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INDICATOR FOR GOLF CLUBS

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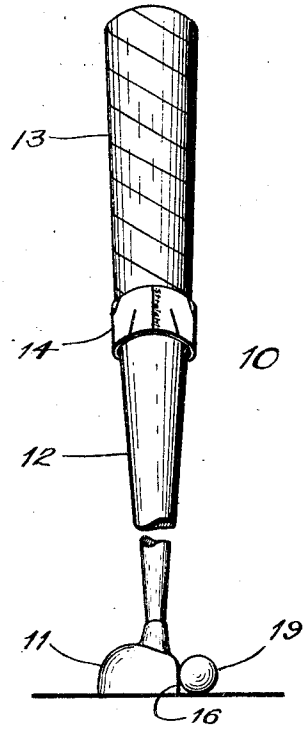


Fig. 1

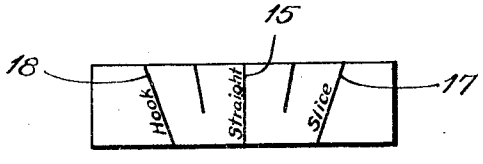


Fig. 2

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INDICATOR FOR GOLF CLUBS.

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My invention relates to an indicator for golf clubs.

The principal object of my invention is to devise an attachment for golf clubs which is arranged both to assist the player in properly dressing the club so that the striking edge, or face, will be correctly presented to the ball preparatory to making the stroke and also to associate with the foregoing means, suitable indicia that will insure such a positioning of the guiding, or controlling, hand of the player as will secure the intended direction and trajectory when the club head impacts with the ball.

A further object is to arrange the foregoing features in a golf club attachment which when secured to the club does not interfere with the smoothness of the grip surface, thereby permitting a variety of hand-holds without irritation to the player.

A further object is to incorporate the above features in an attachment which may be quickly and easily applied to golf clubs, either during or after manufacture, and which may be sold for a minimum price.

Heretofore, golf club devices of the same general character as that involved in the present application have usually taken the form either of a sighting marker disposed on the grip for assistance in correctly positioning the club head with reference to the ball before making the stroke, or have consisted of attachments which are adjustably secured to the grip and adapted to facilitate a uniform grasping of the club in order to obtain shots of the desired character.

It is a well known fact that the essence of good golf driving lies in a proper action of the wrists and that an analysis of the part played by each hand during a drive for a right hand player shows that the right hand guides, or controls, the club while the left hand performs the driving function. As a necessary corollary to the foregoing, it is further well understood that a correct dressing of the head of the club preparatory to making the stroke must be followed by a properly directed impact with the ball, otherwise the desired direction and trajectory will not be obtained. Different positions of the hand around the grip produce corresponding changes in the character of the impact of the club head with the ball and therefore of the resulting shot. Hence, it is obvious that while a marker, or other aligning device, is of material assistance in the preliminary step, it is entirely valueless so far as assuring correct impact is concerned.

The adjustable attachments hereinbefore mentioned are also objectionable in that they form protuberances on the grip and must be continually readjusted to accord with the variation in the skill of the player. Moreover, when once in position, the use of the club is restricted to one type of shot, thus destroying its adaptability to the changing conditions of play.

It is the object of my invention to devise an attachment in the form of a band which is to be secured adjacent the lower portion of the grip and to be provided with suitable indicia as hereinafter described. This band carries an index line whereby the head of the club may be initially positioned in the manner now old in the art and also additional index lines by which the player may obtain any desired direction in driving, or overcome objectionable tendencies while performing the same operation. Some players exhibit a tendency to either "hook" or "slice" the ball and special club heads have been designed to overcome these defects. However, these clubs are of no value after the faults have been cured, except for special shots. Again, a player's skill varies from day to day and it is therefore desirable to provide an attachment which, without interfering with standard club design or affecting the smoothness of the grip surface, will secure a uniformity in driving or other midfield play, enable special shots to be readily made with standard clubs and promote a general improvement in the play.

These and further objects of my invention will be set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and the novel means by which said objects are effectuated will be definitely pointed out in the claim.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is an elevation of a golf club showing the club in position for play with my improved indicator attached thereto.

Figure 2 is a developed plan view of the indicator as the same would appear to the player.

In the drawing:

The numeral 10 represents a golf club having the usual head 11, shaft 12, and grip 13. The indicator 14 is secured to said grip adjacent the lower portion thereof.

Said indicator comprises a band which is

preferably formed from a waterproof paper or fabric, or a suitable thin piece of metal. From the character of this material, it is clear that the indicator will not extend appreciably beyond the surface of the grip, thereby avoiding undue friction with the hands. If it is found desirable to use a band of relatively large thickness, a recess may be cut in the grip and the band secured therein flush with the surface of said grip.

The indicator band carries an index line 15 which is parallel with the end edges of the band and usually midway therebetween. When applied to the club, the band will be arranged so that the line 15 will be parallel with the striking face 16 of the head 11 and accordingly with the axis of the club 10. For convenience, the line 15 may bear the legend "straight". A second index line 17 is disposed on the right hand side of the line 15, as the player grasps the club, and a third index line 18 is disposed on the left hand side of the line 15. The lines 17 and 18 are angularly positioned relative to the line 15 in order to register with the natural position of the player's thumb as it lies along the grip 13. Additional index lines may be imprinted on the indicator 14 between the line 15 and the lines 17 and 18. The line 17 bears the legend "Slice" and the line 18 bears the legend "Hook".

In using a club provided with my improved indicator, the grip will be grasped in any desired manner as preferred by the player and the club head 11 dressed to the ball 19 through the medium of the index line 15. Assuming that the player is of the right hand type and that his driving is characterized by a tendency to slice the ball when the grip is held as above, he will then move his right, or controlling, hand around the grip until the thumb registers with the line 18, or a line between the line 18 and the line 15. A trial shot will then be made to ascertain whether such a positioning of the right hand will secure a straight drive; if so, the thumb position will be noted and the club thereafter grasped at this location. Otherwise, additional shots will be made until the desired location is found. If the player has a hooking tendency in his play, the right hand will be moved in the opposite direction and the same procedure followed.

For a left hand player, the above steps will be reversed as will also the marking of the indicator band.

It is therefore apparent that my improved indicator band will be of material assistance to a player whose driving possesses the inherent faults noted above, as it will enable him to straighten out his drives and by gradually working his right hand back to the normal position, eventually bring his play to a state of perfection. During this period of adjustment, the index lines affords him a means whereby he is certain of always grasping the club in a uniform manner. The same advantage is available to the more skilled player on those days when his game falls below its usual standard.

Moreover, it will be particularly noted that my indicator is embodied in a device which does not detract from the smoothness of the grip and which does not require adjustment from day to day. Its advantages are present for those who desire to make use of the same, but as the indicator occupies an unobtrusive position on the grip, it does not interfere with the ordinary handling of the same.

My improved device is not restricted for use on drivers as such, but may be adapted to any of the clubs which are utilized for midfield play and may be applied to putters.

While I have shown one set of elements and combinations thereof for carrying into effect my improved indicator, I do not desire to be limited to the exact form and structure shown, for many changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

A golf club provided with a band having a central index line on the grip thereof for aligning the club head relative to a ball and an index line disposed on each side of said central line for determining the position of the controlling hand of a player.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

JOHN H. KEATING.