Feb. 24, 1970 W. K. NAJJAR 3,497,118

BELT MOUNTABLE GOLF BALL AND TEE RETAINER

Filed Sept. 27, 1967

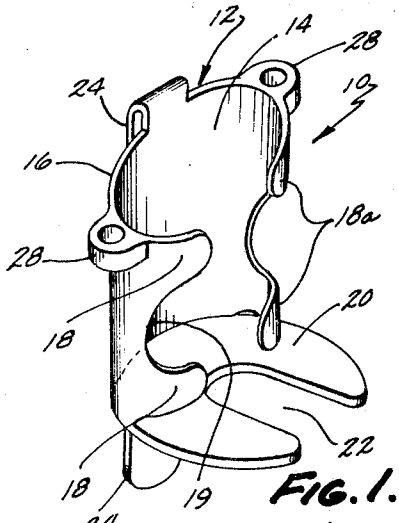


FIG. 1.

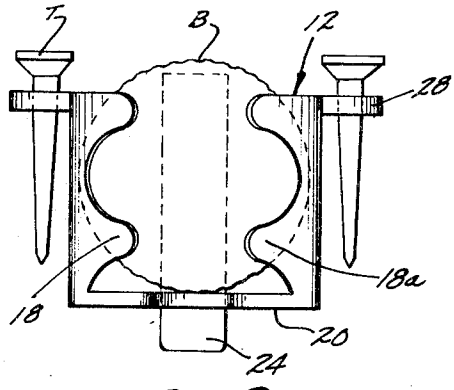


FIG. 2.

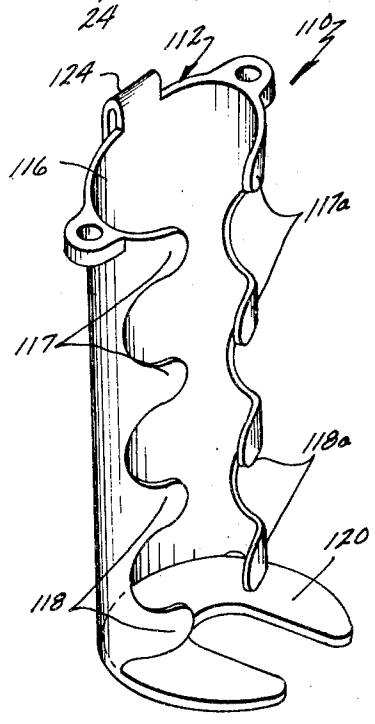


FIG. 4.

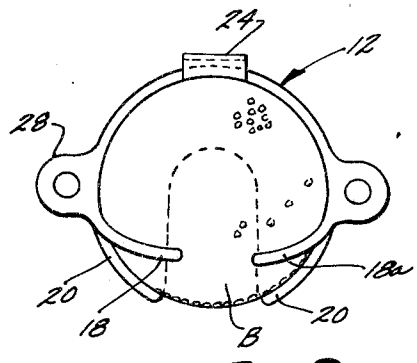


FIG. 3.

INVENTOR.
WILLIAM K. NAJJAR
BY Price, Heneveld
Huizenga & Cooper
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,497,118 Patented Feb. 24, 1970

3,497,118

BELT MOUNTABLE GOLF BALL AND TEE RETAINER

William K. Najjar, Grand Rapids, Mich., assignor of one-tenth to Donald E. Mack, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Filed Sept. 27, 1967, Ser. No. 671,088
Int. Cl. A45f 5/00, 3/00; A47f 7/00
U.S. Cl. 224—5 5 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A golf ball retainer for securement to a golfer's belt or the like, including a sleeve-like member forming a ball receiving pocket between a back portion and curved, resilient, deformable, spaced fingers extending from the opposite side edges of said back portion and curving generally towards each other so that said back portion and fingers form a generally elliptical cross section, there being a ball receiving mouth at one end and stop means at the opposite end to limit ball insertion, so that said fingers grip the ball astraddle its central portion; said retainer having finger access opening means in its front between said fingers and/or in said platform for ejecting a ball; and a securement tab on said back portion for attachment to the golfer's belt or the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a handy golf ball retainer for golfers, and more particularly to a belt-worn golf ball and tee retainer accommodating one or more balls.

Although golf bags have facility for storing extra golf balls and tees, the necessity of retrieving a ball from the bag when the playing ball is lost or damaged constitutes a nuisance. Storing extra balls in the golfer's pockets so as to be on his person causes discomfort, distraction, and/or a hinderance when walking, sitting in a golf cart, or swinging, plus the nuisance of ferreting a ball out of the pocket when needed.

It has been determined that extra ball storage should really be on the person of the golfer, for maximum convenience, positioned for easy and handy ball retrieval, but positioned and retained in a manner not interfering with the golfer's swing or causing discomfort.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a golf ball retaining accessory capable of achieving these functions, that is, of retaining the extra ball or balls on the person of the golfer, positioned for handy retrieval of the ball, functional to allow quick easy ball removal, yet of a nature not to interfere with the normal physical movements of the golfer in his game. Further, the retainer can be used to store extra tees in an optimum manner also. It can be inexpensively manufactured. It is simple to attach to and remove from the golfer's belt or the like, at his back.

The golf ball retainer has a ball retaining pocket with a ball receiving mouth, resilient deformable ball gripping portions, finger access opening means for ball ejection, and securement means for attachment to a golfer's belt or the like.

