Dec. 7, 1948. A. D. SHEFFER 2,455,707

GOLF INSTRUCTOR

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Fig. 1

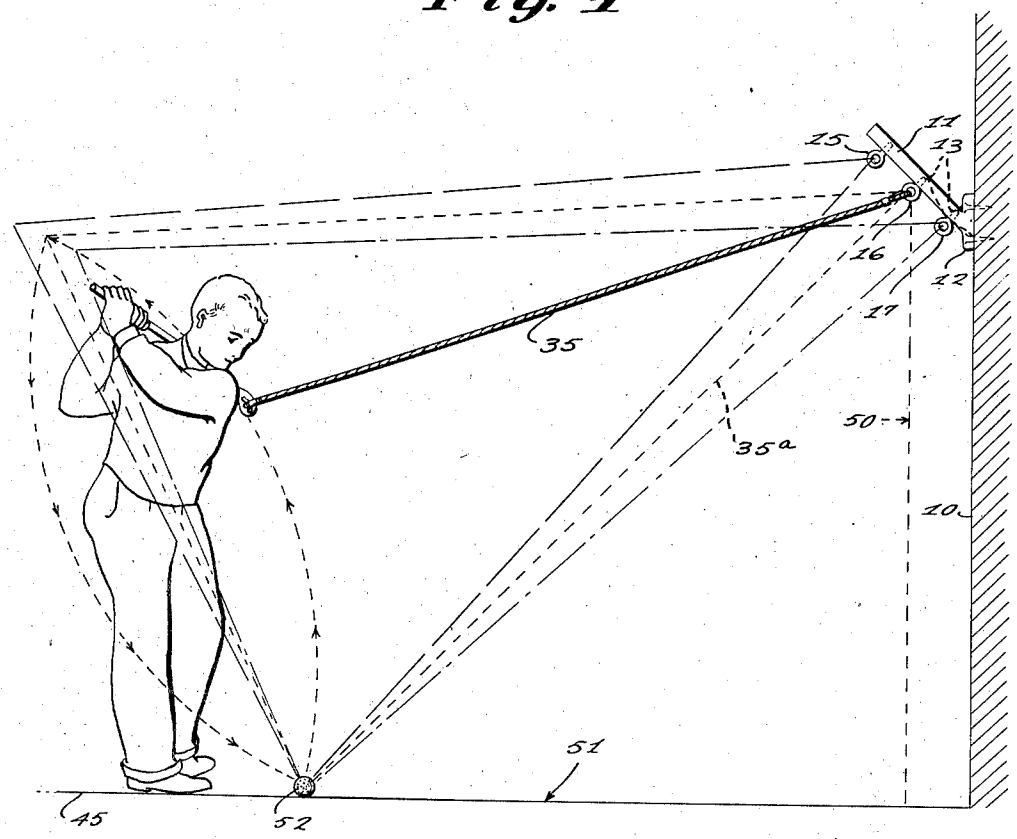
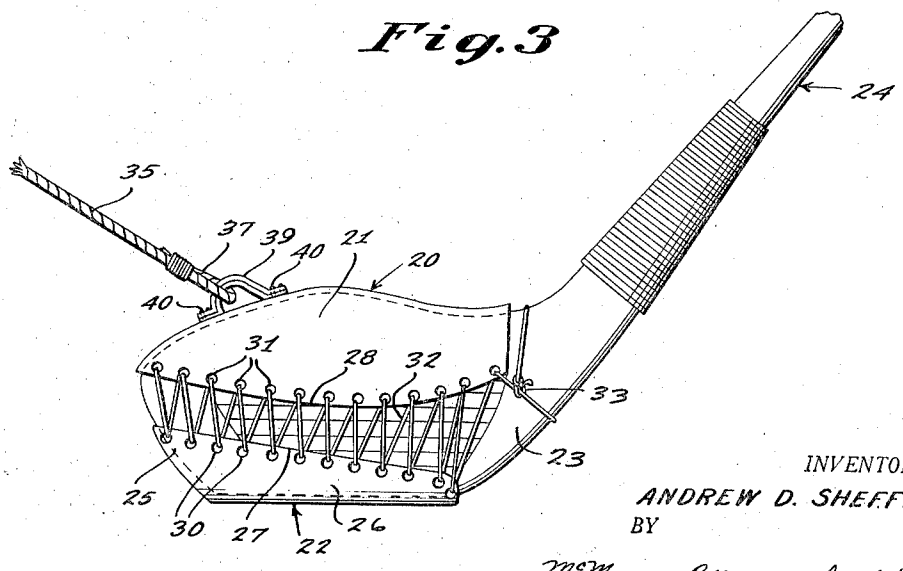


