnet in said recess.

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