Feb. 1, 1927. 1,616,059

J. D. MULVEHILL

GOLF TEE GUARD

Filed Nov. 15, 1926

Fig. 1

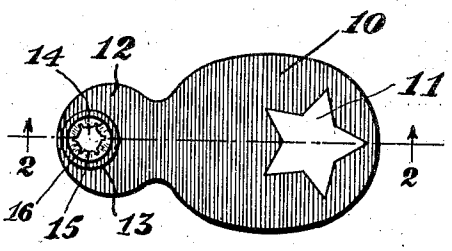


Fig. 3

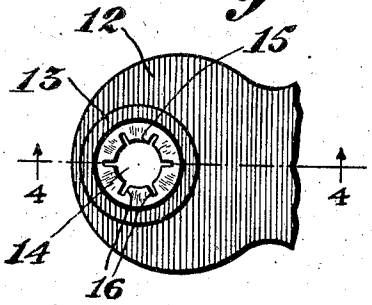


Fig. 2

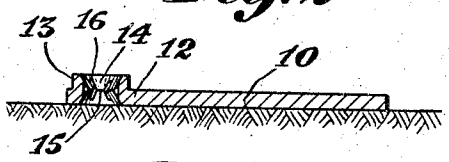


Fig. 4

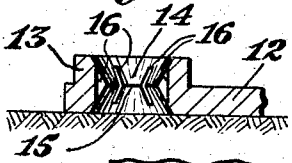


Fig. 5

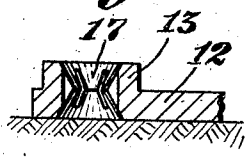


Fig. 6

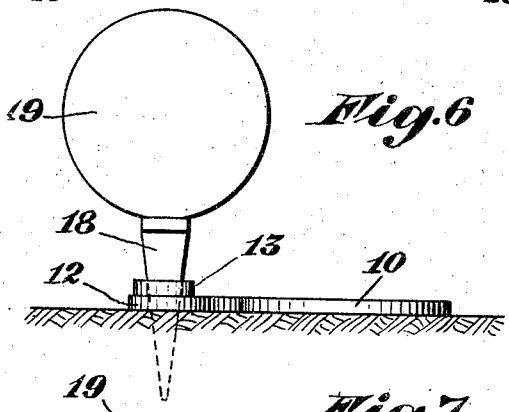


Fig. 9

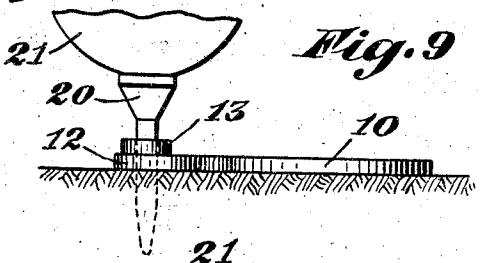


Fig. 7

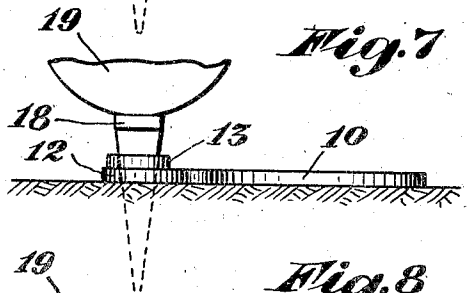


Fig. 10

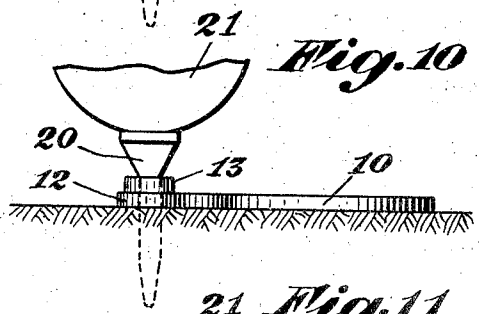


Fig. 8

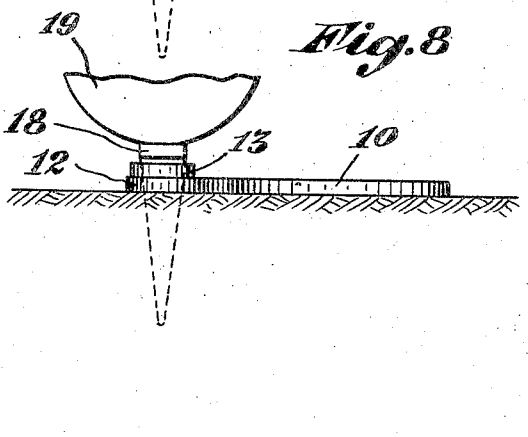
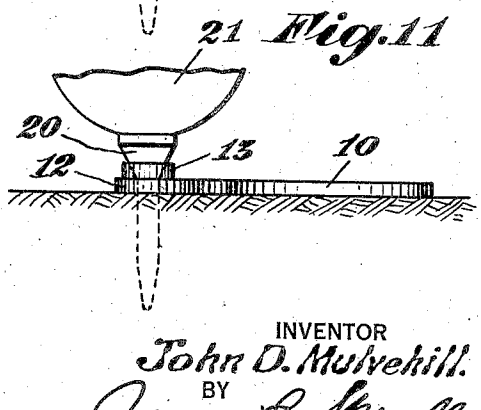


Fig. 11



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN D. MULVEHILL, OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

GOLF-TEE GUARD.

Application filed November 15, 1926. Serial No. 148,333.

This invention relates to golf tee guards or locating devices and aims primarily to provide a guard for a golf tee, that may be rapidly attached thereto or detached therefrom, that is especially designed to restrainingly engage the tee at any selected point of axial adjustment thereon so that the player may tee the ball at any desired height, that readily checks or arrests the flight or momentum of the tee in the event the same is struck or dislodged from the ground by the player, and that functions and serves to expedite and facilitate the locating and recovery of the dislodged tee.

Contemplated by the present invention is a golf tee guard of conspicuous shape and color, preferably fabricated as an integral structure from flexible or resilient material, said guard having a novel golf tee engaging aperture formed therein adjacent one end and having a distinguishing and conspicuous symbol provided thereon adjacent the opposite end thereof, all of which are important objects of the invention and are to be correlated in the broad aim of enhancing the efficiency of the device for general use.

The above, and additional objects which will hereinafter be more specifically treated, are attained by such means as are shown in the accompanying drawings described in the following specification and the more clearly pointed out in the claims, which are appended hereto and form part of this application.

With reference to the drawings, wherein is illustrated the preferred embodiment of the invention, and throughout the several views of which like characters of reference designate similar parts.

