Oct. 16, 1962 F. M. POWERS 3,058,504

GOLF CLUB CARRIER

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Fig. 1.

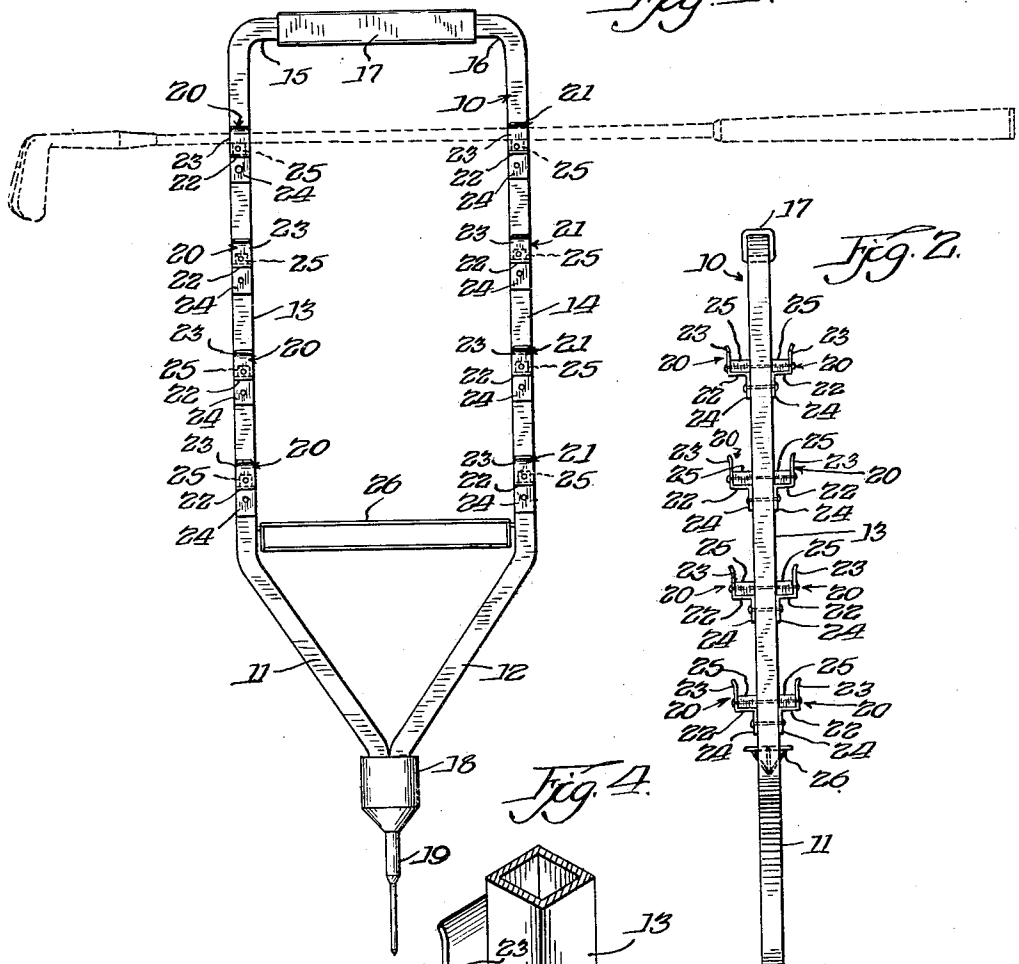


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

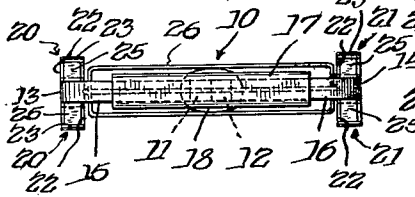
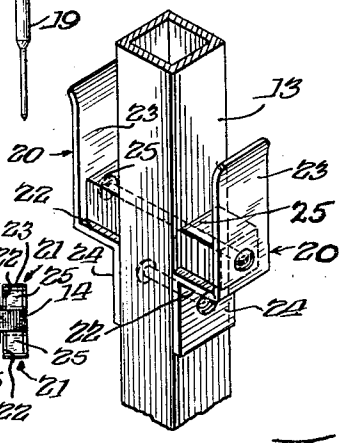


Fig. 4.



Inventor:
Frank M. Powers.
By Merriam, Lorch & Smith.
Attys.

