June 9, 1964 M. J. RUDERIAN 3,136,419

PRACTICE GOLF BALL SUPPORT

Filed Oct. 2, 1962

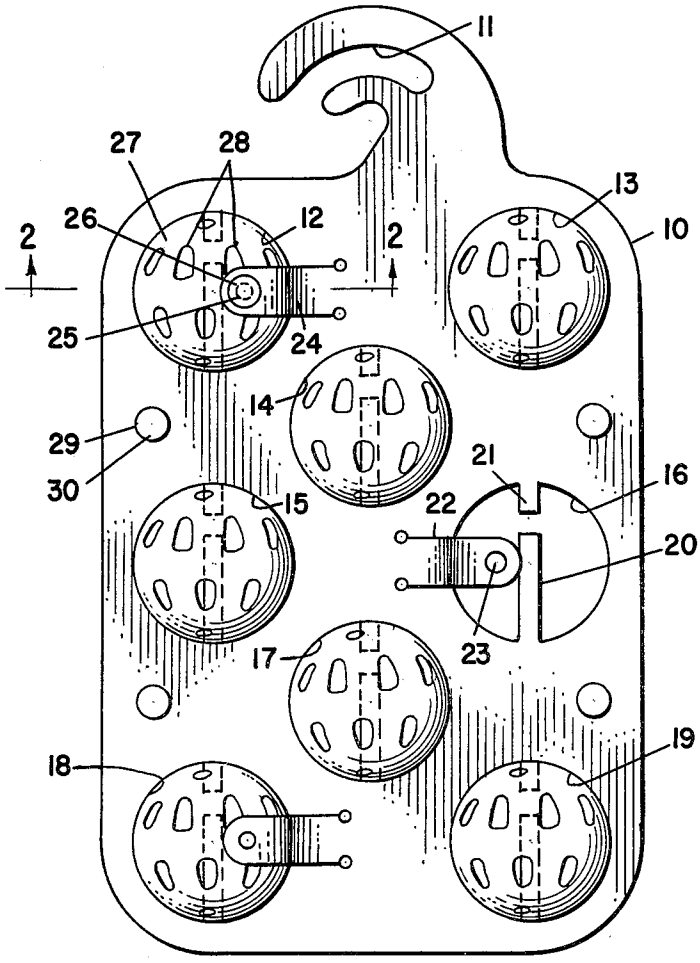


FIG. 1

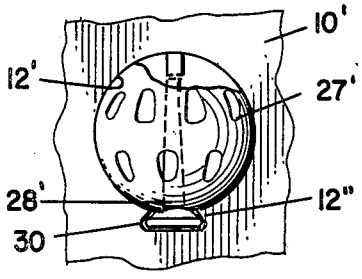


FIG. 3.

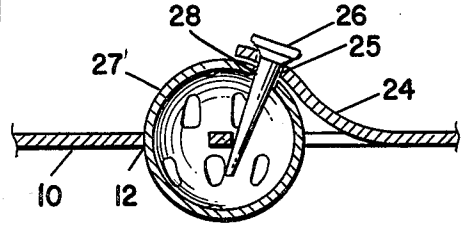


FIG. 2.

INVENTOR.
MAX J. RUDERIAN
BY Elliott & Pastoriza
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,136,419 Patented June 9, 1964

3,136,419

PRACTICE GOLF BALL SUPPORT

Max J. Ruderian, 545 Hanley, Los Angeles, Calif.

Filed Oct. 2, 1962, Ser. No. 227,816
2 Claims. (Cl. 206—79)

This invention relates generally to accessory devices and more particularly to a supporting device for practice type golf balls.

Practice golf balls are made up of hollow plastic spheres provided with a plurality of openings in their external surface. The balls are light and the openings in the surface will provide sufficient wind friction that the ball will not travel too far when struck by a golf club. The balls themselves may be used with conventional golf tees.

Because of the spherical shape of the balls, it is not always convenient to carry the balls or to store them without the balls rolling about. Also, it is difficult to carry tees with the balls without losing some of the tees.

With the foregoing in mind, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a novel practice golf ball support serving to facilitate the carrying about of a plurality of such balls.

More particularly, it is an object to provide a practice golf ball support including convenient means for suspending the support to facilitate storing of plastic golf balls and further including means for supporting golf ball tees to the end that the risk of losing such tees is minimized.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a practice golf ball support which is extremely economical to manufacture.

Briefly, these and other objects and advantages of this invention are attained by providing a single integral stamping in the form of a flexible flat sheet member provided with a plurality of circular openings corresponding in diameter to the diameter of the practice golf balls for receiving the golf balls. Each of the openings in turn includes tongue means constituting integral extensions of the sheet member projecting into and terminating within the openings. The tongues associated with each opening are arranged to be received within one or more of the holes of the practice golf ball to retain the golf ball within the circular opening. In addition, the sheet may include tab means for supporting a tee so that the tee itself has its shaft extending into one of the holes in the practice golf ball to provide further support.

A better understanding of the invention will be had by referring to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of the practice golf ball support of this invention with one of the balls removed to disclose various features of the support;

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary cross section taken in the direction of the arrows 2—2 of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary front elevational view showing a modified construction.

