April 1, 1969 D. B. CANTWELL 3,435,866

GOLF BAG SUPPORT

Filed Jan. 3, 1967

FIG_1

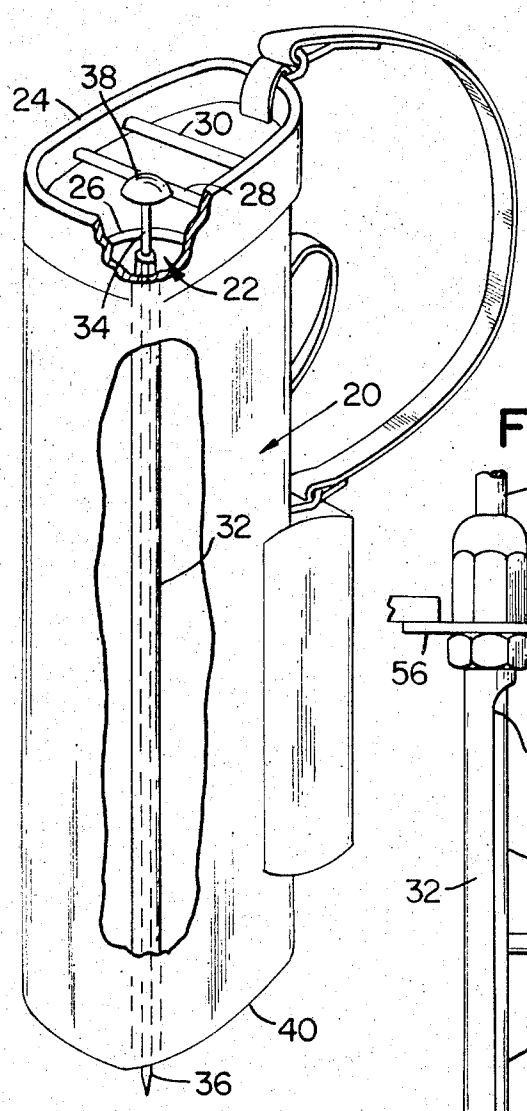


FIG_2

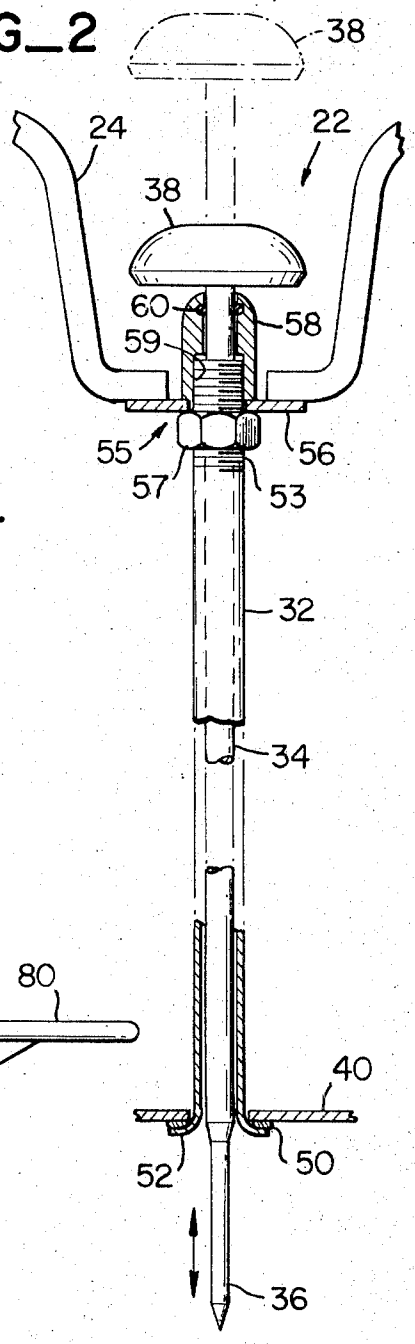


FIG_4

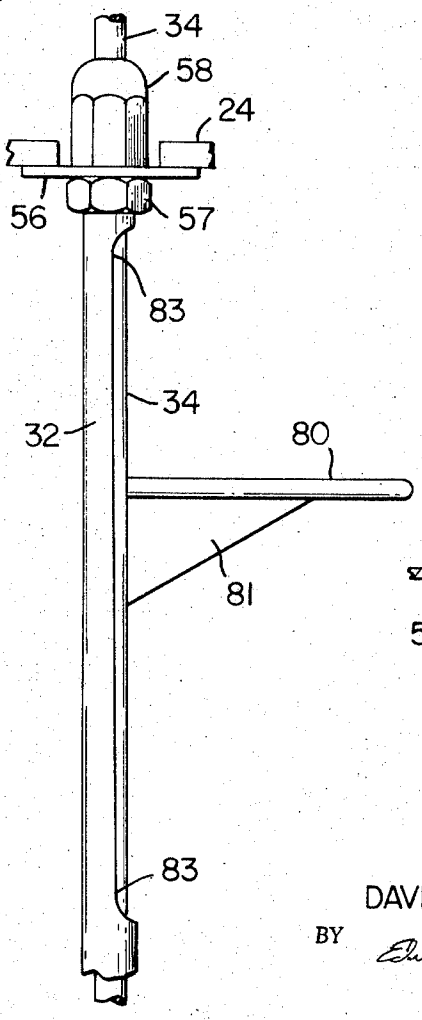
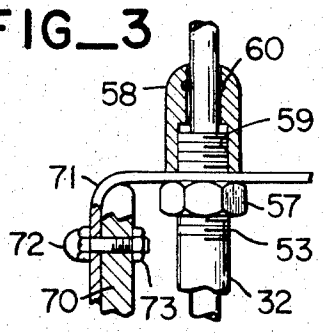


FIG_3



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GOLF BAG SUPPORT

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U.S. Cl. 150—1.5 9 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A support for holding a golf bag in an upright position between shots and including a tubular member containing a frictionally held elongated rod means extendable therefrom to penetrate the ground to support the golf bag.

This invention relates to a support for a golf bag for use in inserting into the ground to hold the bag in an upright position while a player is making a shot.

It is often desirable to have a golf bag stand on end in an upright position. For example, a player who is carrying his own bag during a round will often want to have the bag stand on end while he selects a club and plays a shot. Similarly on the practice tee it may be desirable to have the bag stand on end while hitting practice shots with different clubs. Since golf is played in a wide variety of weather and course conditions, the golf bag support must function well under many conditions. In addition the support must not intefere with the normal use or carrying of the bag and the support must be usable on hilly courses and in the wind.

Heretofore a great many attempts have been made to provide a golf bag support. The following United States patents are directed to the problem: 1,291,359, 1,444,357, 1,452,084, 1,488,389, 1,926,184, 1,978,242, 2,453,565, 3,075,733 and 3,191,900. There is still however a need for a golf bag support which is reliably applicable under a wide variety of conditions and which is readily compatible with the other function of the bag.

In a broad aspect the present invention relates to apparatus for use with a golf bag and includes a hollow tubular member of substantially the same length as the golf bag. The tubular member is placed parallel to the longitudinal axis of the golf bag and connected to the bag. Elongated rod means are slidably positioned in said tubular member. The rod means is longer than the tubular member and thus extendable from either or both ends of the tubular member. Stabilizing means are provided to frictionally retain the elongated rod in a fixed position within the tubular member. A pointed portion is formed on the lower end of the elongated rod to allow the rod to more easily penetrate the ground, and a handle is affixed on the upper end of the rod to facilitate manual movement of the rod into and out of the ground. Thus the golf bag is placed in an upright position and the elongated rod is pushed down into the ground to retain the bag in the upright position. When the bag is to be moved the player pulls the rod from the ground to thus retract the pointed end into the tubular member and to free the bag from the ground.

