Feb. 23, 1932. G. W. THOMPSON 1,846,407

GOLF TEE

Filed Dec. 23, 1930

Fig. 2.

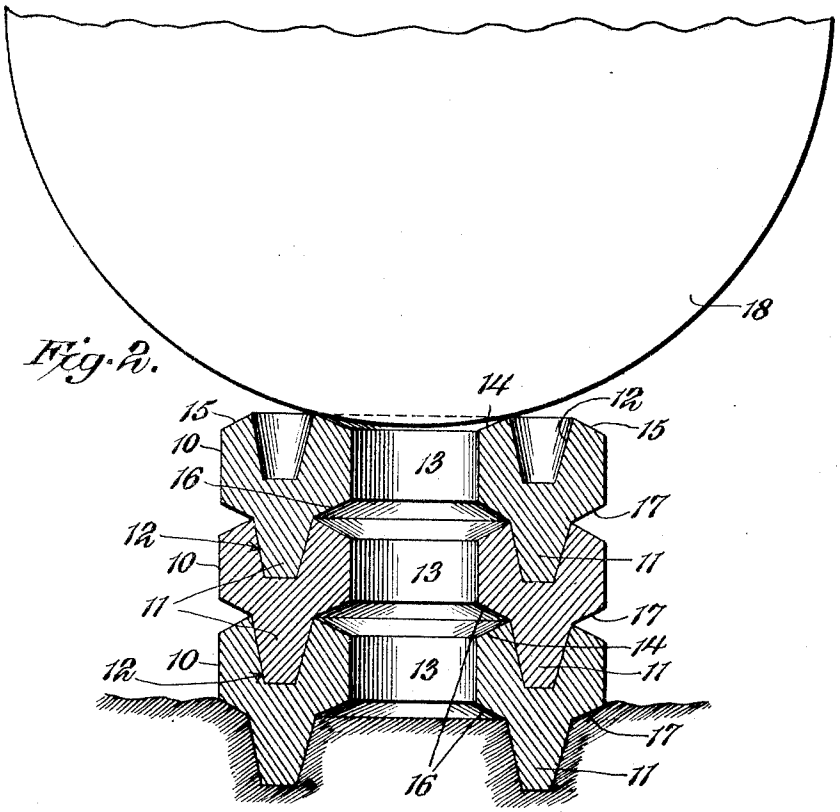


Fig. 1.

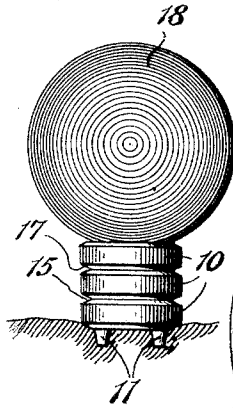


Fig. 3.

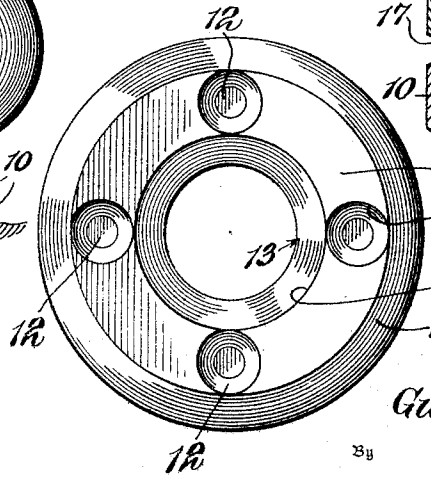
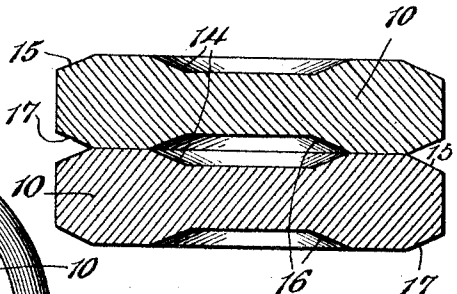


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GOLF TEE

Application filed December 23, 1930. Serial No. 504,355.

The object of the invention is to provide a golf tee which may be readily varied as to height. To this end the tee is made in units or sections, which sections may be used singly or be readily assembled to provide a tee of any desired height, to suit the convenience of the user.

A further object of the invention is to so construct the units or sections that the connecting features, or at least some of them, shall constitute the means for fastening the tee in the ground, and for adjusting the same with respect to the level thereof.

A still further object is to so construct the sections that each shall have a ball seat, and all shall be interchangeable with respect to other sections, so that a seat for the ball is provided whichever section happens to be on the top.

