United States Patent

Driscoll

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[54] GAUGE FOR PLACING GOLF BALL TEES

[72] Inventor: **James E. Driscoll,** 314 Maple Ridge Drive, Waterbury, Conn. 06705

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **273/33**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 57/00**
[58] **Field of Search** 273/32, 33, 202–212

[56] **References Cited**

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Primary Examiner—Richard C. Pinkham
Assistant Examiner—Theatrice Brown
Attorney—Johnson & Kline

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A block of rigid material has an elongate slot open at the bottom to receive between the legs formed by the slot ahead and shank of a golf ball tee, there being a plurality of horizontal vertically spaced pairs of grooves in the facing surfaces of the legs to receive an abutment member, such as a coin or a ball marker to engage the head of the tee and force the shank thereof into the ground more or less depending upon which pair of grooves is occupied by the abutment when downward pressure is applied to the block, for instance on the top surface thereof to cause the bottoms of the legs to engage the ground.

4 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

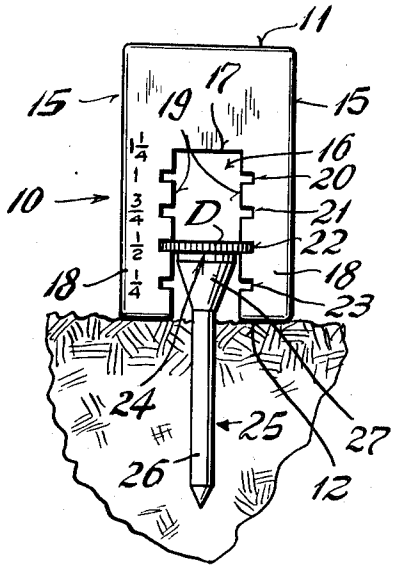

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Fig. 1

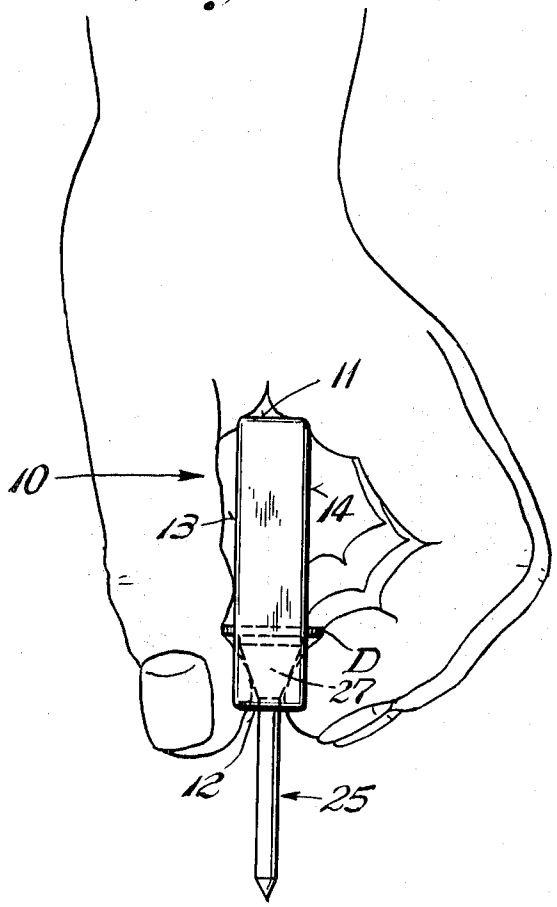


Fig. 2

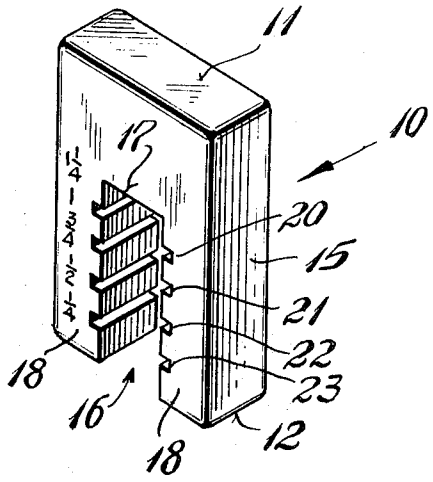


Fig. 3

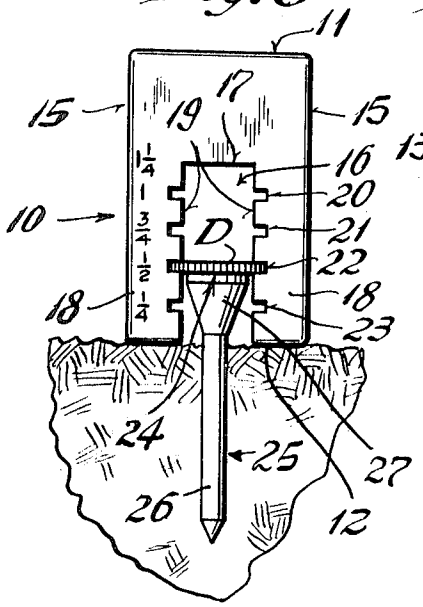


Fig. 4

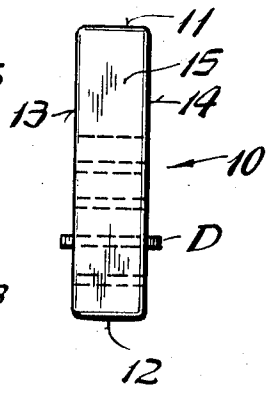
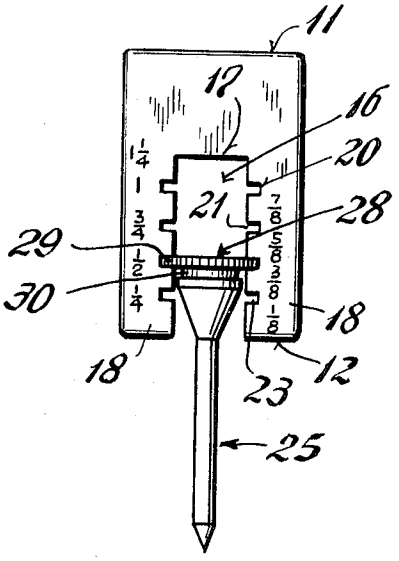


Fig. 5



INVENTOR.
James E. Driscoll
BY
Johnson and Kline
ATTORNEYS

GAUGE FOR PLACING GOLF BALL TEES

This invention relates to an article for placing a golf ball tee in the ground so that the golf ball will be held by the tee elevated above the ground at one of several predetermined heights.

Heretofore, devices proposed for such use have been so costly to make and inconvenient to use that, at least currently, no such devices are available on the market. Yet, it is highly desirable, from the point of view of the player, that the golf ball be held in an elevated position a determinate distance above the surface of the ground.

An object of this invention is to provide a tee-placing and elevation-determinate device which is simple in construction having but one movable part which is readily replaceable and economical to manufacture and easily used.

