

# United States Patent

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[54] **PUTTER TRAINING GUIDE**

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[51] Int. Cl. .... **A63b 69/36**

[58] Field of Search.....273/191, 192, 186, 194

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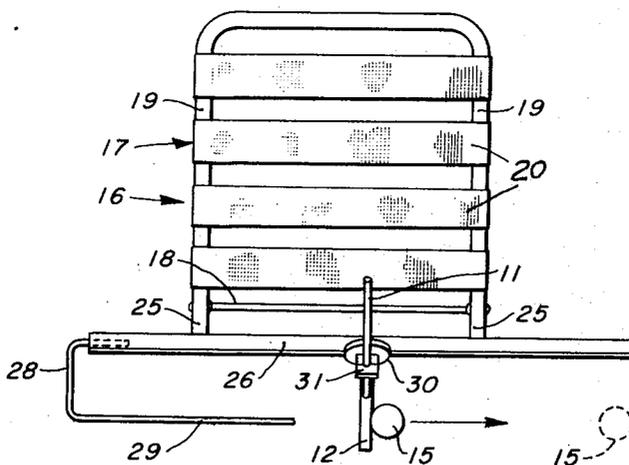
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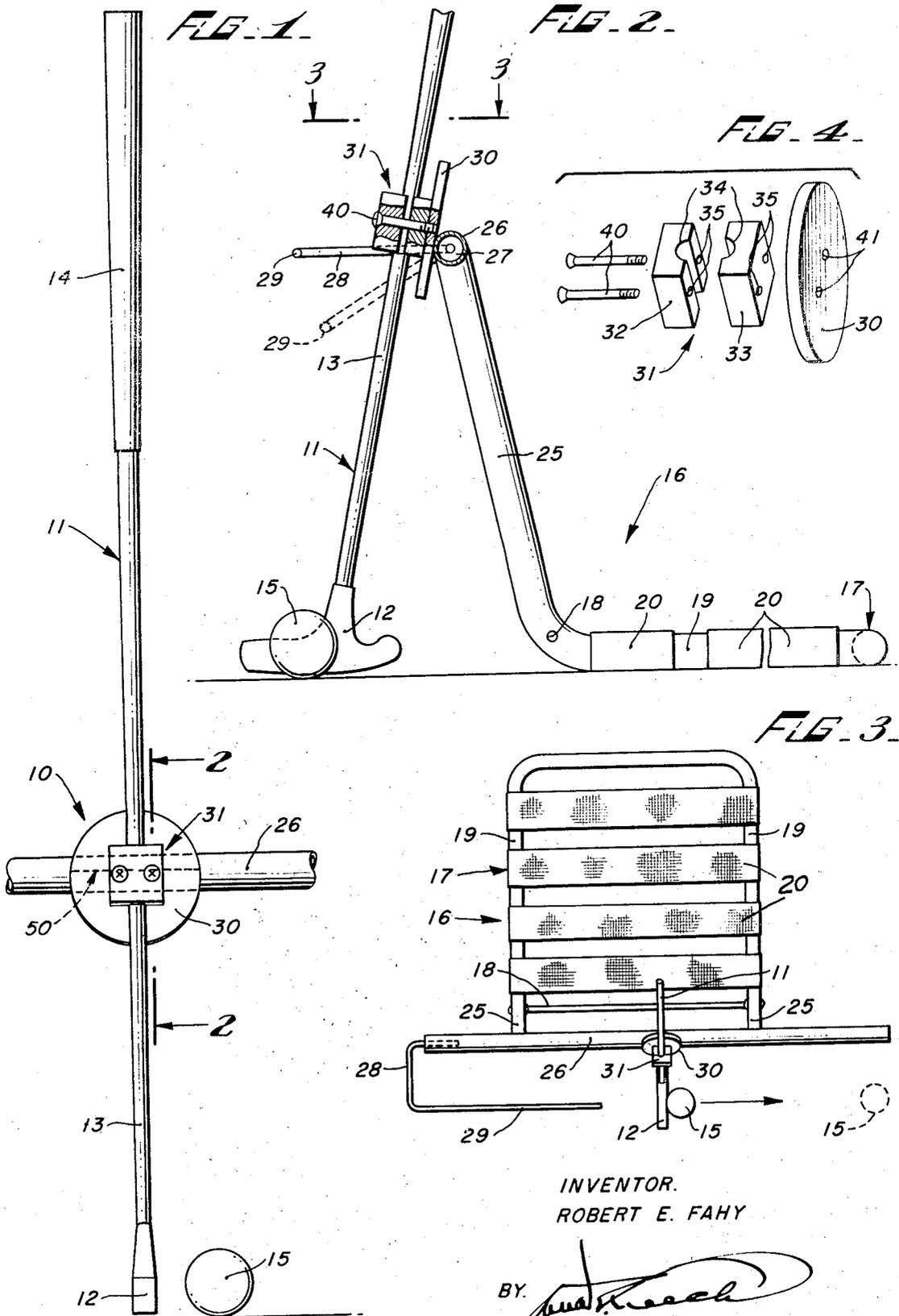
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A straight cylindrical guide bar is horizontally supported about 9 inches from the ground level on a flat foot stand on which the trainee stands facing said bar with a putter club in his hands. Secured to the club shaft at right angles with the plane of the club head is a circular plate. With said plate allowed to rest by gravity rearwardly in constant sliding horizontal straight line contact with said guide the trainee practices putting a golf ball along a path forward from and parallel with said guide bar. A wire pointer adjustable mounted on one end of said guide bar is adjusted to overlie said path and assist the trainee in aligning himself and the apparatus with said path before putting.

