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GOLFER'S GLOVE

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Fig. 1.

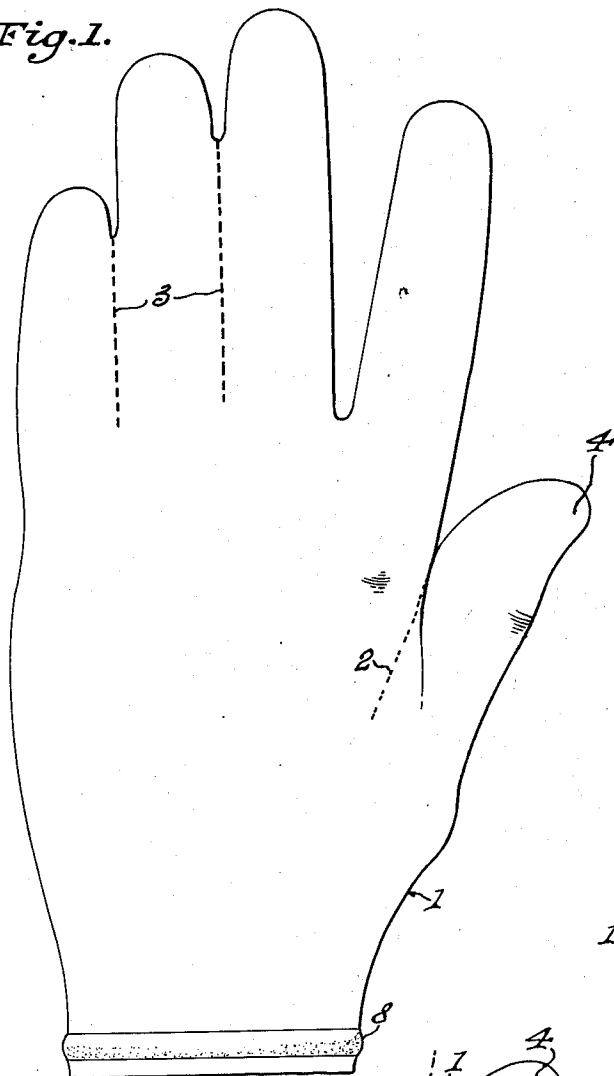


Fig. 2.

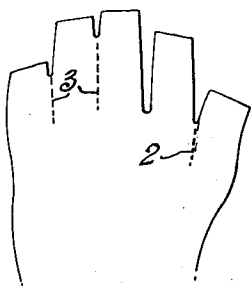
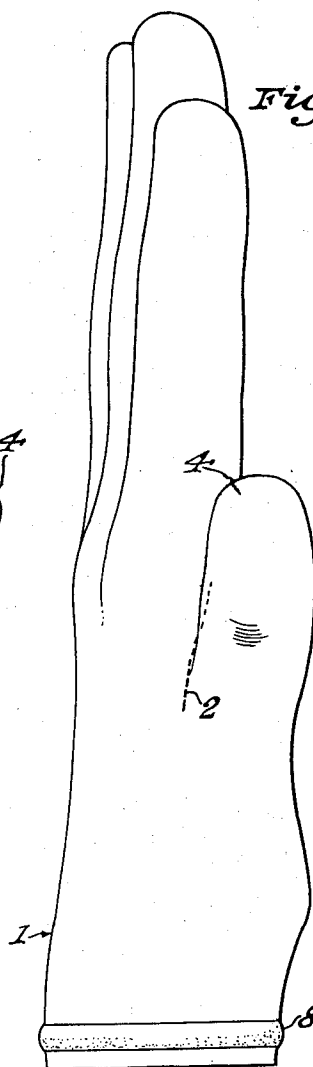


Fig. 4.

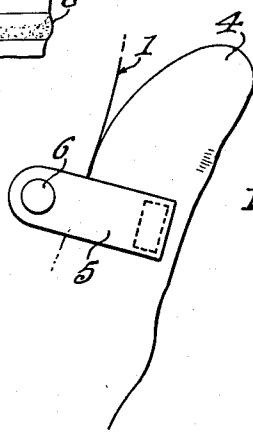


Fig. 3.

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## GOLFER'S GLOVE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—161)

(Granted under Title 35, U.S. Code (1952), sec. 266)

The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to a golfer's glove and improvements therein.

A common fault of the average golfer is maintaining the proper grip on the golf club throughout the entire golf swing. One of the important elements in maintaining the proper grip during the motion of the swing is keeping the thumb of the left hand (in the case of a right-handed golfer and vice-versa in the case of a left-handed golfer) from sliding up the club. Another important element is keeping the fingers of the left hand gripping the club firmly. If any slippage occurs in the grip, the club face will generally not return to the ball in precisely the position of address, thereby causing the ball to veer from the intended path of flight.

