April 2, 1940. E. B. LAMKIN 2,195,626

GRIP FOR GOLF CLUBS AND THE LIKE

Filed April 17, 1939

Fig. 1.

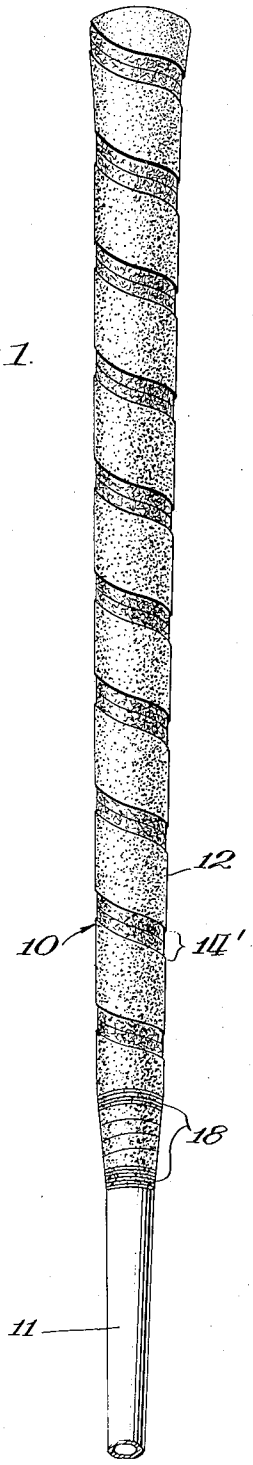


Fig. 2.

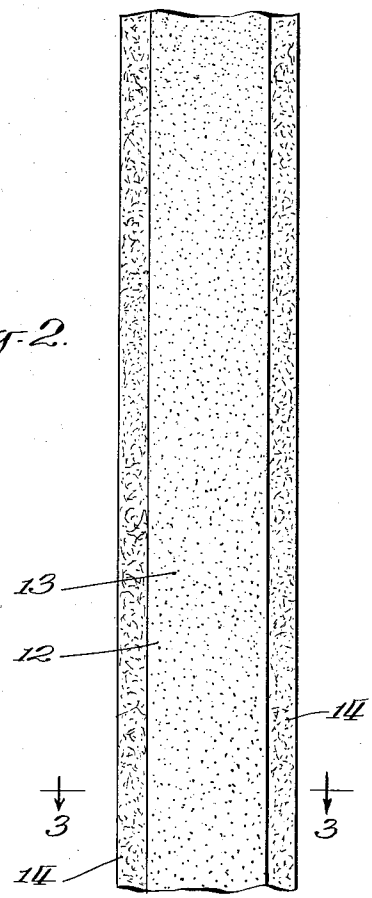


Fig. 3.

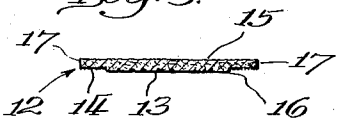
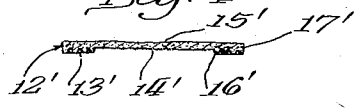


Fig. 4



Inventor:
Elver B. Lamkin
By
Williams, Bradbury, McCaleb & Hinkle
Attys.

Patented Apr. 2, 1940 2,195,626

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,195,626

GRIP FOR GOLF CLUBS AND THE LIKE

Elver B. Lamkin, Chicago, Ill.

Application April 17, 1939, Serial No. 268,227

8 Claims. (Cl. 273—81)

My invention relates to grips for golf clubs and the like, that is, the surfacing of the handles for golf clubs, rackets, etc.

One of its principal objects is to achieve an all-weather grip—one which will afford a firm hold whether wet from rain or perspiration or dry—without the expense, complication, or added labor cost of a plurality of wrapping strips, composite wrapping strips, or like expedients which have been involved in previous attempts to provide all-weather grips.

An auxiliary object is to supplement the all-weather grip by slight abutments in its conformation, affording additional purchase for the player's hands, all without adding to the expense or complication of the grip.

Still another object is to provide a shallow abutment-forming spiral groove in the grip in such a manner that the exposed shoulders do not tend to cause the wrapping strip to curl up and come loose from the handle.

The foregoing together with further objects, features and advantages of my invention are set forth in the following description of a specific embodiment of my invention as applied to golf clubs and illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of the handle and of a golf club showing my grip applied thereto;

Fig. 2 is a view of the exposed surface of a short section of the one-piece leather strip which constitutes my grip;

Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the strip taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the strip similar to Fig. 3, but showing a modification.

Fig. 1 shows the handle portion 10 of the shaft 11 of a golf club. The handle portion 10 may be built up to an increased diameter by the usual paper listing or filler (not shown) to augment the taper of the shaft itself. The sub-grip conformation of the handle may be flared at the upper end by the usual skived leather ring or by a suitable plug (not shown).

The grip 12 itself consists of a single strip of leather—preferably top grain calfskin—subjected to one of the well known treatments to give the grain surface its characteristic semi-tackiness. Such treatment usually consists in soaking the leather in a solution of carnauba wax, pitch and neat's-foot oil. The strip is skived along each edge to leave a wide medial land 13 of top grain bordered by narrow margins 14 of ungrained suede finish. If desired the suede finish margins 14 may be buffed by a wire brush to bring out the fibers and accentuate the suede surface.