Fig. 3



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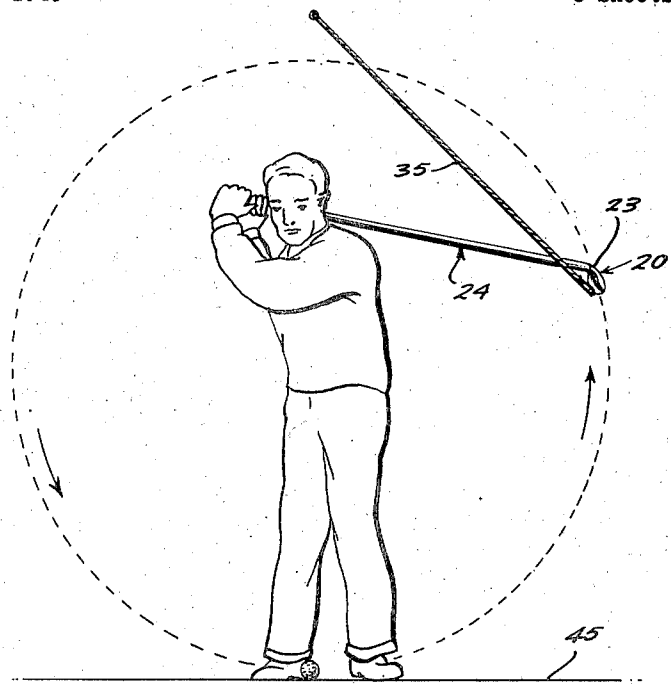


Fig. 2

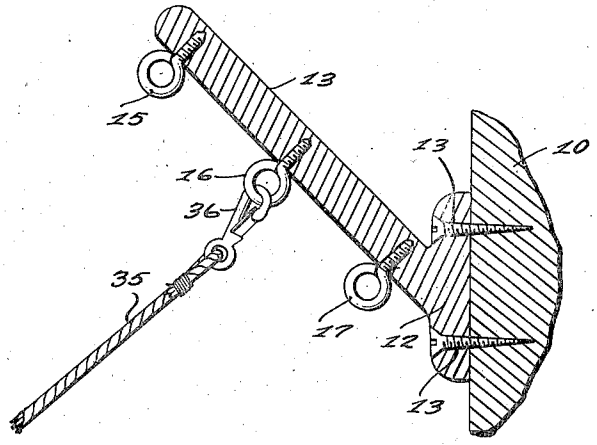


Fig. 4

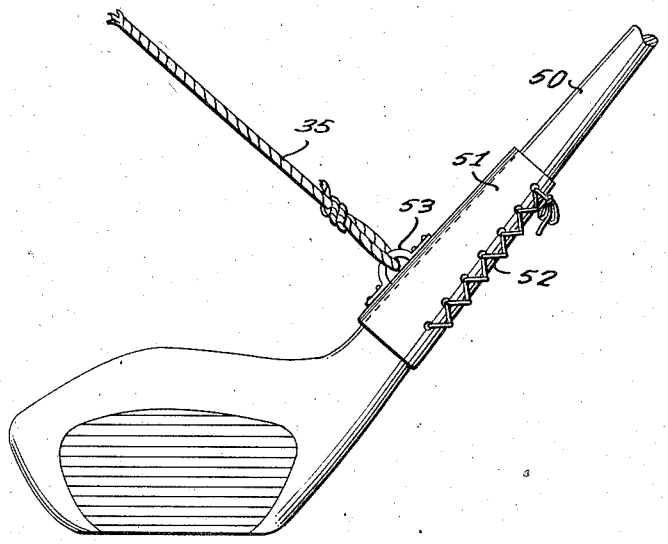
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Fig. 5



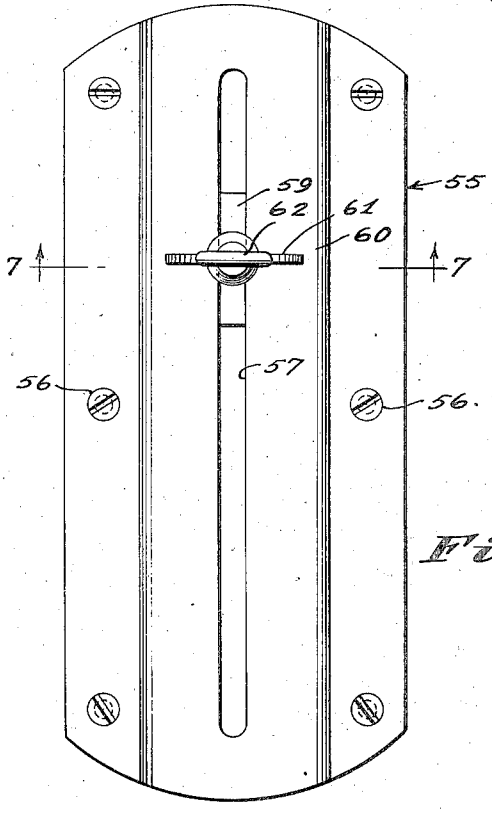
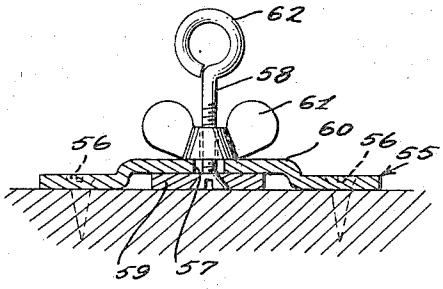