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Fig. 6

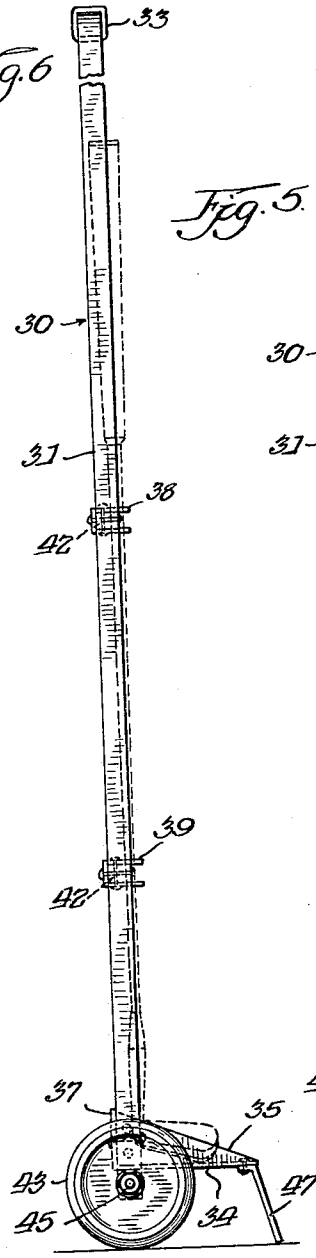


Fig. 5

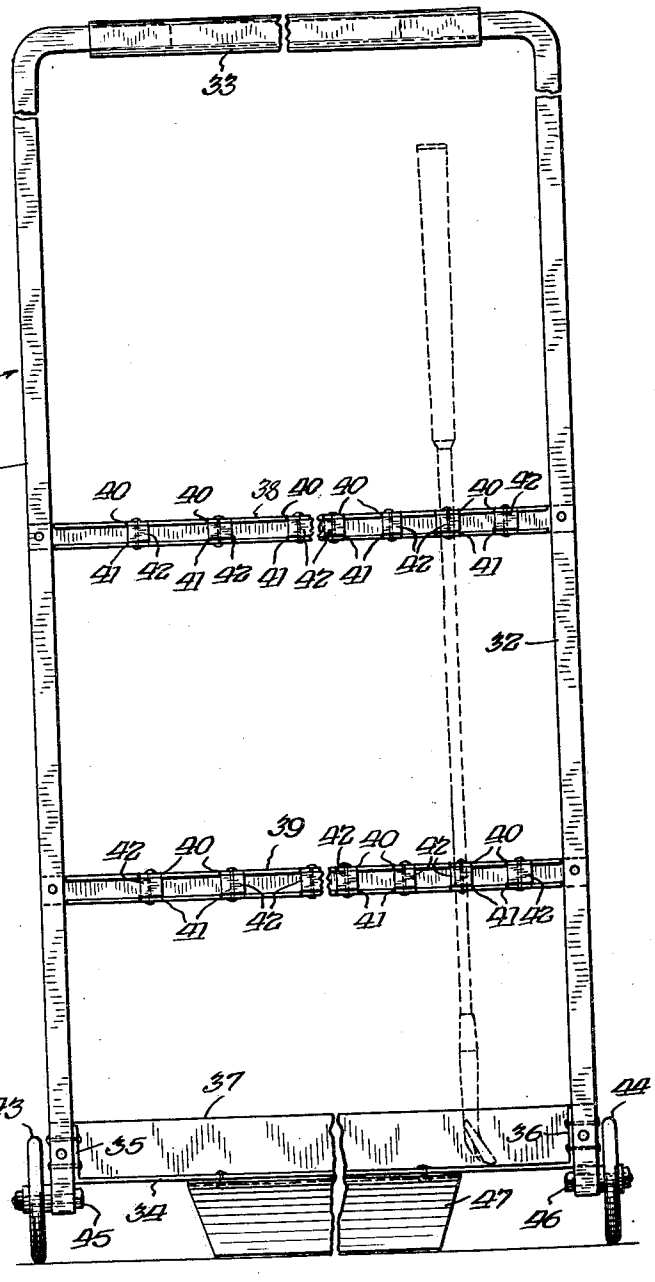
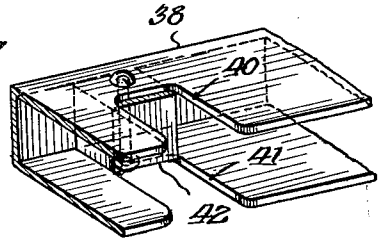


Fig. 7



Inventor.
Frank M. Powers.
By Merriam, Lord & Smith.
Attys.

United States Patent Office 3,058,504 Patented Oct. 16, 1962

3,058,504

GOLF CLUB CARRIER

Frank M. Powers, 7310 Central Ave., River Forest, Ill.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 150—1.5)

This invention relates to golf equipment. It is more specifically concerned with portable apparatus for transporting golf clubs by the player during the course of play.

