May 31, 1966 J. C. KOETTING 3,253,628

GOLF CLUB HEAD COVERS

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Fig. 1

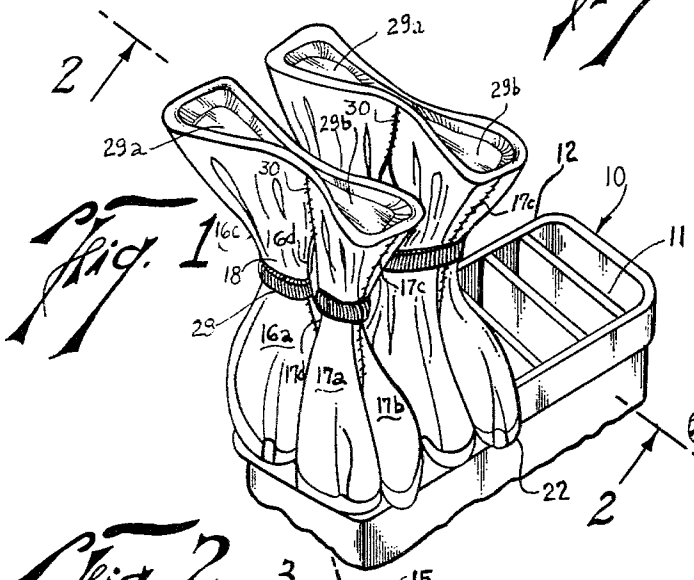


Fig. 3

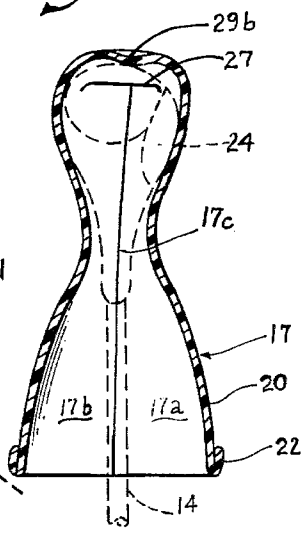
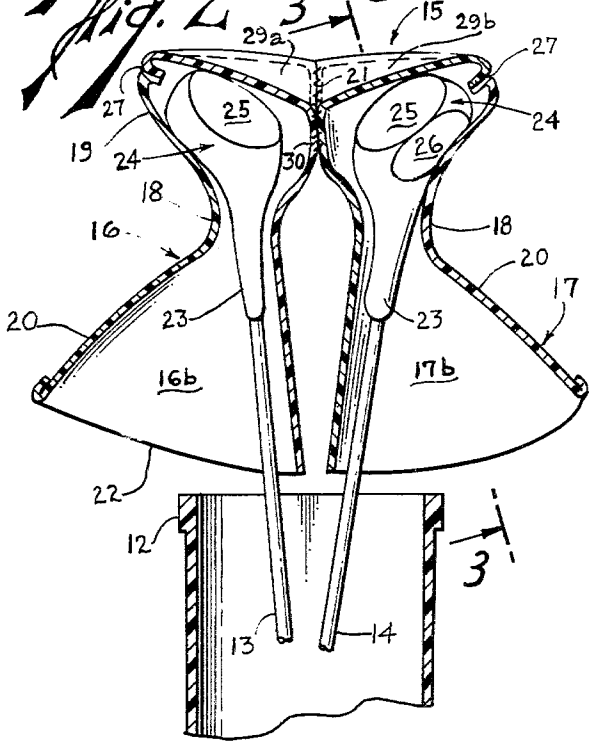


Fig. 2



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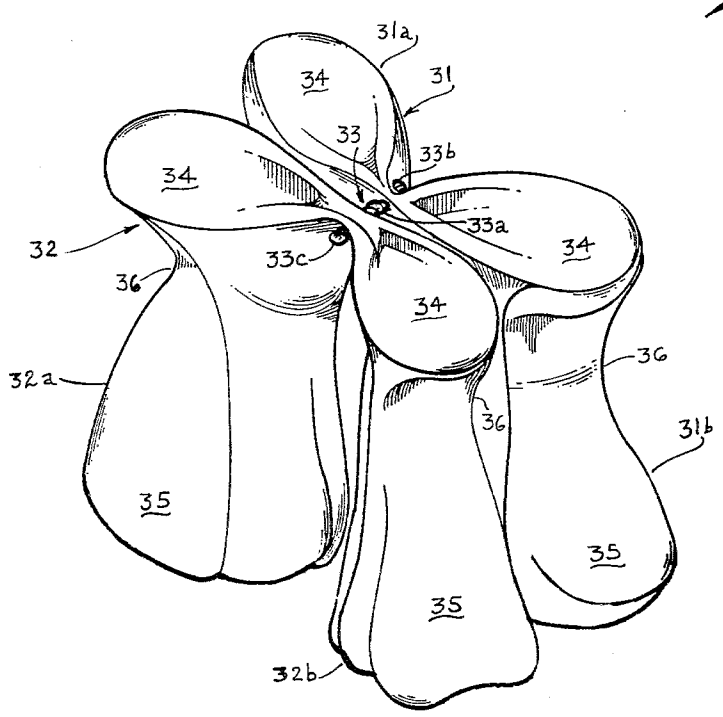
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Fig. 4



