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GOLF TEE AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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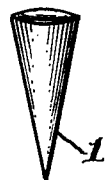
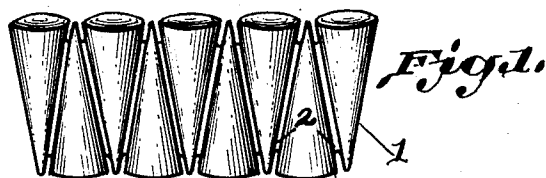


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

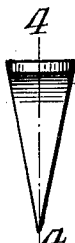


Fig. 3.

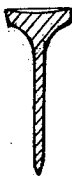


Fig. 5.

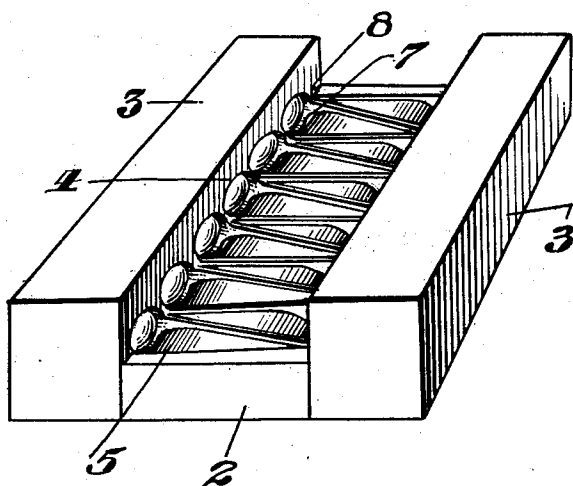
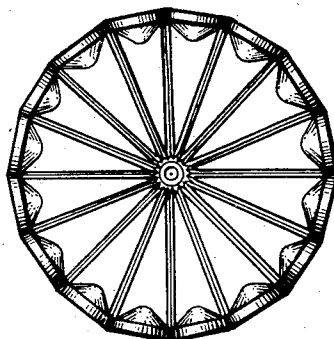


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.



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GOLF TEE AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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This invention relates to golf tees of the general character now commonly used in substitution for sand tees, the same being a small painted object adapted to be inserted into the ground and having a depression or recess in the top thereof in which a golf ball can be placed. These tees are made of many different materials such as wood, metal, celluloid, etc., and are commonly sold in boxes containing a dozen or more individual tees.

As one who is interested in golf and has used and seen others use these tees, I am aware that inconvenience and annoyance is frequently caused by having a number of such tees loose in the pocket. The sharp ends sometimes come in contact with the body with discomforting results and more frequently they pierce the sweater or other clothing in which they are carried and thus harm the fabric; if other small objects are carried in the pocket it is almost impossible to withdraw the same without emptying the pocket of its entire contents. Furthermore, it is unsatisfactory to carry around in one's pocket a more or less bulky box containing tees, not only because of the space thus consumed but also because of the inconvenience of continually having to open the box in withdrawing or replacing tees, and as such boxes soon become crushed or broken open in the pocket, they are then discarded and left to clutter up the golf course.

It is the purpose of my invention, among other things, to avoid and overcome the difficulties and objections above stated. This I accomplish in the manner hereinafter set forth in connection with the drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a plurality of carrot shaped tees formed in one piece in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an individual tee separated from the strip shown in Fig. 1, and ready for use;

Fig. 3 is a side view of an individual tee of somewhat different shape;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4-4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a plurality

of tees of the shape shown in Figs. 3 and 4, formed in one piece; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a portion of a mould suitable for making the tees shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is an end view of a plurality of tees showing a monogram section.

My invention contemplates an improved golf tee and also the manufacture of golf tees in such a manner that the same may be separably connected in the manufacturing process and are adapted to be sold in strips or groups containing any desired number of tees, thus permitting the user to carry the same as a unit in his pocket or bag, and to detach one or more tees at a time as the occasion demands.

Fig. 1 shows a number of golf tees 1 made in one operation and connected by fins 2 which hold the tees together in a single unitary strip. Fig. 2 shows a single tee after the same has been separated from the strip by exerting the slight pressure necessary to break the thin connecting fin 2. The tee shown in Fig. 2 is ready for use. The tees shown in Fig. 1 are simply packed, as it were, for convenient handling and carriage.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 show my invention as embodied in tees of a different shape than the conventional carrot shaped tees. I have found this shape and form to be particularly advantageous from the standpoint of convenience and ease of use as well as from the standpoint of economical manufacture. The top or head of the tee may be circular as shown in Fig. 5, and hollowed slightly to receive a golf ball. The balance of the tee is a wedge shaped blade as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. So far as I am aware, no tee of this shape has heretofore been known, and I believe it to be highly advantageous for the reason that it avoids the chief objection to carrot shaped tees, the difficulty of inserting them into hard earth, and at the same time embodies the chief advantage of carrot shaped tees, which is strength and durability. Similarly, my tapering blade tee can be inserted into the ground with less pressure than the common rod or pin shaped tees. It is vastly superior to such tees in that the blade

of my tee widens out as it approaches and joins the under side of the head, both blade and head being thus heavily reinforced against breakage.

