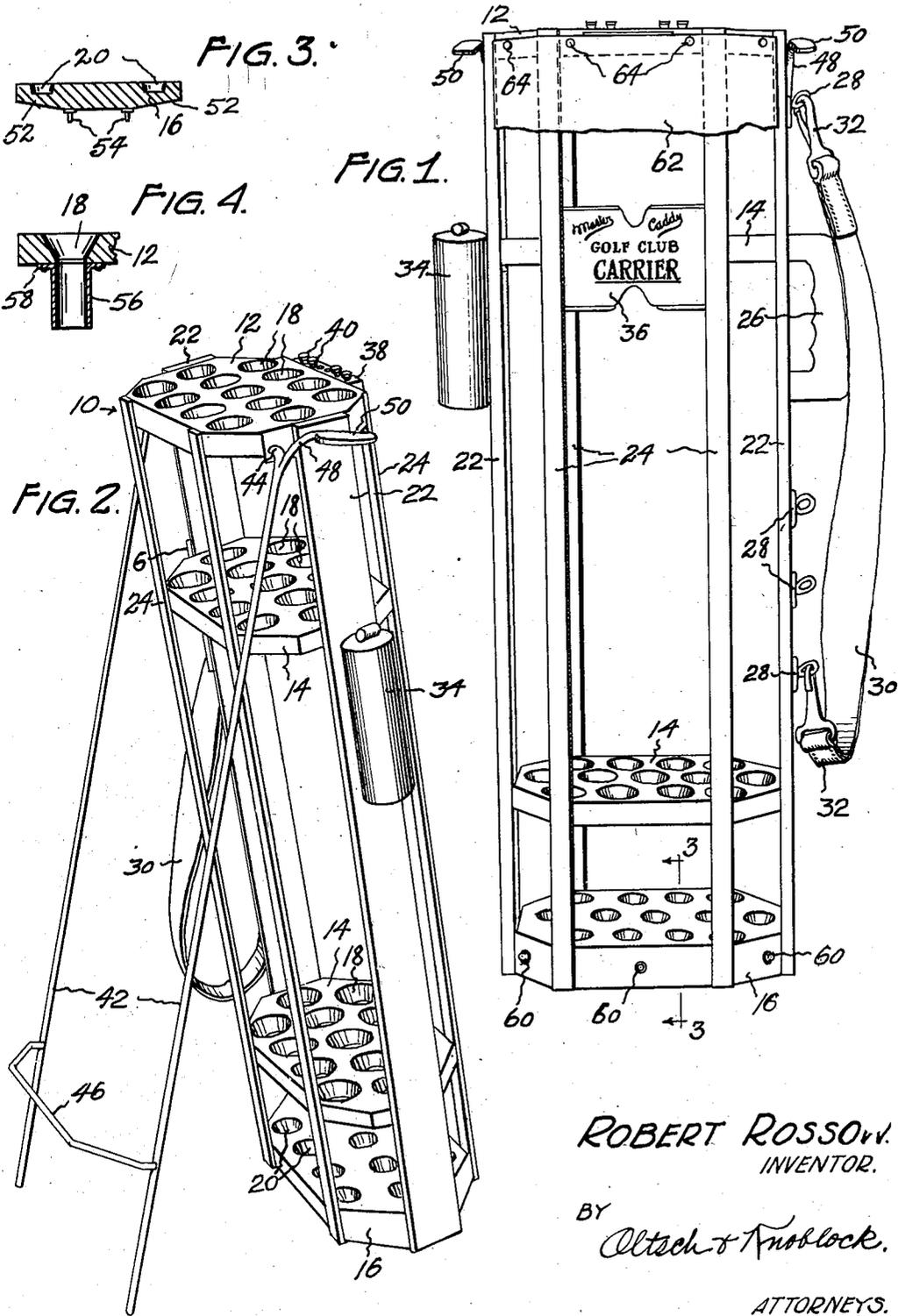


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GOLF CLUB CARRIER  
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## GOLF CLUB CARRIER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 150—1.5)

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This invention relates to improvements in golf club carriers.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a light weight convenient device by means of which a plurality of golf clubs may be carried in predetermined spaced relation for easy access application and removal.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which is rigid and provided with means for supporting it in an upright position while the golfer is playing a shot.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is adapted to be carried, is comfortable when carried, and which has minimum points of contact with the golfer's body when carried from the shoulder and resting against the body.

