

March 31, 1953

A. S. REED

2,633,173

GOLF CLUB HEAD COVER

Filed Feb. 25, 1950

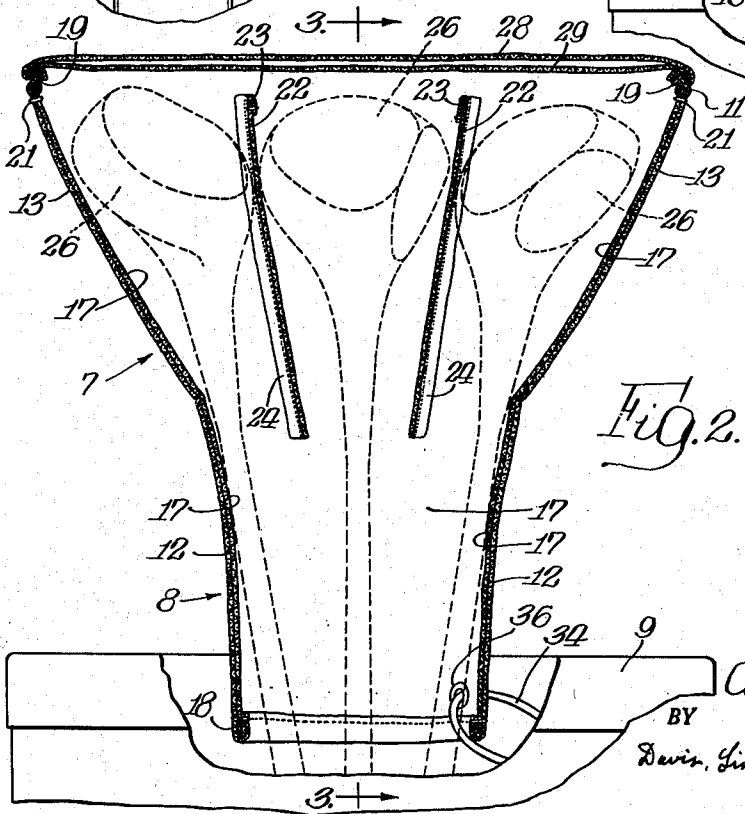
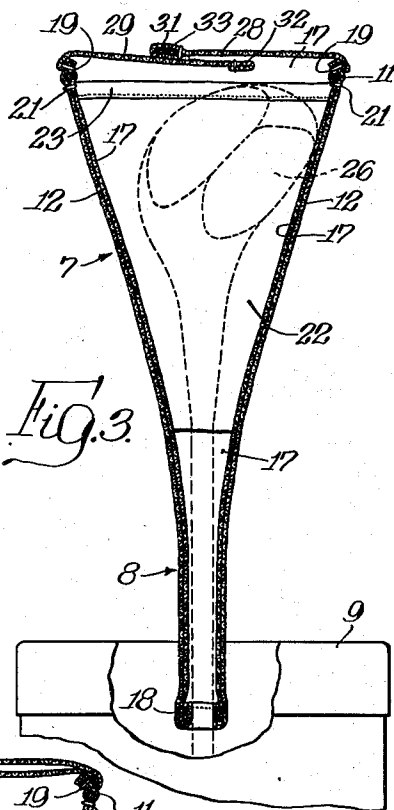
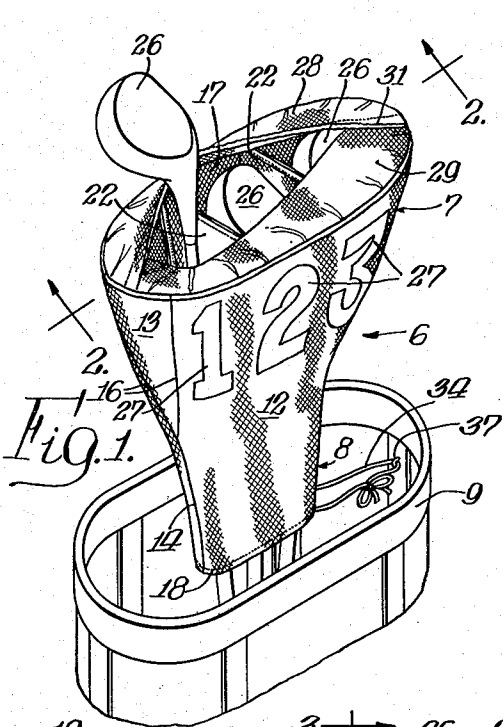


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.
Alfred S. Reed.
BY
Davis, Lindsey, Hibben & Moyer
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,633,173

GOLF CLUB HEAD COVER

Alfred S. Reed, Ripon, Wis., assignor to Ripon Knitting Works, Ripon, Wis., a corporation of Wisconsin

Application February 25, 1950, Serial No. 146,210

5 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.5)

1

This invention relates to golfing accessories and more particularly to a novel golf club head cover.

The golf club head covers in common use prior to my invention have been of the individual type, each cover comprising a bag-like enclosure adapted to fit over the head of only a single club to protect the same. Although golf club covers of this type provide adequate protection, it is well known among golfers that they are relatively inconvenient to use and are so easily lost that many golfers prefer to dispense with them entirely.

