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GOLF STROKE INSTRUCTION DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

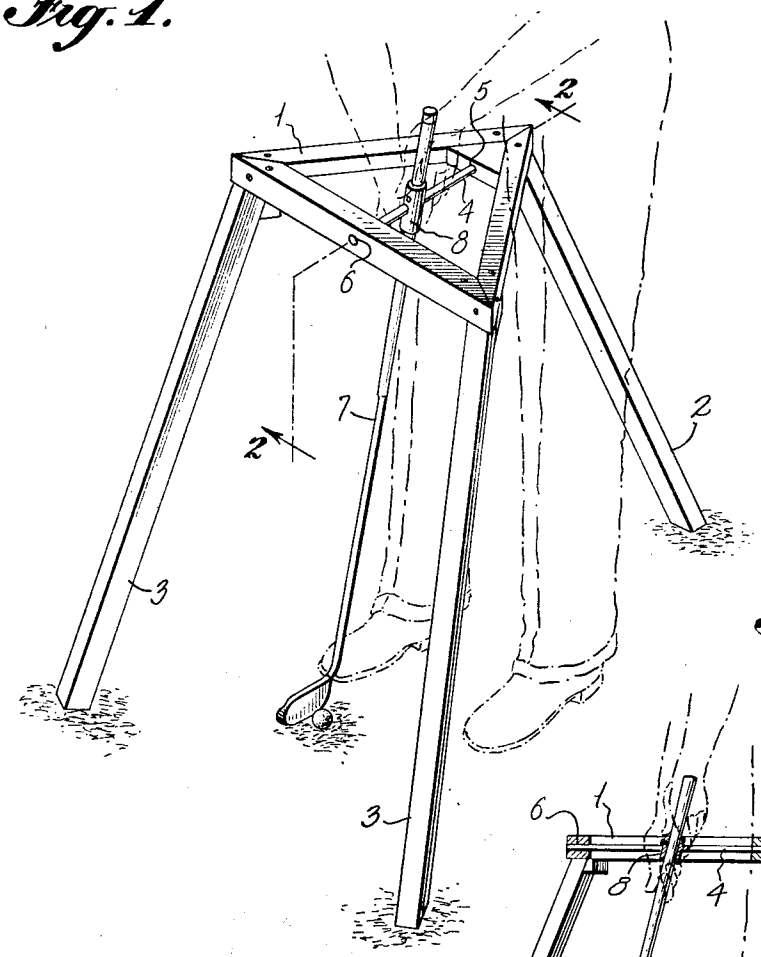
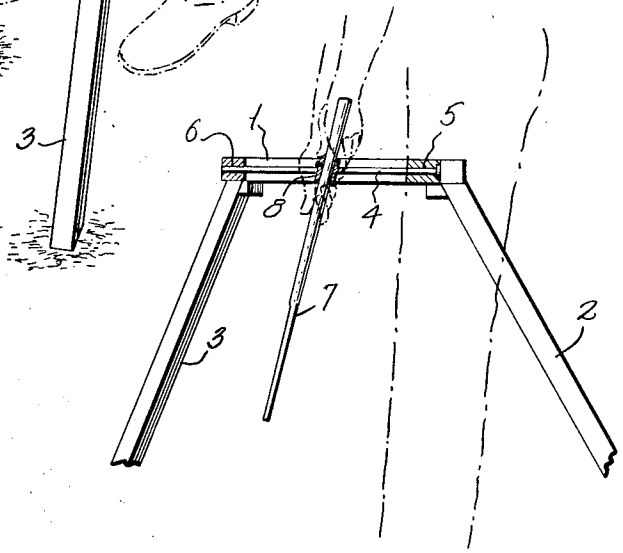


Fig. 2.



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GOLF STROKE INSTRUCTION DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—192)

This invention relates to instruction devices, and more particularly to devices of this nature to assist a golfer in learning the proper club stroke for putting, and is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 208,558, filed January 30, 1951, now abandoned.

The object of the present invention is to provide a device which will include a golf club, or provide means for attaching a club, which will permit only a predetermined movement of the club in exact accordance with the proper putting stroke, so that the user by moving the club will learn the precise wrist movement necessary to make a true or straight putt.

Another object is to provide a putting instruction device which mounts the club so that the club head will follow a straight line path over the ground, and which permits the hands of the user to be positioned on opposite sides of the axis of club swing so that the pivot will be intermediate the hands in proper position.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is extremely simple to manufacture and use, and can be manufactured quite economically.

Other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description of a practical embodiment thereof when taken in conjunction with the drawings which accompany, and form a part of, this specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a golf putting instruction device incorporating the principles of the present invention, and showing in dotted lines a portion of a figure in proper position for using the device; and,

Figure 2 is a vertical section through the upper portion of the device, and is taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the invention broadly includes a supporting structure for mounting a golf club for pendulum-like swinging movement so that the club head moves in a single plane in exact duplication of a proper putting stroke.