The significant features of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, and other objects and advantages will also be apparent therefrom, with the invention being defined by the attached claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the novel device for retaining a golf ball;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the device in FIG. 1, shown with the golf ball and a pair of tees retained thereby;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the combination in FIG. 2 without the tees; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the device, for retaining two golf balls.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The first embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1 through 3 constitutes a golf ball retainer **10** that has a sleeve-like member **12** forming a golf ball receiving pocket **14** between a back portion **16** and a plurality of resilient deformable fingers **16** and **16***a*. These fingers have terminal ends that project generally toward each other through an arcuate curvature on the frontal portion. Back portion **16** has a transverse arcuate curvature, with back portion **16**, the end portions, and fingers **18** and **18***a* defining an ellipse in cross section. They therefore form a non-circular member, preferably an elliptical cylindrical sleeve.

Fingers **18** and **18***a* terminate short of each other to leave an opening therebetween for access to the ball. These fingers are also somewhat convergent toward their end portions to form a spacing between adjacent fingers. I.e., space **19** between fingers **18**, e.g., diverges toward the open zone between sets of the fingers **18** and **18***a*, to accommodate the major dimension at the central portion or "equator" of the golf ball. The fingers grip the ball astraddle this circumference or equator. The ball can be readily inserted to its proper relationship with respect to these fingers by limiting its insertion with stop means such as platform **20** which extends across the bottom end of the sleeve. Hence, a ball can be quickly and carelessly punched into the unit through the upper end mouth. The ball can be removed by the golfer inserting this finger into the front space or opening and ejecting the ball. Platform **20** may also have an opening **22** beneath the center of ball B to allow finger access beneath the ball for ejecting the ball from the retainer.

Secured to and preferably integral with the back portion **16** of the unit is securement means, preferably in the form of a depending tab **24**. It extends down along the outside back of the sleeve and, in cooperation with the back, forms a generally U-shaped inverted means for receiving the belt or the trousers' hem of a player when tab **24** is pushed down behind the belt or trousers. The retainer can be attached to the person adjacent his back so as to not interfere with the normal physical movements of the player in his game.

Preferably, the unit also has a pair of integral, laterally extending ears **28** which are orificed to receive tees T and which extend outwardly adjacent the ends of the elliptical sleeve for handy storage of tees as well as a ball.

The entire unit is preferably formed of integral construction, as of a polymeric material, e.g. high impact polystyrene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, or the like. It may alternatively be formed of a thin metal construction such as steel, stainless steel, aluminum or the like. It is important that the electrical sleeve, and particularly the fingers **18** and **18***a* have a characteristic of being readily resiliently deformed, with a bias toward its initial elliptical, non-circular, configuration to tightly retain a ball.

The second embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4 is basically the same as the first embodiment, except that it is adapted to retain more than one ball, specifically two balls, one on top of the other. This embodiment **110** includes an elliptical cylinder sleeve **112**, a stop platform **120** on the lower end, a first plurality of sets of fingers **118** and **118***a* cooperative with the lower portion of back panel **116** to retain one ball, and a second plu-

rality of sets of fingers **117** and **117***a* to retain a second ball on top of the first. As in the first embodiment, these fingers are integral with the end portion of the back portion and curved out and then toward each other, terminating short of the opposite ones to define a front access space. This device is retained on the golfer's belt or trouser top by the same type of securement means **124**.

Although the use of the apparatus is generally obvious from the article description given above, it will be briefly reviewed for purposes of clarity. The golfer is able to retain an extra ball (or balls) and extra tees on his person, adjacent his back so as to not interfere with his physical movement, and in a position enabling ready retrieval of the ball. The unit is attached to the golfer by projecting tab **24** behind his belt or trouser top, and pushing it down so that the downwardly opening slot between tab **24** and back portion **16** receives the belt. A ball is positioned in the unit by pushing it down through the upper receiving mouth, thereby temporarily deforming the upper ones of sets of fingers **18** and **18***a*. It is depressed until the ball strikes platform-stop means **20**, at which position all of fingers **18** and **18***a* are slightly outwardly deformed, astraddle the major circumferential dimension or equator of the ball. These resilient deformable fingers, being partially deformed, apply a force to the ball due to their inherent bias, to retain the ball in position. When the golfer needs this ball, he merely inserts his finger beneath the ball and ejects it from the retainer.

Although several objects and advantages have been pointed out, others will be apparent to those in the art upon reviewing this disclosure. It is also conceivable that certain minor variations of construction may be made in these disclosed embodiments without departing from the concept presented.

I claim:

1. A golf ball retainer comprising: a ball receiving sleeve-like member having a generally elliptical cross sectional configuration with an arcuate back portion, and with a ball receiving mouth at one end; the front portion of said member being defined by spaced, resilient, temporarily deformable fingers projecting from opposite ends of said back portion and curving generally toward each other in a manner that said arcuate back portion and said fingers define an ellipse in cross section; said member including transverse ball stop means at the second end limiting the insertion of a golf ball to a position wherein said fingers grip the ball at peripheral zones astraddle the ball equator; and securement means on said back portion for securement of said retainer to a golfer's belt or the like.

2. The golf ball retainer in claim **1** wherein said spaced fingers terminate short of each other to define open area therebetween for finger access to push a ball out of said retainer.

3. The golf ball retainer in claim **1** wherein said transverse ball stop means is a platform having a finger access opening therein for pushing a ball out said mouth.

4. The golf ball retainer in claim **1** of integral, unitary, polymeric construction.

5. The golf ball retainer in claim **1** having a length and a number of fingers sufficient to receive a plurality of golf balls.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,911,256	5/1933	Andrew	224—25 X
2,325,039	7/1943	Chesler	312—50
2,665,830	1/1954	Fowler	224—5
2,756,914	7/1956	Bonderer	224—5 X
2,768,775	10/1956	Houser	224—5

CHANCELLOR E. HARRIS, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

211—14; 224—25