**1 Claim, 4 Drawing Figures**





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**PUTTER TRAINING GUIDE**

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 859,487 Sept. 19, 1969, now abandoned.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

As in other departments of golf, perfection in putting is achieved only with intense study of the various factors involved and long and patient practice in setting up correct habit patterns in executing the putting stroke. One of the fundamental requirements of this stroke is that the head of the club be held at right angles to the path of the stroke throughout the stroke. Another is that the direction traveled by the club head must be in that particular straight path and with just that amount of force correctly estimated to be necessary to land the ball in the cup.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide training for all golfers, skilled and unskilled, in establishing kinaesthetic habit patterns in putting so they will subconsciously and simultaneously swing the club in a plane parallel with the path along which it is aimed to putt the ball and hold the club head at right angles to this path throughout the putting stroke.

It is another object of the invention to provide a simple putter training apparatus which is relatively light in weight, inexpensive to manufacture and may be used on any kind of a surface particularly on a putting green or lawn without injuring the latter in any way.

Yet another object is to provide such an apparatus which includes a foot stand on which the trainee stands while practicing putting therewith in which the stand supports the trainee on practically the same level he would stand on if he was standing directly on the supporting green so that when he is practicing putting with the apparatus, habit patterns set up will be in harmony with his subsequent experience in putting without the use of the apparatus.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary front elevational view of a golf putter equipped with the guide plate of the invention and positioned as used in putting practice with the guide bar and foot stand of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken at a reduced scale on the line 3—3 of FIG. 2, and showing, in plan, the guide bar and foot stand and alignment indicator of the invention.

FIG. 4 is an exploded view of the guide plate and attaching clamp associated therewith in attaching said plate to a putter.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Referring specifically to the drawings the putter training guide 10 of the present invention is there shown as associated with a golf putter club 11 which includes a head 12, shaft 13 and a handle 14. In the game of golf, the club 11 is used in putting a golf ball 15. The invention 10 includes a foot stand 16 preferably including a U-shaped frame 17 made of aluminum tubing about one inch in diameter and having a spacer rod 18 for spacing side members 19 of the frame 17. Tautly stretched between the side members 19 and riveted or cemented to said members are fabric web bands 20 on

which a trainee can stand but which are flexible enough to permit the bands 20 to stretch so that the weight of the trainee is supported on whatever surface the foot stand 16 rests upon such as the turf of a golf links.

5 Front end portions of side members 19 are bent upwardly to form forwardly inclined posts 25, on upper ends of which is fixed cylindrical tubular horizontal guide bar 26. This bar extends both to the right and to the left beyond the frame 17 approximately as shown in FIG. 3 and the right hand end of this bar has an apertured plug 27 in which is frictionally mounted the hook shaped end portion 28 of a sighting wire or alignment indicator 29 which is disposed parallel with the bar 26. 10 The hook shaped portion 28 of sighting wire 29 is normally placed in a horizontal plane as shown in full lines in FIG. 2 but it is adapted to be frictionally adjusted about the axis of its mounting on tubular guide bar 26, as shown in broken lines in FIG. 2, so that the sighting wire 29 will be positioned varying distances from the vertical plane containing the bar 26.

