June 25, 1935. A. D. GRISSO 2,006,137

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

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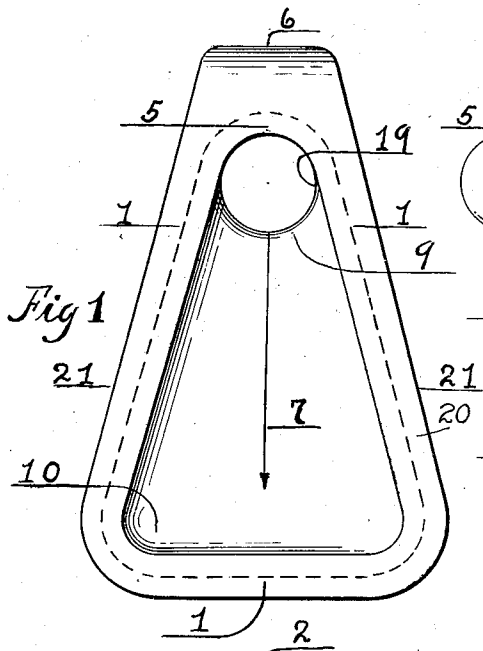


Fig 1

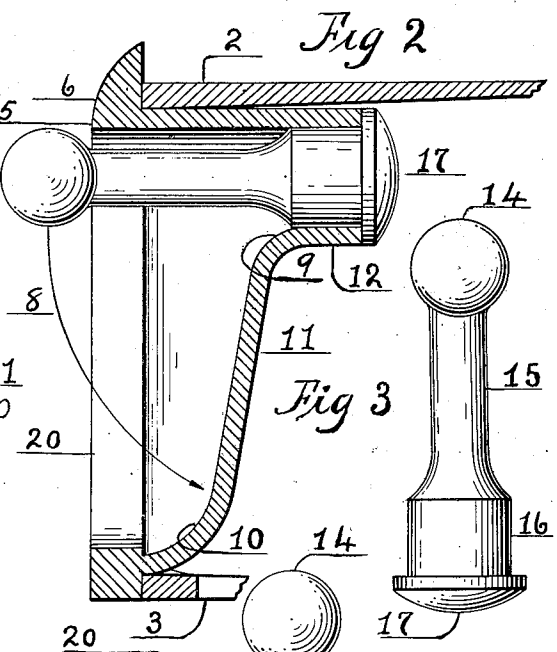


Fig 2

Fig 3

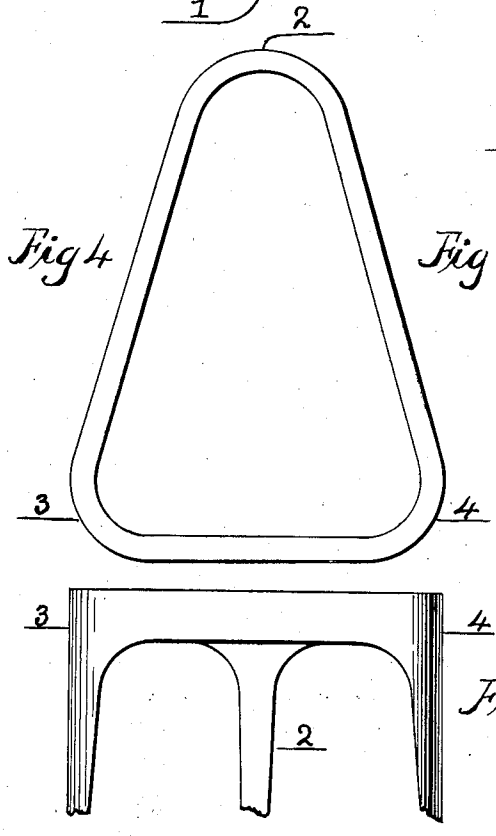


Fig 4

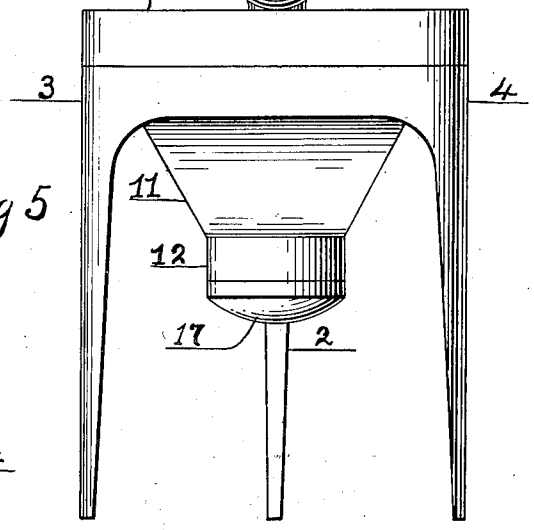


Fig 5

Fig 6

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Fig 7

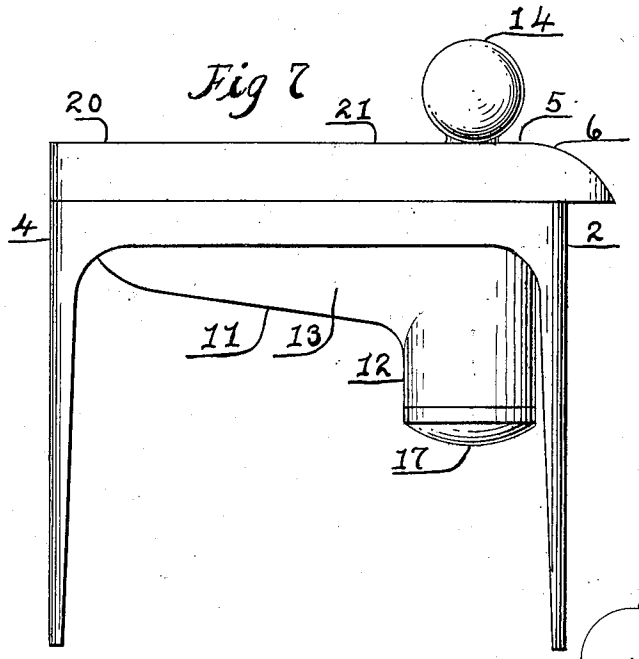


Fig 8

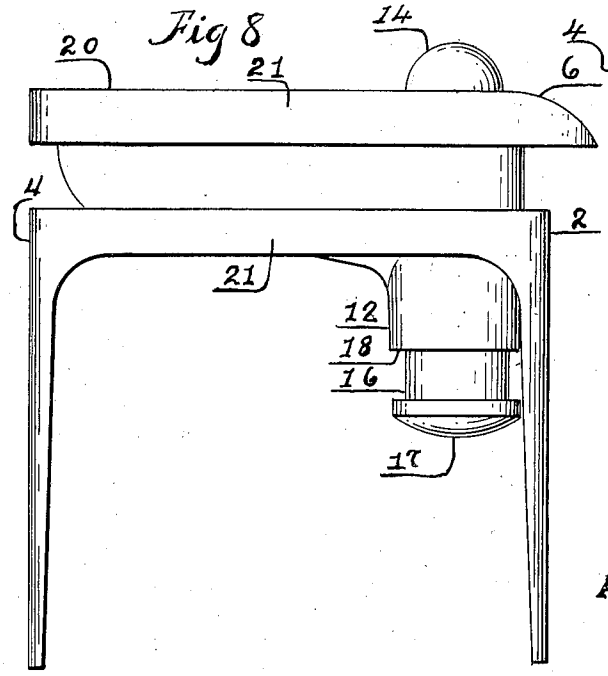
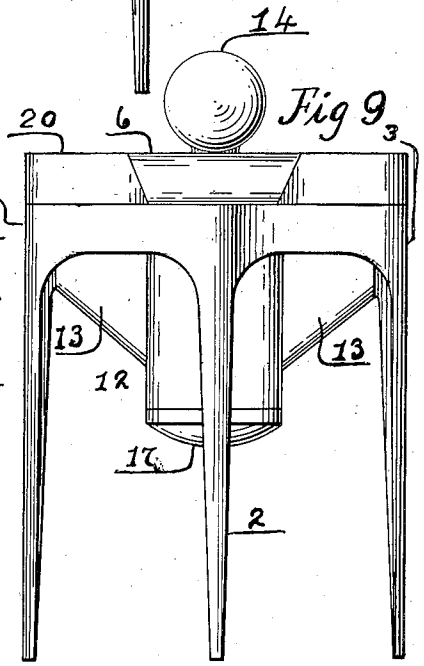


Fig 9



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,006,137

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to the game of golf, and particularly to improvements in devices for assisting a golf player to attain a greater degree of accuracy or skill in the swinging of a golf club when striking a golf ball.

One object is to provide a practice golf ball formed with a round integral stem of resilient material and provided with a headed portion for securing it in the holding device contemplated by the present invention.

A further object is to provide a mounting for said stem which will permit of a turning or rotative movement thereof.

Another object consists in the provision of the mounting for the golf ball and its stem which will permit the player to replace worn balls with the greatest of ease.

A still further object consists in the provision of a holding device in which the golf ball and its stem may be inserted for use without the use of fastening or securing elements.