A further object is to provide a carrier of this character which will remain in any upright position in which it is placed by the golfer without danger of sliding and by a very simple and quick adjustment of the parts to condition it for such upright positioning.

A further object is to provide a device of this character having guide means for facilitating the rapid and easy insertion of clubs within and the removal of clubs from the carrier.

A further object is to provide a device of this character of an open structural formation with detachable means for closing the same to protect the clubs when the device is used in wet weather.

Other objects will be apparent from the description and specification.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of the device with parts broken away.

Fig. 2 is an end perspective view of the device.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the top of the device.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred embodiment of the invention, the numeral 10 designates a rigid structure or framework of the invention. This structure comprises a top panel 12, one or more intermediate panels 14, and a bottom panel 16. These panels are all of the same size and overall shape or outline here shown as somewhat elongated and in the form of an eight sided figure. The shape of these

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panels may be varied within a wide range, however, and they may be formed of oval or elliptical shape or of any desired contour. The top 12 and the intermediate members 14 are each provided with a plurality of openings 18 extending therethrough and of substantially conical shape, as illustrated in Fig. 4, with their large diameter portion uppermost. The bottom 16 has a plurality of recesses or sockets 20 formed therein of the same number and arrangement as the openings 18 in the panels 12 and 14. The panels 12, 14 and 16 may be formed of any suitable material such as wood, plastic, metal, or the like, though I prefer to form the panels from a molded plastic material.

A plurality of rigid elongated plates or panels of thin flat stock, and including the end panels 22 and the narrower side panels 24, serve to interconnect panels 12, 14 and 16. The members 22 and 24 are preferably formed of light weight metal, such as an aluminum or magnesium alloy, and are secured by screws, rivets or any other desired means to the panels 12, 14 and 16. The members 22 and 24 are of comparatively narrow width and are spaced apart substantially as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 so that the structure provided thereby and by the transverse panels is open throughout for circulation of air therethrough and for the purpose of light weight and visibility of the interior of the structure. The panels 12, 14 and 16 are secured in parallel relation and in register at desired levels by the members 22 and 24, and the complete structure is strong, rigid, and light in weight. When the structure is assembled, each of the openings 18 in the top will be axially aligned with similar openings in the intermediate panels 14 and with one of the sockets 20 in the base 16.

The assembled or completed structure as above described is provided with a handle 26 secured to one of the frame members 22 at intermediate elevation thereof. To the same end member 22 are secured a plurality of eyelets 28 of which one is located adjacent the upper end of the structure and another is located below the handle 26. A shoulder strap 30 is provided with suitable retainers 32 adapted for connection with the eyelets 28 in the manner well understood in the art. If desired an elongated vertically disposed container 34 for balls and tees may be secured

to the end member 22 opposite that to which the handle and the strap are secured. Other conveniences may be provided in the device, such as a score card carrier 36 spanning the space between the members 24 at one side of the device and an apertured projection 38 at one side of the device adapted to receive tees 40.

A support is pivoted to the upper end of the structure and comprises a pair of elongated rigid members 42, such as heavy wire members, extending in spaced parallel relation and spaced apart a distance greater than the length of the panel 12 or the major transverse direction of the structure. At their upper ends the wire members are returned at 44 to pass in holes or sockets formed in the top of the structure as in the opposite ends of the top 12, thereby providing means by which the members 42 may be swung from parallel relation to the members 22 and 24 to an inclined or angular relation to the same members, as illustrated in Fig. 2. Adjacent their lower ends the members 42 may be rigidly interconnected by a crossbar 46 which is preferably bent, as illustrated in Fig. 2, to conform to the contour of the carrier so as to permit the members 42 to be positioned parallel to the members 22 and 24 when the stand is ready to be carried. Arms 48 project from the upper ends of the members 42 in angularly upwardly extending relation thereto substantially parallel to the adjacent members 22. These arms 48 terminate in finger engaging portions or levers 50. The length of the members 42 is slightly less than the overall length of the structure so that the lower ends of the parts 42 just clear the ground when the container is supported upon the ground in an upright position while the members 42 are freely suspended from their pivot axes 44. By virtue of this construction it will be apparent that when a golfer reaches his ball and prepares to make a shot, at which time he must lower his carrier to the ground, he can do so, placing the carrier in a substantially upright position. Thereupon by pressing downwardly upon the finger pieces or levers 50 he can force the supporting structure, including the arms 42, to the angular position illustrated in Fig. 2. Thereupon he can lean the carrier backwardly to a tilted stable position in which the carrier will remain. This insures protection of the golf clubs, avoids the necessity of having the player stoop to pick up the carrier as would be necessary if the same lay flat upon the ground, and also possesses the advantage that the heads of the clubs will be positioned uppermost at a convenient place to permit their inspection preparatory to selection of the desired club. In this connection it will be apparent that the club heads project above the top 12 and the danger of marring or damage thereto is rendered small by the spacing of the openings 18 which receive the club shafts.

