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2,484,762

GOLF CLUB GRIP FINDER

Filed Jan. 29, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

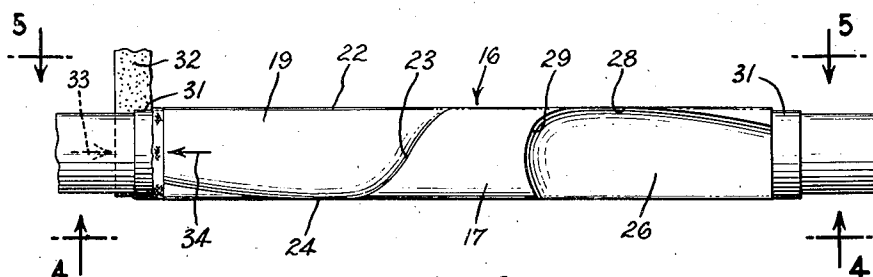
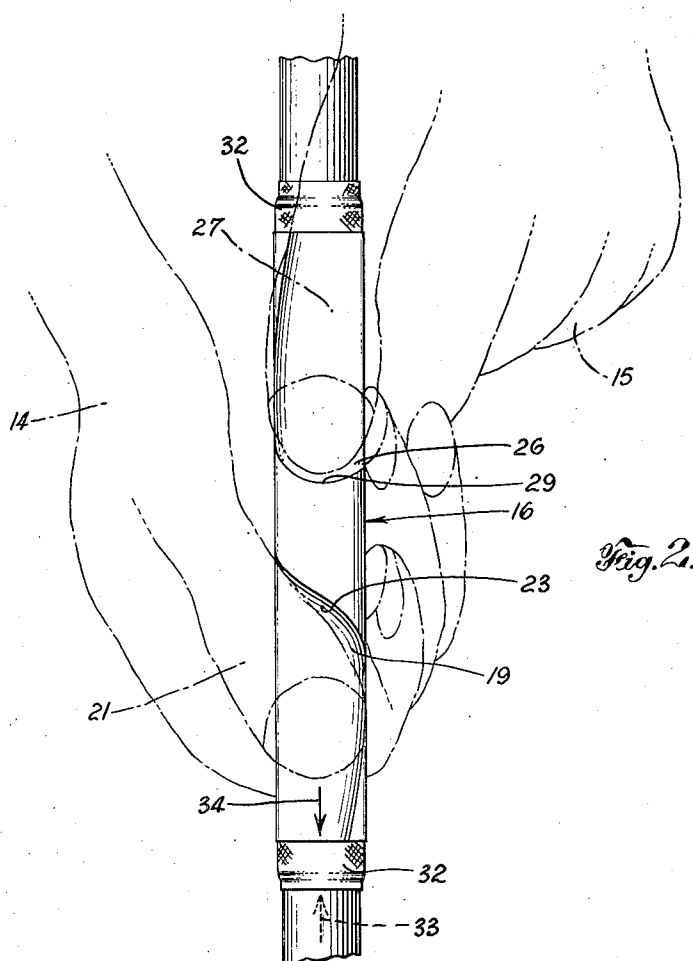
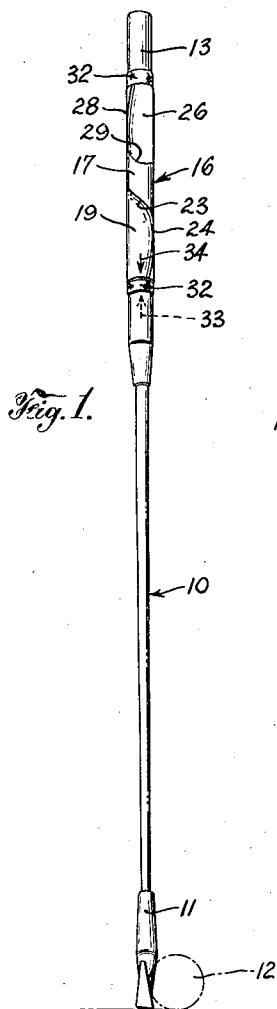


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 4.

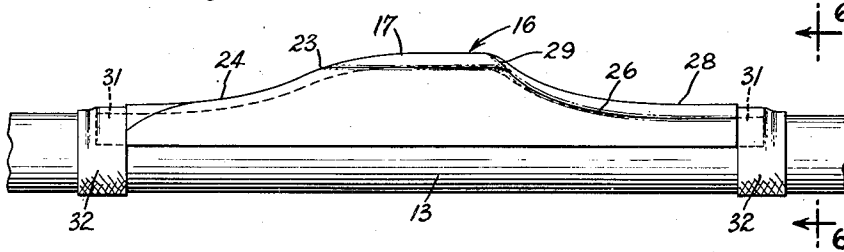


Fig. 5.

