Sept. 7, 1926. 1,599,207

S. D. CAPEN, JR

GOLFING TEE

Filed March 26, 1925

Fig. 1

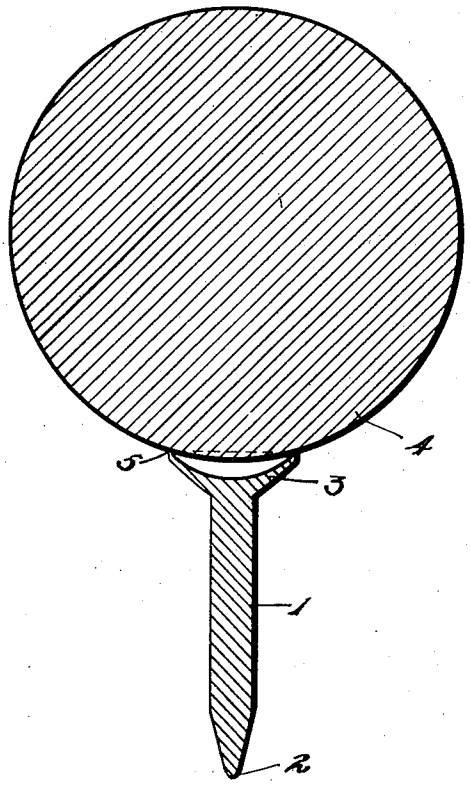


Fig. 4

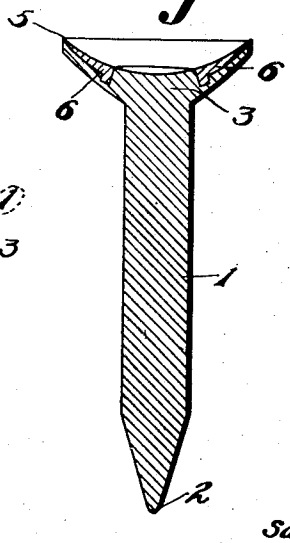


Fig. 3

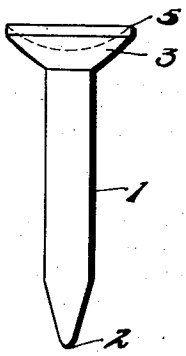
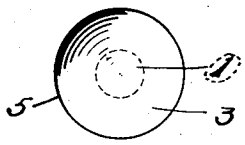


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL D. CAPEN, JR., OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO PEYTON T. CARR, JR., OF CLAYTON, MISSOURI.

GOLFING TEE.

Application filed March 26, 1925. Serial No. 18,579.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in tees for golf balls and more particularly to re-usable tees made of metal or some material sufficiently strong to withstand ordinary usage.

The object of my invention is to provide a golf tee that will produce top spin or rotation in the direction of travel of the driven golf ball.

Another object is to provide a golf tee made of some metallic substance which is soft enough not to injure the golf club should it come in contact with the tee during the player's drive.

A still further object is to provide a portion of the tee of a metal that is less malleable than that of the main body of the tee, this portion to come in direct contact with and support the ball.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a cross sectional view of a golf ball mounted on my improved golf tee.

Figure 2 is a top view of my golf tee.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view.

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view showing the ball supporting rim formed of a different piece.

The numeral 1 in the drawings indicates the shank portion of my golf tee. The lower end of this shank member is tapered to a point as indicated at 2 to facilitate its insertion into the ground. At the upper end of this shank a cup-shaped top 3 is located and upon which a golf ball 4 is adapted to be placed. The cup-shaped portion of my tee is formed integrally with the shank and has its concave or open side at the top away from the shank. The inner curvature of this cup-shaped member is struck from an imaginary radius which is shorter than the radius of the golf ball. The result is that a golf ball when placed on my improved tee rests on the sharp rim 5 of the cup-shaped top.

A sand tee, which is the type customarily used, conforms to the surface of the ball and when the ball is driven, its tendency is to slide off the tee and travel without any rotation or with reverse rotation in its flight, dependent upon the manner in which the golf club strikes the ball. This condition is present whether the tee is made of sand, rubber, or any other material so long as the surface of the ball is in conformity with the surface it rests upon. This is caused by the fact that the clubs used for driving are provided with a vertical ball contacting surface and must strike the ball at or slightly below the point indicated by the arrow in Figure 1 in order to produce a flight. If the ball is struck above this point there is no flight because the ball is driven toward the ground. When a golf club with an inclined face is used, the ball is lofted, without rotation if struck squarely, or with reverse rotation if a so-called chop stroke is used.

In my improved golf ball tee, when the ball is driven, the tendency is to roll over the forward edge of the ball supporting rim. This creates what is known as top spin in the ball during its flight. Top spin or rotation in the direction of travel is a highly desirable condition because its effect is to increase the distance that the ball will roll after it has struck the ground, thus lengthening the drive.

Referring to Figure 1, if the ball is struck at the point indicated by the arrow, or slightly below this point, the rim 5 which forms a comparatively sharp edge resists the ball's sliding motion which has been imparted to it by the driving club. The top portion of the ball without this resistance goes ahead relatively faster than the part of the ball in contact with the rim of the tee and in this manner top spin is introduced.

It is desirable in the manufacture of my improved golf tee to use some extremely malleable metal, such as lead, to reduce the liability of damaging a wooden club in the event that the driver's stroke is so low as to hit the tee. Another advantage of my lead tee is that it may be stepped upon by a person wearing ordinary golfing shoes without injury to the shoe or foot.

The enlarged view in Figure 4 shows a rim member 6 of a somewhat less malleable metal than the remainder of the tee. This is a more expensive construction than my preferred form but the practical life of the tee is greatly increased. By the use of a hard metal to form the rim, the rim is better

able to withstand hard usage before breaking down. This type of construction still presents a soft surface at the portions apt to be struck by a club.

If it is desired, a golf player using my improved golf tee may within certain limits regulate the amount of top spin which is to be introduced to the driven ball by the angle at which the tee is placed in the ground. If the point is inclined in the direction that the ball is to be driven, there will be a relatively large amount of top spin. If the tee is inclined away from the direction that the ball is to be driven, top spin may be eliminated.

It is obvious that minor changes in the size, form and construction of my improved golfing tee may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of my invention as expressed in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A golfing tee comprising a shank and a cup-shaped member thereon formed of a soft malleable metal, and a ball supporting rim of a relatively hard metal on said cup-shaped member.

2. A golfing tee comprising a shank and a cup-shaped member integrally formed, and a ball supporting rim located interiorly of said cup-shaped member.

3. A golfing tee comprising a shank having a pointed end, and a cup-shaped enlargement at the opposite end, the interior surface of said cup-shaped enlargement having a shorter radius than a golf ball, and a ball supporting rim mounted interiorly of said cup-shaped enlargement.

4. A golfing tee comprising a shank, a ball supporting portion on said shank, said ball supporting portion being of less malleable material than said shank.

5. In a golfing tee, a shank of malleable material, and a ball supporting portion on said shank of relatively non-malleable material.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature this 21st day of March, 1925.

SAMUEL D. CAPEN, JR.