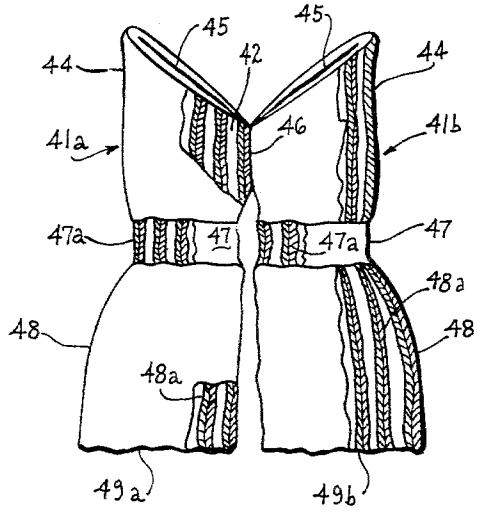


Fig. 5

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GOLF CLUB HEAD COVERS

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9 Claims. (Cl. 150—52)

This invention relates to golf club head covers adapted to restrain therein the oppositely outwardly extending, closely adjacent heads of a pair of clubs having shafts which rest upon the bottom of a retaining golf bag, whereby to draw the shafts into substantially adjacently extending, upstanding positions, as the golf bag may be carried from place to place; the individual cover portions for each head being constructed to be readily removed to offer easy access to the clubs, this application being a continuation-in-part application of co-pending application Serial No. 242,820, filed December 6, 1962, for Golf Club Head Covers.

As a primary object the invention sets out to provide a golf club head cover designed to restrain a pair of oppositely facing golf club heads in manner that they do not contact each other as carried; the shafts thereof resting upon the bottom of the golf bag, and extending upwardly with hosels substantially adjacent when the clubs are carried; the invention also being constructed so that the clutch may be easily placed for carriage, and easily accessible for withdrawal for use by providing the individual covers so constructed as to be removable by deft manual operation.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a golf club head in covered position and uppermost while the other clutch of the pair is being used.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a golf club head cover of this class which is easily fabricated, which is of light and inexpensive material, and which is easily installed and removed.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a golf club head cover of this class in which each pocket is adapted to be fabricated of one or more pieces of cover material in manner to form an efficient assembled cover by modern mass production methods.

It is also an important object of the invention to provide a golf club head cover of this class in which a plurality of pairs of golf clubs may be interconnected together.

It is still an additional object of the invention to provide a golf club head cover of this class in which the junction between oppositely facing cover caps, tops, or head portions are interconnected by a junction seam or line which terminates below the central top of the pair of pockets, but a spaced distance above the throats thereof.

It is still a further and additional object of this invention to provide a golf club head cover of this class in which the skirts or bottom portions of the cover sections are enlarged substantially wider than the throats, with hems or lowermost dimension greater in peripheral dimension than any peripheral dimension of the pocket, or cup or golf club head receiving portion.

Other ond further objects will be apparent when the specification herein is considered in connection with the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a pictorial view, substantially isometric, showing the covers for two pair of golf clubs as such are positioned in a golf bag partitioned in manner to provide a compartment for each pair of clubs;

FIG. 2 is a transverse sectional elevation taken along line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an end view taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a pictorial view, substantially isometric, showing adjoined two double golf club head covers illustrative of how four such covers may be employed while remaining adjoined, but in construction and arrangement permitting any individual cover to be removed without affecting the other covers as to their main functioning; and

FIG. 5 is an elevational view of a pair of golf club head covers illustrative of this invention as fabricated out of knitted material.