Fig. 6

Fig. 7



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GOLF INSTRUCTOR

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Application May 7, 1948, Serial No. 25,609

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

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This invention relates to an arrangement for practicing the swinging of a golf club.

An object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus for aiding a golfer in developing the correct swing of the head of a club so that after sufficient practice he will be able to swing the club properly and efficiently along a predetermined path.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus for developing a pattern in swinging a golf club, said apparatus including a flexible means connecting a shoe removably attached to a club head with an elevated support which may be adjustably positioned for obtaining a selected pattern for the stroke.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an arrangement for developing the proper swing of a golf club, the arrangement including an elevated bracket having spaced eyes for the reception of a hook on one end of a flexible member which has its other end attached to a golf head and which acts as a guide for directing the head through a curve forming the correct path of the moving head, the position of the eyes in the support being such that when one eye receives the hook on the flexible member a medium swing will be obtained, the flexible member when attached to each of the other two eyes providing respectively a flat swing and an upright swing.

The invention is best understood by a consideration of the following detailed description in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part of the specification, nevertheless, it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the disclosure but is susceptible of such changes and modifications as shall define no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of my arrangement for developing the correct swing of a golf club.

Figure 2 is a more-or-less diagrammatic front view of the arrangement for directing a golf head through a predetermined path.

Figure 3 is a side view of a golf club head with a shoe attached thereto for attachment to a line, and

Figure 4 is a longitudinal vertical section of a support for a flexible member which guides a golf head.

Figure 5 is a side view of a modified form of means for attaching the cable to a shaft of a golf club.

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Figure 6 is a front view in elevation of a bracket showing a modified form of means for attaching one end of a rope wire or rod to a wall, and

Figure 7 is a transverse horizontal section taken along the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 10 designates a post, a wall, or a fence which is sufficiently high for the purpose. In fact said post or other support must be over seven feet for a purpose which will be explained presently. A bracket 11 has a base 12 which is secured at 13 to the support 10. The bracket is inclined at an acute angle to the support and is formed of metal as is the integrally-formed base 12. Three eyes 15, 16 and 17 have shanks threaded into passages spaced along the inclined bracket.

A shoe generally designated by the numeral 20 may be formed of leather or a suitable fabric, such as canvas. The shoe is made in two sections 21 and 22. The upper section 21 is shaped to fit neatly over the upper half portion of the head 23 of a golf club 24. The lower section 22 is shaped to receive neatly the lower half of the head. It will be noted that the forward ends 25 of the side walls 26 of the lower section are higher than the rear ends thereof since the upper edges 27 of the side walls are inclined rearwardly. The lower edges 28 of the side walls of the upper section is curved. The side walls 26 of the lower section 22 adjacent the upper edges 27 is provided with a plurality of openings 30. The side walls of the upper section 21 is provided with a plurality of openings 31 adjacent the lower curved edges 28. A string 32 is threaded alternately through the openings 30 and 31. One end of the string is wrapped around the shank of the club and tied at 33.

A flexible member 35 which may be a thin but durable rope, a thin steel rod or a thin rod made of wood connects the shoe 20 with one of the eyes 15, 16 or 17. One end of the flexible member is provided with a snap-hook 36 adapted to engage one of the eyes. A loop 37 formed on the other end of said flexible member is adapted to receive a strap 39. The ends of the strap are secured at 40 to the top section 21 of the shoe 20.

The base of the bracket 13 is attached to the support at such a height that the center of the eye 16 will be seven feet from the ground or floor 45. The length of the flexible member is such that the distance between the eye 16 and the face of the head 23 will be nine feet and eleven inches.

The practicing golfer will grasp the handle of the club in the proper manner and will assume

the correct stance. In initiating the back swing (Figure 2), the head 23 of the club will be guided by the flexible member 35 through the top of the path from which the down swing follows. It is necessary in continuing the practice swings that the flexible member be maintained taut. When the golfer finally is able to maintain the flexible member taut at all times, he will realize that the golf head is following a prescribed course each time the club is swung.