5 Figs. 1 and 5 show straight strips of tees with the points alternately reversed, and Fig. 7 shows the tees grouped in such a way as to make a complete circle, the points all extending inwardly and the heads outwardly. The 10 embodiment shown in Fig. 7 is particularly desirable because of its attractive and decorative appearance and because, as shown in Fig. 7, a small circular section is or may be provided at the center of the disc, upon which 15 a trade-mark or monogram may be moulded or otherwise formed.

The separably connected tees of my invention may be made of any desired material and in any desired manner. Those skilled 20 in the art of pressing, molding or shaping will have no difficulty in practicing my invention. Materials, such for example, bakelite, celluloid or other material of this nature, are well adapted for the manufacture 25 of tees in accordance with my invention.

In making the carrot shaped tees shown in Fig. 1, two sheets, layers or strips of celluloid or other moldable material may be placed in a mold, one sheet on each side of the forms 30 or pins around which the tees are to be formed, and by applying heat and forcing the two sheets together around the forms and into contact with each other along the center line, and forcing away all surplus material 35 except the connecting fins; strips of tees as shown in Fig. 2 are readily fabricated.

In making tees of the form shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5 of the drawing, a mold of the character illustrated in Fig. 6 may be used. This 40 consists of a lower member 2 having a series of triangular or wedge shaped cavities 5, an upper member (not shown in the drawing) having similar and corresponding cavities, and two side bars 3 each having a series of bulges or protuberances 4 positioned 45 so that they will abut the base of the cavities 5. Powder or material in sheet form is placed between the upper and lower members of the mold and heat and pressure are 50 applied. If a very thin fin or connecting portion is desired, the cavities may be brought almost into contact. The heat and pressure applied as aforesaid causes the material to flow into the recess 7 for the top or head of 55 the tee and against the bulges or protuberances 4 in the side bars, thus producing the smooth and slightly recessed top of the tee. The blade of the tee is of course, formed by the material pressed into the triangular cavities 5. The pointed end of the blade may be 60 formed, if desired, in the bars 3 in a small cavity shown in Fig. 6 at 8.

As above stated, the fins or connecting portions between the tees may be of any desired 65 thickness, depending on the material

used and the degree of strength required. So also they may be short or long and may be heavier in the center than at the ends. They may extend the full length of the tee or only part way as desired in any particular 70 case.

The material used in making tees according to my invention may be in powder form or sheet stock if desired but I have found that moldable, plastic materials may be produced or purchased more cheaply in what is 75 known as extruded form. That is, the material is forced or extruded through a nozzle and comes out in rods or strips. If desired, a nozzle may be used that will extrude the 80 material in a strip of suitable width and thickness for use in the mold above described. The thickness of the strip may vary if desired so as to provide more material along the edges of the strip where it will be required 85 in forming the tops of the tees.

It is characteristic of molded bakelite to be strongest at the surface. This is because of the plastic condition of the bakelite. When the material is in a state of flux, a thin film 90 of resin is always brought to the surface of the molded piece and it is in part due to this that the strength of a bakelite piece lies in the surfaces. It is obvious therefore that the greater the amount of surface in respect to 95 the cross section of the article, the greater is the strength of the article. The thin flat blade shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, is designed to give a large amount of surface in respect to the amount of material used in the shank. 100 It is highly desirable to produce a tee having a shank of small cross section so that the same may be easily pushed into hard earth without breaking the blade. A thin strong blade of small cross sections as shown in Figs. 105 3, 4 and 5, is therefore highly desirable.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that my invention has numerous embodiments. Those herein described are illustrative of the invention but I do not intend to be limited 110 to the particular forms shown or described. Many changes in the shape of the tees, the material used, the method of manufacture or the shape, size or kind of fin or other tee connecting means may be made or employed without departing from the spirit 115 and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. As an article of manufacture, a piece of semi-rigid material having therein a series 120 of non-parallel frangible fins so positioned that each two consecutive fins converge and describe the outline of a pointed golf tee shank, the material at the edge of said semi-rigid piece flaring out to form a series of 125 recessed heads or caps which are integrally jointed to the upper ends of said shanks, said semi-rigid piece being convertible into a plurality of golf tees by breaking said semi-rigid piece along the said frangible fins. 130

2. As an article of manufacture, a piece of semi-rigid material with no sharp edges or protruding points, said piece having therein a plurality of frangible sections which, when
5 broken, will separate said semi-rigid piece into a plurality of semi-rigid units, each of which comprises a head recessed to receive a golf ball and a supporting member integrally joined to said head.

10 3. A plurality of moulded golf tees formed in a single unitary circular piece having frangible connecting fins joining said tees together, each tee comprising a pointed shank and a head recessed to receive a golf ball, the
15 pointed end of each such shank lying substantially at the center of said circular piece and the heads of said tees lying substantially at the circumference of said circular piece, and each tee being disengageable from the
20 unitary circular piece by breaking the frangible connecting portion of said moulded material that joins the said tees together.

4. A golf tee made of moulded material, said tee consisting of a straight flat sided
25 shank and a head recessed to receive a golf ball, said shank being tapered from the periphery of the head portion to a point at one end for insertion into the ground, and the upper end thereof being moulded into the
30 under side of the head substantially across the full width of said head at its widest point.

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