

March 9, 1948.

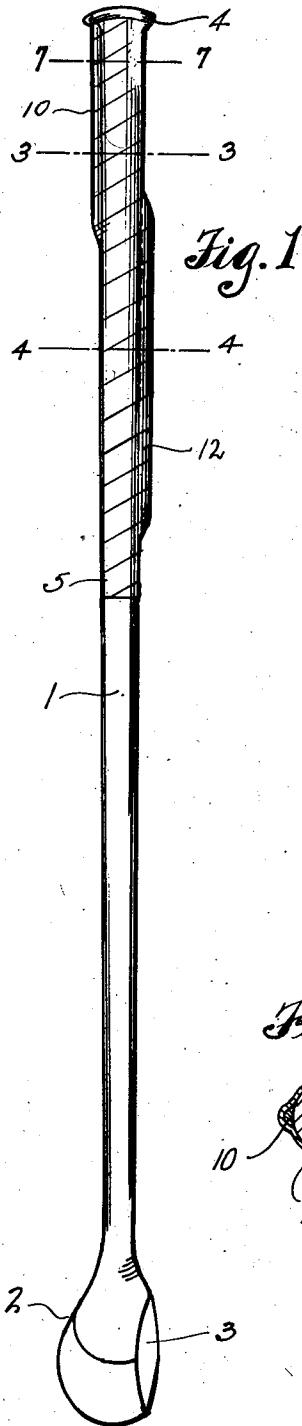
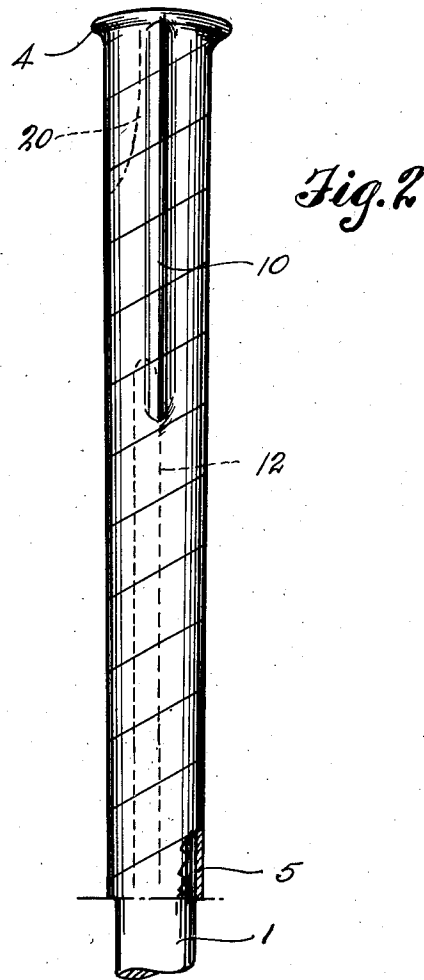
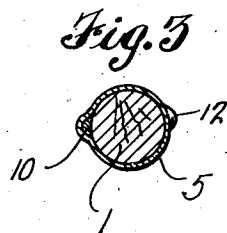
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2,437,404

