Oct. 27, 1970 R. A. EDWARDS 3,536,329

GOLFER'S HEAD MOVEMENT INDICATOR

Filed Nov. 7, 1968

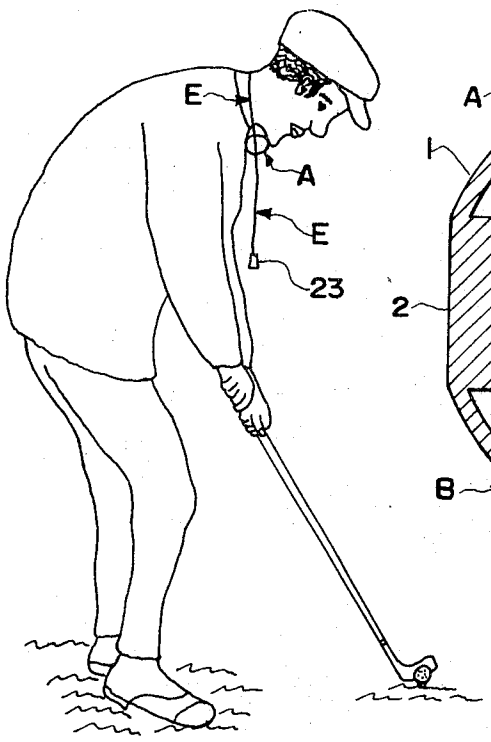

Fig-1

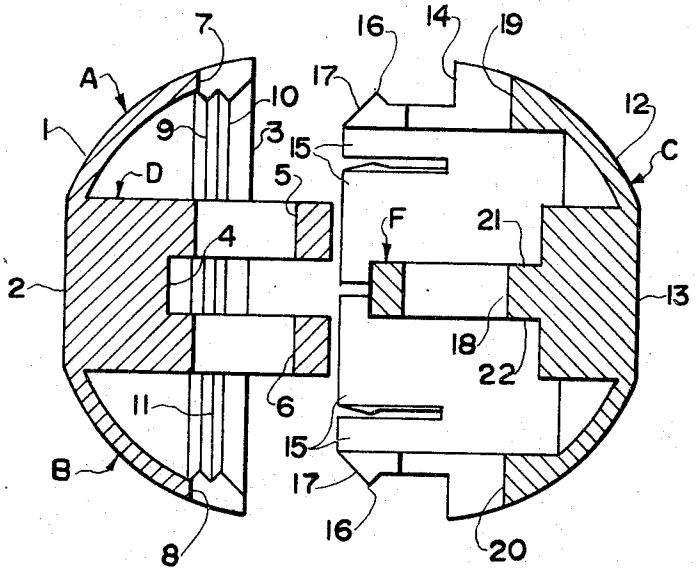

Fig-2

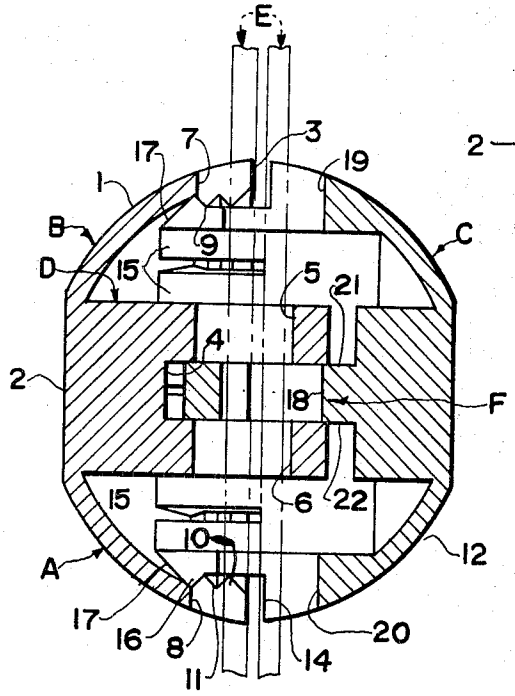

Fig-3

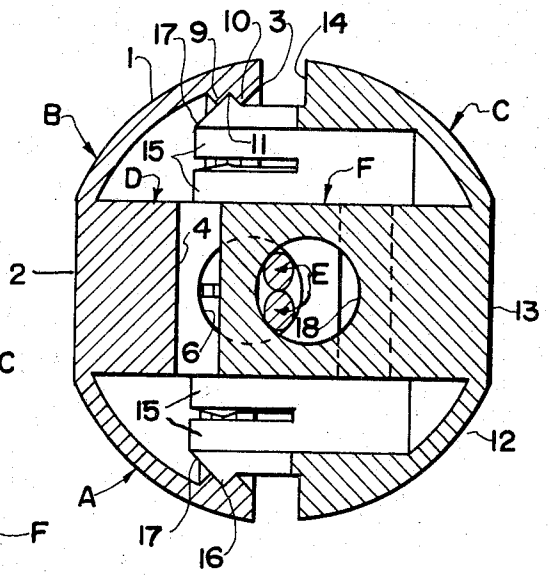

Fig-4

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GOLFER'S HEAD MOVEMENT INDICATOR

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A golfer's head movement indicator formed of two halves and supported by a cord that hangs from the neck. The indicator is initially positioned under the chin and is preferably the size and shape of a golf ball. It has novel means for gripping the cord so as to maintain it under the chin and an additional cord length extends below the indicator. A predetermined pressure of the chin on the indicator releases the cord gripping and the indicator will now be free to slide downwardly along the cord by gravity as soon as the golfer lifts his chin from the device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the invention

It is difficult for a golfer to keep his head down at the time of hitting the golf ball with the golf club. My device aids the golfer in keeping his head down at the time when hitting the ball rather than looking in the general direction where the ball is likely to travel. The device can also be used by bowlers, boxers, shot putters and football place kickers where the player's head is to be held down during a particular part of the performance in his chosen sport.

(2) Description of the prior art

The patent to Richard Wolfe, No. 1,636,086, issued July 19, 1927, on a golf stance steadying device, discloses a small cylindrical body preferably made of rubber and having radially extending rubber projections. The device is placed under the chin and should the player turn his head, the projections will resist such turning movement and make him conscious of the fact that he is turning his head. The projections could be irritating to the skin and cause discomfort to the user. My device works on a different principle. A lifting of the chin off from the device will free it and gravity will immediately cause it to slide to the lower end of the cord that is suspended from the player's neck.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of my invention is to provide a device, preferably the size of a golf ball and having means for gripping a cord that is suspended from the player's neck. The cord will hold the device under the player's chin and permit him to look down the fairway and take several practice swings without having the device slide from under his chin. Then when he is ready to hit the ball, he can place his chin on the device and press downwardly to cause the cord gripping means to loosen its grip on the cord with the result that the device will drop away from under the chin as soon as the player lifts his head. The player must keep his chin pressed against the device to prevent it from dropping and as he swings the club, he can actually see the club head hit the golf ball.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows a golfer with the device in operative position and ready to hit the golf ball.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view of the device and shows the two spaced apart halves preparatory to interconnecting them together.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged sectional view with the two halves interconnected and held in cord-releasing position.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 3 and shows the two halves in cord-gripping position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In carrying out my invention, I provide a spherical-shaped member A preferably of the same size as a golf ball. This member is composed of two hemispherical halves indicated generally at B and C, see FIGS. 2, 3, and 4. The hemispherical half B has a wall **1** with an outer surface that is a portion of a sphere with a central area made flat as at **2**. The half member B also has a rim **3** whose plane parallels the flat area **2**.

