Feb. 7, 1928. 1,658,447

B. O. LANTZ

GOLF CLUB AND THE LIKE

Filed March 31, 1926

Fig. 1

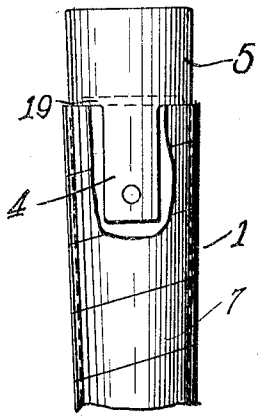


Fig. 2

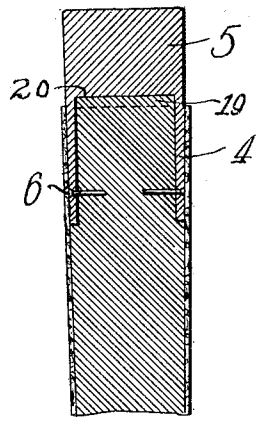


Fig. 3

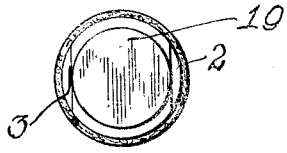


Fig. 4

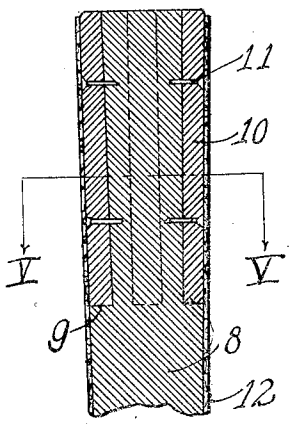


Fig. 5

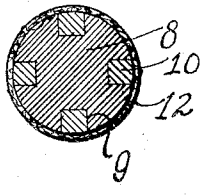
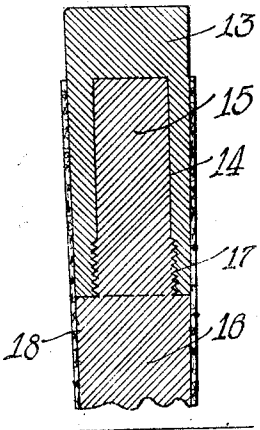


Fig. 6



INVENTOR

Benjamin O. Lantz

BY Charles W. Helfa

ATTY

Patented Feb. 7, 1928. 1,658,447

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN O. LANTZ, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

GOLF CLUB AND THE LIKE.

Application filed March 31, 1926. Serial No. 98,705.

This invention relates to golf clubs, sticks and the like implements for golf and other implements and more particularly to counterweighting means for the same.

It frequently happens, especially in the case of golf clubs, that the club is not balanced correctly for the player, or perhaps the club is too long and if reduced in length would then become unbalanced. Since the length of the club is very important to the player in assuming a correct stance in relation to the ball, it is an object of this invention to provide means for counterweighting a club after it has been reduced to the proper length for the individual player.

It is a further object of this invention to provide means for counterweighting the shafts or handles of golf clubs in order to insure a better "follow through" of the club on the stroke, the added unbalanced weight above the grip having this material effect.

It is a further object of this invention to provide means for counterweighting golf clubs and like instruments that may be readily secured to shafts or handles of such clubs and implements without interfering with the player's natural grip.

Other and further important objects of this invention will be apparent from the disclosures in the specification and the accompanying drawings.

The invention (in a preferred form) is illustrated in the drawings and hereinafter more fully described.

On the drawings:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary view of the handle or shaft of a golf club partially broken away to show a counterweight of my invention and means for securing the same to the club.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section of the same.

Figure 3 is a top plan view, with the counterweight removed.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of a shaft of a golf club showing a modified form of counterweighting means.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on line V—V of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of a second modified form of counterweighting means.

As shown on the drawings:

Reference numeral 1 indicates the end of the shaft or handle of a golf club. As will be apparent, my invention is also applicable to implements of a like nature such as billiard cues, polo mallets, and the like. Said handle 1 is provided with recesses 2 (Figures 1 to 3, inclusive) having flattened faces 3, and extending axially of the shaft 1 to the end thereof. A pair of such recesses 2 may be provided on diametrically opposite sides of the shaft 1 for the purpose of receiving the depending similarly shaped extensions 4 of a counterweight 5, said counterweight comprising a relatively short cylinder of some suitable metal conforming in diameter and taper to the diameter and taper of the shaft 1. The extensions 4 may be formed integrally with said cylinder and form a continuation of the surface of said cylinder. It will be noted that the shaft 1 extends slightly beyond the upper edges of the recesses 2 to form a reduced cylindrical end 19 adapted to extend into a corresponding recess 20 in said counterweight 5 and thereby to center the same.

Securing means 6 such as small nails or screws, are adapted to be inserted laterally through the extensions 4 into the reduced end of the shaft 1, thus preventing the counterweight 5 from turning or from becoming easily detached. As is usual in the case of golf clubs, the shaft 1 is wound with a spiral leather tape 7 which extends to the end of the shaft and enwraps the extensions 4 of the counterweight 5. The counterweight, therefore, does not interfere with the player's grip and the club presents a neat and finished appearance.

In Figures 4 and 5, I have shown a modified form of a counterweight embodying the principles of my invention. The end of the shaft 8 is here shown as provided with a plurality of longitudinal grooves or recesses 9 equally spaced about the circumference of the shaft and extending to the end thereof. Strips or bars 10 of some metal suitable for counterweighting purposes are adapted to be inserted in said grooves 9 and to lie flush with the normal surface of the shaft 8. Said strips 10 may be suitably secured in place as by the nails 11. It will be noted that the taping 12 substantially encloses the counterweights 10 so that the club presents a normal appearance.

In Figure 6 there is shown a second modification of counterweighting means 13 having a recess portion 14 for receiving the ta-

pered end 15 of a shaft 16. The lower portion of said recess or bore 14 is threaded as at 17 and is adapted to be screwed into position over the similarly threaded portion of the reduced end 15. The shaft 16 is adapted to be wound as usual with tape 18 which extends over the portion of the counterweight 13 below the normal end of the shaft 16.

It is evident that by varying the dimensions of the counterweight to suit the particular requirements of the individual player that practically any golf club can be satisfactorily counterbalanced. The counterbalancing may be effected in the factory or by the player to suit his individual taste.

I have found from actual experience that in using a golf club counterweighted in accordance with my invention, that the "follow-through" is greatly improved, due to the tendency of the added unbalanced weight in the handle to hold the player's arms extended during the full stroke, thus preventing the involuntary habit that many players have of jerking the head of the club upwardly immediately after striking the ball. It is important to note that I preferably do not employ weights in the head of the club of sufficient magnitude to balance or offset the effect of the counterweights in the shaft.

It is thus apparent that I have provided means for easily and quickly adapting a given club to an individual whereby considerable improvement in his playing should be made possible without resorting to the use of expensive made-to-order clubs.

I am aware that numerous details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and I therefore do not purpose limiting the patent granted hereon, otherwise than necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

A handle for a golf club or the like comprising a shaft having one end thereof provided with a plurality of recesses formed in its periphery and extending in the direction of the length of the shaft, and weight means secured to said end of the shaft including downwardly extending bars disposed in said recesses.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

BENJAMIN O. LANTZ.