This has been accomplished by providing a simple block of suitable material, preferably rectangular in shape, with a vertical slot open at the bottom end of the block and forming a pair of leg portions, the bottoms of which are adapted to engage the surface of the ground when downward pressure is applied to the block.

The facing surfaces of the leg portions are provided with opposite pairs of vertically spaced grooves, opening at least at one end, and shaped to slidably receive edgewise a coin or ball marker which serves as an abutment to engage the head of the tee placed in the open end of the slot and to force the shank of the tee into the ground until the bottoms of the legs engage the surface of the ground.

The elevation of the head of the tee will thus depend upon the particular pair of grooves the abutment is placed in, or the absence of a removable abutment in which case the end wall of the slot will serve as an abutment for minimal insertion of the shank of the tee in the ground, i.e., a maximum elevation of the head of the tee and the ball.

In use, the coin or other abutment member is placed in one of the pairs of slots depending on the elevation of the ball desired, the tee being placed with its head against the abutment in the slot and held therein by the fingers or other parts of the hand of the player. The block and tee are then directed to the ground and, after the pointed end of the shank of the tee has entered the ground, force is applied by the player's fingers to the sides or other parts of the block to sink the shank into the ground until the bottoms of the legs engage the surface of the ground.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing the device of the present invention in use.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing one embodiment of the present invention, and showing an abutment member in one pair of slots.

FIG. 3 is a front elevation of the article as shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a side elevation of the article as shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a view like FIG. 4, showing a modified form of the abutment positioned in the slots.

As stated above, the gauge for placing a tee for golf balls of the present invention in its presently preferred form comprises a body of suitable material, such as wood, metal, or plastic composition, or a combination of the same, and may comprise a block **10** having a top **11** and a bottom **12**, faces **13** and **14** and sides **15**. The block **10** has a slot **16** extending from the bottom **12** upwardly and has its wall **17** located a determinate distance from the bottom **12** of the block. The slot **16** forms two spaced leg portions **18**.