In a more particular aspect the present invention comprises an elongated hollow tubular member having a flared portion of greater diameter at its lower end. A hole is provided in the lower end of a golf bag for receiving the tubular member. The hole is sized so as to not pass the flared lower end of the tubular member. The upper collar of the golf bag is provided with a recessed portion and a flange also having a hole for engaging the tubular member is fixedly connected to the recessed portion of the upper collar of the golf bag. The outside portion of the tubular member passing through the hole in

the flange is threaded. A lock nut means including a threaded collar portion having an O-ring included therein extending above the upper end of the tubular member are provided. An elongated rod means having a pointed lower end and a handle on the upper end is slidably inserted in the tubular member. The O-ring frictionally engages the rod to stabilize it and to frictionally retain the rod in a given position within the tubular member. A second handle may be optionally provided on the rod for inserting the rod into hard ground. When the rod is pushed down the handle is recessed in the recessed portion of the upper collar of the golf bag and thus does not interfere with club selection or removal.

It is a particular objection of the present invention to provide a ground engaging support for a golf bag which support stably retains the golf bag in an upright position when desired and which may be easily retracted from the ground and frictionally held in withdrawn position during other use of the bag. Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description read in light of the accompanying drawing which is made a part of this specification and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of apparatus assembled in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an elevation view with portions broken away for clarity of presentation and illustrate the preferred embodiment of apparatus assembled in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 3 is an elevation view with portions broken away for clarity of presentation and illustrates an alternative embodiment of apparatus assembled in accordance with the invention; and

FIG. 4 is an elevation view and illustrates another alternative embodiment of apparatus assembled in accordance with the invention.