Referring to the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the multiple unit tee in position in the ground, with a golf ball resting thereon.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of the tee with a golf ball resting thereon, the units of the tee being shown in section.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of one of the sections, also enlarged, showing the recesses with which the cooperating parts of the next higher section will unite; and also showing the seat in which the ball rests.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of a modified form of tee in which the units are merely rested one upon the other, without any special means for securing them together.

The form shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 will first be described.

The numeral 10 indicates the several identical or substantially identical units of the tee. These units are each provided on one side with any desired number of pins, posts or similar devices 11, and on the other with the same number of holes or sockets 12, into which the pins or posts 11 of the next section may rest.

The sections 10 are interchangeable with each other, and preferably each is provided with a central opening 13; but this is not essential, and the units may be made without the opening, as in the form shown in Fig. 4. The side which is used as the top of the sections is chamfered on the inside as at 14, to form a seat for the golf ball; and on the outside of the top as at 15, and also below as at 16 on the inside and at 17 on the outside. But all of these chamfers except 14 may be omitted if desired, for they serve no special function.

Each section on the side which is to be used as the lower side is provided with pins, posts or teeth 11; and on what may be regarded as the upper side, with corresponding holes or recesses 12. These pins or posts 11 have a double function; those on the lower section, or what happens to be the lower section, or on the lower side of the single section if only one section is used, serve to support the tee in the ground, or to adjust the same with respect to the surface of the ground, as shown in Fig. 1; while those on the other sections, if more than one section is used, enter the cooperating holes or sockets 12 on the tops of the sections, thus serving as the means for connecting the sections together.

The tee, as it is used, is best illustrated in Fig. 1, where it is shown fixed in the ground, with the ball 18 resting on the top thereof; and in Fig. 2, where the ball 18, enlarged to correspond with the enlarged sections, is shown in the seat or recess formed by the inner chamfer 14, or by this chamfer together with the opening 13.

When using this form of the invention, the player simply determines the size preferred, and then puts together enough sections to secure this desired height. The tee as a whole is then pressed into the earth with sufficient firmness to steady the same. If the ground is uneven, it may be forced into the earth farther on one side than the other, thus bringing the top into a plane that is horizontal or substantially horizontal.

The sections are so constructed that the pins or posts 11 cooperate with the holes or recesses 12 with a fit that is tight enough to hold the sections together, but not so tight that they may not be easily separable, so that they may be joined together or separated without the use of tools. And the pins and

holes are preferably tapered to facilitate the union and separation of the elements.

In the form shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, four pins or posts 11, are four corresponding depressions 12, are shown; it is to be understood, however, that this number is merely suggestive, for the units may have any suitable number of pins and depressions, the number not being of the essence of the invention.

The tees may be constructed of any suitable material; but can best be made of some material which is easily molded or cast. Moreover, this material may either be soluble or insoluble, as preferred by the manufacturer or user.

In the modification shown in Fig. 4, the same reference characters are used to indicate the same parts and features as in the form shown in Figs. 1 to 3, as far as the parts and features are identical in the two forms. Thus 10 indicates the individual units or sections. These are here shown as solid disks, but the central parts are recessed, leaving annular rims; and these rims are chamfered on the inner top side as at 14, and on the outer top side at 15; and on the lower inner side as at 16, and on the lower outside as at 17.

In this form, the pins or posts of the form shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, are omitted, and the units are either used singly or in combination as desired. If used singly, the unit is simply laid upon the ground, and the ball placed in the depression on the top thereof. If a higher tee is needed, the units are simply piled one upon the other until the desired height is reached; the pile is then set on the ground and the ball placed in the recess in the top section.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A golf tee comprising a substantially flat member of any desired shape having on one side thereof a ball seat and a series of sockets arranged around the ball seat, and having on the other side thereof a series of pins equal in number to and corresponding in position to the sockets on the first mentioned side, the pins being adapted to be inserted in the ground to support the tee or to be engaged in the sockets of another section with a binding fit to form a tee of any desired height.

2. A golf tee comprising a plurality of substantially identical sections, each section having on one side a ball seat and a series of sockets, and on the other side pins or dowels equal in number to and corresponding in position to the sockets on the other side, the pins and sockets being of such form as to engage each other with a binding fit, whereby a tee of any desired height with a ball seat on the top may be formed.

3. A golf tee comprising a plurality of substantially identical cylindrical sections, each section having a ball seat on one side thereof and a plurality of equally spaced sockets arranged in a series around the ball seat, and on the other side a series of pins equal in number and corresponding in position to the sockets on the first mentioned side, the pins on any section being adapted to be inserted in the ground to support the tee or to be engaged in the sockets of another section with a binding fit to form a tee of any desired height.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GUSTAVUS W. THOMPSON.