The inner faces **19** of the leg portions **18** have a plurality of pairs of vertically spaced grooves **20**, **21**, **22** and **23** which, in the embodiment shown in the drawings, extend from the one face **13** to the other face **14** of the block. The grooves **20**, **21**, **22** and **23** are placed at determinate distances from the bottom **12** of the block and from each other, and the vertical spacing may be the same, preferably about one-fourth inch apart.

The grooves **20** to **23** of each pair are opposite each other and have a width approximately equal to the thickness of the particular coin, for instance a dime; or, if desired, a disk **D** provided with suitable identifying marks, which may be used as a ball location marker, may be slid into a pair of oppositely disposed grooves **20**, **21**, **22** or **23** and constitute an abutment member **24** in the slot **16**.

The slot **16** has a width such that it may receive the head or top of a golf ball tee **25**, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, while the shaft or shank **26** of the tee **25** may project more or less from the end of the legs **18**. Preferably, the sides of the leg portions **18** may carry indicia indicating the distance for the grooves from the bottom of the legs to the ground.

Assuming that the player desires that the golf ball be elevated approximately one-half inch above the surface of the adjacent ground, the abutment member **24** would be slid into the grooves **22**. The tee would then be inserted in the slot and would be held with the head **27** of the tee against the abutment **24** by the thumb and index fingers of the player's hand as shown in FIG. **1**, and then, with the tee so held, it would be directed toward the ground and pressure applied most conveniently on the top **11** of the block to push the shank of the tee into the ground until the bottoms **12** of the legs engage the surface of the ground. The block **10** would then be withdrawn leaving the tee placed in the ground with the head at the desired elevation.

If it were desirable that the golf ball be held at a higher elevation, say 1 inch from the ground, the abutment member **24** would be placed in the slots **20**; and if it were desired that the ball be elevated 1¼ inches from the ground, the abutment member would be placed aside and the top **11** of the tee would be placed against the bottom wall **17** of the block.

Thus it will be seen that by merely placing an abutment member in the oppositely disposed slots **20**, **21**, **22** or **23** or removing the abutment, the player can conveniently control the position of the ball on the tee for the particular drive to be made.

While there are only four grooves shown in the form of the invention herein illustrated, the bottom **17** of the slot provides a fifth determinable position for supporting the golf ball. If desired, the abutment member **24** may be as shown in FIG. **5**, in which a portion **29** which is shaped to fit in any one of the grooves **20**, **21**, **22** or **23** is united with or forms part of a disk **30** which has a thickness approximately half the distance between the adjacent grooves **20**, **21**, **22** or **23**. Therefore, by placing the device **28** in one of the slots with the disk **30** extending upwardly or downwardly, approximately twice the number of determinate positions can be obtained.

The sides of the legs **18** may be provided with indicia to indicate the distance the head of the tee will be elevated from the ground when the abutment is placed in the various grooves.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. An article for facilitating the placing of a golf ball tee in the ground comprising a block of suitable material having top and bottom surfaces and a vertical elongate slot extending from the bottom surface toward the top surface and forming oppositely disposed integral leg portions spaced to freely receive between them the head of a golf ball tee, and facing surfaces of the leg portions having a plurality of horizontal parallel grooves variously spaced vertically from each other and from the bottom of said legs determinate distances representing the desired elevation of the top of the tee from the surface of the ground; an abutment member, said pairs of grooves each being shaped to slidably receive and hold said abutment member which when positioned in a pair of opposite grooves engage the head of a tee placed in the slot between the legs and serves to force the tee into the ground a distance depending on the pair of grooves in which the abutment member is placed when pressure in applied to the top or other surface of the block to press the bottoms of the leg portions against the surface of the ground.

2. An article for facilitating the placing of a golf ball tee in the ground according to claim 1 in which the space between the legs is slightly greater than the diameter of the head of the tee.

3. An article for facilitating the placing of a golf ball tee in the ground according to claim 1 in which the width of the grooves are such as to slidably receive a marginal edge portion of said abutment member having a thickness of approximately one-sixteenth inch (substantially equal to that of a coin in common circulation).

4. An article for facilitating the placing of a golf ball tee in the ground according to claim 1, said abutment member having a main portion of a thickness to be received at opposite edges of a pair of said grooves and further having a thick portion which is half as thick as the distance between adjacent pairs of grooves when said main portion of the abutment is placed in a pair of grooves with said thick portion of the abutment facing downwardly and the top of the tee engages the abutment at the thick portion, the elevation of the tee when forced in the grooves will be less by an amount equal to one-half the distance between the adjacent grooves then it would if the thick portion faced upwardly.

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