T. W. MAY.

SELF SUPPORTING GOLF BAG.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 3, 1918.

1,384,078. Patented July 12, 1921.

Fig. 1.

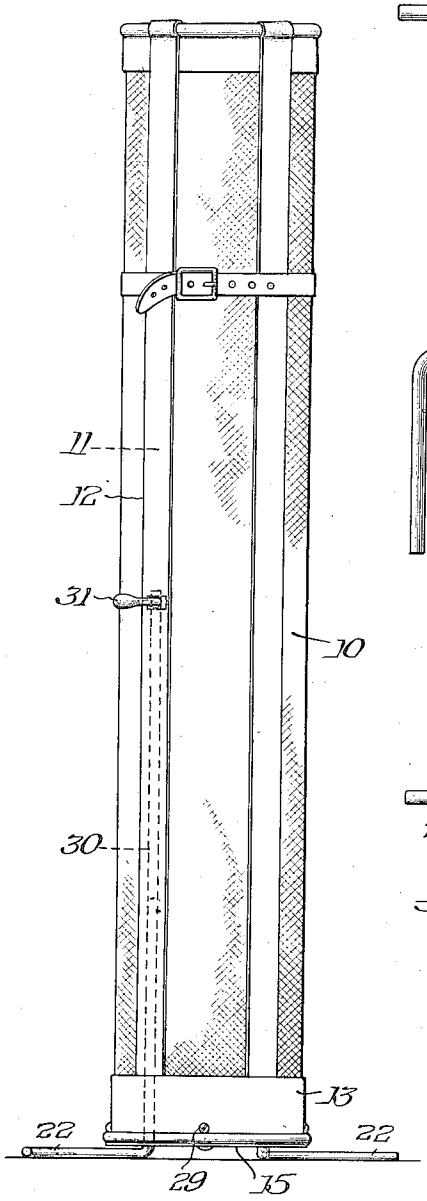


Fig. 2.

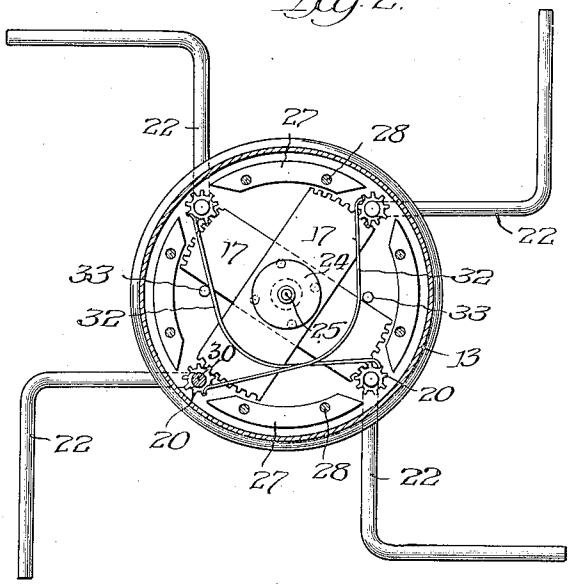


Fig. 3.

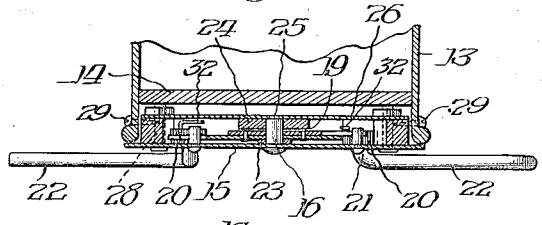
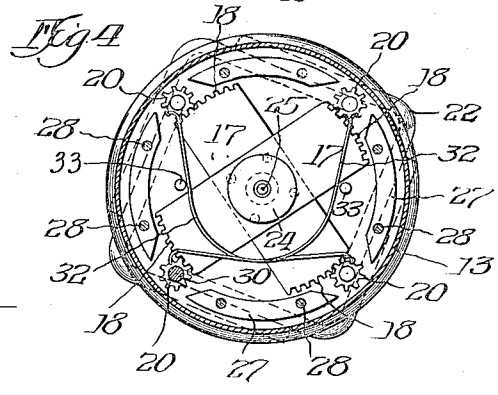


Fig. 4



Witness:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE W. MAY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM F. BUCKINGHAM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SELF-SUPPORTING GOLF-BAG.

