

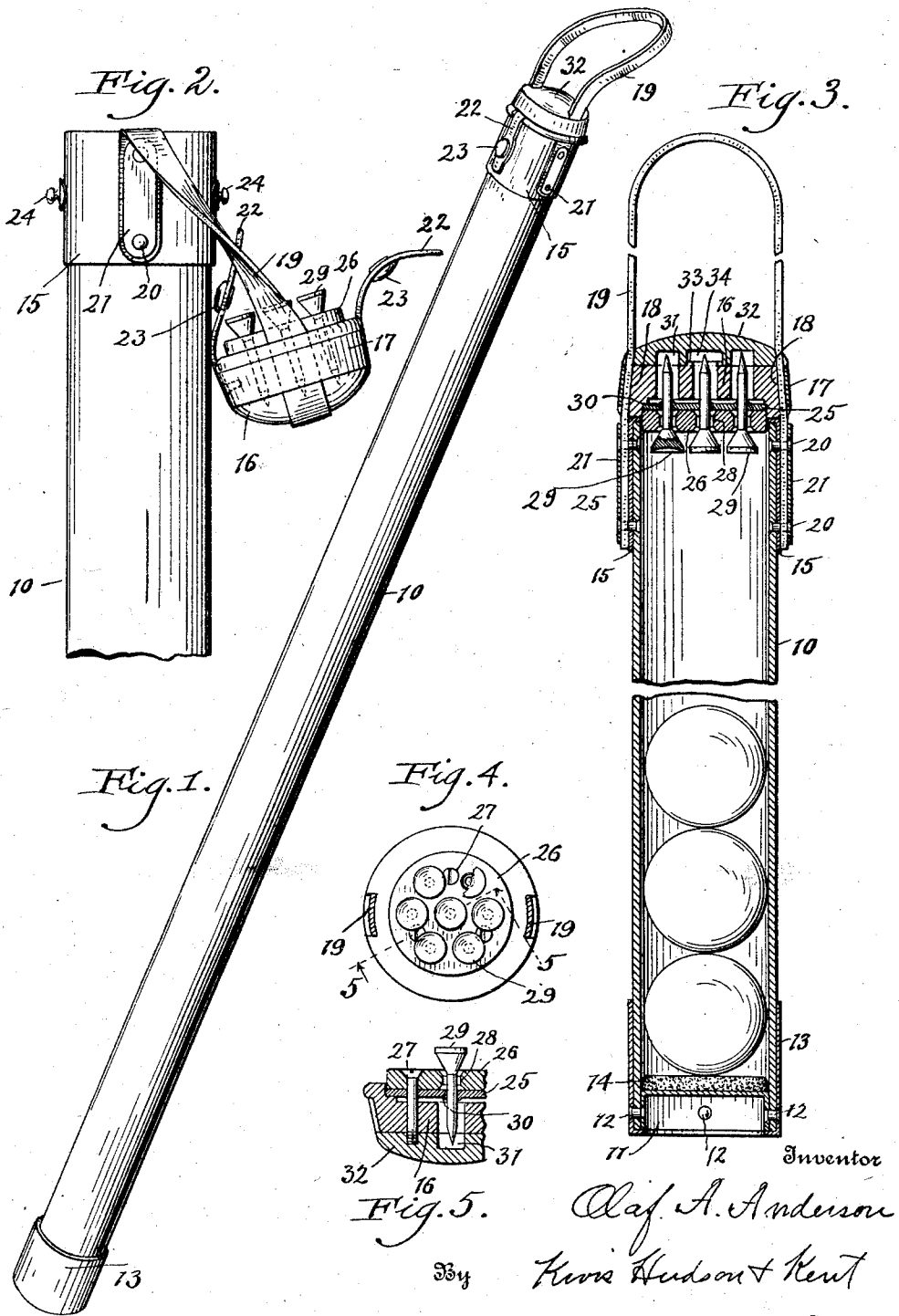
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GOLF BALL HOLDER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GOLF-BALL HOLDER

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This invention relates to improvements in holders for golf balls and golf tees and has reference particularly to elongated containers approximating roughly the shape of a golf stick and intended to be carried in a golf bag.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a container which will accommodate a considerable number of golf balls, and one which may be loaded and unloaded very rapidly and easily.

Another object is the provision in the cover or end closure for the container of means for storing a series of golf tees in such a manner as to make them each individually accessible by merely moving the cover into inoperative position.

A further object is the provision of means in the cover for releasably supporting the tees with their heads down, more particularly by means of a rubber or other flexible disk provided with holes slightly smaller than the diameters of the stems of the tees.

Still another object is the provision of means for securing the cover to the container at all times, that is, when in inoperative position as well as when in operative position.

Other objects will appear as I proceed with the description of that embodiment of the invention which, for the purposes of the present application, I have illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a container or holder embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the upper end of the container showing the cover therefor in open position;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal central sectional view;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the cover; and

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view of a fragment of the cover, the section being taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

In the drawing, I have shown a tubular element 10 constituting the principal portion of the container. This tube is preferably formed of some light-weight fibrous material. It may be closed at the lower end by a cup-shaped metal element 11. A metal

ferrule 13 preferably flanged at its lower end, as shown, is forced over the tube to provide a finish and the ferrule and element 11 are secured to the tube 10 by rivets 12 or in any other suitable manner. Just above the end piece 11, I provide a pad or cushion 14 to reduce the shock and deaden the noise of the impact when a golf ball is dropped into the tube from its upper end. A good material for the cushion 14 is soft rubber.