With increased leisure time the popularity of golf has steadily increased and play has become easier and more pleasant for the average man because of convenient golf courses and the availability of economical golfing equipment. In the game of golf a variety of lies are encountered for the various shots during the course of hitting the ball from the tee and finally hitting or putting it into a small hole placed upon the green necessitating the use of a plurality of different clubs in order that each stroke can be skillfully played to effect the objective of hitting the ball from the starting point to each successive hole in the fewest strokes. The average player will generally have a set of golf clubs consisting of from five to ten so-called woods and irons. In order to carry the golf clubs some sort of carrier is used. Generally golf bags are employed wherein the clubs are deposited. Satisfactory golf bags are generally cumbersome, heavy, and expensive because of the amount and kinds of material required in their fabrication. Although caddies can be employed to carry the clubs for the player during a round of golf, the majority of golfers personally carry the set of clubs. These clubs, although previously manufactured with wooden shafts, are now manufactured employing ferrous metal or steel shafts of various designs.

According to this invention the carrying of golf clubs by players is facilitated by employing a light weight portable standard having mounted thereon a plurality of magnetized club supporting brackets whereby a number of metal shaft golf clubs are stably held on the standard at spaced positions to facilitate their removal.

The subject invention is more fully understood by reference to the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevation view of one embodiment of the instant invention.

FIGURE 2 is a side view of the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a plan view of the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary view of a bracket employed as one of the support means utilized in the embodiment of this invention shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 5 is another embodiment of the golf club carrier of this invention wherein the golf clubs are retained in a substantially vertical position on a standard mounted on a cart chassis.

FIGURE 6 is a side view of the golf club holder shown in FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 7 is a fragmentary view of the club supporting bracket employed in the embodiment shown in FIGURE 5.

Referring to the drawings, in FIGURE 1 is shown a preferred specific embodiment of this invention comprising a frame **10** fabricated from a pair of tubular elements **11** and **12**. Each of these elements is similar and has a stile portion **13** and **14** terminating in right angled elbows **15** and **16**. The adjacent upper ends of elbows **15** and **16** are coupled by means of a tubular sleeve **17** which engages the free ends of elbows **15** and **16** and is fastened thereto. Sleeve **17** also serves as a convenient handle for carrying the assembly. The lower ends of tubular elements **11** and **12** are provided with inwardly converging portions terminating in straight portions which are contiguously joined by means of an encircling ferrule **18**. To permit the golf club carrier frame to be inserted into the ground to maintain it in a self-supporting, substantially vertical position spear **19** is fitted into ferrule **18**. If desired there can also be provided a foothold for pedally applying a force to drive the spear **19** into the ground.

To retain the metal shaft golf clubs in position on the frame of the golf club carrier a plurality of pairs of brackets **20** and **21** are mounted in opposed positions on stiles **13** and **14** of tubular elements **11** and **12** respectively. These brackets are fabricated from a non-ferromagnetic material of construction and comprise an outwardly depending ledge **22** to which is laterally affixed upstanding flange **23**. The bracket is secured to the stile by means of downwardly depending flange **24** which is secured to the stile by riveting or other conventional means of fastening. Positioned on the outwardly depending ledge **22** is a permanent ferromagnetic body **25** having the property of attracting ferrous metals. In the illustrative embodiment magnet **25** is shown as a solid body having a rectangular configuration and held in position by means of a fastener passing through the flange and magnet and secured to the stile. Each member of the bracket pair is oppositely mounted on the stiles of the frame which are spaced apart sufficiently such that a golf club positioned thereon is held stably in place and resists gravitational displacement from the bracket. It is apparent that as many pairs of brackets are provided as will be necessary to carry a selected set of steel shaft golf clubs. In the illustrative embodiment shown in FIGURE 1 a mounting bracket is mounted on each side of the tubular stile to provide two pairs of mounting brackets at each position on the stiles in order to reduce the overall length of the carrier. If desired, auxiliary equipment can be installed on the golf club carrier such as the pivotally mounted golf ball rack **26** which is suspended between the opposed stiles and held in position by outwardly depending axles which are journalled therein at the lower portion adjacent the inwardly converging ends.

Although in the foregoing embodiment the golf clubs are supported in a substantially horizontal position on the carrier, it is also apparent that the subject invention can be utilized to retain and support the golf clubs which are carried thereby in a substantially vertical position. In FIGURE 5 is shown a structure wherein the golf clubs are held in a vertical position. In this embodiment of the invention the golf club carrier is in cart form which consists of a rear frame **30** having side legs **31** and **32** which are joined at the top by means of a transverse tubular element **33** which also serves as a handle for moving the golf club carrier cart. Affixed to the lower ends of legs **31** and **32** is platform **34** upon which the club head rests. Platform **34** is fabricated from a single sheet of metal shaped to form side flanges **35** and **36** and rear flange **37** which provides surfaces to which the ends of legs **31** and **32** can be secured.

