Nov. 8, 1932. L. AUSTER 1,887,278

HAND PROTECTOR FOR GOLFERS

Filed Feb. 4, 1931

Fig. 1

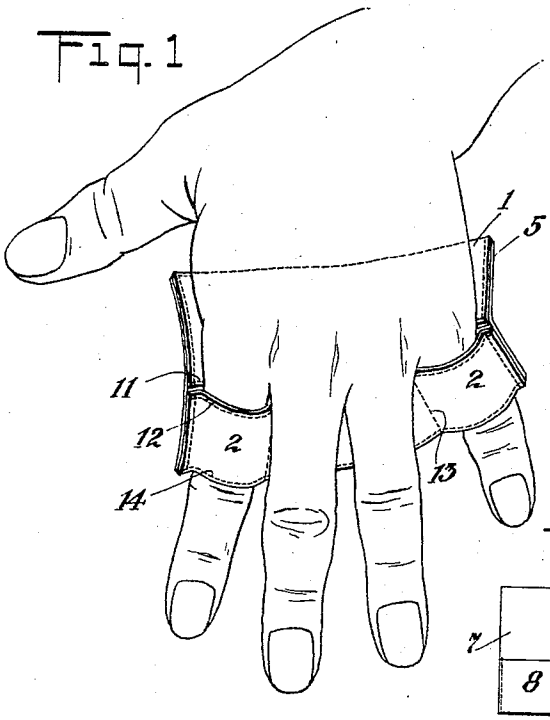


Fig. 2

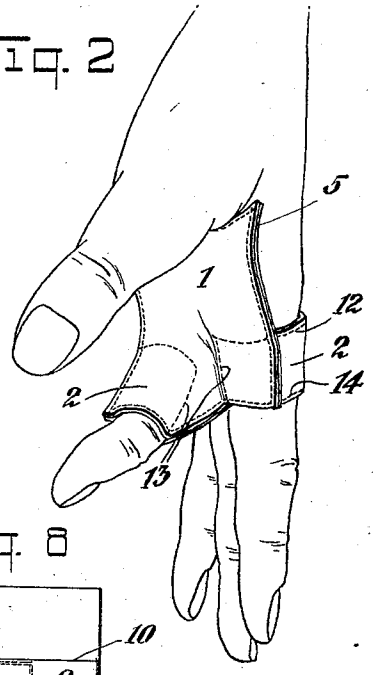


Fig. 8

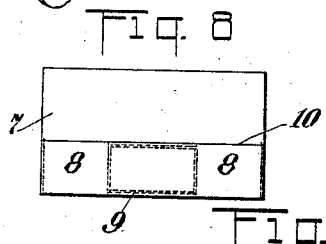


Fig. 3

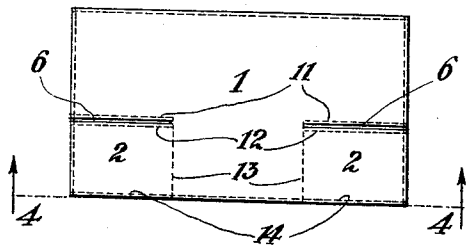


Fig. 4

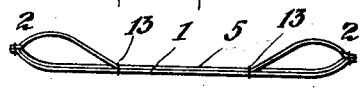


Fig. 7

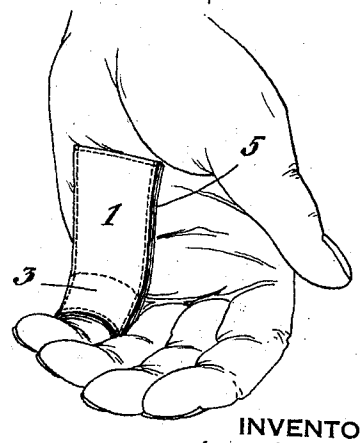


Fig. 5

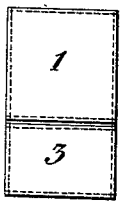
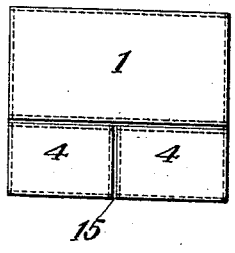


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LOUIS AUSTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

HAND PROTECTOR FOR GOLFERS

Application filed February 4, 1931. Serial No. 513,418.