GOLF CLUB GRIPS

Filed March 17, 1944

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 5

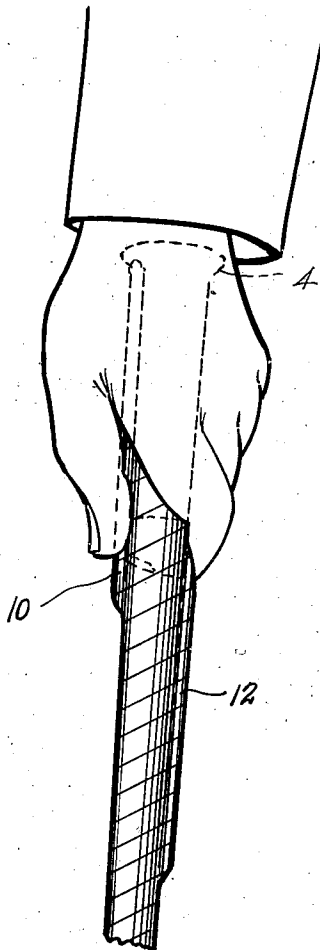


Fig. 6

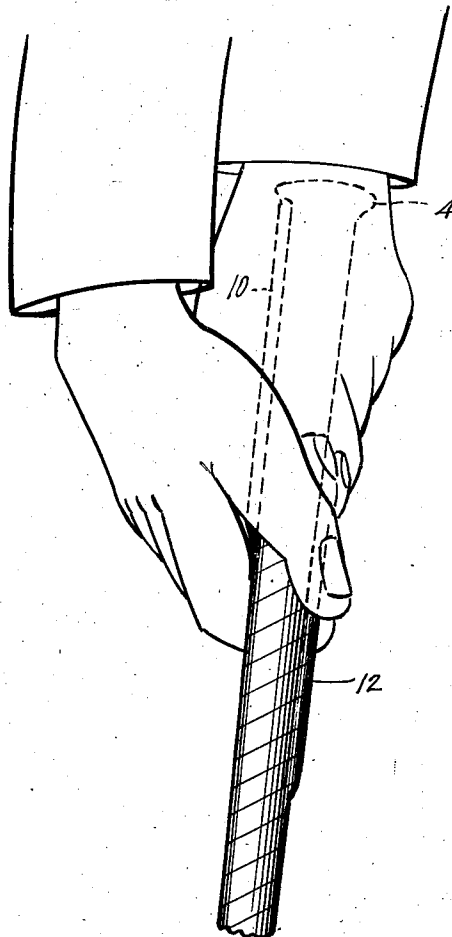
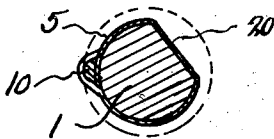


Fig. 7



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GOLF CLUB GRIPS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—81)

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This invention relates to golf clubs and has reference more particularly to improvements in the hand grip portion of the club shaft; it being the principal object of the invention to provide a novel double grip comprising both a right hand and a left hand portion, each of which accommodates the hand that is applied thereto as a guide and stabilizer for the fingers and thumb whereby a proper position of the club head is insured and a more effective driving force may be applied thereto.

Furthermore, it is an object of this invention to provide a double grip of the character and for the purposes above stated, that permits a substantial variance in the position of placement of the hands along the gripping portion of the shaft as might be required for making different shots or to best suit the individual using the club.

Another object of the invention is to provide a double grip that will assist beginners at the game of golf in learning the proper grip that is best suited for practically all shots, and which will insure, or at least aid, in obtaining proper direction without slicing or hooking the drive.

Furthermore, it may be added as explanatory to the invention that most beginners cannot understand why the hands should be applied to the grip portion of the handle in the manner taught by most professional instructors, and most players have difficulty even after years of experience, in stabilizing the grip as one hand tends to over power the other in the swing, thus changing the angle of the striking surface upon its return to the ball.

More specifically stated, the present invention resides in the provision of a double grip for golf clubs, comprising two ribs or ridges that are applied to opposite sides of the handle portion of the shaft, lengthwise thereof and in such relative position with reference to the longitudinal direction of the club and to its circumference as to accommodate the natural positions of the two hands when applied to the club in a normal manner for the intended use of the club; the upper of said ribs being so located as to be a guide for establishing a place of junction of the thumb and forefinger of the left hand as applied about the shaft and to serve as a stabilizer for the other fingers of the hand, while the lower rib likewise serves as a guide for establishing a place of junction of the thumb and forefinger of the right hand and a stabilizer for the other fingers of that hand and serves also as a guiding gauge for both thumbs when putting or making approach shots.

The above stated, and various other objects not stated herein are to be found in the character

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of the ribs, their position on the club shaft relative to the position of the club head, and in their relationship to each other.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention, I have provided the improved details of construction, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a golf club having a double hand grip embodied by the present invention, showing the relationship of the ribs to each other and their relationship on the shaft to the position of the face of the club head;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the handle or grip portion of the shaft, as seen from the left side in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross-section on line 3—3 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a cross-section on line 4—4 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a view illustrating the application of the left hand to the grip;

Fig. 6 shows both hands as applied to the grips of the club.

Fig. 7 is a cross-section on line 7—7 in Fig. 1.

Referring more in detail to the drawings—

1 designates the shaft portion of a golf club, embodying the present invention. This may be made of any suitable material, for example, wood or metal, and to the lower end of which is affixed a head 2, having a flat ball engaging surface 3. In the present showing, the head is that of a driver, but could be that of any other of the clubs. The shaft 1 is formed at its upper end with a somewhat bell-shaped flange 4 and is slightly tapered from the flange 4 down toward the head.

The upper portion of the shaft preferably is spirally wrapped with a strip 5 of leather or other suitable material to give it a better gripping surface. At all points along its length, the shaft is round in cross-section as has been shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

The feature of this invention resides in the hand grips that are formed by the application of ribs to the shaft as the guiding and stabilizing means heretofore mentioned; these ribs being applied to the upper end portion of the shaft prior to the application of the wrapping strip 5 thereto. If it is desired to apply the grip to clubs already in use, it is only required that the strip be removed, the ribs applied and the strip rewound and secured.

In Figs. 1 and 2, 10 designates the uppermost rib, which is to be the guide in normal use of a club for right-handed players, for the left hand. This rib is substantially semi-circular in cross-section and is applied to the shaft in its lengthwise direction, and it extends from adjacent the

end flange 4 to about six inches below the flange, and it is located at that side of the shaft which is opposite the face 3 of the club head 2.

