R. A. MINKLER.

GOLF BALL WASHING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 27, 1919.

1,320,633. Patented Nov. 4, 1919.

Fig. 1.

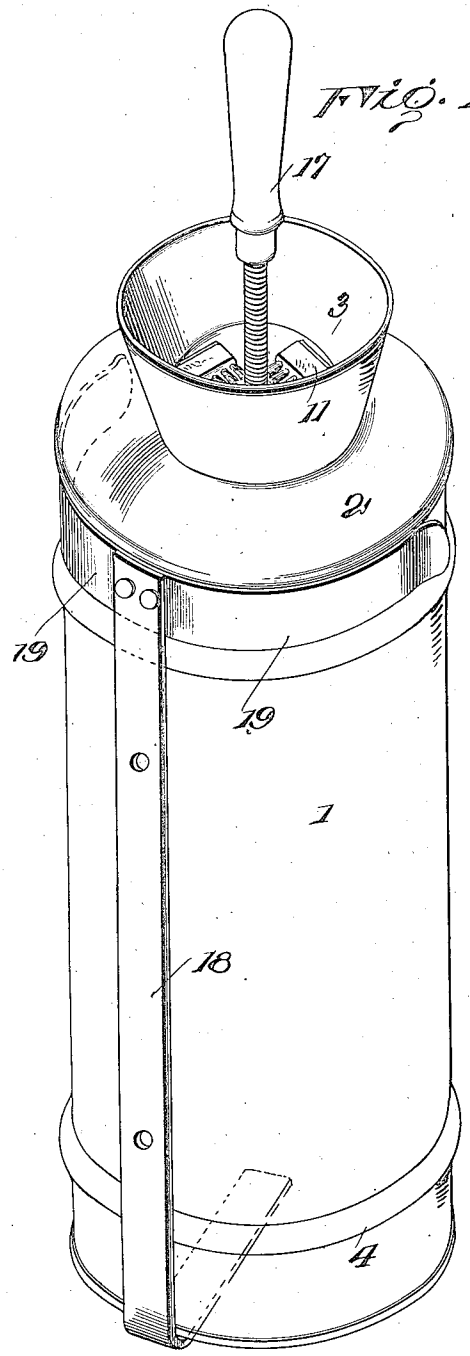
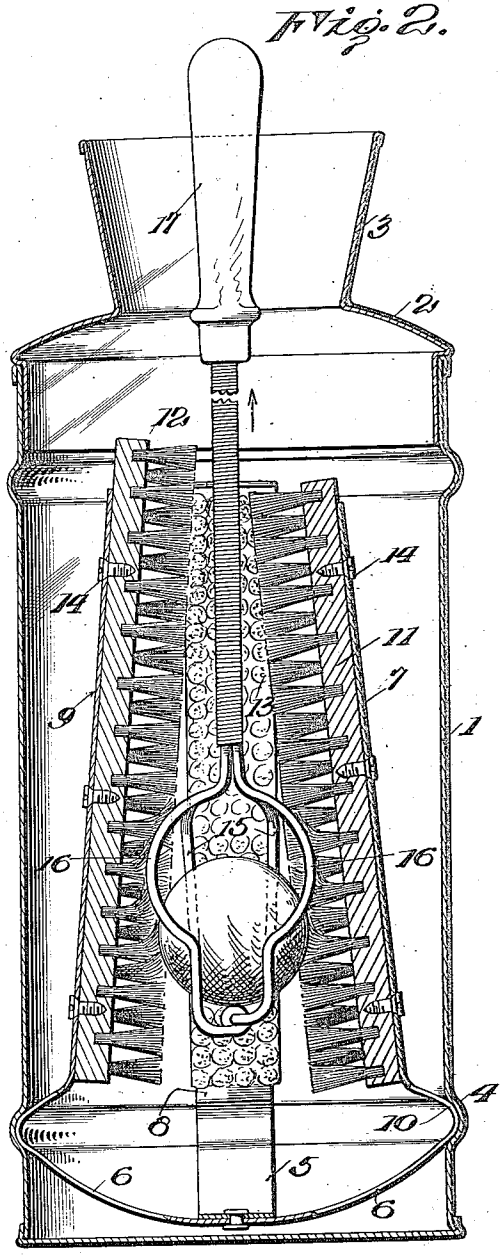


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR

Ray A. Minkler,

BY

Mann, Cameron, Lewis & Massie

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RAY A. MINKLER, OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI.

GOLF-BALL-WASHING DEVICE.

1,320,633. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 4, 1919.

Application filed January 27, 1919. Serial No. 273,402.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RAY A. MINKLER, citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Carthage, Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Golf-Ball-Washing Devices, which invention is fully set forth in the following specification.

The present invention relates to golf-ball washers and has for its object to provide a device of the above character which is simple in construction, rapid and efficient in operation, and which readily permits access to and replacement of its scrubbing elements.

Heretofore, golf-ball washers have been constructed with brushes for scrubbing the balls mounted on revoluble members which are driven by gearing. While such devices are effective for cleaning balls, their construction is sufficiently complicated to make their first cost expensive and their up-keep troublesome.

My invention overcomes the above objections in large measure, if not entirely, and resides in providing a washing receptacle, such as a sheet metal can preferably tinned or galvanized, and having yieldingly supported therein scrubbing elements, such as brushes, arranged to receive between them a reciprocating cage adapted to contain the ball to be cleaned.

The scrubbing elements or brushes may be supported in the washing receptacle in a variety of ways. The one which I preferably employ consists in providing a frame consisting of a plurality of radial arms secured together at their centers and having upturned resilient members to which the scrubbing elements or brushes are replaceably attached by screws or other suitable means. The frame may be detachably secured to the walls of the can in any suitable manner, such as by use of a little solder, but I prefer to retain the frame in the receptacle by a yielding attachment and, for this purpose, I form a circumferential corrugation in the wall of the receptacle near the base and spring the angular bends of the frame members into position therein.

