

Nov. 6, 1945.

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PRACTICE GOLF CLUB
Filed Jan. 13, 1943

2,388,463

FIG. 1.

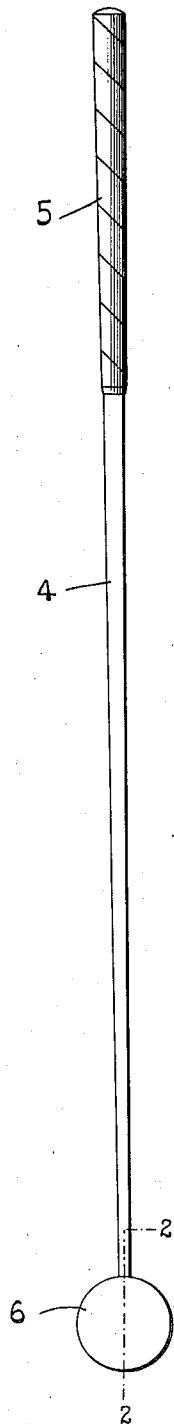


FIG. 2.

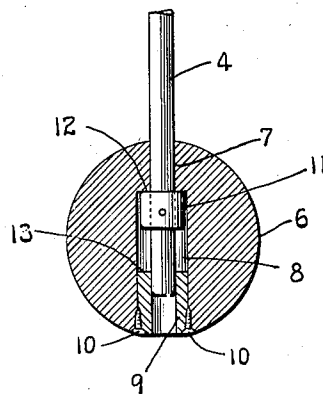
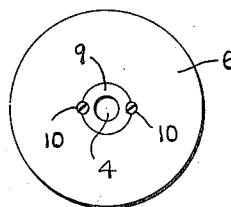


FIG. 3.



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2,388,463

PRACTICE GOLF CLUB

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Application January 13, 1943, Serial No. 472,276

4 Claims (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to practice golf clubs of the type wherein movable weights are employed to produce shocks and sounds, and more particularly to a novel practice club wherein special advantages are derived from a movable weight at the lower end portion of the club.

Prior to this invention, the shafts of practice golf clubs have been loaded with movable weights designed to move and produce audible sounds and shocks in response to proper strokes of the clubs. These old theories arise from a fundamental idea of producing an audible noise to indicate a proper stroke, at the same time displacing an abnormal load in the club.

However, in actual use of a golf club, objections appear in a displacement of the weight of any part of the club. Any noise occurring during the stroke of a club is a very disturbing factor, and if such noise is accompanied by a shock due to a hammer blow in the practice club, the novice will be faced with highly disturbing conditions quite remote from his normal future use of a regular golf club.

In using an ordinary golf club, an expert player will carefully consider details involved in the weight at various parts of his club, and assuming that there will be no disturbance of the weight, and no noise, or no shocks at his hands, the expert will carefully prepare for his predetermined stroke. Any disturbance of the expected weight, or any noise, or any shock at the hands of the player, will interfere with his predetermined stroke.

Bearing in mind that the object of any practice golf is to educate the novice for actual conditions he will find in using a regular golf club, it appears that the old practice clubs involving a deliberate disturbance in the weight of the club, as well as audible sounds and shocks at the hands of the player, for the purpose of indicating proper strokes, are highly disturbing factors, quite remote from the conditions in normal use of a golf club. Obviously, practice wherein these disturbing conditions are intended to indicate a proper swing of the club, is extremely remote from conditions to be found in actual use of a regular golf club.

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to produce a practice golf club which overcomes one or all of these undesirable conditions.

More specifically stated, an object is to overcome objections due shifting weights, audible sounds, or shocks at the hands of the player when proper swings are made with a practice golf club. Such conditions do not teach the user how to

make proper strokes in the normal use of a regular golf club, wherein each of said conditions would be an unexpected disturbing factor. In other words, these old practice golf clubs educate the pupil for conditions radically different from the conditions he will find in actual use of regular clubs, and my object is to overcome defects in these old teachings.

Study of this very old problem has led to a development of the present invention wherein the improved practice golf club has an educational value deliberately created to immediately prepare the user for conditions he will find in actual use of regular clubs.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention comprises the novel construction and arrangement of details herein shown and described to illustrate one form of the invention. However, it is to be understood that the scope of the patent extends to variations and modifications within the scope of the terms employed in claims hereunto appended.

Fig. 1 is a side view of a practice golf club embodying features of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1, drawn to a larger scale, and showing a head slidable on the lower end portion of the shaft.

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the head and shaft shown in Fig. 2.

To illustrate one form of the invention, I have shown a practice golf club having a shaft 4 provided with a handle 5 at its upper end, and a head 6 at its lower end. The head 6 is slidable on the lower end portion of the shaft, and while said head may be of any desired shape, it is preferably in the form of a ball or roller, free to rotate around the axis of the shaft 4.