Referring first to FIGURE 1, the support comprises a single integral flexible sheet member **10** terminating at its upper end in a hook structure **11** to facilitate suspending the carrier from a person's belt or other portion of his clothing. As shown, the sheet member **10** includes a plurality of circular openings **12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,** and **19**. These openings are of a diameter corresponding to the diameter of the practice golf balls to be supported therein.

As shown, each of the openings such as the circular opening **16** includes a tongue **20** constituting an integral extending portion of the sheet **10** projecting radially into the opening and terminating therein.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGURE 1, there is provided a second or additional tongue **21** in a diametrically opposite portion of the opening also extending into the opening and terminating within the opening. These tongues are adapted to be received in substantially diametrically opposite openings in plastic type golf balls to be supported within the opening.

The stamping **10** also includes tab members such as the tab member **22** having an end portion overlapping the opening **16** and including a hole **23**. This hole **23** is dimensioned to receive the shaft portion of a golf tee in such a manner as to enable the golf tee itself to aid in supporting the practice golf ball held within the opening **16**.

With particular reference to the upper left hand opening **12** in FIGURE 1, this arrangement will be clearer wherein there is shown a tab **24** similar to the tab **22** having an end opening **25** receiving a tee **26**. The shaft portion of this tee is positioned over a practice golf ball **27** and received in one of the holes **28** in the golf ball.

In FIGURE 2, it will be noted that the tee will serve to anchor the ball **27** within the circular opening **12**. The tab **24** thus serves a dual function in that it provides a support for a tee and also positions the tee in a manner to aid in supporting the practice type golf ball.

With reference once again to FIGURE 1, it will be noted that additional holes such as **29** may be provided for additional tees **30** in the sheet **10**.

FIGURE 3 shows a slightly modified construction wherein a circular opening **12'** is provided with a cut-out portion **12''** dimensioned to receive the head **30'** of a tee. The arrangement is such that the shaft of the tee will fit within one of the holes **28'** of a practice golf ball **27'** when positioned in the circular opening **12'**. Thus, there is again provided a structure wherein the tee is not only supported itself but also aids in supporting the golf ball within the circular opening.

In operation, the tongues such as **20** and **21** are simply bent outwardly to be received in substantially diametrically opposite openings in a practice type golf ball so that the golf ball will be retained within the circular opening. After the golf ball is in position, a tee may be passed through the end opening in the tab such as the opening **25** for the tee **26** and the end of the tee then inserted in one of the holes of the practice type golf ball **27** to provide further support for the ball as well as support for the tee. The sheet member may then be suspended by the hook **11** and easily carried about.

One or more of the practice type golf balls may be readily removed simply by pulling the same from the opening and permitting the tongue members to flex as necessary to release the ball.

The entire support may be manufactured by a single stamping operation and thus is extremely economical. Further, because of the arrangement of the openings within the support and the provision of the hook structure, the support may readily be suspended from any convenient hook for easy storing purposes or for display purposes, if desired.

While only one particular embodiment of the invention has bene shown and described, various changes falling within the scope and spirit of the invention will occur to those skilled in the art. The practice golf ball support is therefore not to be thought of as limited to the exact structures set forth merely for illustrative purposes.

What is claimed is:

1. A support for practice golf balls having holes therein, said support comprising: a single integral stamping in the form of a flat flexible sheet member terminating at its upper end in suspending means, said sheet including a plurality of circular openings of diameter corresponding to said practice golf ball, each of said open-

ings including one tongue constituting an integral portion of said sheet extending into and terminating in the openings, said tongue being adapted to be received in one hole of said golf ball to hold said golf ball in said opening, each of said openings including an additional tongue constituting an integral portion of said sheet and extending into and terminating in said opening in diametrically opposed relationship to said first mentioned tongue for reception in a substantially diametrically opposite hole in said ball, and in which said sheet includes at least one tab adapted to be bent out of the plane of said sheet, one end of said tab overlying one of said openings and including a hole therein; a golf tee adapted to be received in said hole and to project into a hole in one of said practice golf balls positioned in said opening to provide support for said tee and additional support for said ball.

2. A support for practice golf balls having holes therein, said support comprising: a single integral stamping in the form of a flat flexible sheet member terminating at its upper end in suspending means, said sheet including a plurality of circular openings of diameter corresponding

to said practice golf balls, each of said openings including at least one tongue constituting an integral portion of said sheet extending into and terminating in the opening, said tongue being adapted to be received in one hole of said golf ball to hold said golf ball in said opening, at least one of said circular openings including a cut-out portion on its periphery at a point opposite said tongue adapted to receive the head of a golf tee so that the shaft of said tee projects radially into said opening in a position to pass through a hole in said golf ball substantially diametrically opposite the hole receiving said tongue, whereby said tee serves to support part of said golf ball.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

715,759	Crane	Dec. 16, 1902
1,572,383	Dennys	Feb. 9, 1926
1,789,910	Rosenstein	Jan. 20, 1931
2,211,330	Hochberg	Aug. 13, 1940
2,604,204	Rockey et al.	July 22, 1952
3,099,452	Fernicola	July 30, 1963