More specifically, the present invention comprises a hollow casing having its upper wall formed of a substantially flat-faced trapezoidal plate and a bottom which is curved or sloped downwardly longitudinally of the device from the end of greatest width to the end of reduced width. Preferably, the trapezoidal top plate, which has an opening therein through which the stem of the practice ball projects, has rounded corners and the opening in said plate assumes the form of an isosceles triangle with rounded corners. The sloping bottom wall of the holding device, which, for convenience, may be described as a hollow casing, has a depending, tubular portion in which the stem of the practice golf ball is secured. The holding device or casing is preferably provided with a frame into which it fits, said frame having three relatively long prongs for the purpose of securing the frame in the ground.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, all as will hereinafter be more fully described and the novel features thereof particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, with the practice golf ball removed and the holding frame omitted;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the hollow casing mounted in the securing frame and a practice golf ball positioned in the casing;

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the practice ball and its mounting or stem;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the frame for the holding device or casing;

Fig. 5 is an end view of the entire device assembled, this view being taken from the end of the device of greatest width;

Fig. 6 is a similar end view of the frame, the hollow casing being omitted;

Fig. 7 is a side view of the device assembled;

Fig. 8 is a similar view showing the casing partially elevated out of its frame; and

Fig. 9 is an end view of the assembled device taken from the narrow end of the frame and casing.