The support includes a frame 1 which lies horizontally and is supported upon legs 2 and 3. The frame may be of any desired shape, such as triangular, oval, etc., the important feature being that the frame is a continuous, closed one bordering, or surrounding, an open area. The triangular form shown may be formed of three side sections secured together at their ends in any desired manner. The legs 2 and 3 are arranged so that one leg is attached to each corner of the triangular frame and each leg is inclined from the vertical. If one corner of the triangular frame is considered the apex of the triangle, the leg 2 which is attached to that corner is positioned to lie in the vertical plane of the perpendicular bisector of the triangle. The legs 3 which are attached to the base corners of the triangle are positioned to lie in the vertical planes of the respective sides of the triangle. Thus, the rear leg 2, the one at the apex, may be straddled by the user, and the front legs 3 will be entirely out of the path of the movement of the club, as will be explained later.

An axis, or pivot pin, 4 is mounted in the frame so as to bisect the apex angle, and is connected to the triangular frame at the apex angle and at the mid-point of the base. This will place the pivot pin and the rear leg of the support in a common vertical plane. The pin is journalled in the frame, at 5 and 6, so as to be freely rotatable.

At approximately the center of the triangular frame,

the pivot pin carries means for holding a golf club 7. The club will be of that type known as a putter, and the club itself may be fixedly connected to the pivot pin. There is illustrated, however, a sleeve-type gripping member 8 for holding the club. This may be a two-part sleeve that may be clamped about the club shaft to hold the club in fixed relation with respect to the pivot pin. By employing such a gripping member, each user of the device will be able to use his own putter and thus not only get the feel of the proper stroke, but the feel of that stroke with his club.

In order to properly position the club for the stroke, the gripping means is inclined approximately 16° from the vertical. In other words, the axis of the gripping member makes an angle of approximately 16° with the perpendicular to the axis of the pivot pin. Thus, when the club is in place, the shaft will be inclined with the grip end of the shaft to the rear of the center of the triangular frame, that is toward the apex angle, and the club head to the front of the center toward the triangle base.

In using the device, a club will be placed in the gripping sleeve and positioned so that the club head just contacts the ground when the club head is in its down position directly beneath the pivot pin. With the club in this position the club will have a free pendulum swing, and the club head will follow an arc in a vertical plane, but its movement over the ground will be in an absolutely straight line. Thus, the club head will impart a straight line impact upon the ball. As the club head is positioned perpendicularly to its path of movement, the ball will invariably follow a straight line.

The user will position himself behind the device, straddling the rear leg and a portion of the adjacent apex portion of the frame, which will place his body in the proper position with respect to the club. He will be directly behind and perpendicular to the pivot upon which the club swings. In gripping the club, assuming the user is right-handed, the left hand will be placed upon the club grip directly above the pivot pin and the right hand will pass through the opening between the pivot pin and frame side to grasp the club just beneath the pivot pin. Thus the hands will be on opposite sides of the pivot and will move in opposite directions when the club is swung. On the back stroke, the right hand will be behind the ball position. This is in accordance with the accepted theory of a proper putting stroke. By moving the club through its swing, the wrists and muscles of the user must necessarily follow the proper movements of a correct putting stroke. Frequent use of the device will result in the user becoming so familiar with the correct putting movements that the proper stroke may be used even without the instruction device. The inclination of the legs of the device and their positioning as above described will leave the entire center portion free of obstruction and permit unimpeded swinging of the club. The open frame will have ample space on either side of the pivot to permit the entry of the hand and wrist of the user, whether he is right or left-handed.

Although one practical embodiment of the invention has been described and shown, this is by way of example only, and it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made from the precise structure disclosed without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a golf stroke instruction device, means to form a continuous closed horizontally positioned frame bordering an opening, legs to support said frame, a pivot pin traversing said opening and having its ends pivotally mounted in said frame, and golf club supporting means carried by said pivot pin so positioned as to support a golf club with the axis of the golf club shaft intersecting the axis of the pivot pin, said pivot pin being positioned at such height above the surface upon which said legs rest as to position said pivot pin between those portions of the golf club handle normally gripped by a player.

2. In a golf stroke instruction device as claimed in claim 1, one of said legs being positioned in the vertical plane of the longitudinal axis of said pivot pin to serve as a guide to position the user with respect to said device.

3. In a golf stroke instruction device, means to form a continuous closed horizontally positioned frame bordering an opening, legs to support said frame, a pivot pin traversing said opening medially and having its ends pivotally mounted in said frame, and golf club supporting means carried by said pivot pin for supporting a golf club at an angle to the perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal axis of the pivot pin and with the longitudinal axes of the golf club shaft and the pivot pin lying in a single plane, whereby the golf club may be gripped with the pivot pin between the hands of the user and the golf club head will move in a path the projection of which upon a horizontal plane will form a straight line.

4. In a golf stroke instruction device as claimed in claim 3, one of said legs being positioned in the vertical plane of the longitudinal axis of said pivot pin to serve as a guide to position the user with respect to the device.

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