Referring now to the drawing and to FIG. 1 in particular, a golf bag is indicated by the numeral **20**. The golf bag **20** may be a conventional bag or it may be one especially adapted for use with the present invention. Thus conventional bags may be fitted with the golf bag support of the present invention with little difficulty or an entirely creative bag may be designed to take advantage of special features of the present invention. Such a new bag is illustrated in FIG. 1. A recessed portion **22** is provided in the upper collar **24** of the bag. The recessed portion is divided from the club-carrying section of the bag **20** by means of rib **26**. Ribs **28** and **30** divide the club-carrying section of the bag in suitable divisions for carrying the clubs in a convenient manner.

A hollow tubular member **32** of substantially the same length as the golf bag **20** is placed inside the bag **20** and located parallel to its longitudinal axis. The tubular member **32** is fixedly connected in the bag by suitable means. An elongated rod means **34** is slidably positioned in the tubular member **32**. The rod means **34** is somewhat longer than the tubular member **32** and is thus extendable therefrom. The elongated rod **34** has a point **36** at its lower end and a handle **38** at its upper end. Since the elongated rod **34** is slidable within tubular member **32** the pointed end **36** of the rod **34** may be driven into the ground when bag **20** is stood upright on its lower end **40**. The pointed end **36** of the rod **34** is pushed down into the ground by means of exerting downward force on handle **38**. With the point penetrating the ground the bag **20** will be firmly held upright. When the player desires to move the bag **20** the rod **34** is pulled from the ground by a lifting motion of handle **38**. The point **36** is recessed into the lower end of the tubular member **32** and cannot sway or injure the player.

The apparatus of the present invention is illustrated in more detail in FIG. 2 which is an elevation view with portions broken away for clarity of presentation showing the preferred embodiment of apparatus assembled in accordance with this invention. Parts in FIG. 2 which correspond to parts illustrated in FIG. 1 will be given similar numbers for sake of convenience. In assembling the apparatus of the present invention a hole is provided in the bottom **40** of a golf bag. A suitable grommet **50** may be used to protect the bottom portion in which the hole is formed. A tubular member **32** having a flared lower portion **52** is inserted through the hole. The flared lower portion engages the grommet **50** to prevent the tubular member from passage entirely through the hole.

Connecting means are provided to connect the upper end of the tubular member **32** to the upper collar of the golf bag. The tubular member is connected in tension in order to give firm support for the golf bag. In the preferred arrangement the tubular member has threads **53** formed on its outside upper portion. Receptacle means generally indicated by the numeral **55** having mating threads are fixedly connected to the upper collar **24** of the golf bag. The threaded end **53** of the hollow tubular member **32** is then inserted into the mating threads of the receptacle means and the tubular member **32** is rotated to tighten the connection. The receptacle means **55** includes a stabilizing means for frictionally engaging an elongated rod **34** which is inserted into the hollow tubular member **32**. The receptacle means **55** is formed of a flat washer **56** which is fixedly attached as by welding for example to the upper collar **24** of the golf bag. A nut **57** having threads corresponding to the threads **53** of the tubular members fits below the flat washer **56**. A cap member **58** having a central opening and a threaded portion **59** in its lower portion is threadedly connected to the extreme upper portion of the tubular member **32**. The central opening of the cap member **58** is sized to slidably receive the elongated rod **34**. An O-ring **60** is positioned in the central opening of the cap member **58** and frictionally engages the elongated rod **34** to stabilize it. The O-ring performs two important functions. The first is to hold the elongated rod in a manner to prevent it from freely sliding in the tubular member so that when the elongated rod is retracted it cannot accidentally slide in and out. Secondly, the O-ring prevents the elongated rod from accidentally becoming loosened when it is penetrating the ground. This is quite important when the bag support is being used in times of high wind since it has been found that without the O-ring the bag will not remain standing in a strong wind.

The elongated rod **34** is longer than the hollow tubular member **32** so that it extends out of the tubular member **32**. Preferably the elongated rod **34** is long enough so that the point **36** portion of the rod **34** may be driven about 4 to 6 inches into the ground. The upper end of the rod **34** is provided with a handle **38**. The rod **34** should be sized so that when the point **36** is inserted into the ground, the handle will be down in the recessed portion **22** of the upper collar **24** of the golf bag and thus out of the way while the player selects a club. As noted above when the bag is picked up the point portion **36** of the rod **34** is retracted into the bottom of the tubular member **32**. The O-ring prevents the rod **34** from sliding back and forth. Firm pressure must be applied to the rod **34** to overcome the action of the O-ring to move the rod within the hollow tubular member.