A central inner cylindrical post D has its base integral with the wall **1** and its axis is normal to the parallel planes of the flat area **2** and the rim **3**. The outer end of the post extends beyond the plane of the rim and it is provided with an inwardly extending recess **4** to form a clevis. The two sides of the clevis have aligned holes **5** and **6** for receiving a cord E, see FIGS. 1, 3, and 4, for a purpose hereinafter described. The hemispherical wall **1** has two half circular recesses **7** and **8** that extend inwardly from the rim **3** and are disposed 180° apart. The common axis for the half circular openings **7** and **8** coincides with the common axis for the aligned openings **5** and **6**.

It will be noted from FIGS. 2, 3, and 4 that the portion of the wall **1** of the half B that lies adjacent to the rim **3** is provided with a pair of inwardly extending annular teeth **9** and **10** that are separated from each other by an annular groove **11**. The purpose of the annular teeth **9** and **10** is to form a stepped connection for holding the other half C in two different positions with respect to the half B. This will be explained after a detailed description of the half C is given.

The half C is similar in outer appearance to the half B, see FIGS. 2, 3, and 4. The half C has a spherical wall **12** whose outer surface has a central flat area **13** that is similar to the flat area **2** of the half B. The half C has a rim **14** that corresponds with the rim **3** of the half B. A circular row of resilient catches **15** have their bases integral with the half C and they form a cylindrical extension that projects beyond the rim **14**. Each resilient catch **15** has an outwardly extending tooth and an inclined outer end cam surface **17**.

The half C has an inner and axially aligned central tongue F, whose base is integral with the wall **12** and the tongue is receivable in the recess **4** when the two halves B and C are brought together, see FIGS. 3 and 4. The tongue F has a cord-receiving opening **18** of the same diameter as those of the two openings **5** and **6**. Also the wall **12** of the half C has two diametrically opposed openings **19** and **20** with about one half of the opening lying to one side of the rim **14** and the other half of the opening extending into portions of the adjacent resilient catches **15**, see FIG. 2.

In assembling the two halves B and C, the tongue F of the half C is aligned with the recess **4** of the post D and then the half C is moved toward the half B. The inclined cam surfaces **17** on the outer ends of the resilient catches **15** will strike the inclined surface **21** of the annular tooth **10** and will flex the catches so as to swing their outer ends inwardly. As soon as the catch teeth **16** pass the innermost apex of the annular tooth **10**, the catches **15** will return to their normal position and will cause their teeth **16** to be received in the annular groove **11** that lies between the annular teeth **9** and **10**.

The half C is still moved further toward the other half B and this will cause the teeth **16** on the resilient catches

15 to be forced past the next annular tooth 9 and to engage with the inner inclined surface of this tooth as shown in FIG. 3. This will substantially align the opening 18 in the tongue F with the two openings 5 and 6 in the clevis of the post D. The tongue has two opposed flat faces 21 and 22 and these are received between flat and parallel inner surfaces of the recess 4 in the post D. The half C is rotated, if necessary, with respect to the half B to align the flat faces 21 and 22 of the tongue with the adjacent flat inner faces of the recess 4. This will automatically bring the common axis for the openings 19 and 20 in the half C into the same plane in which lies the common axis for the half circular openings 7 and 8 that are in the half B. Therefore when the half C is moved toward the half C to couple the two together and the opening 18 in the tongue F is brought into substantial registration with the openings 5 and 6 in the post D, the openings 19 and 20 will register with the half circular openings 7 and 8 in the half B, as shown in FIG. 3.

The cord E is now looped and the ends are fed through the two aligned openings 7 and 19, and then fed through the thre aligned openings 5, 18, 6, and finally fed through the other two aligned openings 8 and 20, see FIG. 3. End pieces 23 are now secured to the two ends of the cord E and they are large enough to prevent their slipping through any of the aligned openings.