This invention relates to improvements in hand protectors, and has more particular relation to improvements in hand protectors for use in playing golf.

The object of the invention is to provide means for protecting the portion of the hand of the player that usually receives the greatest amount of irritation or friction from the golf handle when the club is firmly grasped and swung.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hand protector for golf which will protect the parts of the hand exposed to irritating friction, and, at the same time, leave all the muscles of the hand free and especially to leave the back of the hand and all the fingers free of any incumbrance or restraint that would tend to spoil the golf "grip" or "feel".

A further object of the invention is to provide a protector for the palm of the hand having finger loops for holding it in position.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a partial hand protector for a certain part of the palm of the hand provided with a finger loop or loops for securing it in position.

The invention also has other objects, all of which will be hereinafter more particularly set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification:

Figure 1 represents a rear view of my improved protector when applied to the left hand of the player.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the protector, detached from the hand.

Figure 4 is an end elevation of the protector on the line 3, 3 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a plan view of a modified form of the device, with a loop for one finger only.

Figure 6 is a similar view of Figure 5 for two fingers,

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the inside of the player's hand with the protector with the one finger loop applied, and

Figure 8 represents a plan view of a modified form of protector.

Described in general terms, the present invention is intended to provide a protector for the front of the hand and fingers for use by golf players to prevent the usual irritation and blisters formed by the player's grip on his club, and by swinging or driving.

It is, of course, well known that most all players of golf have their own individual manner of gripping the club when swinging or driving and as the handles of golf clubs are all provided with frictional grips of leather or similar material to prevent slipping of the hand, it follows that continued use and gripping of this material and slight turning of the club during the drive, causes extreme irritation in certain parts of the palm of the hand and the fingers, where doubled about the club. This irritation, according to the condition of the player's hand, not only results in an irritation of the skin and flesh under it, but often reaches a point where blisters are formed, and the player, in order to continue his play, must provide some protection such as a glove or adhesive tape attached in the desired position on his hand or fingers.

Such gloves or the application of adhesive tape, always interfere with the player, as with either the gloves or the adhesive tape, the player's hands are not free of restraint and he is always conscious of the gloves or tape, and this consciousness of some confining influence on his hands, prevents the free and easy grip and the "feel" of his club, which is so essential to perfect playing of the game.

With the present invention, the inventor has provided a protector either for the whole palm of the hand and the fronts of all the fingers, or for any individual finger, or any two fingers, and has provided this structure in a way that leaves the hand and fingers entirely free of any restraining influence or any binding or pulling when he takes his grip on the club. In other words, with this improved device in use, the player is not conscious at all of its presence, and the back of his hand is fully exposed so that when his grip tightens on the club, he will feel no pull or strain across the back of his hand, such as would be caused by a glove or by a tape wound about his hand. The player secures all the advantages of a protector on the part of his

hand or fingers where, in his own particular case and because of his own particular grip, he is prone to irritate the skin and flesh or form a blister.

As the individual grip of each individual player forms blisters or irritations on his hands, according to his particular style of play, the present invention is so arranged that it may be applied either to the whole palm of the hand and the fronts of the fingers, or to any particular individual point on the palm or the fingers and with a minimum consciousness that the protector is present on his hand at all, either when gripping the club or when swinging or driving. While it may seem that this consciousness of the presence of a glove or restraining influence should not affect the golfer's play, it is a well established fact that anything at the time of a player's swinging or driving that diverts his mind even for a second from the direction of his swinging, and from his sighting of the ball, is usually fatal to his stroke. In other words, a player's mind must be absolutely free of any diverting influence in making his drive such as would be caused by the presence of a glove or a binding tape. This theory of the player's mind being free of all external influences when making his drive, is so well known and established that no further statements are thought necessary.

