Feb. 1, 1966 E. K. THONEN 3,232,503

GOLF CLUB CARRIER

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FIG. 1

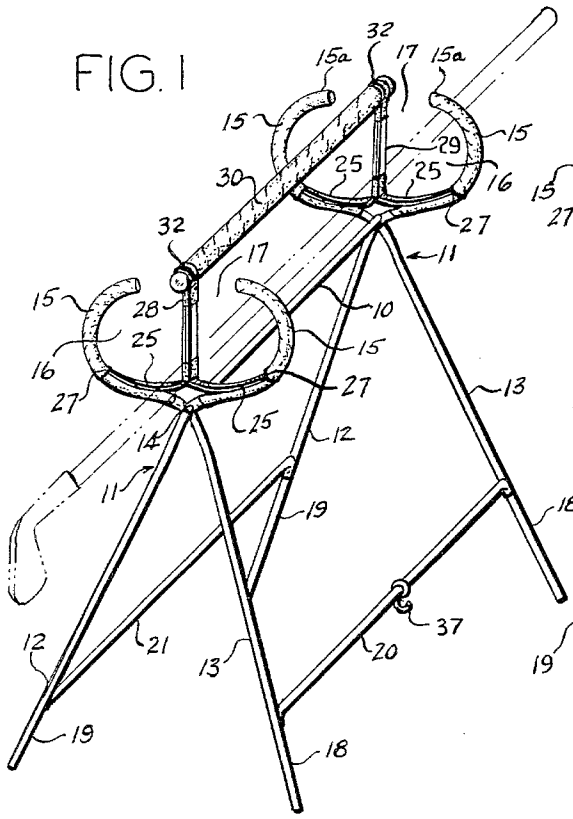


FIG. 2

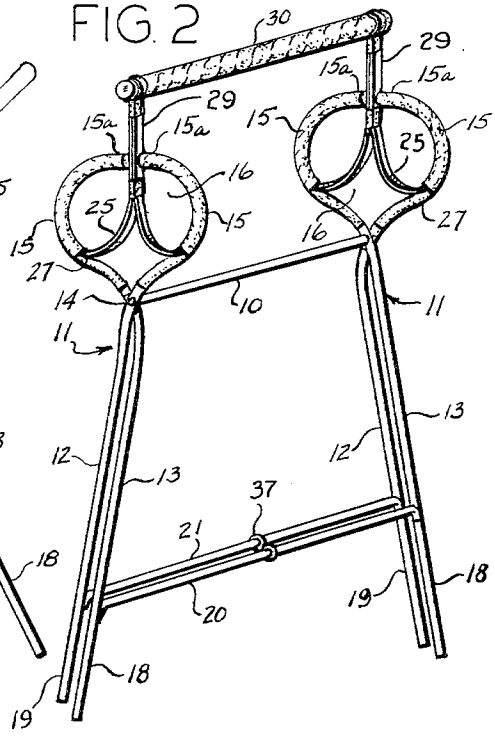


FIG. 3

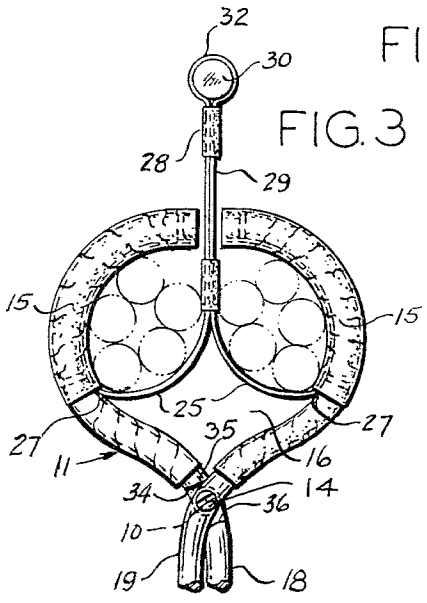
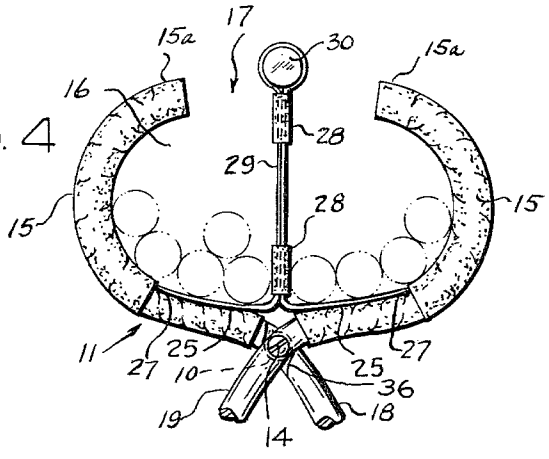


FIG. 4



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GOLF CLUB CARRIER

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This invention relates to a device for carrying golf clubs.

