Aug. 31, 1926. 1,597,740

L. F. THOMPSON

GOLF TEE

Filed June 11, 1926

Fig. 1.

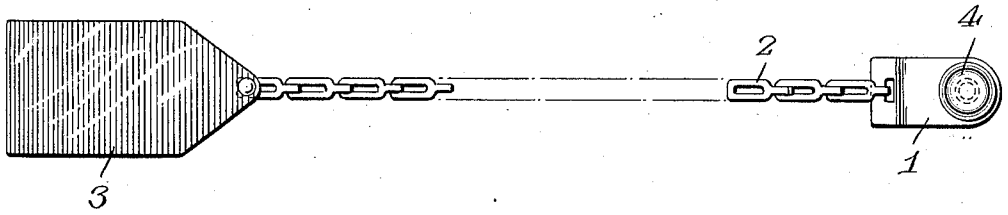


Fig. 2.

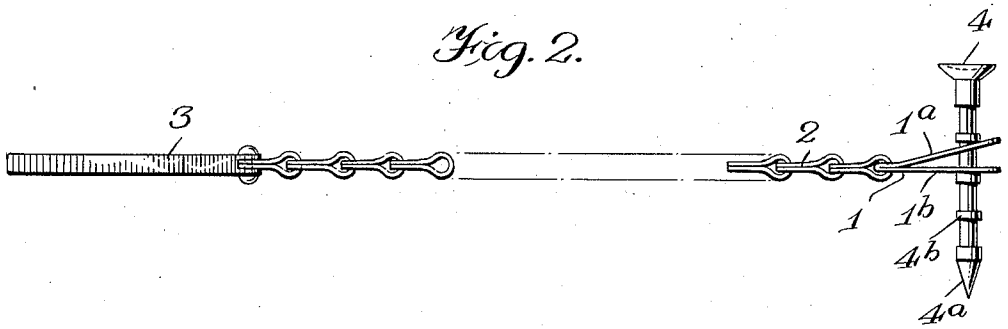


Fig. 3.

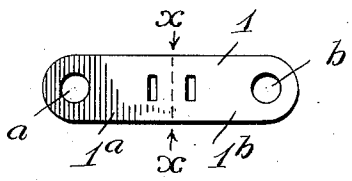


Fig. 5.

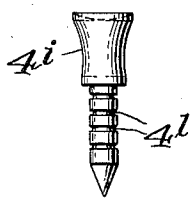


Fig. 4.

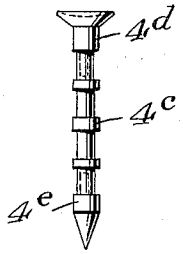
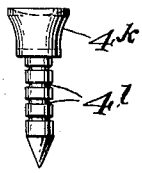


Fig. 6.



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Patented Aug. 31, 1926. 1,597,740

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS F. THOMPSON, OF CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS.

GOLF TEE.

Application filed June 11, 1926. Serial No. 115,336.

My present invention relates to improvements in golf tees of the type disclosed in an application filed by me in the United States Patent Office on the 7th day of November, 1925, Serial Number 67600. It aims to provide a construction which will be capable of economical production and which will be satisfactory and efficient in use and capable of ready manipulation, and the invention comprises the novel features of construction and arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter described, what I regard as constituting the invention being defined by the claims appended hereto.

In order that the invention may be better understood, reference is made to the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved tee.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank from which the ground contact member is made.

Fig. 4 is a detail view of a modified form of pin, and Figs. 5 and 6 are views of a further modification.

Referring by reference characters to this drawing, the numeral 1 designates the ground contact member connected by a flexible element 2 with a weight 3 as disclosed in my aforesaid application. 4 designates the ball supporting member comprising a pin having a pointed lower end, a ball supporting head 4^a.

The ground contact member comprises a pair of spring arms 1^a and 1^b which are adapted to normally spring apart so as to lie at an angle, the one to the other. They are provided adjacent their free ends with eyes or openings *a* and *b* to receive the shank of the pin, and the size and disposition of the openings is such that when the two arms 1^a and 1^b are pressed towards each other, the pin may be readily inserted therein and moved to any desired position relative thereto, while upon release of the arms they will spring apart and grip the surface of the pin and lock it in its adjusted position.

The surface of the pin may be roughened or corrugated to assist the gripping action, but preferably it is provided with a plurality of narrow spaced annular ribs 4^b with wide intervening grooves. The openings *a* and *b* slightly exceed the size of the ribs so as to permit passage thereof and the springing apart of the arms causes them to bind against opposed faces of adjacent ribs or flanges, thus affording a positive but easily releasable lock. The parts are so arranged and proportioned that when the arms are in gripping position the axis of the pin will be perpendicular to the lower or ground contact arm 1^b. With a pin thus held by the spring arms it may be inserted into the ground until arrested at the proper height by contact of the lower arm with the ground. If it is desired to tee the ball higher or lower the adjustment is readily made by pressing the spring arms towards each other to release the pin which may be slid further into the openings or partially withdrawn as desired.

Preferably the ground contact and pin gripping device is formed from a single blank of sheet metal as shown in Fig. 3 which may be easily died or stamped out and which I fold on line *x*—*x*. It is provided with a pair of openings 1^x, 1^x, one on each side of the line of fold, and equi-distant therefrom to form an eye for attachment of the flexible weight connecting element, which are preferably elongated as shown, and with the pin receiving openings *a* and *b* adjacent their free ends.

Instead of making the pin in one piece as shown in the figures above referred to, which requires that it be entirely of metal, I may make it of a plurality of parts firmly connected together, as for example, the body of the pin may be made of fiber or other cheap nonmetallic material, as shown at 4^c, provided with a separately formed ball receiving cap 4^d of paper or fibre having a shank secured in an opening in the top of the pin by glue or other suitable means, and having a ground penetrating point 4^e of metal similarly secured to its lower end.

The body of the pin may be provided with grooves or corrugations to assist the gripping action. Obviously the head of the pin may be made of different heights and may be shaped as indicated at 4^f and 4^h in Figs. 5 and 6 to more effectually protect the ground contact member and the shank may be grooved in the manner indicated at 4^z.

I claim:

1. A golf tee comprising in combination a ground contact member having a spring arm normally diverging therefrom, said member and arm having openings and a ball supporting pin having a shank lying in said

openings and gripped by the edges thereof.

2. The article of claim 1 in which the ground contact member is formed of a single sheet of resilient material folded to produce two diverging pin engaging arms.

3. The article of claim 1 in which the ground contact member is formed of a single sheet of resilient material folded to produce two diverging pin engaging arms in which the shank of the pin is provided with spaced annular ribs to be engaged by the edges of the openings in the spring arms.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

LOUIS F. THOMPSON.