Occasionally such individual covers have been provided with loop portions whereby the several covers for a set of wooden clubs may be connected by a cord or leather thong to prevent loss of any one of them. However, the interconnected individual covers are easily tangled and are still inconvenient to manipulate. For example, during a golf game it normally requires both hands of the golfer to remove a club from the golf bag and then remove its cover, considerable delay and distraction thereby resulting. Moreover, after use of the clubs each individual cover must be replaced separately. Consequently, in spite of the obvious desirability of providing protective head coverings for wooden golf clubs, the many inconveniences inherent in the use of golf club head covers heretofore known have seriously retarded their widespread adoption.

Accordingly, a primary object of my invention is to provide an improved golf club head cover which is capable of rapid and convenient use and which is not easily misplaced or lost.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel protective covering for golf club heads which is adapted to cooperate with a plurality of clubs thereby eliminating the need for individual covers for each club.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel protective device for golf club heads which permits a golf club to be removed and reinserted readily with only one hand of the user.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a novel golf club head cover which does not require connecting thongs, cords, or like means to prevent loss or misplacement during use.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a novel unitary means adapted to cooperate with a golf bag or the like for protecting the heads of a plurality of golf clubs and which permits any desired club to be removed or replaced in a rapid and convenient manner.

2

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become evident from the subsequent detailed description of the invention and the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one specific embodiment of my invention showing the manner in which the device cooperates with a golf bag and also illustrating the manner in which a golf club may be removed from or inserted into the device;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the device as taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view at 90° with respect to the view shown in Fig. 2 as taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Briefly, my invention comprises a generally funnel-shaped enclosure having an enlarged upper portion and a tapered lower or neck portion adapted to be received in the open end of a golf club bag or the like. As hereinafter described in detail, the interior of the enclosure is divided into a plurality of compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs with the shafts thereof extending downwardly through the neck portion of the device into the golf bag. An important feature of the invention is the provision of a resilient or elastic cover portion at the top of the enclosure which may be easily moved aside for removing or inserting a golf club and which automatically returns to closed position after such removal or insertion.

Referring now to the drawings, which show by way of illustration one specific embodiment of my invention, the device comprises a generally funnel-shaped structure 6 having an enlarged upper portion 7 which tapers downwardly to a restricted neck portion 8 adapted to extend into the open upper end of a golf club bag, as indicated fragmentarily at 9. A relatively rigid annular frame member or ring 11 is provided at the upper portion of the structure to form the enlarged mouth or inlet of the device. This frame member 11 is conveniently formed from stiff metal wire or the like and in the embodiment herein shown is generally elliptical in shape.

The body of the enclosure 6 is formed from an outermost flexible material or fabric such as leather, plastic, canvas, or other suitable water-resistant covering. For convenience of fabrication the outer covering is here illustrated as comprising a pair of oppositely disposed side walls 12 and a pair of triangular end walls or

gussets 13, the side walls 12 being sewed together

3

directly at the neck portion 8, as indicated at the seam 14 (Fig. 1), and being connected by means of the gussets 13 at the upper portion 7, as shown by the seams 16. An inner lining 17 of fleece or other soft protective material is disposed against the inner surface of the outer covering pieces 12 and 13, the lower edges of the side walls 12 and the lining 17 being turned inwardly and hemmed as at 18 to provide a neat appearing annular opening at the outlet of the neck portion 8. The upper edges of the outer covering pieces 12 and 13 and the inner lining 17 are secured to the frame 11 by means of stitching above and below the frame 11 as indicated at 19 and 21, respectively.

The interior of the upper portion 7 of the enclosure 6 is divided into a plurality of tapering club-receiving pockets or compartments, three being shown in the present instance, by means of a pair of tapered dividing walls 22 disposed transversely across the short dimension of the enlarged upper portion 7 and extending downwardly from the frame 11 and terminating approximately at the juncture of the upper portion 7 with the neck portion 8. Thus, the upper opening of each of the compartments is large enough to accommodate the head of a golf club during removal or insertion thereof while the lower opening (as best indicated in Fig. 3) of each compartment is small enough to prevent the head of a club from passing therethrough. The dividing walls 22, which may be conveniently formed from a suitable flexible fabric, are hemmed at their upper edges, as at 23, and are turned outwardly and stitched at their opposite vertical edges to the inner lining 17, as shown at 24 (Fig. 2). A plurality of wooden golf clubs 26 may thus be received within the enclosure 6, the head portions of the clubs 26 being supported in the separate compartments formed by the dividing walls 22 and the shafts of the clubs extending downwardly through the tapered neck portion 8 into the golf bag 9. Appropriate club-identifying numerals, such as indicated at 27 in Fig. 1, may be provided on an outer wall 12 in order to distinguish the several golf clubs.