Customarily, golf clubs have been carried in bags of well known type. Such bags are cumbersome and heavy to carry, especially when filled with a full load of up to fourteen clubs. For many golfers, the modern economy prohibits the use of caddies, golf carts, or other means to carry a requisite number of clubs. In the past, light-weight, portable devices have been provided for carrying clubs, but these have been generally unsatisfactory for reasons that only a limited number of clubs could be carried, or that there was no way to support the device and clubs off the ground when not being carried, or that the clubs had to be individually supported on spring clips which tended to scratch the club shafts, or that the clubs were otherwise difficult to insert and remove with respect to the device.

One object of the present invention is to provide a simple to operate, light-weight, portable, golf-club carrier, by which any number of clubs, up to the standard limit of fourteen clubs, may be easily carried by the average male or female golfer.

Another object of the invention is to provide a golf club carrier of the character described which supports the clubs at a convenient level above ground for selection of clubs with relatively little bending effort.

Another object of of the invention is to provide a device of the character described having improved cradling means which is self-operating from and toward an open condition by manual support of the device and release thereof, respectively whereby free removal and insertion of the clubs in vertical direction is made possible.

Still another object of the invention is to provide improved means for facilitating self-opening movement of the device upon supporting the same on the ground.

These and other objects of the invention will be manifest from the following brief description and the accompanying drawings.

Of the accompanying drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a golf carrying device embodying the features of the invention, in open condition of use as when supported on the ground.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the device in closed condition of use as when carried by a golfer.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged fragmentary and view of the upper portion of the closed device, as viewed from either end in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a similar end view of the device in open condition, as viewed from either end of FIGURE 1.

Referring to FIGURE 1 of the drawings, the numeral **10** designates an elongated rigid bar, on opposite ends of which tong-like units **11**, **11** may be relatively pivotally mounted. Each unit **11** may comprise crossed elements **12** and **13** of rigid metal such as aluminum rod, formed above the pivotal axis at **14**, in known manner, to provide oppositely outwardly arched or arcuate jaw portions **15**, **15**, the inner surfaces of which together define a generally ovate space **16** of substantial size, and having oppositely inturned ends **15***a*, **15***a* terminating in laterally spaced apart relationship, to provide an access opening **17** for purposes to be described later. Elongated extents **18** and **19** of the elements **12** and **13**, respectively, in said open position of the carrier extend generally in the plane of the unit at a substantial angle to each other so that the extents **18** and **19** of both units serve as leg

means for supporting the longitudinally spaced jaw portions **15** substantially elevated above the ground. The leg means may be reinforced by affixing rigid cross-bars **20** and **21** between the leg portions **18**, **18** and **19**, **19**, respectively. To facilitate automatic opening of the tong-like units in a manner to be described, the leg portions **18**, **18** may be slightly longer than the leg portions **19**, **19** (see FIGURE 2). The bracing support at the leg means is enhanced by angling the opposite end leg portions **18** and **19** longitudinally outwardly from points below the pivotal axis.

Handle means **22** may be provided for carrying or transporting the device. To this end, the jaw portions **15**, **15** of each unit **11** may have separate flexible loop members **25**, **25** suitably anchored to the inner surface portions of the jaws, at points **27** slightly below the major axis of the oval space **16**. These loop portions, which may be of leather or other flexible, non-abrasive strip material, are oppositely looped inwardly and upwardly between the opposed jaws and are connected together, as by means of adhesively taped portions **28**, **28**, to provide a relatively straight central portion **29**, adapted to extend upwardly between the inturned ends **15***a* of the jaws. For lifting and transporting the carrier, a rigid, elongated handle **30** may be affixed at opposite ends in looped upper ends **32** of the central portions **29** of the two tong-like units. That is, by manually lifting the device by the handle **30**, the opposite leg means of the device are self-operatively brought together by gravity to close the pairs of jaws **15** toward contact or close proximity of the opposed end portions **15***a*, whereby the spaces defined by the jaws and the loops are substantially reduced in size. The handle **30** may be made of durable wood and covered with strip leather or plastic tape. At least the poriton of the jaws above the points **27** may be likewise taped to obviate scratching the shafts of clubs cradled between the aligned loop members, in a manner to be described later.

For limiting pivotal movement of the tong-like units **11**, the crossed elements **18** and **19** thereof may have complementally notched portions **34** therein providing stop shoulders **35** and **36** for stop engagement of corresponding portions of the respective elements in the open and closed positions of the crossed elements, respectively.

The tong-like units may be locked together, as for storage of the device in an automobile trunk, with or without golf clubs cradled between the closed jaws as shown in FIGURES 2 and 4. To this end, an S-hook **37** may be pivoted on cross bar **20**, as shown in FIGURE 1 for hooked engagement with cross-bar **21**, as shown in FIGURE 2.