The putter training guide 10 also includes a flat guide plate 30 which is preferably made of aluminum in the form of a disc and is secured to the shaft 13 of the putter club 11 by a clamp 31. This clamp is formed of two aluminum blocks 32 and 33 which are channeled at 34 to fit the shaft 13 and are provided with holes 35 for receiving screws 40 which are extended freely through said holes and then screw into tapped holes 41 provided in the guide plate 30. Outer ends of holes 35 in block 32 are counter sunk to receive the heads of the screws 40.

The plate 30 and clamp 31 are applied to the shaft 13 of the putter club 11 as shown in FIGS. 1, 2, and 3 so that the plane of the plate 30 will be in right angled relation with the plane of the putter club head 12, and with the plate at a location on shaft 13 approximately as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. This causes the plate 30 to gravitate rearwardly into horizontal single line engagement with the cylindrical surface of the guide bar 26 when the trainee stands on the foot stand 16 and practices putting with the club 11 held in the positions illustrated in these two figures.

The present invention does not limit the trainee to taking any particular position in putting or to any particular technique of holding the putter or swinging the same, the use of this invention being flexible so that the putter club can be held at various angles of inclination in putting, and each golfer using the invention as a putting training device may get the benefits of the invention without changing his putting style in any way. This flexibility of the device 10 results from the fact that no matter how the club 11, in putting practise, may deviate from vertical in the planes of FIG. 1 or FIG. 2, the contact constantly maintained between the flat guide plate 30 and the cylindrical guide bar 26 is exclusively along a horizontal straight line 50, illustrated by a dotted line in FIG. 1.

The purpose and function of the putter training guide 10 is to give the trainee the feeling and produce a set of subconscious kinaesthetic images in his sensory-motor system by his use of this device which will tend to inculcate good habits in putting when he removes the guide plate 30 from his putter and proceeds to putt in the normal manner, without any aid, as required by golfing rules. The traits which the guide 10 aims to inculcate in

the trainee are, first: the habitual holding of the putter club 11 with the putter head 12 in a plane at right angles to the direction in which the trainee is aiming to putt the ball, and secondly to swing the putter throughout the stroke in a plane which is parallel with that direction.

Another thing that is accomplished by the putter training guide 10 is to compel the trainee, when practicing putting with this guide, to swing the club in a plane parallel with the direction he has planned for putting the ball and to hold the putter head at right angles to this direction throughout the swing of the club and thus demonstrate to the trainee the beneficial results of including these two factors in his putting technique. Much more accurate putting may be accomplished in training with the guide 10 than without the guide, particularly where the trainee is a novice. It will thus demonstrate to the trainee his need for incorporating in his free skill in putting the factors mechanically added to his putting technique by the guide 10 while he is being assisted by this guide in putting practice.

Another substantial advantage of the guide 10 is the construction of the foot stand 16 so that the trainee stands on the ground or turf level because of the flexibility of the web bands 20 so that there is no change in the level on which the trainee stands with respect to the surface he is putting on when he switches from putting with the aid of the guide 10 and putting without such aid.

While the present invention preferably makes use of an aluminum disc 30 rigidly attached to the club shaft 13 for making constant horizontal straight line contact with guide bar 26, it is to be understood that various mechanical equivalents might be substituted for this plate while securing substantially the same effect. For instance, a ring having the same diameter as disc 30 might be substituted therefore. Another equivalent might be a pair of parallel wires which are secured to the putter shaft 13 so as to be parallel also with this

shaft. It is of course desirable to keep the weight of the guide plate means 30 as low as possible so as not to materially increase the effort required of practicing with the invention from that which is required in normal putting.

I claim:

1. A putter training guide adapted for use in conjunction with a golf putter club having a putter head, a shaft and a handle, for guiding said club, throughout a normal practice putting stroke, solely by a straight horizontal line of contact between stationary and movable elements embodied in said guide, said guide comprising:

a straight guide bar substantially exceeding in length said putting stroke;

support means for rigidly supporting said guide bar in a suitable elevated stationary horizontal position;

a flat guide plate;

means for securing said guide plate to the shaft of said club parallel with said shaft and in a right angular relation with the plane of the putter head and at a height on said shaft at which said plate may be rested rearwardly against said guide bar throughout said practice stroke,

said plate guiding said club throughout said stroke, by a horizontal straight line contact between said plate and said straight horizontal bar;

an alignment indicator wire adjustably mounted on one end of said guide bar to extend forwardly therefrom and then parallel with said guide bar to overlie the area in which the putting stroke takes place to permit the trainee to align the guide bar in parallelism with the path along which it is desired to propel the ball in putting the same; and

means for adjustably varying the horizontal space between said wire and the vertical plane of said guide bar, while keeping said wire parallel with said bar.

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