When gripping a golf club properly, it is noted that the thumb of the left hand (and of the right hand too for that matter) is compressed from the second joint and just past the first joint against the side of the hand and index finger along the inner part of the hand or palm side with the thumb free to bend from the first joint. As the club moves towards the top of the backswing, the relative positions of thumb to index finger and thumb and index finger to the club should remain the same. However, these relative positions are often not maintained. Part of the reason for slipping or shifting of the club is due to failure to maintain such relative positions. Similarly, if the second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand (excluding the index finger) curl around the club shaft firmly throughout the swing without slippage, chances of a bad shot are likewise reduced.

An object of the invention is to enable the golfer to correctly grip the club and maintain the correct grip throughout the swing.

Another object is to provide the player with a glove (or gloves) that aid him in automatically gripping the club properly throughout the swing by maintaining the proper relationship between the index finger and thumb at all times.

Still another object is to provide gloves that enable a golfer to insure good gripping with the second, third and fourth fingers.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the dorsal side of the glove embodying features of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the glove illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view of the dorsal side of the glove showing a modification; and

Fig. 4 is a view of the dorsal side of the glove showing another embodiment of the invention.

Looking now with more particularity at Fig. 1, the full glove 1 has the standard thumb insert or compartment 4

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sewed or otherwise connected to the side of the hand portion. The connection extends from the junction of the thumb compartment and the hand portion to a point approximately half-way between the junction and the end of the thumb compartment. It will be noted that when the thumb compartment is thus connected to the hand portion, the connection will extend to a point adjacent the first joint of the wearer's thumb, and the wearer's thumb will be held against the hand from the second joint to approximately the first joint and the longitudinal axis of the thumb will automatically be positioned approximately in the plane of the palm of the hand. The glove 1 may be made out of comparatively thin flexible leather or other suitable material, in which case it may be necessary to reinforce the leather adjacent the seam or other means which connects the thumb compartment to the hand portion with stronger material such as nylon to prevent the thread from ripping out of the leather. For example, one suitable method of reinforcing the seam might be a loop of nylon encircling the base of the first finger and the first joint of the thumb and sewn to the leather of the glove. Seams 3 insure that inserts for the second, third and fourth fingers remain together. Fig. 2 shows the position of the thumb insert 4 with respect to the inner or palm side of the index finger insert. The glove 1 has an elastic or similar wrist band 8 to insure that the glove stays on the hand.

Fig. 3 shows a modification of the glove. The seam 2 is replaced by a strap 5 which is held in place by snap-on 6. This gives the golfer greater mobility of index finger and thumb when not gripping the club. Simply by unsnapping button 6, he can use his thumb and index fingers as he would with an ordinary glove. Whenever he gets ready to address the ball, he simply snaps the button 6 holding the thumb in place with strap 5. This strap may be of such width that it essentially duplicates the seam 2 in that it extends approximately over the same length as the seam.

Fig. 4 is another embodiment employing all the novel features of the invention but comprising open end short finger portions for added tactility.

It is understood that the glove may be for the right hand or left hand. A glove for each hand with the novel features as shown could be used also insuring slip-free grip for the fingers and thumbs of both hands; however, it is sufficient generally that the left hand of a right-hand golfer be gloved and vice-versa.

As clearly illustrated in Fig. 1, a golfer using glove 1 will find his thumb in ready position for gripping the golf club properly and can be assured that the proper pressure will be constantly exerted at the proper point of the shaft through the thumb and index finger. As indicated by Fig. 2, the thumb is held against the hand in a way that the plane of the palm intersects the longitudinal central axis of the thumb with the first joint of the thumb free to bend slightly while the second joint is more or less immobilized. As the thumb will be held in more closely to the index finger than is customary, the ability to grasp objects (other than the club shaft) with the index finger and thumb will be somewhat restricted. The embodiment shown in Fig. 3 alleviates this condition by allowing the golfer to resume normal thumb to index finger positioning upon completion of the swing by unsnapping the small flap 5 and reversing the process when ready to swing again. Strap 5 may be adjusted for the individual initially and thereafter will correctly maintain the proper position for gripping. Similarly seam 2 may be adjusted initially if necessary. However, the usual glove sizes will take care of most hands.

It is understood that the invention may take other forms in addition to those illustrated in the drawings. Consequently the invention is not limited to the preferred

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form only. For example, it may be that good manufacturing practice would dictate the use of fastening means other than the snap fastener 6. Also the principle of containing the thumb as disclosed may be useful in other sports and endeavors.

I claim:

1. A golf glove having a hand portion for the hand of a wearer and an associated compartment for the thumb of a wearer with the thumb compartment connected to the side of the hand portion, the thumb compartment being held against the hand portion from the junction between the thumb compartment and the hand portion to a point approximately half-way between said junction and the end of the thumb compartment so that the thumb of the wearer between the first and second joints will be held against the adjacent side of the hand of the wearer with the longitudinal axis of the thumb approximately in the plane of the palm of the hand.

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2. A golf glove as set out in claim 1 wherein the inner side of the thumb compartment is connected to the adjacent side of the hand portion by a seam of stitching extending from the junction of the thumb compartment and the hand portion to a point approximately half-way between said junction and the end of the thumb compartment.

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