As heretofore stated, the holding device is preferably of trapezoidal outline with the corners thereof rounded, and the top plate or upper wall 20 of the casing has an opening therein which is substantially in the shape of an isosceles triangle with rounded corners. The inner side walls 1 of the casing are indicated by the dotted line 1 in Figure 1, and the narrow end 5 of the casing preferably has its edge portion beveled or rounded as indicated at 6 in Figs. 1 and 2. The bottom 11 of the casing slopes downwardly from the wider portion 10 to the narrower portion 9 and at this latter point it is formed with a depending tubular portion 12, which is open at the bottom of the casing. The reference numeral 13, Fig. 7, indicates the exterior side surface of the casing bottom.

The opening in the tubular portion 12 of the casing bottom is in substantial alinement with the narrow rounded portion of the opening in the upper plate 20, as appears in Fig. 1, so that a mounting or stem for a golf ball may be inserted in the tubular opening and project upwardly through the narrow end of the opening in said top plate. A practice golf ball, so assembled, is shown in Figs. 2 and 7, and, as indicated by the arrows 7 and 8 in Fig. 1, a player may strike the golf ball and cause it to be driven downwardly through the opening in the top plate against the higher portion of the bottom 11, it being understood that the ball is carried by some flexible element which will permit such movement. Preferably, the practice ball 14 is formed integrally with a stem 15, the end of the stem remote from the ball being enlarged, as at 16, with the cross section of this enlarged portion corresponding with the opening in the tubular portion 12. A further enlargement 17 is provided at the same end of the stem and this enlargement 17 is of such dimensions as to limit the upward move-

ment of the stem through the tubular portion 12 of the bottom, by engaging against the lower end 18 of said tubular portion. In other words, the ball 14 is inserted upward through said tubular portion, its upward movement being limited by the head 17 while the neat fit of the portion 16 in the tubular portion 12 is such as to prevent accidental downward movement of the stem with respect to the casing. With such a construction, it is apparent that the player himself can readily replace a worn ball at any time he wishes, because the mounting or stem of the ball is simply held in the device by the frictional engagement between portion 16 of the stem and the inner wall 19 of the tubular portion 12. Furthermore, the frictional fit of these parts is such as to permit a turning or rotative movement of the stem or mounting, so that if any one portion of the ball becomes worn, the player may prolong the use thereof by turning it to present a perfect spherical surface to the face of the club used in striking the ball.

Preferably, the casing is placed in a securing frame, such as shown in Figs. 4 to 9. Said frame conforms in shape to the cross sectional shape of the casing and is provided with rounded corners 2, 3 and 4, and with prongs at its corners by which the entire device can be firmly anchored in the ground, it being understood that a small portion of earth is removed to accommodate the casing. The side surfaces of the casing top and of said frame are incidated at 21 in Figs. 1 and 5. By providing the casing with the sloping or inclined bottom wall, the stem of the practice ball, which is preferably of rubber, cannot be subjected to undue bending, because when the ball is struck and deflected downwardly into the casing, its movement is limited by the higher portion of the bottom wall. It will also be understood that the ball itself is preferably made of rubber, as is also the enlarged portion of the stem, these latter portions preferably being of rubber in order that the enlarged portion 16 can be placed under slight compression to insure proper retention or proper positioning of the ball and its mounting or stem in the device.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf practice device comprising a casing adapted for anchored dispositiin on the ground and provided with a cup-shaped recess and a vertical bore in its bottom wall, and a replaceable captive golf ball mounted therein, said last-mentioned member comprising a flexible unitary stud of resilient material, the upper portion of which is disposed above the top surface of said casing and is of conventional golf ball size and shape, the stem of which is of reduced diameter, and the lower portion of which is complementary to the bore in said casing and terminates in an enlarged head which prevents upward extraction of the stud from said bore, said stem portion and ball-shaped top surface being insertable into and capable of withdrawal from, the casing recess through said bore.

2. A golf practice device comprising a frame, projections on said frame for anchoring the frame in the ground, a recessed casing removably supported in said frame, said casing having a vertical bore in its bottom wall, a resilient member having the upper portion thereof of conventional golf ball shape and size and normally positioned above the top surface of the casing, said member having a stem portion integral with said ball portion, said stem portion extending through said bore, and an enlargement on said stem engageable against the outer surface of the casing base for preventing upward removal of said member, the ball and stem portion of said member being insertable into, and capable of withdrawal from, the casing through said bore in the casing base.

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