1,384,078. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 12, 1921.

Application filed May 3, 1918. Serial No. 232,201.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE W. MAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Self-Supporting Golf-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to improvements in bags for the storage and transporting of golf clubs—commonly denominated golf bags.

The usual construction of golf bags is such that the same will not stand erect unless sustained by means extraneous to the bag. The supporting of these bags in erect position, when playing golf, is highly desirable in order that the several clubs may be available for ready selection for the different strokes. Ordinarily, golf bags are handled by caddies. Frequently, however, players dispense with caddies and carry their bags. In the latter circumstance, the player after selecting the appropriate club drops the bag on the ground, makes the stroke, and then reaches down for the bag to replace the club. This usually follows before he has determined the final destination of the ball, or has followed its flight. Loss of balls results and difficulty is experienced in locating the balls after they have come to rest.

The present invention aims to provide a golf bag which will be self-sustaining, thereby overcoming the objections above noted, and through the medium of which the bag will stand erect and be thus available to the player for the expeditious removal or replacement of clubs as occasion may require. The necessity for stooping for the bag, or groping for the same while the player is endeavoring to follow the flight of the ball, is thereby eliminated, and after its destination is observed the player may conveniently replace his club, grasp the bag without undue exertion, and proceed to the ball for effecting the next play.

A further object of the invention is to provide a golf bag of the class described which is so constructed that the requisite supporting mechanism may be embodied therein without diminishing the storage space of the bag or mutilating the appearance of the latter. The construction, furthermore, is such that the mechanism may be easily operated, and when moved to non-supporting position, the same will be effectually concealed and prevented from interfering with the free handling of the bag.

Other objects and advantages of the improvements will appear as the nature of the same is better understood, the invention consisting substantially in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and finally pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood, however, that the form herein shown and described is not to be taken in a restrictive sense, the same being but an illustrative embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a golf bag embodying the herein described invention, the supporting mechanism being shown in open or distended position;

Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view thereof, the parts being illustrated in the position appearing in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view of the base of the bag and supporting mechanism associated therewith; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional plan view corresponding to Fig. 2, but with the parts in closed position.

Referring now in detail to the accompanying drawings, the numeral 10 designates a golf bag the body of which is formed of material commonly employed for this purpose, and said body or bag 10 is likewise provided with the usual stays 11 incased by coverings 12 which extend lengthwise of the bag. At the lower portion of the bag 10 is a ferrule 13 in which the bottom 14 of the bag is arranged, and said bottom 14 is positioned at a point above the lower edge of the ferrule 13 whereby to form a space within the lower portion of the ferrule 13 in which is received the supporting means for the bag hereinafter described.

The numeral 15 designates a supporting plate the dimensions of which are such that the edges thereof will extend over the lower edges of the ferrule 13. This plate is preferably metal to give it stability. At the center of the supporting plate 15 is a vertically disposed stud 16, the lower end of which is secured in the supporting plate 15 by being upset, and journaled on said

stud 16, for pivotal movement thereon, is a pair of gear segments 17. These segments are in the form of flat plates arranged at right angles to each other, the ends of said plates 17 being provided with gear teeth 18 arranged on a curve the radius of which is struck from the vertically extending stud 16 as a center. The plates 17 are riveted together, as at 19, or otherwise secured in a suitable manner, whereby to retain them at right angles to each other. Each of the gear segments 17 has its teeth in engagement with a pinion 20 which is carried by the upstanding arm 21 of an angular supporting foot 22. These supporting feet 22 are formed by right angularly disposed arms, and in their distended position, illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, they provide an enlarged base for the bag 10 so that the latter will be maintained in upright position and without the necessity of being supported by any other means.

A spacing washer 23 is interposed between the supporting plate 15 and gear segments 17, while a similar washer 24 is likewise arranged above the gear segments and surrounds the upper end of the stud 16. The latter has its upper extremity reduced to form a neck 25 which finds a seat in a securing plate 26.