Without limiting the invention to specific details shown in the drawing, I will refer to Figures 2 and 3 wherein the head 6 is in the form of a ball having a bore 7 slidably fitted to the shaft 4, and a larger bore 8 to receive a sleeve 9. This sleeve is slidable on the lower end of shaft 4, and it may be secured to the head 6 in any suitable manner. For example, connecting screws 10 may be interposed between said sleeve and head, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

In this form of the invention, a stop collar 11 is fixed to the shaft 4, so as to limit displacement of the head 6 relative to the shaft 4. The collar 11 is confined between a stop shoulder 12 at the upper end of the bore 8 and a similar shoulder 13 at the upper end of the sleeve 9. This stop collar 11 is shorter than the distance between the stop shoulders 12 and 13, so as to

permit limited sliding displacement of the head 6 on the straight shaft 4 when the practice club is in service. Such displacement will result in audible clicking sounds when the stop shoulders 12 or 13 strike the stop collar 11.

Briefly stated, the head 6 is slidable on the lower end of the shaft 4 and free to rotate about the axis of said shaft. The sliding movements may be due to gravity, or to centrifugal force.

Rotary head for preliminary strokes

This form of the invention includes a head slidable on the lower extremity of the shaft, and free to rotate in contact with the ground during initial movements of the clutch. Free rotation of the head is a desirable condition, which prevents disturbance in the short back and forth preliminary strokes usually made to determine the direction of the swing.

The backswing

As a result of centrifugal force and gravity, the slidable head is movable limited distances at the extremity of the shaft, and such movements will result in annoying clicks in addition to shocks at the hands of the user. However, in the preferred form of the invention, a proper backswing will cause the head to remain at the extremity of the shaft, so there will be no disturbing noise or shock during a proper backswing. On the other hand, if the backswing is too slow, the head will slide toward the handle, thereby producing a sound and a shock to advise further practice for this part of the swing. It will be observed that these disturbing conditions do not occur during a proper backswing.

The downswing

The slidable head 6 is preferably designed to remain in its extreme position at the end of the shaft during a proper downswing, thereby avoiding any objectionable noise or shock when this part of the swing is properly made.

The follow through

It is usually very difficult to teach a person to follow through with a rapid full swing. The novice is likely to assume that the stroke should end when the head hits the ball, and one of the outstanding old problems appears in teaching him to deliberately continue the movement at a high velocity. The new device is preferably designed to produce a disturbing click and shock when the pupil fails to continue at the velocity required for a full swing. The centrifugal force of the desired velocity will retain the shoulder 12 in contact with the collar 11, but a lower velocity will allow the head 6 to drop by gravity until its shoulder 13 strikes the collar 11. Again we

find that the noise and shock are deliberately employed to advise the pupil of his mistakes. Further practice will induce him to acquire a "follow through" velocity great enough to avoid the disturbing factors, and a swing of this kind, lacking the noise and shock, will conform approximately to the conditions expected in actual use of a regular golf club.

I claim:

1. In a practice golf club wherein audible clicks indicate improper practice strokes, a shaft provided with a handle at one end, a head freely slidable on the opposite end of said shaft, said freely slidable head being movable toward said handle in response to an improper upward swing of the practice golf club, and stop elements carried by said shaft and slidable head to limit the sliding movements, said stop elements including a stop member carried by the head separated from but arranged to strike a stop member on said shaft so as to limit the sliding movement of said head when the practice club is in service.

2. A practice golf club having a straight shaft provided with a handle at one end, a head rotatable around the opposite end of said straight shaft, said rotatable head being in the form of a ball freely slidable on the shaft and movable toward the handle in response to an improper upward swing of the practice golf club, and separated stop elements carried by said shaft and head to limit the sliding movements.

3. A practice golf club having a straight shaft provided with a handle at one end, a head slidable on the opposite end of said shaft, and stop elements carried by said head to limit its sliding movements, said stop elements being located within the head, and the shaft being provided with a stop collar located between and adapted to audibly engage said stop elements, said stop collar being shorter than the distance between said stop elements so as to permit limited sliding displacement of the head when the club is in service.

4. An educational golf club having a shaft provided with a handle at one end, and a pair of stop elements fixed to its opposite end portion, said fixed stop elements being separated from each other in a direction parallel with the axis of said shaft, a loose signalling device confined by said fixed stop elements, said loosely confined signalling device having an axis approximately parallel with said shaft and being freely movable in response to the influence of centrifugal force and gravity from one of said fixed stop elements to the other, so as to produce an audible signal in response to an improper upward swing of the educational club.

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