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the golf tee guard comprehended by my present invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same taken through 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of the apertured end of the guard.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal section taken through 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a similar section of a slightly modified form.

Figs. 6 to 8 inclusive, are side elevations of the guard, as it would appear when employed at different teeing heights with a well known type of golf tee, and

Figs. 9 to 11 inclusive, are similar views of a slightly modified form of guard employed with another well known type of golf tee.

While the golf tee guard of the present invention may be otherwise formed, the same is preferably fabricated from suitable resilient, or flexible material, such as rubber, leather or the like, in the form of a flat elongated integral structure having a curvilinear contour.

The numeral 10 designates a relatively thin and substantially elliptical body portion provided adjacent one end with a conspicuous symbol, such as a white or colored star 11, and having at the opposite end a relatively thin substantially circular portion 12 integrally connected therewith and extending therefrom in prolongation to the major axis thereof, said portion 12 having a boss 13 formed thereon adjacent its outer end.

Formed within the boss 13 is an axially disposed aperture or opening 14 the walls of which converge or taper inwardly from each end thereof to form an annular golf tee engaging edge 15 at the juncture of the convergent portions of said walls substantially midway the length of the aperture, a series of radially disposed slits 16 are cut at uniform spaced intervals within the convergent walls of the aperture 14 in symmetrical relation to the edge 15, as shown more clearly in Fig. 4, to thereby prevent undue compression or distortion of such edge and to positively insure of the same restrainingly engaging the golf tee uniformly at any selected teeing height of the correlated golf ball thereof.

In Fig. 4 the aperture 14 disclosed is designed to accommodate golf tees having a substantially uniform taper throughout their length, while, in Fig. 5 an aperture 17 of slightly reduced diameter is disclosed to accommodate golf tees having cylindrical stems of relatively small diameter and provided with tapered heads, which latter at minimum teeing heights of the golf ball fit snugly within the upper flaring end of such aperture.

Obviously, when the golf tee is inserted and seated within the aperture 14 the correlated tee engaging edge 15 thereof will have a tendency to curl downwardly to thus more positively engage and more firmly adhere to the sides of the golf tee.