In use of the improved device by a golfer, it is positioned on the ground or other supporting surface, in open condition as shown in FIGURE 1, in which the pairs of jaws **15** of the spaced tong-like units **11** will be open for passage of golf clubs through the openings **17** between the opposed jaws **15***a*, toward or from cradling support of the clubs between longitudinally aligned leather loop portions **25**, as shown in chain-dotted lines in FIGURES 1 and 4. For this purpose, the handle **30** is easily deflected to one side or the other, if necessary. When the clubs are in position, as described, the device is transportable simply by grasping the handle **30** to elevate the device from the ground to a normal carrying position. The initial upward pull on the handle applies a foreshortening pull to the respective pairs of loop portions **25**, tending to draw the pairs of jaws **15** together from the open condition of FIGURES 1 and 4 to the closed condition of FIGURES 2 and 3, this closing movement being facilitated by the tendency of the leg means to be gravitationally urged together by reason of the heavier preponder-

ance weight below the pivotal axis. In the closed position best illustrated in FIGURE 3, the weight of clubs cradled in the longitudinally aligned loop portions **25** at both sides tends to hold the pairs of jaws **15** and associated parts in closed condition. Conversely, when a golf club is required to be extracted, the device is lowered by handle **30** until the longer leg members **18** first touch the ground, and then allowing the loop portions to come to rest upon the lower portions of the jaws, whereby the weight of the clubs transmitted to said lower portions will be self-operating to urge the leg means pivotally apart to the fully open positions shown in FIGURES 1 and 4.

Modifications of the invention may be resorted to without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf club carrier comprising: longitudinally spaced pairs of jaws pivotally mounted and having connector means by which the jaws of the respective pairs are relatively pivotable about a longitudinal axis between open and closed positions, in which oppositely inturned upper ends of the pairs of jaws are spaced apart to define access openings and are relatively close together to close the openings, respectively; separate flexible loop members anchored to the jaws of each pair thereof and oppositely looped inwardly and upwardly between the jaws and connected centrally of the opposed jaws; and handle means supportingly connected between the centrally connected portions of the respective flexible loop members; whereby in the open position of the jaws golf clubs are receivable through said jaw openings at either side of the handle means toward or from cradling support of the clubs across respective longitudinally spaced loop members.

2. A golf club carrier as set forth in claim **1**, said jaws of the pairs thereof being oppositely arched laterally outwardly to define an open space of substantial size between the jaws in closed position thereof, said loop members being anchored to the jaws at points intermediate said axis and the respective said inturned upper ends, whereby when the carrier is supported by said handle said oppositely looped portions tend to draw opposite pairs of jaws toward closed position thereof.

3. A golf club carrier as in claim **2**, said jaws having rigidly connected leg means extending below said longitudinal axis for supporting the jaw means in spaced relation above a supporting surface.

4. A golf club carrier as in claim **3**, said leg means being angularly disposed laterally of said axis in the open position of the jaws, and being closely adjacent in the closed position of the jaws.

5. A golf club carrier as in claim **4**, including means for releasably locking said jaws in closed position.

6. A golf club carrier as in claim **5**, including stop means for limiting opening movement of said jaws beyond given open positions thereof.

7. A golf club carrier as in claim **6**, the portions of said jaws intermediate said anchoring points and the upper ends of the jaws having thereon a covering of non-abrasive material.

8. A golf club carrier as set forth in claim **1**, said jaws of the pairs thereof being oppositely arched laterally outwardly to define an open space of substantial size between the jaws in closed position thereof, said loop members being anchored to the jaws at points intermediate said axis and the respective said inturned upper ends, whereby when the carrier is supported by said handle said oppositely looped portions tend to draw opposite pairs of jaws toward closed position thereof; said loop members in the open position of the respective pairs of jaws being supported by the lower portions of the jaws, whereby the weight of golf clubs cradled on the loop members tends to retain the jaws open.

9. A golf club carrier as set forth in claim **1**, said jaws of the pairs thereof being oppositely arched laterally outwardly to define an open space of substantial size between the jaws in closed position thereof, said loop members being anchored to the jaws at points intermediate said axis and the respective said inturned upper ends, whereby when the carrier is supported by said handle said oppositely looped portions tend to draw opposite pairs of jaws toward closed position thereof, the portions of said jaws intermediate said anchoring points and the upper ends of the jaws having thereon a covering of non-abrasive material.

10. A golf club carrier comprising: an elongated rigid element; longitudinally spaced pairs of jaws pivotally mounted on said element and having connector means by which the jaws of the respective pairs are relatively pivotable in unison between open and closed positions; said jaws having rigidly connected leg means extending below said longitudinal axis for supporting the jaw means in spaced relation above a supporting surface; handle means; and flexible loop means between said handle means and opposite said jaws of the respective pairs, tending to draw the opposite jaws toward closed position with respect to each other when the carrier is supported only by the handle means through said loop means; said loop means in the closed position of the jaws forming portions for supporting reception of golf clubs therein and in the open position of the jaws providing for free passage of the clubs inwardly and outwardly between the jaws; said leg means being angularly disposed laterally of said axis in the open position of the jaws, and being closely adjacent in the closed position of the jaws.

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