May 31, 1927. 1,630,288

G. N. BOLINGER

GOLF TEE

Filed Oct. 15, 1926

Fig. 1.

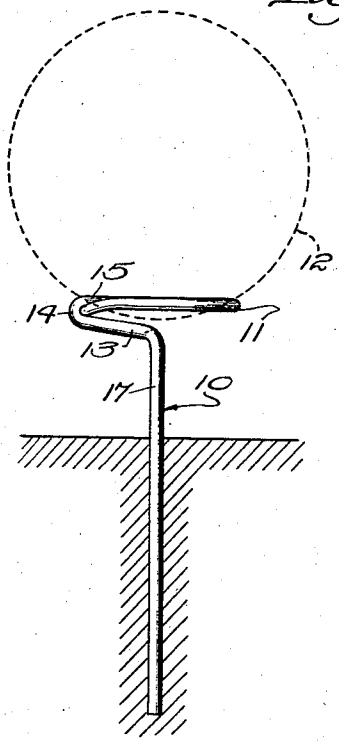
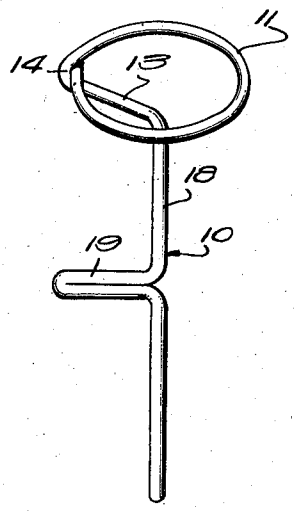


Fig. 3.



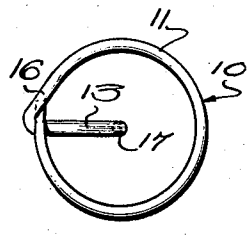


Fig. 2.

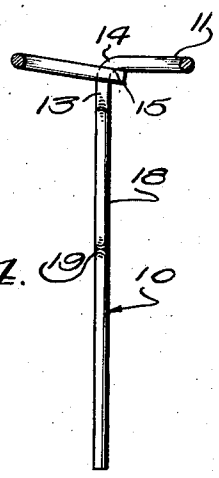


Fig. 4.

Inventor

G. N. BOLINGER

By

Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE NOEL BOLINGER, OF SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS.

GOLF TEE.

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This invention relates to golf tees, and more particularly to a tee formed of a single piece of material such as wire or the like.

An important object of the invention is to provide an inexpensive tee preferably formed of wire and provided at its upper end with a ball supporting ring and at its lower end with a shank adapted for insertion in the ground.

A further object is to provide a novel form of tee formed of a single piece of wire bent at its upper end to provide a ball supporting ring, one end of the ring being formed integral with the shank and shaped in a novel manner to form supporting means for the free end of the ring.

A further object is to provide a tee of the character referred to wherein the shank is arranged in alinement with the center of the ring and connected thereto by a substantially radial arm upon which the free end of the ring is adapted to be supported.

A further object is to provide a wire tee having a shank portion provided intermediate its ends with a laterally offset portion to limit the movement of the shank into the ground to properly position the ball supporting ring the desired distance above the ground.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the drawings I have shown several embodiments of the invention. In this showing,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device shown in operative position,

Figure 2 is a plan view,

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of device, and

Figure 4 is a central vertical sectional view of the same.

Referring to the drawings the numeral 10 designates one form of tee as a whole preferably formed of a single piece of relatively stiff wire or the like. The tee is provided at its upper end with a portion bent in substantially circular form to provide a ball supporting ring 11, and it will be apparent that a ball 12 is adapted to be arranged on this ring. One end of the ring is connected to an integral inwardly extending arm 13 which is inclined downwardly at a slight angle toward its inner end. As clearly shown in Figure 1, the outer end of the arm 13 curves upwardly to join the ring as at 14 for a purpose to be described. The free end of the ring is bent downwardly slightly as at 15 and is inserted between the arm 13 and the adjacent portion of the opposite end of the ring whereby the free end of the ring will be supported by the arm 13. As shown in Figure 2, the end portion of the ring which connects with the arm 13 is substantially tangential to the circle defined by the ring in order that the free end of the ring may lie in a portion of the true circle instead of being extended inwardly. The arm 13 is connected with an integral shank 17 which is arranged vertically when in operative position and which is coaxial with the ring 11.

In Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings, I have shown a somewhat modified form of tee wherein the ring portion and associated elements are substantially identical with the corresponding elements previously described, and need not be described in detail. In the modified form of the device a different form of shank 18 is provided. In the modified form of shank, the wire is bent intermediate its ends to form a laterally offset portion 19 which is adapted to engage the surface of the ground to limit the movement of the tee when the shank is inserted in the ground as will be apparent. The portions of the shank 18 on opposite sides of the offset portion 19 are arranged in alinement with each other.

The operation of the device will be apparent from the foregoing description. In the manufacture of the device, the free end of the ring is arranged between the arm 13 and the adjacent portion of the opposite end of the ring whereby the free end of the ring will be substantially rigidly supported. This arrangement preserves the circular form of the ring whereby the ball 12 is adapted to be supported on the ring in a stable manner. The device may be arranged in an operative position merely by exerting a downward force on the ring to drive the shaft 17 into the ground, the ring 11 being arranged at any desired height above the ground according to the individual tastes of the players.

The operation of the form of the device shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings is the same as in the form previously described. In the modified form however, I provide the offset portion 19 whereby the movement of the shank into the ground is limited to fix the height of the ring 11 above the surface of the ground. It will be apparent that the

device may be cheaply manufactured and is easy and convenient to use.

It is to be understood that the forms of my invention herewith shown and described are to be taken as preferred examples of the same and that various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

I claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a tee formed of a single piece of wire, said wire being bent at one end to form a substantially circular ball supporting ring, a shank arranged beneath said ring, an arm connected at its outer end to one end of said ring and its inner end to the upper end of said shank, the portion of said ring adjacent its point of connection with said arm being arranged substantially tangential to the circle defined by said ring, the outer end of said arm being curved upwardly adjacent its point of connection with said ring to form a loop, the free end of said ring being arranged in said loop and supported on said arm.

2. A device of the character described comprising a tee formed of a single piece of wire and including a ball supporting ring at its upper end, a vertical shank arranged below said ring and coaxial therewith, said shank being provided intermediate its ends with a laterally offset portion, the portions of said shank on opposite sides of said offset portion being arranged in alinement with each other.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GEORGE NOEL BOLINGER.