The suede margins 14 are preferably faced parallel with the land 13 and the back surface 15, rather than being tapered in cross section. A shoulder 16 divides the land 13 from the adjoining margin 14.

The leather strip 12 is wound spirally about the handle in the usual manner with its lateral edges 17 abutting. It is secured to the handle by the usual adhesive cement. The ends of the strip are cut obliquely at the angle of lead, as is usual. The lower end may be bound by whipping 18.

The upper margin 14 of one convolution and the lower margin 14 of the adjoining convolution thereabove combine to form a shallow groove 14' between the convolutions of the land 13. The groove 14', although twice the width of a margin 14, is preferably not so wide as the land 13. However, I contemplate that the margins 14 may be relatively wide and the land 13 relatively narrow so that it is more in the nature of a bead.

Perforating the leather—either in the land or in the suede margins or in both—is optional.

The semi-tacky finish of the grain leather land 13 presents a non-skid surface when the grip and the hands are dry. In the presence of moisture, either from rain or from perspiration, this grain leather tends to lose its non-skid characteristic. On the other hand the suede leather surface of the groove 14' acts rather oppositely. When dry it is not as non-skid as is the semi-tacky grain leather surface when dry. In the presence of moisture the suede surface becomes more non-skid. Also it absorbs perspiration from the hands.

Thus my grip is an all-weather grip where the land 13 affords the greatest traction in the absence of moisture and where the suede leather surface of the groove 14' affords the principal traction in the presence of moisture.

In addition, whether wet or dry, the slight shoulders 16 afford a purchase abutment for better grasp by the player. The oblique position of the shoulders, due to the lead of the spiral wrapping, presents resistance to both longitudinal and rotary movement. It better enables the player to resist longitudinal movement of the handle within the hand due to centrifugal force when the club is swung. It better enables the player to resist rotation of the handle within the hand due to the torque force of impact in the instance of a golf club or, in the instance of a racket, the torque force of impact at one side or the other of the axis of the handle.

Attention is invited to the extreme simplicity of the means whereby I achieve my all-weather grip. The treated top grain leather and the suede leather are not wrapped on to the handle as separate pieces, nor are they combined as a composite or laminated strip for wrapping. They are formed from a single integral strip of leather. The treatment to which the leather is subjected to provide the semi-tacky grain surface, does not penetrate the leather so far that it substantially affects the suede surface revealed by the skiving. It is, therefore, unnecessary to subject the suede margin to any further or special treatment.

In Fig. 4, I have shown a modification in which the skiving 14' is arranged medially of the strip 12' leaving lands 13' along each lateral edge 17'. The shoulders 16' then face each other, but the back face 15' still remains flat for surface adherence to the handle.

Having thus described and illustrated a specific embodiment of my invention, I claim:

1. A grip for a handle of a golf club, racket, or the like, which consists of a single strip of non-laminated top grain leather spirally wrapped about and secured to the handle in non-overlapping relation with its lateral edges abutting, the strip, throughout at least the greater part of its length, presenting a major width of semi-tacky finish grain and a minor width from which the top grain has been skived to present a depressed suede finish region whereby the grip presents alternating spirals of grain and suede finish leather.

2. A grip according to claim 1 wherein the suede finish portion in joining the higher grain portion presents a shoulder for manual engagement to aid in preventing slipping of the grip in the hand.

3. A grip according to claim 1 wherein both margins of the strip are skived down to present a depressed suede finish and the junction between successive convolutions of the wrapping comes medially of a suede finish region and spaced from the grain finish region.

4. A surfacing strip adapted to be wrapped about the handle of a golf club, racket, or the like, as the grip therefor, which strip consists of a single piece of leather presenting on its outer side a longitudinal medial band of top grain treated with a solution of wax, pitch and oil to render it semi-tacky and along both its margins skived to remove the top grain and present a depressed margin of suede finish, the junctions of the skived margins with the band of top grain presenting shoulders for manual engagement.

5. A handle for a golf club, racket, or the like, having a one-piece single-ply strip of leather wrapped spirally thereabout with its lateral edges in abutment and constructed and arranged to present as alternate spirals a land portion of semi-tacky finish top grain and a skived suede finish depressed portion.

6. A handle of a golf club, racket, or the like, having a one-piece single-ply leather grip spirally wrapped thereon and outwardly presenting alternate spiraled bands of top grain and suede finish leather, respectively.

7. A grip according to claim 1, wherein a medial band of the strip is skived down to present a depressed suede finish, leaving lands along both lateral edges whereby the spiralled junction line between successive convolutions of the strip comes medially of a grain finish land band.

8. A surfacing strip for wrapping about the handle of a golf club, racket or the like, as a grip therefor, which strip consists of a single piece of leather presenting on its outer side a pair of longitudinal bands of top grain treated to render it semi-tacky, the bands running along the respective lateral edges of the strip, and a band extending medially between the top grain bands and skived to remove the top grain and present a depressed central band of suede surface.

ELVER B. LAMKIN.