The club holding brackets in this embodiment comprise notched channels **38** and **39** which are utilized to engage the shaft of the club and hold it in a stable position. The opposed legs of the channel are provided with pairs of notches **40** and **41** in which the club shaft rests. Affixed to the web of the channel behind said notched pairs is a ferromagnetic body **42** for retaining the club shaft in position. In order to provide a mobile device which can be readily pulled over the ground by the golfer, ground engaging wheels **43** and **44** mounted on axles **45** and **46** are secured to the lower portion of the frame. In order to support this embodiment of the golf club carrier in a vertical position at rest, downwardly and

outwardly depending leg 47 is affixed to the marginal edge of platform 34.

In fabricating the golf club carriers of this invention conventional materials of construction can be utilized for the various elements of the apparatus other than as specifically noted above. To facilitate fabricating the carrier, tubing which can be readily formed is preferred for the frame member. The club supporting brackets are made from a non-ferromagnetic material of construction, preferably a metal such as aluminum, brass, etc. However, non-metallic materials can be used. The magnets are mounted in these brackets sufficiently spaced apart so as to engage a sufficient extent of the club shaft to retain it in a stable position in said bracket and resist gravitational displacement of the club.

In the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1 the side stiles and brackets secured thereto are spaced about 7 inches apart. Other spacings can be used; in general, however, spacings of 6–10 inches are sufficient. Although spaced brackets are shown, the club supporting bracket can be a channel shaped member having the magnets suitably mounted therein at the desired spacing. This latter arrangement is employed where the club carrier standard consists of a single column. For example, channel shaped brackets can be attached to the supporting column of so-called "chair canes" which are a combination walking stick and collapsible chair.

Conventional permanent magnetic materials can be used for the magnetic bodies which are mounted on the club supporting brackets and utilized to hold the metal club shafts in position. In order that the magnets employed be sufficiently strong to hold the clubs in position without being too large in size, it is preferred that magnets prepared from alloys of aluminum and nickel, e.g. Alnico, Alnic, etc. be employed; however other permanent magnetic materials can be used. The magnets can be in bar form, as shown. If desired, especially if aluminum-nickel alloys are used, the magnet can be enclosed in a separate housing which can be readily attached to the club holding bracket. In catches of this type steel pole pieces are held on each end or side of the magnet. These pole pieces extend through the face of the housing beyond the sides of the magnet to engage the metallic shaft of the golf club. In these structures the magnet assembly loosely fits within the housing to permit a lateral movement of the pole pieces and magnet combination. Such assemblies in suitable housings are conventionally employed as storage cupboard catches.

It is apparent from the foregoing detailed description of this invention that various modifications can be made in the specific illustrative embodiments without departing from the scope of this invention. Although a plurality of magnetic bodies are utilized in fabricating the club supporting bracket, it is apparent that a single length of magnetic material could be utilized. This, however, is uneconomical and it is preferred that a pair of spaced magnets be fitted in the various types of brackets utilized for supporting steel club shafts throughout a sufficient extent to provide a club mounting bracket which will retain the club in a stable position without being displaced by its own weight. Various designs for the standard, such as frames, single columns, etc. can be employed for mounting the club holding brackets. These standards can be provided with convenient hand grips for transporting the golf club carrier with the clubs in the vertical or horizontal position. For golf club carriers which are designed for transporting a number of clubs it may be necessary to utilize a wheeled carriage such as that shown in FIGURE 5. This modification can be provided with retractable wheels or other provisions for minimizing the storage space requirements for the carrier.

The illustrated embodiment wil suggest to those skilled in this art other variations and modifications which can be made without departing from the scope of this invention. Accordingly it is intended that the subject invention be limited only in the manner set forth in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A portable carrier for ferrous metal shaft golf clubs which comprises a portable standard, a plurality of golf club supporting brackets positioned in spaced relationship along said standard, each of said brackets comprising a web portion laterally extending from said standard, means for securing said web to said standard, and an upstanding arm portion secured to said web, ferromagnetic means mounted on said brackets and positioned thereon to engage a sufficient extent of ferrous metal shaft to retain the golf club in a stable position on said bracket and to resist gravitational displacement of the club, said arm portion extending above said ferromagnetic means and cooperating therewith to facilitate retention of the golf club on the supporting brackets.

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