In order to provide a closure for the upper end or inlet of the structure, a pair of cooperating flaps 28 and 29 of fabric or the like are secured by means of the stitching 19 to the upper edges of the outer covering pieces 12 and 13 and to the lining 17 above the frame 11. The free edges of the flaps 28 and 29 are hemmed as at 31 and 32, respectively, and the flap 28 normally overlies the flap 29 to a substantial extent, as best seen in Fig. 3, in order to provide complete protection for the enclosed clubs. Extending lengthwise within the hem portion 31 is a strip of elastic or resilient material 33 which normally retains the uppermost flap 28 in a gathered condition and in taut club-protecting position. When it is desired to remove or insert a golf club, the upper flap 28 having the elastic free edge may be readily stretched to one side or displaced to permit the insertion or removal of a club, as shown in the case of the club on the extreme left in Fig. 1.

It will thus be seen that my invention provides a simple unitary structure adapted to protect a plurality of golf clubs without the need for separate head covers such as previously used prior to my invention. An important advantages of the invention resides in the fact that the removal or insertion of a club can be readily accomplished by only one hand of the user since the device is

4

self-retaining or self-anchoring. For example, during the removal of any one club, the head portions of the remaining clubs cannot pass through the restricted bottom openings of the individual club head compartments with the result that if the enclosure 6 tends to be lifted bodily upward, the unremoved clubs will engage the tapered walls of the enclosure and retain the same in proper operative position. In addition, the presence of any two clubs in the enclosure 6 prevents twisting of the device during removal or insertion of the other club. Because of the resilient or elastic free edge on the upper flap 28, the flap automatically snaps into closed position after withdrawal or insertion of a club and may likewise be easily displaced to one side by one hand of the user or by the shaft portion of a club.

Although as mentioned above the presence of one or more clubs in the enclosure 6 serves to anchor the device in the golf bag while any one club is being removed or inserted, it may be desirable to provide additional anchoring means such as a leather thong or cord 34 extending through an aperture 36 (Fig. 2) at the lower end of the neck portion 8 and also through a loop 37 (Fig. 1) secured to the inner wall of the bag 9. However, the cord 34 will not become tangled in any way since there is no tendency for the device to turn or twist in the bag.

Although the invention has been described with respect to one specific structural embodiment, it will be understood that various modifications and equivalent structures may be resorted to without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A protective device for golf clubs comprising an elongated flexible enclosure having a tapered conformation with an enlarged portion at one end and a restricted portion at the other end, said restricted end portion being adapted to extend into the open end of a golf bag and said enlarged portion being divided into a plurality of separate compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs with the shafts of the clubs extending through said restricted portion into the golf bag, and self-closing flexible closure means extending across said enlarged portion and all of said compartments for normally covering said one end, said closure means having a resilient element adapted to be tensioned when the closure means is moved to open position and thereby permitting automatic return of said closure means to closed position.

2. A golf club head cover comprising an enclosure formed from a flexible protective material and having an enlarged portion at one end divided into separate compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs and a relatively restricted portion at its other end adapted to have the shafts of the clubs extend therethrough, and closure means extending across said enlarged portion at said one end for covering the same and protecting the heads of the golf clubs, said closure means including a displaceable flexible flap having a resilient edge portion whereby the flap is normally retained in closed position but is adapted to be stretched to one side to permit removal or insertion of the clubs.

3. A golf club head cover comprising an enclosure formed from a flexible protective material and having an enlarged portion at one end divided into separate compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs and a rela-

5

tively restricted portion at its other end adapted to have the shafts of the clubs extend there-through, and a pair of overlapping flap members extending over said enlarged end portion to provide a closure for the same, at least one of said flap members being provided with elastic means along its free edge whereby said one flap is normally retained in overlapping closed position relative to the other flap but can be stretched to one side to permit removal or insertion of the clubs.

4. A golf club head cover comprising an elongated enclosure formed from a flexible protective material, said enclosure having an enlarged portion at one end divided into a plurality of compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs and a relatively restricted open portion at its opposite end adapted to have the shafts of the clubs extend therethrough, a rigid annular frame secured at said one end of said enclosure and defining an opening to said enlarged portion, and resilient flexible closure means extending across said frame and all of said compartments for normally covering said enlarged portion and said compartments.

5. A golf club head cover comprising an elongated flexible enclosure formed from an outer layer of protective material and an inner soft

6

lining disposed flatwise against and secured to said outer layer, said enclosure having an enlarged portion at one end divided into a plurality of compartments for receiving the heads of a plurality of golf clubs and a restricted open neck portion at its other end adapted to have the shafts of the clubs extend therethrough, a rigid annular frame secured at said one end of said enclosure and having said outer layer and said inner lining fastened thereto, and a resilient flexible closure flap of protective material extending across said frame and all of said compartments for normally covering said enlarged portion and said compartments.

ALFRED S. REED.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,636,679	Burch et al.	July 26, 1927
1,681,922	Boch	Aug. 28, 1928
1,957,577	Chapman	May 8, 1934
2,014,589	Saad	Sept. 17, 1935
2,471,169	Salzberg et al.	May 24, 1949
2,490,250	Boener	Dec. 6, 1949