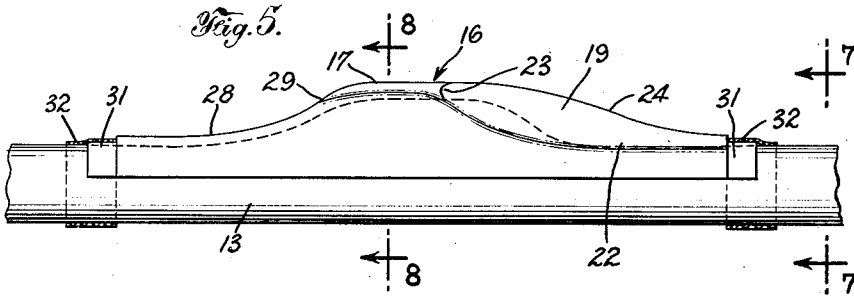


Fig. 6.

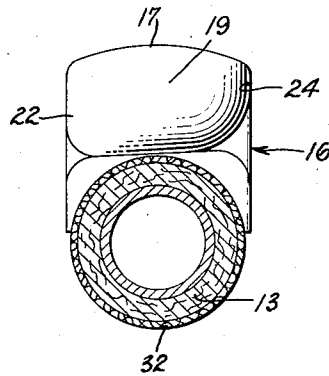
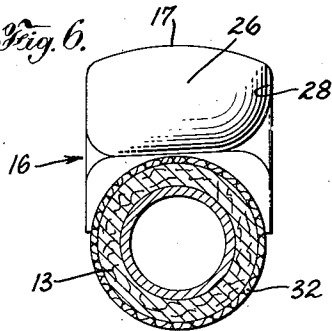
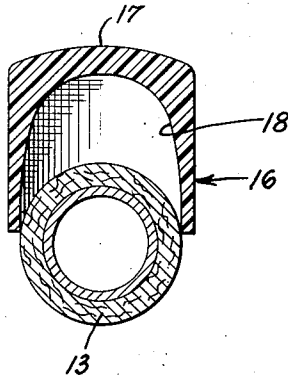


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.



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GOLF CLUB GRIP FINDER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—81)

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This invention relates to putting irons and more particularly to a grip attachment therefor by which the player will be compelled to take the proper grip upon the handle.

In putting, the player has a tendency to pull the club in one direction or the other so that the club head either cuts across the ball or slices the ball on the putting stroke. The ball will accordingly be directed along a path not intended by the player. Without some means on the club handle, the player has no way of finding the proper location for his hands. With prior attachments, attention has been paid to the location to but one of the hands but there has been a failure to see that the other hand is properly located upon the handle. The thumbs of both hands should be axially aligned upon the club handle. One thumb should be located directly above the other.

It is thus an object of the present invention to provide a grip finder for a putting iron whereby both thumbs of the respective hands will be properly aligned upon the handle of the club and properly supported to prevent slipping as the club is put into action and whereby to eliminate so far as possible the tendency to pull the clubs in one direction or the other.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a grip finder which can be applied quickly and easily to the hands of the club by the player himself and in such a manner that it can be easily adjusted at the fancy of the player on the golf course without the necessity of having to detach the same by use of a tool as when screws would be used but by as simple an operation as the removal of tacky tape from around the ends of the attachment.

According to the invention, my grip finder attachment provides a firm rest or seat for the ball of the thumb of each hand and compels the proper alignment of one thumb above the other. The grip finder is preferably made of molded plastic material or the like and is shaped so as to have two areas for receiving the respective thumbs so formed that the thumbs cannot slip beyond the area when making the putting stroke. The area is relieved from the side of the grip finder from which the thumb is applied but is raised at the opposite side of the grip finder to prevent the sliding of the thumb over or around the grip finder and providing something of an uncomfortably sharp edge should the thumb have a tendency to drift over the side of the grip finder. A rearward relief is provided for the thumb of the hand which is lowermost on the

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club so that the thumb will not assume anything but a natural position upon this area. The area for the uppermost thumb is not relieved to such an extent. However, there is provided a relief from the direction at which the uppermost thumb is applied to the grip finder and there is a raised portion at the opposite side of the grip finder to prevent the slippage of the thumb off that side of the grip finder. This attachment accordingly provides a firm rest or seat for both thumbs so that an accurate stroke cannot help but be delivered. The ends of the grip finder are recessed and the under portion of the grip finder is hollowed out to conform to the club handle surface. In the recessed ends there is disposed a piece of tacky tape adapted to extend partly in the recess and partly upon the surface of the handle whereby to fix the grip finder to the handle. By this manner of attaching the grip finder to the handle, it will be seen that the grip finder can be easily adjusted on the golf course by the player until he has predetermined the exact position for the grip finder upon the club.