OPERATION

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof may be readily understood. The golfer in using the device places the looped portion of the cord E around his neck as shown in FIG. 1. Then he moves the member A up under his chin and holds the two cord ends with the smaller fingers and palm of one hand to keep the member there and with the index finger and thumb of the same hand grips the half B and with the other hand grips the other half C to pull the two halves slightly apart until the teeth 16 on the catches 15 are moved into the annular groove 11 in the half B, as shown in FIG. 4. This will move the opening 18 in the tongue F out of registration with the openings 5 and 6 in the post D. The two cord ends will be gripped between a portion of the wall of the opening 18 and the adjacent wall portions of the openings 5 and 6 and this will hold the member A under the golfer's chin even though he removes his chin therefrom while taking practice swings with the golf club. The golfer will be able to look down the fairway and still the member A will not drop by gravity and move downwardly until the end pieces 23 support it.

When the golfer is ready to hit the golf ball, he places his chin on the half B and presses with his chin for forcing the half B toward the half C until a click is heard, caused by the catches moving their teeth 16 past the annular tooth 9 and then the teeth will snap into the annular groove 11 and make the clicking sound. The flat areas 1 and 13 will aid the golfer in positioning the member A so that either flat area will rest against his neck and the other flat area will be contacted by the chin of the golfer. The clicking sound indicates to the golfer that the opening 18 in the tongue F has now been brought into substantial registration with the openings 5 and 6 in the post D. The two cord ends are now free to slide in the aligned openings 5, 18, and 6 and the member A will drop by gravity and move from under the chin if the golfer raises his head while hitting the golf ball.

The golfer can actually see the club head hit the golf ball as he follows through with his swing because the golfer must keep his chin on the member A to prevent it from dropping. As the golfer finishes his swing, the twisting of his body will remove his chin from the device and it will drop to the two ends of the cord. The golfer may use the device at home, on a driving range or on a golf course. The "low score" golfer may use the device with all short irons. The average golfer may use the device

with all irons while the beginner may use the device with all clubs. The device will operate when used in other sports as previously mentioned. Any difference in the device would be change in size and possibly material. Plastic seems the best material to use because it it light in weight and can be molded.

I claim:

1. A device of the type described comprising:
   (a) a body adapted to be held in frictional contact between the chin and neck of a person and having openings therein;
   (b) a cord adapted to be passed around the person's neck and extending through the openings in said body so that normally the body would slide downwardly by gravity on the cord when the person raises his head and chin to release the frictional hold on said body; and
   (c) means for restricting the effective sizes of the openings for gripping said cord for holding said body under the chin, said means being manually actuated for enlarging the effective sizes of the openings to permit said body when freed to move downwardly by gravity along said cord.

2. The combination as set forth in claim 1; and in which
   (a) said means includes said body being formed of two portions, a first portion with a post having at least one of the cord receiving openings therein and a second portion with a tongue having one of the openings therein;
   (b) guiding and holding means interconnecting said two portions for initially holding both portions in positions so that the opening in said post and the opening in sad tongue will be out of alignment with each other for forming a restricted passage for gripping the cord, said first and second portions being manually movable toward each other for causing the post and tongue to move their openings into substantial alignment with each other for freeing the cord.

3. The combination as set forth in claim 2; and in which
   (a) said guiding and holding means includes at least a pair of teeth carried by one portion and a yielding catch carried by the other portion, said catch when engaging with one of the teeth holding the two portions so that the openings of the post and tongue will be out of alignment with each other and will restrict the effective opening so as to grip the cord, said catch being movable to engage said other tooth when said portions are manually moved toward each other so that the openings in the post and tongue are brought into substantial alignment with each other for permitting the free passage of the cord therein.

4. The combination as set forth in claim 3; and in which
   (a) said pair of teeth are annular and extend inwardly into a hollow part provided in one of said body portions; and
   (b) said yielding catch is in the form of a cylindrical part integral with the other body portion and receivable in the hollow part of said first body portion, said catch having an outwardly extending annular tooth yieldingly engageable with either annular inwardly extending teeth.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

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GEORGE J. MARLO, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

273—54, 190, 200