A primary and important feature of the

device of the invention is that the same is fabricated from material of a conspicuous and distinctive color, or in the event that the device is fabricated from material having no conspicuous or distinctive color, such device is painted or coated with a medium having a high color, and the correlated star, or other symbol 11 thereof, either finished in white or in a conspicuous and distinctive color differing from the general color of the device, so as to render the latter easily distinguishable if driven any distance from its original placement.

In Figs. 6 to 8 inclusive, the numeral 18 designates a well known type of golf tee, and 19 a golf ball, which ball is shown at different teeing heights in said views with relation to the device of the invention, in this connection it may be well to state that the diameter of the annular edge 15 is such that the same will positively and restrainingly engage the golf tee 18, when the latter is set at the maximum teeing height of the golf ball, due primarily to the resilient nature of the material of the guard, and that as the teeing height of the ball 19 is lowered the golf tee 18 is forced further through the aperture 14 and in consequence thereof is more firmly and positively engaged by the resilient annular edge 15, as will be manifest and apparent.

In Figs. 9 to 11 inclusive, the numeral 20 designates another well known type of golf tee and 21 a golf ball, which is also shown at different teeing heights in said views with relation to the golf tee guard, said golf tee 20 being restrainingly engaged within the aperture 17 of its guard in the identical manner to that hereinbefore described for the tee 18.

As previously stated the device of the invention may be formed from any suitable resilient or flexible material, but actual experience has demonstrated that the best results are obtained, when such device is fabricated from rubber, for the reason that due to the inherent resilience of the latter, the device will and must necessarily adhere firmly to the tee at all times irrespective of the teeing height of the golf ball, to thereby positively prevent separation of the correlated tee and guard thereof.

Manifestly, therefore, the device of the invention, is extremely simple, inexpensive, compact and durable in construction, is reliable and efficient in use, and may be conveniently carried by golf players.

While I have herein disclosed my invention with sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to understand the mode of construction and the principles involved, it is to be understood, that there is no intentional limitation herein to the specific form and precise details of construction of the invention shown and described, except as expressly defined by the appended claims, and that various modifications of such form and construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the benefits derivable therefrom. I also desire to have it understood that the device of the invention may be employed with other golf tees than those shown and described.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A golf tee guard having a relatively thin elongated body provided adjacent one end thereof with a convergent aperture to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee.

2. A golf tee guard having a relatively thin body of curvilinear contour provided with an aperture the walls of which are constricted at a selected point thereon to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee.

3. A golf tee guard having a relatively thin conspicuously colored body provided with a longitudinally slitted convergent aperture to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee.

4. A golf tee guard having a relatively thin body fabricated from rubber and having an aperture formed therein, the walls of which are constricted substantially midway the length thereof to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee thereat.

5. A golf tee guard comprising a relatively thin body, and a boss on said body having an aperture formed therein the walls of which converge inwardly from the ends thereof to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee at the juncture of the convergent portions of said walls.

6. A golf tee guard comprising a relatively thin body, and a boss upon one end of said body having an aperture formed therein the walls of which are longitudinally slitted and converge inwardly from the ends of the aperture to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee at the juncture of the convergent portions of said walls.

7. In a golf tee guard, in combination, a relatively thin elongated body, a boss on said body adjacent one end having a convergent aperture formed therein to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee, and a conspicuous locating symbol affixed to said body adjacent the opposite end thereof.

8. In a golf tee guard, in combination, a relatively thin elongated colored body having an aperture formed therein, the walls of which are constricted at a selected point thereon to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee, and a conspicuous locating symbol of a contrasting color affixed to said body in spaced relation to said aperture.

9. In a golf tee guard, in combination, a relatively thin substantially elliptical main body portion, a conspicuous locating symbol affixed thereto, and a relatively thin substan-

tially circular portion integrally connected to one end of said body portion having a convergent aperture formed therein to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee.

10. In a golf tee guard, in combination, a relatively thin substantially elliptical main body portion, a conspicuous locating symbol affixed thereto adjacent one end thereof, a relatively thin substantially circular portion integrally connected to the opposite end of said body portion in alignment with its major axis, and a boss formed upon said circular portion adjacent its outer end having an aperture therein, said aperture having its walls converge inwardly from the ends thereof to accommodate and restrainingly engage a golf tee at the juncture of the convergent portions of said walls.

11. In combination with a golf tee, of a guard therefor comprising a relatively thin body of resilient material, a boss on said body having an aperture formed therein, and means disposed within said aperture to accommodate and restrainingly engage said golf tee at any selected point of axial adjustment thereon.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN D. MULVEHILL.