Dec. 28, 1948. L. S. HARVEY 2,457,670

GOLF BALL TEE

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Fig. 1

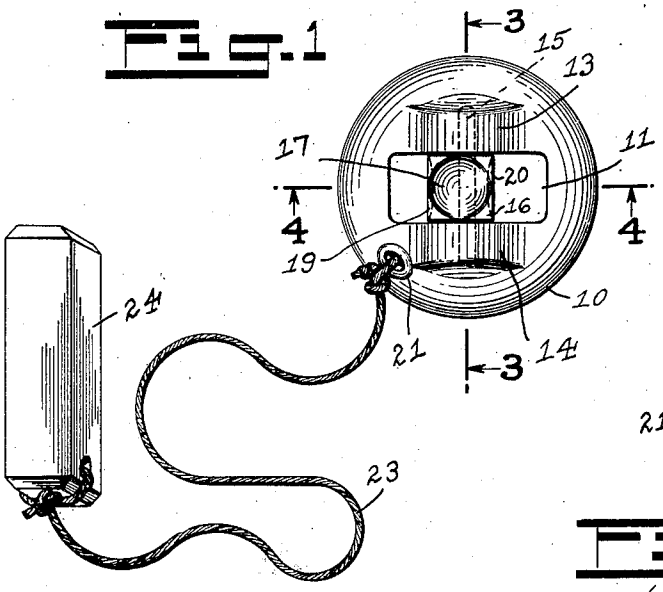


Fig. 2

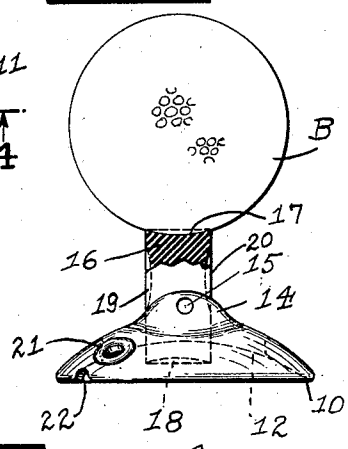


Fig. 4

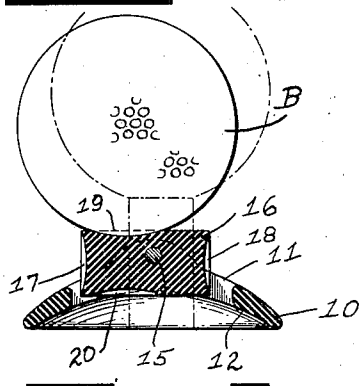


Fig. 3

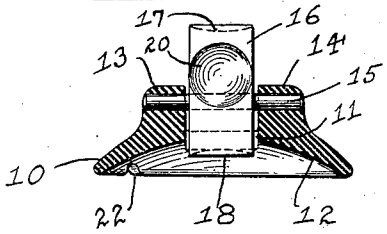


Fig. 6

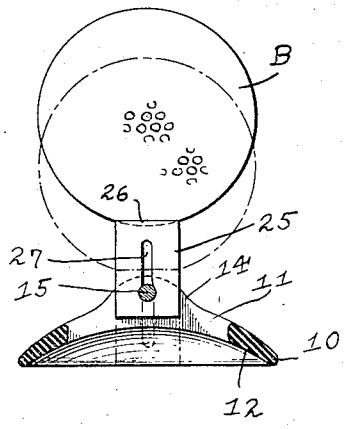
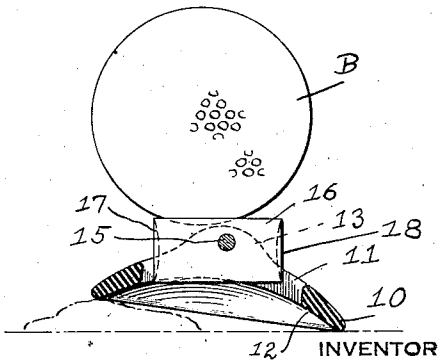