Interposed between the supporting plate 15 and the securing plate 26, and arranged at the marginal portions thereof, is a series of spacing blocks 27, the ends of these blocks being sufficiently separated to accommodate the pinions 20, and said supporting plate, spacing blocks and securing plate are held together in associated relation by means of a plurality of bolts 28, or equivalent fastening means. This constitutes the supporting mechanism for the bag as a unitary structure, which may be introduced to and removed from the space below the bottom 14 of the bag. When introduced into that space the supporting mechanism is fastened therein through the medium of a series of screws 29 which penetrate the ferrule 13 and enter the spacing blocks 27.

For the operation of the herein described supporting mechanism one of the upstanding arms 21 is elongated to provide a vertically disposed connecting rod 30 which is received by one of the stay coverings 12, and concealed thereby, and an operating handle 31 is connected to the upper end of the rod 30, the stay covering 12 being suitably apertured for permitting the operating handle 31 to project at the exterior of the bag to be conveniently manipulated.

It is also desirable that in the operation of the supporting feet 22 to and from their distended positions means be provided for assisting the movement thereof. To this end a pair of substantially U-shaped springs 32 is employed. These springs are arranged in crossed relation, the ends of each spring being directed to diagonally-opposite pinions 20 and being suitably connected to said pinions so that in the movement of the latter the springs will be slightly compressed and expanded when the feet 22 are swung to closed and opened positions, respectively. Inasmuch as the connecting rod 30 actuates but one of the pinions, it is obvious that the springs 32 greatly assist the throw of the feet 22 moving to and from the positions mentioned.

In order to limit the movement of the gear segments 17, and thus properly position the supporting feet 22, both in open and closed position thereof, a pair of stop pins 33 is employed. These pins are arranged at opposite sides of the stud 16, and in the spaces between contiguous ends of the gear segments 17. They are carried by the supporting plate 15 and project upwardly a sufficient distance to be contacted by both of the gear segments in the movement of the latter.

In the use of the herein described invention it is evident that the same may be applied to a golf bag without material modification of the present day construction of the latter. The location of the operating mechanism is such as not to diminish the storage space of the bag; neither will it mutilate the appearance of the latter. Being applied at the bottom of the bag it is effectually concealed and does not interfere with the free handling of the bag, and the connecting rod 30, being accommodated by the stay covering 12 of one of the stays 11, finds a covering in one of the usual adjuncts of a bag. The closed position of the supporting feet 22 is illustrated in Fig. 4, and it will be observed that the respective feet are nested together at the lower portion of the bag 10 and lie in close relation to each other. When it is desired to support the bag in erect position, the operating handle 31 is manipulated to rotate the connecting rod 30. This actuates the pinion 20 connected thereto which pinion, in turn, operates the gear teeth 18 of that end of the gear segment which is in mesh with this pinion. Movement is, therefore, imparted simultaneously to all of the pinions 20, and the supporting feet 22 are thrown outwardly to distended position illustrated in Fig. 2. This enlarges the base of the bag 10 and obviously sustains the bag in upright position. When it is desired to close the feet 22 it is simply necessary to operate the handle 31 in a reverse manner to that for opening the feet, whereupon the same will move to the position shown in Fig. 4, and again become nested, in which position the feet are out of the way, and the bag may be readily transported or carried about without interference and without the supporting feet 22 being

projected to any extent beyond the marginal portions of the bag as to cause interference with the handling of the latter.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in conjunction with a golf bag, for which the same is primarily designed, it is to be understood that its use is not to be restricted to bags of this character. The same is applicable to other types of receptacles which it is desired to maintain in upright position without the employment of extraneous means, and the adaptation of the invention to such extended use will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

If it be desired the connecting rod 30 may be of such length as to extend throughout the entire length of the stay covering 12 in which it is inclosed. In such event the necessity for employing a stay is overcome, the connecting rod 30 taking the place of the stay and providing the necessary rigidity to that portion of the bag at which the connecting rod is positioned.

I claim:

1. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet carried thereby and each comprising angularly-disposed arms one of which is pivotally connected to said body, said feet being adapted to fold together with the contiguous arms thereof nesting upon each other when in such folded relation, and means for actuating the supporting feet to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions.

2. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet pivotally connected thereto, a common actuating means for moving said supporting feet to supporting and non-supporting positions, and means arranged at the side of the bag for operating said actuating means.

3. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet pivotally connected thereto, a pinion carried by each supporting foot, gear connections meshing with said pinions for actuating the same, and means for operating said gear connections whereby to move the supporting means to supporting and non-supporting positions.

4. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet pivotally connected to said body, a pinion carried by each of said supporting feet, gear connections meshing with said pinions for actuating the supporting feet to move the latter to supporting and non-supporting positions, and means arranged at the side of the bag for actuating said gear connections.

5. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of laterally-movable supporting feet pivotally mounted on one end thereof, means for actuating said supporting feet to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions, and resilient means also associated with said supporting feet for assisting the movement of the latter.

6. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of laterally-movable supporting feet pivotally mounted on one end thereof, means for actuating said supporting feet to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions, and a plurality of springs also associated with said supporting feet for assisting the movement of the latter.

7. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet pivotally connected to said bag, a pinion connected to each of said supporting feet, gear connections between said pinions for imparting simultaneous movement thereto, whereby to move the supporting feet to supporting and non-supporting positions, and means for actuating said gear connections.

8. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof, of a plurality of supporting feet pivotally connected thereto, a pinion carried by each of said supporting feet, gear connections between said pinions for imparting simultaneous movement thereto, whereby to move the supporting feet to supporting and non-supporting positions, and an operating rod connected to one of said pinions and arranged at the side of the bag.

9. In a bag of the class described, the combination with one end thereof provided with a space, of supporting means arranged in said space, means for detachably holding said supporting means in said space, and means for actuating said supporting means to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions.

10. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at one end, of a support detachably mounted in said space, supporting means carried by said support, and means for actuating said supporting means to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions.

11. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at one end, of a support arranged in said space, means for detachably holding said support in said space, supporting means carried by said support and including a plurality of angularly disposed feet pivotally mounted with respect to the bag, and means for actuating said supporting feet to move the same to supporting and non-supporting positions.

12. In a bag of the class described, the

combination with the body thereof having a space formed at one of its ends, of a support arranged in said space, a plurality of supporting feet pivotally mounted on said support and capable of simultaneous movement to supporting and non-supporting positions, and means for actuating said supporting feet.

13. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space formed at one of its ends, of a support arranged in said space, a plurality of supporting feet pivotally mounted on said support and capable of simultaneous movement into supporting and non-supporting positions, a pinion carried by each of said supporting feet, gear connections between said pinions for simultaneously actuating the same, and means for acuating said gear connections.

14. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at its bottom end, of supporting means detachably mounted in said space and including a plurality of pivoted supporting feet, said feet when closed nesting together on the bottom of the bag and when open projecting beyond the edges thereof, actuating means for imparting simultaneous movement to said supporting feet, and means for operating said actuating means.

15. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at its bottom end, of supporting means detachably mounted in said space and including a plurality of pivoted supporting feet, said feet when closed nesting together on the bottom of the bag and when open projecting beyond the edges thereof, actuating means for imparting simultaneous movement to said supporting feet, and means arranged at the side of the bag for operating said actuating means.

16. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at its bottom end, of supporting means detachably mounted in said space, and including a plurality of pivoted supporting feet equi-distantly spaced about the peripheral edges of the bottom, said feet when closed nesting together on the bottom of the bag and when open projecting beyond the edges thereof, a pinion connected to each of said supporting feet, gear connections between said pinions for imparting simultaneous movement thereto, and means arranged at the side of the bag for operating said gear connections.

17. In a bag of the class described, the combination with the body thereof having a space at its bottom end, of supporting means detachably mounted in said space, and including a plurality of pivoted supporting feet equi-distantly spaced about the peripheral edges of the bottom, said feet when closed nesting together on the bottom of the bag and when open projecting beyond the edges thereof, a pinion connected to each of said supporting feet, a pair of gear segments arranged at right angles to each other and engaging said pinions for imparting simultaneous movement thereto, and means for actuating said gear segments.

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THEODORE W. MAY.

Witnesses:
WM. NEVARRE CROMWELL,
MARY C. BROWER.