In practice, four brush arms have been found effective, one of which is adapted to hold one of the brushes projecting slightly above the upper ends of its companion brushes with a view of providing in this manner means for shifting the ball in its cage as the latter enters the scrubber, thereby presenting new surfaces to the brushes. I do not, however, desire to be limited to four brushes, since a larger or smaller number may be employed.

In order to bring the ball into scrubbing relation to the brushes, a cage is provided which permits ready reception of the ball and access of the ball to the brushes. For this purpose, I preferably construct a wire cage having four longitudinal retaining elements, the distances between the elements being less than the diameter of the ball except at one side of the cage where the wires are bowed to form a ball-receiving opening. The bottom end of the cage is formed by crossing of the wires, and the top by meeting of the wires which may be extended to form a handle or attachment therefor.

The receptacle is provided with a cover having an opening preferably provided with flared sides to secure a funnel effect. The receptacle is retained in fixed position for washing as by means of a bracket spring clamp which permits ready removal and replacing of the receptacle for washing or other purposes.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawings illustrating one mechanical embodiment of the mechanical idea and which are intended to assist the description but not to define the limits thereof.

In said drawings—

Figure 1 is an elevational view showing the washer embodying my improvements ready for use; and

Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal view of Fig. 1 showing the interior arrangement.

In the drawings, 1 is a cylindrical receptacle of sheet metal such as galvanized iron, provided with a removable cover 2 having a flared opening 3. Near the bottom of the receptacle is a corrugation 4 the purpose of which is explained later.

7, 8, 9 are brush-holding elements formed by the extensions of radial arms 5 and 6. These members are constructed of metal such as iron in the form of resilient strips riveted at their centers and bent into the form shown. Where the arms 5, 6 merge into the vertical portions 7, 8 and 9, shoulders 10 are formed which are adapted to be sprung into corrugation 4 of the receptacle and thereby retain the frame formed by the members in place. 11, 12, 13 are brushes secured to the inner faces of elements 7 by screws 14. One of these brushes 12 is shown projected somewhat above the ends of the others and serves to shift the ball on its axis when passing this point. 15, 16 constitute a wire cage for receiving a ball 17. This cage consists of two pairs of side members 15, 16, the latter being bowed to form an opening to receive the ball. The distances between the parallel portions of the cage wires are less than the diameter of the ball opening and therefore prevent the ball escaping. The bottom of the cage is formed by the crossing of the side wires and the top of the cage by the meeting of the side wires to which a handle 17 is secured.

From the above description, the operation of the device will be readily understood. The brushes having been assembled as shown in Fig. 2, a suitable cleaning liquid is placed in the receptacle and the golf ball is inserted in the cage and the latter pushed down into the can between the brushes, after which a few up and down thrusts of the handle effect the cleaning of the surface of the ball. As the ball leaves or enters the scrubbing space, it encounters the extended portion of brush 12. The friction thus exerted on one side only of the ball causes it to shift position in the cage and present a new surface to the brushes thereby causing scrubbing of the complete surface of the ball in a few up and down movements of the cage.

When the brushes are worn out, the frame may be removed by springing the arms 7, 8 and 9 together, thereby releasing it from the container, and then lifting it out. New brushes can then be placed on the brush-holding elements.

In order that the receptacle may be held firmly in place during the scrubbing operation, it is preferably inserted into a holder fast to some stationary object. Such a holder is shown, for example, in Fig. 1 consisting of an L-shaped bar of iron 18, the foot of the L serving as a support for the receptacle while the body of the receptacle is retained by two yielding arms 19, 19 extending from the upright stem of the L-iron.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a receptacle for containing a washing fluid, a plurality of scrubbing brushes retained within the receptacle and arranged about a common axis, and a manually reciprocated cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes.

2. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a receptacle for containing a washing fluid, a frame within said receptacle and adapted to support a plurality of brushes arranged about a common axis, and a manually reciprocated cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes.

3. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a vessel for receiving a washing fluid, a brush-holding frame adapted to be yieldingly retained in said receptacle and comprising a plurality of upturned resilient members and brushes on said members, and a manually reciprocated cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes.

4. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a receptacle for containing a washing fluid, a plurality of scrubbing brushes retained within the receptacle and arranged around a common axis, and a manually reciprocated cage for holding a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes, the end of one of which extends beyond the ends of the companion brushes and is adapted to turn the ball in the cage into different scrubbing positions.

5. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a vessel for receiving a washing fluid, said vessel being provided with a corrugation, a brush-holding frame within said receptacle comprising a plurality of upturned resilient members having yielding engagement with said corrugation for holding the frame in position, brushes on said members, and a manually reciprocated cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes, and means for turning the ball into different scrubbing positions.

6. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a cylindrical vessel for receiving a washing fluid, said vessel being provided with a circumferential corrugation, a brush-holding frame within said receptacle comprising a plurality of radial arms having upturned resilient brush-holding members having yielding engagement with said corrugation for holding the frame in position, brushes on said members, and a

manually reciprocated cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes, and means for turning the ball into different scrubbing positions.

7. In a device for cleaning golf balls, the combination of a receptacle for containing a washing fluid, a plurality of scrubbing brushes retained within the receptacle and arranged about a common axis, and a manually reciprocated wire cage adapted to hold a ball in scrubbing relation with said brushes consisting of a plurality of wires bent to form the bottom, sides and top of the cage and extended in bunched relation to form a handle therefor, said cage having a ball-receiving opening at one side and near the top of the cage.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification.

RAY A. MINKLER.