Referring now in detail to the drawings in which like reference numerals are applied to like elements in the various views, a golf bag **10** is shown in FIG. 1 having upstanding partition walls **11** therein and a binding rim **12** around the top to further restrain the partition walls **11** in aligned transverse position.

A pair of golf clubs, including a club **13** and a club **14**, as shown in FIG. 2, is placed in each compartment with the shafts of the clubs downwardly. A cover **15** is provided for each pair of clubs to extend over the heads thereof when the heads face oppositely. Each cover **15** is thus comprised of two individual covers **16** and **17**, respectively, into which the heads of the respective clubs **14** and **13** extend. Each individual cover **16** and **17** is of lesser width at its throat **18** than the width of the head or pocket **19** of each cover, and also below each throat **18** each cover is flared out to a skirt **20** which is also of substantially greater width and peripheral dimension than the throat, and preferably of greater width than the respective head or pocket **19**. Each cover thus bears such relation to the club **24** therein that when installed the bottom **22** of a cover is well below the hosel **23** of the golf club head **24** which the pocket covers.

Referring now to FIG. 2, it can be seen that the clubs **14** and **13** are restrained in their shafts in substantially adjacent positions or in abutment at the bottom of the golf bag. The clubs then extend angularly upwardly and outwardly in opposite directions so that the club heads **24** are slightly spaced apart at the top. The hosels **23** of the clubs are within the respective covers **15** and the hems or bottoms **22** of the covers are disposed to some extent below the hosels. The toe plates **25** of the respective clubs **13** and **14** thus rest within the pockets or tops **19** of the respective individual covers **16** and **17** in positions slightly spaced below the uppermost points of these individual covers, while the face plates **26**, which are at substantial right angles thereto, face sidewardly.

In construction each cover **16** and **17** is shown to be comprised of complemental, respective right and left sections **16***a*, **16***b* and **17***a*, **17***b* which are sewed together by respective outer and inner vertical seams **16***c*, **16***d* and **17***c*, **17***d* with the upper, inner seams **16***d*, **17***d* being joined or merged near the top in a hinge seam **30**. Respective top members **29***a* and **29***b* may be provided for each cover **16**, **17**, and sewed in to join the covers **16** and **17** at the top, and the two parts **29***a* and **29***b* may comprise a single piece of material, or they may be comprised of two pieces of material. As a matter of fact, each cover may be comprised of one or more parts of material, as mass production methods may require.

In the particular form of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–3, inclusive, the top members **29***a* and **29***b* are separate and are sewed together at their inner edges along a seam **21**, above the vertical seam **30**, and outwardly the respective top members **29***a*, **29***b* are connected to the respective heads or pockets **19** along a seam **27**. As a matter of choice, an elastic or contractible ruffle **28** is provided around each throat **18**, as shown in FIG. 1, to maintain the throat contracted around the hosel **23** of the respective club whose head has been passed upwardly therethrough, or, as indicated in FIG. 2, the material of the cover, or at least of the throat **18** may be itself stretchable and contractible.

As shown in FIG. 4, two other forms of golf club head covers **31** and **32** are joined by a connection cord **33**, as

for instance, a cord having a knot 33*a* between the top central parts of each cover and knots 33*b* and 33*c*, respectively, to the left and right of the respective covers 31, 32, thereby to join them together in manner to permit each separate pocket or single head cover to be moved in hingedly pivoted relationship.

Each cover 31, 32 comprises a pair of golf club head covers 32*a*, 32*b* and 31*a*, 31*b*, respectively, and in each case the individual golf club head cover comprises a pocket top or head cover 34 to receive the head of a club therein. A flared skirt 35 serves the lowermost member thereof, and a throat or reduced diameter portion 36, which is of smaller diameter or dimension than the pocket or head cover 34 thereabove, and also substantially smaller peripheral dimension than the skirt 35 therebelow, serves as the connection member between head cover and throat. The individual golf club head covers 31*a*, 31*b* and 32*a*, 32*b* are shown in FIG. 4 as if integrally formed together but with the location of connection being above the throat 36 and in manner that the covers of a pair are hingedly connected. Also, as a noticeable feature, the respective pairs of covers 31, 32 are hingedly connected by the cord 33 and the knot portion 33*a* thereof.

In this form of the invention as aforesaid, the covers of each pair or each pair of covers may be made of an integrally formed piece of material, either of fabric or of plastic, and also each pair, or each cover of a pair may be made of one or several pieces, cut as mass production assembly methods may dictate.