When the snap-hook 36 is attached to the eye 15 which is in a higher horizontal plane than the eye 16, the flexible member 35 will vary the swing of the club head to govern the degrees of a flat swing. On the other hand, the eye 17 controls the degree of the upright swing.

The eyes are spaced three inches apart and this spacing in combination with the angle of inclination of the bracket 13 to the support 10 provides for three selected types of swings. Any substantial change in the distances between the eyes will disturb the proper course of the club head. Furthermore, any substantial differences in the length of the flexible member and the height of the eye 16 from the ground will also disturb the true course of the golf head.

The golfer will determine which eye 15, 16 or 17 will give him the best results. The eye 16 which gives a medium swing may be suitable for one person while the eyes 15 and 17 may provide better results for others.

It will be noted from Figure 1 that a line 50 which rises perpendicularly from the ground or surface 45 to the center of the eye 16 is seven feet and the distance from the contacting point of said line with the ground to the center of the ball 32 as indicated by the numeral 51 is also seven feet. Thus the flexible member as designated by the line 35a will form the hypotenuse of a right triangle having the two sides 50 and 51 of equal length. Therefore, since the sides are each seven feet, the square root of the sum of the square of the sides will be nine feet and eleven inches, the approximate length of the flexible member 35.

In Figure 5 is shown a modified form for attaching the member 35 to a shaft 50 of a golf club. This form includes a jacket formed of a strip of leather or canvas 51 which has its adjacent side edges connected together by a lace 52. A loop 53 is provided to receive one end of the flexible member 35.

In Figures 6 and 7 is shown a means for supporting in an adjustable manner the upper end of the flexible member 35. A bracket 55 is secured at 56 to a support and has a vertical elongated slot 57 adapted to receive a threaded bolt 58. One end of the bolt is secured to a slide block 59 movable in a raised portion 60 of the bracket. A wing nut 61 is threaded into the bolt and is adapted to clamp the bolt in position on the bracket 55. An eye 62 on the outer end of the bolt receives the upper end of the flexible member 35.

The bolt 58 may be secured adjustably along the bracket 55. These adjustments will correspond to the positions of the eye bolts illustrated in Figure 4. In this way the various swings previously described may be carried out.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for practicing the swinging of a golf club comprising a vertical support, a bracket secured to the support at a predetermined height above the base of the support, said bracket being inclined at an acute angle to the support, eyes equally spaced from each other and attached along the inclined bracket, a shoe connected to the head of a golf club, and a flexible member connected between one of the eyes and the shoe, said flexible member being longer than the height of any of the eyes from the ground.

2. An apparatus for practicing the swinging of a golf club comprising a vertical support, a bracket secured to the support at a predetermined height above the base of the support, said bracket being inclined at an acute angle to the support, eyes equally spaced from each other and attached along the inclined bracket, a shoe connected to the head of a golf club, and a flexible member connected between one of the eyes and the shoe, said flexible member being longer than the height of any of the eyes from the ground, there being three eyes mounted on the inclined bracket, the center eye being seven feet from the ground, one of the remaining eyes being disposed at a greater height from the ground than the first-mentioned eye, the other being located at a less height from the ground than the other eyes, shifting of the flexible member from one of the eyes to either of the other eyes producing variations in the swing of the club head.

3. An apparatus for practicing the swinging of a golf club comprising a vertical support, a bracket secured to the support at a predetermined height above the base of the support, said bracket being inclined at an acute angle to the support, three eyes equally spaced from each other and attached along the inclined bracket, one of the eyes being located at a greater height from the ground than the other two eyes with one of the eyes being disposed at a lesser height from the ground than the other two eyes, a line projected from the center of the third eye to the ground and at right angles to a second line drawn from the center of a properly positioned golf ball to the point of contact between the ground and the first-mentioned line forming one side of a right angle triangle, said second line forming another side of the triangle the hypotenuse of which extends between the center of said third eye and the center of the ball, a shoe firmly attached to the head of a club, and a flexible member connected between the shoe and said third eye, the length of the flexible member approximating the length of the hypotenuse, the sides of the triangle being equal.

4. In an apparatus for practicing the swinging of a golf club, a vertical support, a flexible member, means for attaching one end of said member to the support at a predetermined height above the ground, means for attaching the other end of the flexible member to the head of a golf club comprising a shoe formed of an upper section shaped to fit over the top of the head and a lower section shaped to receive neatly the lower portion of the head, the peripheral edges of the sections being spaced from each other, said sections being provided with a plurality of spaced opening, a lace through alternately-disposed openings in the section for securing the sections onto the head and means on the upper section for securing the second-mentioned end of the flexible member to the upper section.

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No references cited.