For other objects and for a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a putting club with the grip finder of the present invention fixed on the handle of the club.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view of the handle of the club and showing the grip finder thereon and the arrangement of the player's thumbs upon the grip finder.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the grip finder with illustration made to the manner in which the grip finder is attached to the club handle.

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the handle and the grip finder taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof with the lower end of the club being to the left.

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view of the club handle and the grip finder as viewed on line 5—5 of Fig. 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof with the lower end of the handle being to the right.

Fig. 6 is a transverse cross-sectional view taken through the handle and looking toward one end of the grip finder as viewed on line 6—6 of Fig. 4 and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof.

Fig. 7 is a transverse cross-sectional view taken through the club handle and looking upon the opposite end of the grip finder and as viewed on

line 7-7 of Fig. 5 and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof.

Fig. 8 is a transverse cross-sectional view taken through the club handle and through the grip finder intermediate its length and on line 8-8 of Fig. 5 and looking in the direction of the arrows thereof and showing how the high or intermediate portion is relieved interiorly thereof to save material and to keep the grip finder as light in weight as possible.

Referring now to the figures, 10 represents a putting iron or club having a head 11 adapted to engage a ball 12 resting on the putting green, and a handle portion 13 which is gripped by the player's hands 14 and 15 when making a putting stroke. This handle portion is round and usually has a gripping surface thereon.

On this handle portion 13 there is disposed grip finder 16 of the present invention. This grip finder is made of plastic material and has a hollow interior adapted to fit in flush engagement with the handle portion surface. This grip finder has an intermediate portion 17 which is hollowed to a considerable height as indicated at 18, Fig. 8, whereby to keep the grip finder light in weight and at the same time to conserve material.

The top surface of the grip finder has an area 19 to receive a thumb 21 of the hand. This area 19 is relieved on the right side of the grip finder so that the right thumb can be readily slid into place upon the area. This relief is indicated at 22. Also there is a further relief as indicated at 23 at the upper part of the area so as to permit the side of the thumb as shown more clearly in Fig. 2, to be inclined and to be extended over to the opposite side of the grip finder. The opposite side edge of this area 19 is raised as indicated at 24 whereby to prevent the thumb from slipping off the grip finder to the left. This portion is raised and has somewhat a sharp edge on its top so that the thumb would not be extended over the same without being uncomfortable and without giving due warning to the player that his thumb is in the wrong position.

Above the area 19 and the intermediate portion 17, is a thumb area 26 for receiving thumb 27 of the left hand 15. This area is shaped slightly differently but is relieved as indicated at 27 so as to permit the thumb to be slid inwardly from the left and has a raised portion 28 at the opposite side edge of the area 26 similar to the raised portion 24 of the area 19, whereby to prevent the slippage of the left thumb from the grip finder. Thus not only will the right thumb be properly positioned upon the putting iron handle but also the left thumb will be properly aligned and prevented from being displaced when the putting stroke is effected. Thus a good and efficient grip is had upon the handle of the putting iron. The forward end of the area 26 is shaped as indicated at 29 to receive the end of the thumb whereby to prevent the downward slipping of the left thumb along the grip finder.

While various devices can be used for securing the grip finder to the handle 13, I have found a very satisfactory manner to effect the connection of the grip finder to the handle whereby the player can properly adjust the grip finder when in the field without the necessity of a special tool to act upon the device. I have provided on the opposite ends of the grip finder a recess 31 into which a strip of tacky tape 32 can be extended. This tacky tape will stick to the recess and also to the surface of the handle whereby to effectively secure the grip finder in place on the handle. Once by trial the player has properly located the grip finder upon the handle, a mark 33 can be made upon the handle adjacent the arrow 33 on the forward end of the grip finder so that thereafter the player will know that the grip finder has not been displaced from its proper location.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claim.

I claim:

A grip finder for golf clubs comprising a raised intermediate portion being raised above the remainder of the finder, depressed thumb portions adapted to receive respectively the thumbs of the different hands, one thumb portion being below the intermediate portion and the other thumb portion being above the intermediate portion, said thumb portions being further in straight line relationship with one another and in close relationship to the intermediate portion, said thumb portions being further high close to the intermediate portion and dropping off gradually therefrom, said thumb portions being respectively relieved from the edges from which the thumbs are extended onto the same and being respectively raised at the opposite side edges of the portions whereby to prevent the slippage of the thumbs from these portions, the material of the raised edges dropping off sharply to give an uncomfortable feeling to the thumb should the thumb be improperly extended over them.

FRANK STRAZZA.

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