In order to render the device stable in the tilted position shown in Fig. 2, the bottom 16 of the device is preferably shaped and constructed as illustrated in Fig. 3. Specifically, the bottom surface of the bottom member 16 inclines upwardly and outwardly at 52 at opposite sides thereof at an angle whereby one of said inclined surfaces 52 will be positioned substantially horizontally when the carrier is tilted in the Fig. 2 position. A pair of rows of spikes or other ground impaling members 54 are secured to the bottom, as illustrated in Fig. 3, and the spikes in either of the rows will serve to impale the ground when the device is in the Fig. 2 position. By virtue of the impaling of the ground by the spikes 54, and fur-

ther by virtue of the fact that the ends of the members 42 will have somewhat of an impaling effect upon the ground, it will be apparent that the device will remain in any position in which it is placed and that the parts will not slip or slide nor be unstable in use.

While the conical shape of the openings 18 in the members 12 and 14 may be sufficient in most instances to permit the ready insertion of a club shaft through aligned openings, the invention contemplates the provision of guide means which will positively insure proper positioning of the club shaft to pass through the aligned openings without striking any of the intermediate members 14 or requiring special care and attention to club position during the operation. Thus, as illustrated in Fig. 4, rigid tubular members 56 having an internal diameter substantially equal to or slightly greater than the smallest diameter end of the opening 18 may be secured in a depending relation to the top 12 in register and axially alignment with the openings 18 as by means of the flanges 58 and suitable securing means passing therethrough and into the member 12. The guide tubes 55 are of such a length that the proper direction of movement of the shaft endwise through the top opening is obtained automatically and danger of an end abutment of the club shaft with either of the intermediate panels 14 is avoided.

While one of the advantages of the device is that the structure of the carrier is open thereby reducing the area of contact of the carrier with the body of the golfer while the device is suspended from his shoulder, and also the fact that this open structure facilitates air circulation thereby reducing objectionable perspiration incident to carrying the device in hot weather, it is desirable to provide means for enclosing the carrier if it is used in wet or rainy weather. For this purpose I secure a plurality of parts 60 of separable fasteners, such as snap fasteners, to both the top 12 and the bottom 16 of the device at opposite sides thereof. Weatherproof sheets 62, each of a size to span one side of the carrier between the edges of the end members 22, may be provided with the device and may have the other part 64 of the separable fastener secured thereto. Thus, in the event of rain, the sheets 62, which can normally be rolled in a small compact form to be easily carried, or for the storage of which suitable means may be provided upon the carrier, can be quickly applied to the sides of the carrier to enclose it. When the sheets 62 are properly applied to the carrier and are of a size to fit the same and to span the open sides thereof as illustrated, the device is effectively weather sealed and possesses all of the advantages of a conventional golf club bag.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described herein, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

A golf club carrier comprising a rigid unit including a top, a bottom, a plurality of spaced rigid elongated thin flat uprights of a length shorter than a golf club connecting said top and bottom and a panel secured to said uprights intermediate said top and bottom, said uprights bearing flat against the margins of said top, bottom and panel said top and panel each having a plurality of spaced club-receiving openings, car-

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rying means secured to said unit, a support pivoted to said unit and shiftable between a retracted position substantially parallel to said unit and an angularly extended position for supporting said unit in tilted position, a plurality of fasteners secured to the edges of said top and bottom, and a plurality of flexible sheets detachably mounted by said fasteners to enclose the sides of said units.

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