Fig. 5



INVENTOR
LEAMAN S. HARVEY
BY H. G. Manning
ATTORNEY

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Fig. 6A

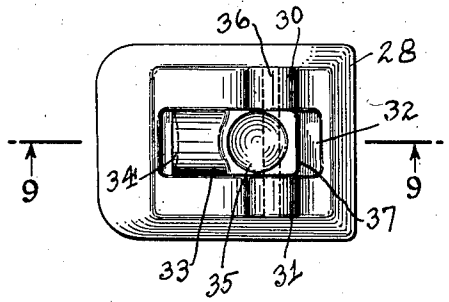


Fig. 7

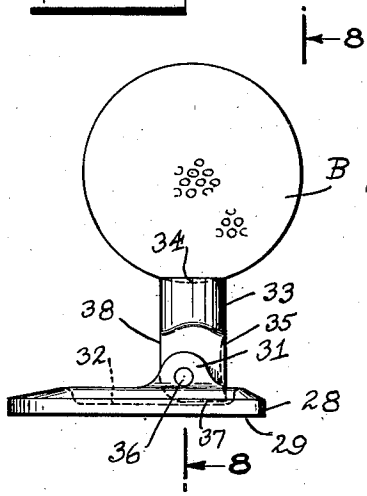


Fig. 9

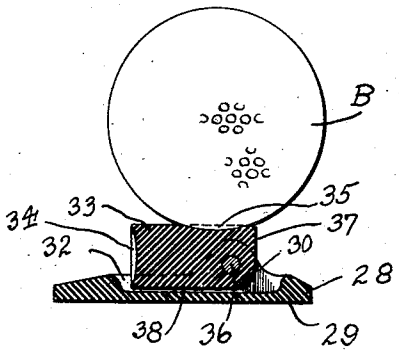


Fig. 8

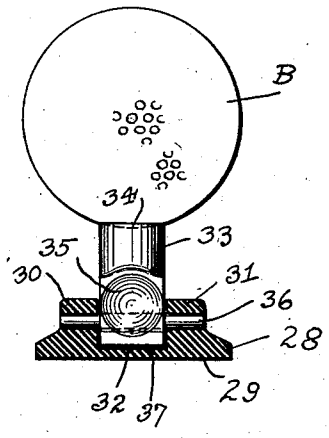
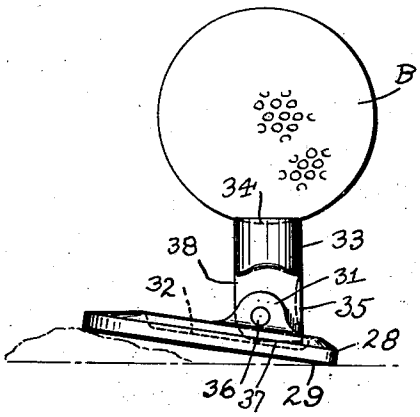


Fig. 10



INVENTOR
LEAMAN S. HARVEY
BY H. G. Manning
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GOLF BALL TEE

Leaman S. Harvey, Waterbury, Conn.

Application April 19, 1946, Serial No. 663,518

8 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

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This invention relates to golfer's apparatus, and more particularly to a golf ball tee constructed of flexible rubber, plastic or other non-metallic material, and adapted for use on grass and bare ground.

One object of the present invention is to provide a golf tee of the above nature which will be adjustable in height, unbreakable, having no points to wear out the player's pocket, and having a tiltable ball-supporting post capable of being swung to upright position even when used upon uneven surfaces.

A further object is to provide a device on the above nature in which the ball-supporting post is frictionally and pivotally mounted in a flat base, and in which the post has concave ball seats on both sides and ends.

A further object is to provide a device of the above nature in which the base of the tee has means for limiting the swinging of the post in both directions.

A further object is to provide a device of the above nature which will be simple in construction, easy to install, manipulate, and clean, compact, ornamental in appearance, and very efficient and durable in use.

With these and other objects in view, there have been illustrated on the accompanying drawings several forms in which the invention may conveniently be embodied in practice.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 represents a top plan view of the first form of golf ball tee, as it appears with the ball-supporting post in vertical position, and with an anchor weight attached to the base thereof by a cord.

Fig. 2 is an end view of the same, with the anchor weight removed, and with the ball in playing position.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, and with the ball-supporting post in horizontal position.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 4 with the tee resting upon uneven ground with one end raised.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view, similar to Fig. 3, of a modified form of the invention, in which the tiltable ball-supporting post has a vertical slot frictionally mounted on the pivot pin to permit the height of the ball to be adjusted.

Fig. 6A is a plan view of a third form of the invention having a flat imperforate base forming

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a seat for the ball-supporting post when swung in either direction.

Fig. 7 is a side view of the same, with the ball-supporting post shown in vertical position.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of the same, taken along the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view, taken along the line 9—9 of Fig. 6A, with the ball-supporting post in horizontal position.

Fig. 10 is a side view, similar to Fig. 7, showing the appearance of the tee when the base is resting on uneven ground.