At the opposite side of the shaft is fixed a second rib 12 that is like the rib already described and so located on the shaft that its upper end is located just slightly above the lower end of the first rib, and extends down through the gripping portion of the shaft.

Both ribs are securely fixed to the shaft by glue, or otherwise, and then the wrapping strip is applied thereover as has been illustrated. The width and thickness of each rib as applied to the shaft would be substantially equal to one of the halves of a lead pencil, and the wrapping would be drawn tightly thereover, as seen in Figs. 3 and 4.

It is to be understood that the size, length of the ribs and their relative positions on the shaft may be varied within reasonable limits to suit any individual desire, but should be substantially opposite each other as has been illustrated in Fig. 4.

Assuming that the club shaft has been thus equipped with the two ribs, the grasping of the club by the hands would be as follows: first, with the head of the club on the ground, the upper end of the shaft is grasped by the left hand, as seen in Fig. 5 by placing the hand palm downward on the top side of the grip. The outer end of the thumb is then placed against the near side surface of the upper rib. The forefinger is wrapped under the shaft and against or across the rib just above and against the end of the thumb. The other fingers of this hand, which underlie the shaft, are likewise applied across or against the rib in natural position for stabilization thereby in the use of the club.

Then, with the left hand so placed, as seen in Fig. 5, the right hand is applied to the grip as has been illustrated in Fig. 6 and this is done by so locating the hand that the palm will approximately overlie the index finger and thumb of the left hand, while the thumb of the right hand will extend downwardly and across the shaft to bear against the rib 12. The forefinger of this hand extends beneath the shaft and is wrapped around the grip in a manner to cross the rib 12 about at the joint of the thumb, and the other fingers are applied across or against the rib as they naturally fall. This grip, of course, may be varied to suit the individual, by moving up or down the shaft within the longitudinal limits of the rib 12.

In the making of a golf club for use by a left-handed person, the position of the ribs on the shaft would be reversed, but the gripping would be in a like manner except that the right hand would normally be uppermost.

In addition to the application of the ribs 10 and 12 to the shaft, as has heretofore been explained, I have found it advantageous also to flatten a portion of the shaft, just below the end flange 4 as a bearing surface for the heel of the left hand. Such a flat surface is designated at 20 in Fig. 7, and the heel portion of the left hand as applied thereagainst is designated in dotted lines. This provision of a flat bearing surface gives additional stability and better bearing for application of pressure against the club end.

The advantages of the double grip as provided by this particular application of ribs are that the correct position for each hand is readily determined both with respect to each other and with

reference to the position of the club head. Also, the grip may be shifted lengthwise of the shaft to a limited extent without losing the advantage afforded by the ribs.

The ribs so position the hands relative to the shaft and striking surface of the club head as to insure a uniform grip by each hand and maintenance of equal force that eliminates hooking or slicing pressure.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A golf club having the hand gripping portion of its shaft formed with two longitudinally extending and projecting ribs located in positions thereon to accommodate, respectively, the right hand and the left hand, each rib positioned to serve as a guide for the thumb and stabilizer for the fingers of the hand applied thereto; said ribs being located substantially at opposite sides of the shaft and offset one above the other and each extending only along that part of the gripping portion of the shaft that is gripped by the upper and lower hands, respectively, in the normal use of the club.

2. A golf club comprising a head formed with a ball engaging front face and a shaft; said shaft having two longitudinally extending and projecting ribs formed along its gripping portion to accommodate, respectively, the right hand and left hand, each rib positioned to serve as an abutment for the thumb and stabilizer for the fingers of the hand applied thereto and said ribs being located, respectively, on front and back sides of the shaft, one extending along the upper part only of the gripping portion of the shaft and the other along the lower portion only of said gripping portion, and each being of a length to permit limited shifting of the hand therealong to extend or shorten the length of shaft between club head and hand.

3. A golf club comprising a head formed with a ball engaging front face and a shaft having a gripping portion formed with two longitudinally extending and projecting ribs in positions thereon to accommodate, respectively, the gripping of the club by the right hand and by the left hand, each rib positioned to serve as an abutment for the thumb and stabilizer for the fingers of the hand that is applied thereto; said ribs being located on front and back sides of the shaft, that rib at the back side extending along the upper part only of the gripping portion and that rib at the forward side extending along the lower part only of the gripping portion, and each, respectively, permitting substantial shifting of the hand therealong to extend or shorten the grip relative to the club head, and said shaft having a longitudinal flattened area adjacent its upper end in position to seat the heel of the upper hand thereagainst when said hand grips the club for normal use.

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