The upper end of the tube 10 is also finished with a metal ferrule numbered 15 in the drawing. The cover 16 of the container preferably has a cap 32 and a metal ferrule 17 mounted flush, and just beneath this ferrule I provide in the cover proper a pair of grooves or slots 18 preferably slightly inclined with respect to the axis of the container, through which slots extend the two side portions of a looped strap 19 of leather or any other suitable material, the ends of the strap and the ferrule 15 being secured to the container by rivets or the like 20 with a thin metal strip 21 arranged on each end of the strap and against which the heads of the rivets bear.

Obviously, as the cover 16 is moved from its closed position, illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, the strap 19 slips through the two slots 18 until the cover finally rests in the end of the loop of the strap and may be swung down into the position shown in Fig. 2. In order to lock the cover in closed position, I may attach thereto a pair of flexible tabs 22 which carry the socket members 23 of snap fasteners, the button members 24 of the latter being attached to the ferrule 15. The under side of the cover 16 is recessed to receive a flexible disk 25 and a rigid disk 26, these two disks being held in place by a plurality of screws 27 extending through holes in the disks and cover 16 and threaded into tapped holes in the cap 32. The cover 16 and the cap 32 are preferably provided with a cooperating pilot 33 and socket 34 for properly centering the parts in assembly. The rigid disk 26 is provided with holes 28 of a size considerably greater than that of the stem of a golf tee 29, while the flexible disk 25, which is preferably made of soft rubber, is provided with holes

30 of a size normally smaller than the stems of the tees, so that this disk 25 will firmly grip the stems of the tees when the latter are pressed through the holes 30. Consequently, the tees are firmly, though releasably, held in position in the cover. The rigid disk 26, it will be noted, forms a backing for the flexible disk 25 throughout the extent of the latter except in the close vicinity of the holes 30, and in order to permit the disk 25 to flex sufficiently around the tees to permit the withdrawal of the latter, I may countersink the holes 28 on the upper side of the disk 26. The disk 26 fits within the tube 10 and thus centers the cover 16. The latter may be hollowed out in any convenient manner to clear the stems of the tees 29. In the drawing, I have shown for this purpose a series of holes 31 which are in alignment with the holes 28 and the holes 30.

The strap 19 forms a convenient means for hanging the holder on a hook or nail when it is not in use in the golf bag.

When players provided with the usual golf equipment desire to carry a considerable number of balls, it is usual to drop them into the golf bag. When such a player desires an extra ball, he must turn the bag up end for end and spill out all of the clubs as well as the balls. If provided with my ball holder, however, the holder may be removed from the bag and one or more balls removed without disturbing the other contents of the bag. Furthermore, a supply of tees is always at hand and always readily accessible.

Because of the fact that the inside diameter of the tube 10 is made only slightly larger than the diameter of the golf balls to be carried thereby, a ball when dropped into the upper end of the long container moves downward slowly on account of the appreciable length of time required for the air beneath the ball to find its way out through the restricted passage between the ball and tube 10. This results in a surprisingly slow and easy descent of the ball, and what impact is left is absorbed by the cushion 14.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A golf ball holder comprising a tubular container, an end closure therefor, a strap having its ends secured to the container so as to form a loop, said closure having two openings therethrough outside the bore of the container and through which the strap extends, said openings being arranged at a slight angle with respect to the axis of the container, whereby the friction between the closure and the strap is increased.

2. In an article of the class described, a container, a cover therefor, said cover having openings in the lower side thereof into which golf tees may be inserted with their heads down, and means for releasably retaining said tees in said cover.

3. In an article of the class described, a container, a cover therefor, said cover having openings in the lower side thereof into which the stems of golf tees may be inserted, and a flexible disk mounted in the cover transversely of said openings and provided with openings aligned with said first-named openings but of a diameter less than the diameter of the tees, whereby the tees are releasably retained in said cover.

4. In an article of the class described, a container, a cover therefor, said cover having openings in the lower side thereof into which the stems of golf tees may be inserted, and a soft rubber disk mounted in the cover transversely of said openings and provided with openings aligned with said first-named openings but of a diameter less than the diameter of the tees, whereby the tees are releasably retained in said cover.

5. In an article of the class described, a container, a cover therefor, a flexible disk mounted across the lower side of said cover, said disk being provided with holes of a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the stems of golf tees, whereby golf tees may be supported in said cover with their heads down and their stems extending through said holes.

6. In an article of the class described, a container, a cover therefor, a flexible disk mounted across the lower side of said cover, said disk being provided with holes of a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the stems of golf tees, and means providing a backing for the lower surface of said disk except as to its portions immediately surrounding said holes, whereby golf tees may be supported in said cover with their heads down and their stems extending through said holes.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

OLAF A. ANDERSON.