An alternative arrangement of apparatus is illustrated in FIG. 3. This embodiment is useful when it is desired to adapt the apparatus of the present invention to a conventional golf bag. Only a fragmentary portion of the upper collar **70** of a conventional golf bag is shown for purposes of this description. A right angle member **71** having an opening for receiving the hollow tubular member **32** is fixedly connected to the upper collar **70** by suitable means such as nut **72** and bolt **73**. The right angle member **71** has threaded means such as nut **73** for threadedly receiving the upper threaded portion **53** of the hollow tubular member **32**. The bottom of the tubular member is held at the lower end of the golf bag. The lower connection may be similar to that shown in FIG. 2 or if desired, a second right angle member having a hole for engaging the flared portion of the tubular member may be fixedly connected to the bottom of the bag. A cap member **58** having an O-ring **60** in its central opening is threadedly connected to the upper end of the tubular member.

Referring now to FIG. 4 a further arrangement of apparatus useful with the present invention is shown in elevation view. In certain areas of the country and particularly in dry weather when the ground becomes very hard it is useful to have an auxiliary handle to assist in inserting and removing the elongated rod from the ground. Thus the present invention provides for attaching an auxilary handle **80** having a brace member **81** to the elongated rod **34**. Preferably the elongated rod is tapped with a threaded hole and the end of the handle **80** is cut with mating threads. The handle **80** is inserted into the threaded hole and rotated in. The hollow tubular member is cut open as indicated by **83** to allow for travel of the handle. The handle is placed so that it is just below the upper collar **24** when the point of the elongated rod **34** is withdrawn into the lower end of the tubular member **32**. In no case should the handle be placed more than one-fourth the way down the elongated rod **34**. The golf bag is provided with a zippered slit so that the handle may be inserted and travel with the elongated rod.

Although specific embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, the invention is not to be limited to only those specific embodiments but rather the invention is meant to include all embodiments embraced by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. Apparatus for use with a golf bag comprising hollow tubular means of substantially the same length as the golf bag, connecting means for connecting said tubular means to said golf bag substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said golf bag, elongated rod means slidably positioned in said tubular means and partially extending therefrom, O-ring stabilizing means at the upper end of said tubular means in frictional engagement with said elongated rod means to frictionally prevent said elongated rod means from freely sliding within said tubular means, a pointed portion formed on one end of said elongated rod means for penetrating the ground, and a handle on the other end of said elongated rod for use in inserting and removing said elongated rod from the ground.

2. The apparatus of claim **1** further characterized in that the stabilizing means is carried on said tubular means and frictionally engages against said elongated rod means.

3. The apparatus of claim **1** further characterized by a golf bag, said golf bag having an upper collar portion and said upper collar portion being recessed to permit said handle to be recessed therein when said pointed portion of said elongated rod is extended.

4. The apparatus of claim **1** further characterized by a golf bag, a hole in the bottom of said golf bag slidably receiving the hollow tubular means, a flared section on the lower end of said tubular means which will not pass through the hole, and connecting means connecting the upper end of said tubular means to the upper collar of the said golf bag, said connecting means containing an O-ring which frictionally engages the elongated rod.

5. The apparatus of claim **1** further characterized in that an auxiliary handle is connected to the upper portion of said elongated rod and a portion of the upper part of said tubular means is cut open to allow travel of said handle with said rod.

6. The apparatus of claim **4** further characterized in that the connecting means comprises a flat washer having a central opening and fixedly connected to the upper

collar of said golf bag, threaded means on the outside of said hollow tubular means, said threaded means extending through the central opening of said flat washer and a cap member having a central opening for said elongated rod and mating threads for said tubular means connected to the upper end of said tubular means, said cap member having an O-ring contacting said elongated rod.

7. The apparatus of claim 4 further characterized in that the connecting means comprises an angle member having a central opening and being fixedly connected to the upper collar of said golf bag, threaded means on the outside of said hollow tubular means, said threaded means extending through the central opening of said angle member and a cap member having a central opening for said elongated rod and mating threads for said tubular means connected to the upper end of said tubular means, said cap member having an O-ring contacting said elongated rod.

8. The apparatus of claim 3 further characterized in that an auxiliary handle is connected to the upper portion of said elongated rod and a portion of the upper part of said tubular means is cut open to allow travel of said handle with said rod.

9. The apparatus of claim 4 further characterized in that an auxiliary handle is connected to the upper portion of said elongated rod and a portion of the upper part of said tubular means is cut open to allow travel of said handle with said rod.

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CHANCELLOR E. HARRIS, *Primary Examiner.*

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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