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 10 indicates a circular disk-like base constructed of flexible material, such as rubber, and having a rectangular central aperture 11, below which is a shallow concave recess 12. At the sides of the rectangular aperture 11, provision is made of a pair of rounded raised ears 13, 14 for supporting a horizontal cross pin 15 preferably round in cross section and constructed of rawhide and upon which is mounted a ball-supporting post 16 preferably constructed of rubber. The cross pin 15 is thicker than the width of the aperture in the post 16 so as to provide a frictional mounting therein.

The post 16 is provided with a pair of concave ball-supporting seats 17, 18 on its opposite ends, and a pair of similar concave ball seats 19, 20 on the opposite sides thereof. The cross pin 15 is eccentrically mounted in the ball post 16 lengthwise of said post, whereby four different heights for teeing the ball may be secured, and the position of the ball with respect to the center of the base may also be varied.

In order to prevent the tee from being driven too far from the teeing ground when the ball is struck by the club, provision is made of an eyelet 21 secured to the base 10, and preferably of plastic, adjacent which is an edge notch 22 to receive a flexible cord 23 connected to the eyelet, said cord having a rectangular light weight anchor 24 at the other end thereof. If desired, however, the cord may be tied to the base by passing it through one end of the rectangular aperture 11.

Operation

In operation, the post 16 will first be swung to the angular position desired, and the ball B will be seated on said post, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4 with the cross pin 15 arranged at right angles to the line of flight. If the tee should happen to

rest on uneven ground, as shown in Fig. 5, the post may be tilted slightly on the cross pin 15 so as to maintain the ball seat in a horizontal position.

Second Form

In the second form of the invention shown in Fig. 6, a ball-supporting post 25 is provided with a concave upper ball seat 26 and said post has an interior elongated vertical slot 27, the width of which is smaller than the diameter of the pivot pin 15 so as to produce a frictional gripping fit thereon. By means of this construction the post may be swung to any desired vertical position.

In this form, as well as the first form, when the ball is struck by the club head, the post will be permitted to rotate until it contacts the ground, thus avoiding any resistance to the movement either of the ball or club head.

Third Form

In the third form of the invention shown in Figs. 6A to 10, provision is made of a tee having a rectangular base 28 having a flat bottom 29, and raised ears 30, 31 on the upper surface thereof. Within the center of the base 28 is a rectangular top recess 32 which is adapted to form a seat for a ball-supporting post 33 when the latter is swung in either direction with respect thereto.

The post 33 is provided with a concave seat 34 on its upper end and a concave seat 35 on one side thereof. A pivot pin 36 preferably of rawhide is frictionally mounted in the ears 30, 31. The post 33 is provided with a flat end stop 37, and a flat side stop 38 for engaging the recess 32 to limit the swinging of the ball-supporting post in opposite directions.

One advantage of the above invention is that by making the post of rubber, the ball will be more securely held in position thereon.

While there have been disclosed in this specification several forms in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that these forms are shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosures, but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all the modifications and embodiments coming within scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent is:

1. In a two-part golf tee, a flexible base having a rectangular central aperture, a flexible ball-supporting post located within said aperture, and a lateral pivot pin securing said post in said base, said post being adapted to swing in said aperture when the ball is struck, so as not to retard the club head when striking the ball, and friction means for resisting swinging movement of said post, said friction means comprising openings in said post and in said base embracing said pivot pin, whereby said post may be manually adjusted and temporarily maintained in a vertical position without regard to the specific slope of the surface upon which the base may rest.

2. The invention defined in claim 1, in which provision is made of a pair of ears upstanding from said base at the sides of said aperture and supporting said pivot pin.

3. The invention defined in claim 1, in which said ball-supporting post is eccentrically mounted on said pivot pin both crosswise and lengthwise with respect to said post.

4. The invention defined in claim 1, in which said post comprises means for supporting a ball at selectively different elevations above said base.

5. The invention as defined in claim 1, in which one of said openings is a vertical slot in said ball-supporting post, the sides of said slot frictionally engaging said pivot pin to permit said post to remain in any desired vertical position.

6. The invention as defined in claim 1, in which the base of said golf tee is imperforate, and is provided with a flat top recess to limit the swinging of said post in both directions.

7. The invention as defined in claim 1, in which said flexible base has a concave bottom surface whereby the golf tee is adapted to have stable support when resting upon uneven ground.

8. In a two-part portable golf tee adapted to be carried by the user, a base having a slot, a ball-supporting member located in said slot, a substantially horizontal pivot pin passing through said ball-supporting member and mounted in said base at the sides of said slot, said ball-supporting member being frictionally mounted whereby it may be held selectively in widely different angular adjusted positions with relation to said base, whereby a golf ball may be supported firmly by said tee upon sloping and uneven ground.

LEAMAN S. HARVEY.

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