To secure the improved results above outlined, the present applicant has formed his protector as a preferred form, of two flat strips of chamois skin 1 and 5, or other desirable flexible material. The two strips 1 and 5 are stitched together about their edges except where loops 2 are located. Near one edge of the strip 1, as best shown in Figure 1, are two finger loops or strips 2, formed by slitting the strip 1 as at 6, 6. The strip 1 is stitched down to the strip 5 as at 11 in front of each loop 2 and as at 13 on each inner side of each loop. The top and bottom of each loop also has a row of stitches near the edge to finish it and hold the chamois from tearing as at 14. The strips or loops 2, are so spaced on the part 1, that when the forefinger and the little finger are passed through the loops, the protector proper will lie over the palm of the hand and also over the lower parts of all the fingers where the natural irritation from grasping a club occurs. As the protector is lying flat against the front of the hand, its presence is, of course, not noticeable when gripping a club and as the loops 2, 2, only pass about a very small portion of the forefinger and the little finger, there is absolutely no restraint whatever to the back of the hand of the player when he grips the club, and he is not even conscious of the presence of these loops, because they are passing about his forefinger and little finger at points where, when he grips the club, there is no strain thrown upon them that would tend to cramp them or exert a pull on them and the player's hand can fall into a natural and unrestrained position.

The protector may, of course, be applied either on the left or right hand of a player, according to where his particular style of play causes the greatest irritation or blisters.

As the style of grip and play of some players causes blisters or irritations to appear only at one certain point, the modified forms shown in Figures 5 and 6 are provided. These narrow strips or protectors have either single loops 3, or double loops 4, 4, as shown in Figures 5 and 6 respectively for protecting only a small part of the palm as desired. Their construction is practically the same as shown in Figure 3 except that in Figure 4 a slit 15 is formed between the loops.

After a player has determined just where his hands are most liable to become irritated or blistered, he may select the desired width of protector, and if the protection is only desired on one finger or the palm of the hand below that finger, then it will only be necessary for him to use a single finger protector as shown in Figure 5. In Figure 8 I have shown a protector formed of one strip or thickness of chamois 7, with a single narrow strip 10 of material 10, stitched to 7 at each end and in the middle as at 9 to form the two finger loops 8. The double thickness of Figure 1 will give greater flexibility and durability than a single strip of similar thickness.

While I have illustrated in the drawing the protector as applied to the left hand, where in most cases the irritation occurs, it will be understood that if the particular style of play of any player causes blisters on the right hand, the protector may be easily applied to the right hand or any portion of the right hand.

The applicant is, of course, aware that gloves have been employed with the finger tips removed for golfers, but the present invention, it is emphatically pointed out, provides a protection without restraint of the hand and fingers that cannot be secured by a glove.

While the applicant's form of protector may not, at first blush, appear to be greatly different from a glove, the applicant wishes to again call attention to the fact that in the game of golf, it has been undisputably established that the player in order to properly swing and drive the ball cannot have anything upon his hands that, during the time he is gripping his club, or when he is swinging, will exert any pressure or restraint such as would interfere with the natural grip of his club, as such interference would, without doubt, spoil his stroke.

It has been found that the present type of gloves for golfers are cumbersome because the construction of the finger portions are such that undue bulk is created by the usual

gusset construction between the fingers, thereby restricting the full freedom of the fingers when gripping a club.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is:

1. In a hand and finger protector for golfers, the combination with a main flat flexible protector strip, of a second flexible securing strip attached to the main strip except where the finger loops are to be located and covering the entire area of the main strip and having slits formed in it at spaced intervals to provide spaced finger loops therein, leaving the main strip altogether unbroken.

2. In a hand and finger protector for golfers, the combination with a main flat flexible protector strip, of a second securing strip secured over the entire area of the first strip and attached to it at its outer edges except where finger loops are to be located and having slits formed laterally therein near each side edge for approximately the width of the finger, and stitches securing the said second strip to the main strip at a certain distance from each side edge to form finger loops.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LOUIS AUSTER.