As shown in FIG. 5, an optional form or embodiment is disclosed of knitted fabric or thread, a pair 40 of individual head covers 41*a* and 41*b* being formed with an inner single thickness layer 42, or knitted pattern, indicated by the parts in white, having spaced apart longitudinally extending ridges 43 of material superimposed, as stretchable strength member, over the single thickness inner layer which is of configuration to cover the golf club heads, correspondingly as disclosed in FIGS. 1–4, inclusive, hereinabove.

In this case each cover 41*a* or 41*b* comprises a head cover or pocket 44, substantially of configuration shown, thus with the top part cover 45 to be normally folded inwardly, while the top of each pocket extends outwardly and upwardly from the hinge seam 46. Also, in this form of the invention, the reduction of throat 47 is formed by laying out the single thickness under layer 42 with a lesser throat dimension, with spaced apart, longitudinally extending, reenforcing throat ribs 47*a* provided in such throat, as shown.

The skirts 48*a*, 48*b* of the respective golf club head covers 41*a*, 41*b* are of the configuration shown in FIG. 5, as to side elevation. Each skirt is formed of the single thickness, knitted fabric layer, with parallel, longitudinally extending reenforcing ribs spaced apart as shown, thereby to provide the flared open bottoms 49*a*, 49*b*, so that easy access may be had into the open bottoms of the skirts to "shuck" off the skirt of the golf club head cover of a respective golf club, as selected for use.

In this form of the invention, as in the preceding forms, it should be noticeable that the hinge seam 46, by which the respective covers 41*a*, 41*b*, are hingedly joined back-to-back for a part of the distance below the top, does not extend all the way down to the throat 47, but only part of the way, thus to provide for an effective hinge action.

The invention is not limited to the exact structures shown, but rather considers all types of structures, and forms providing snugly fitting golf club head pockets hingedly connected back-to-back with hinge to extend downwardly from the top wherein the hinge terminates at or above the throat, of reduced dimension and of stretchability, with a skirt below the throat and flared out to larger dimension with open bottom. These structures having the aforesaid specifications are considered as long as such fall within the broad spirit of the invention, and within the broad scope of interpretation claimed for and merited by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf club head cover to cover a pair of golf club heads with heads upwardly and with hosels adjacently and back to back and head thus extending outwardly in opposite directions, said cover including a pair of pockets, each pocket having downwardly an extensible throat expansible to admit a club head therethrough and normally contractible to bind against the hosel slightly below the club head, each cover having a skirt for each pocket extending below its throat and of substantially greater peripheral dimension than the throat to which it is adjoined, whereby to guidably receive a club head for insertion through the throat into the pocket and to cover the upper part of the club hosel, said skirt, as dimensioned, thus being of size to permit the pocket to be removed from a club head as the throat is released by shucking it over the club head, said pockets being hingedly connected adjacent the top inner parts thereof and above said throat whereby a pocket may be manipulated to receive, or to be removed from, one club head while the other pocket remains covering an opposed club head, and said pockets extending downwardly and outwardly from said hinge connection.

2. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each cover of a pair is comprised of a single piece of material.

3. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each cover of a pair is comprised of a plurality of pieces of material.

4. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each skirt extends a greater vertical distance below the respective throat to which it is joined than the pocket extends in vertical distance above such throat.

5. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each cover of a pair is comprised of a fabric material.

6. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each cover is comprised of a plastic material.

7. A golf club head cover as claimed in claim 1 in which each cover is comprised of a knitted fabric material.

8. A plurality of golf club head covers to cover a plurality of pairs of golf clubs, each pair of golf club being disposed with hosels upwardly and adjacently back to back whereby the respective heads extend outwardly in opposite directions, the cover for each pair including a pair of pockets to fit over the respective heads with clearance and each pocket having an extensible and normally contractible throat downwardly to contract about a respective hosel, an open bottom skirt below the throat of each pocket and flared outwardly with hem lowermost and of substantially greater peripheral dimension than said throat, hinge means including means to hingedly connect the pockets of each pair together back to back with said hinge means being disposed above the respective throats of the respective pair of pockets it connects, said hinge means also including means to adjacently connect pairs of covers.

9. A plurality of golf club head covers to cover a plurality of pairs of golf clubs, as claimed in claim 8, in which said hinge means includes a cord disposed centrally between, and knotted between, a pair of covers and extending outwardly therefrom through adjacent pairs and knotted at each end outwardly of said pairs.

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