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SIGNAL MEANS USABLE BY GOLF PLAYERS

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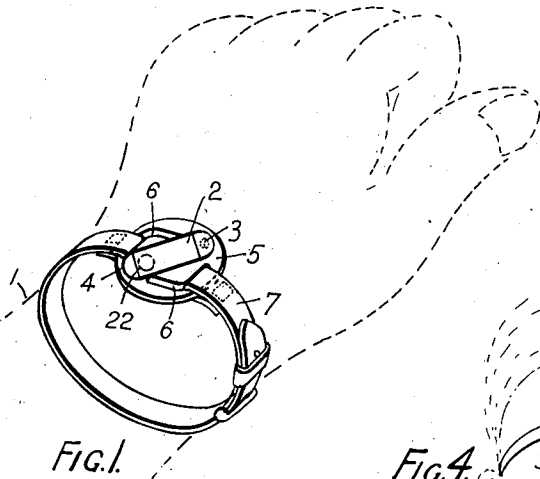


Fig. 1.

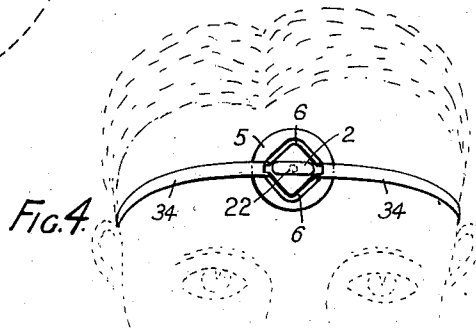


Fig. 4.

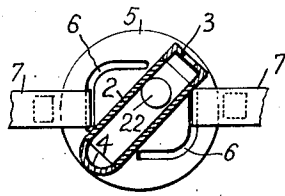


Fig. 2.

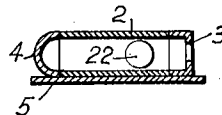


Fig. 3.

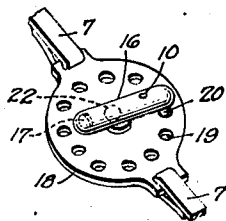


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SIGNAL MEANS USABLE BY GOLF PLAYERS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to signal means usable by golf players.

The object of the invention is to provide audible signal means for golf players which is of simple construction and when attached to a wrist-joint or forehead of a player will respond to movements of the player and thereby indicate by audible signals certain faults in playing.

In the explanation of the movements of the player and the operation of the said means as below-mentioned, it is assumed that the player is a right-handed player and would have the left-hand uppermost on the shaft of the club.

In the playing of golf, it is an accepted rule that when the left arm of the player is taking the club on its back swing, that his left arm should be kept straight, the wrists of the player being cocked or bent back at the top position of said back swing. Further, at the top of said back swing the body and arms should be steady with no relaxing of grip on club and after beginning the down swing, there should be no hesitation and such swing should be carried right through. Again any movement of the head of the player during the swing should be in a horizontal plane that is to say, not tilted from side to side.

The signal means according to the present invention comprises a tube or like casing which is made of non-sonorous material except at its opposite ends which are made of sonorous material such as metal.

One end of the tube is closed and the other end thereof has an opening therein for the emission of sound. Within the tube is a freely movable ball. The tube is mounted on the upper surface of a base. The base is provided with oppositely disposed angular slots or with a plurality of spaced stops on the upper surface of the base with which the tube is engageable, the tube being pivoted to the base for such purposes and the latter having a fastening strap.

The base is worn on the left wrist-joint of a right-handed player or the right wrist-joint of a left-handed player with the tube pointing towards the thumb of the player. Adjustability of the tube in relation to the thumb of the hand on the wrist-joint of which the base is worn or the horizontal position thereof when the base is worn on the forehead can be effected by either providing the base with angularly arranged slots within which a fastening strap is adjustable, or by providing a plurality of spaced stops on the upper surface of the base with which the tube is engageable, the tube being pivoted to the base for

such purpose and the latter having a fastening strap.

Certain players in making the swing of the club swing same in an upright manner and others in a flat arc causing the ball in the tube to travel at different speeds; for use by either player a slight adjustment of the tube in relation to the wrist-joint is necessary.

The said signal means are adapted to register a definite instant signal at the top of a properly executed back swing of the club by a player and faults in his performance are indicated by premature, slow or double signals.

On the pendulum-like motion of the straight left arm of the player in making back swing of the club the ball will remain in normal position at the lower end of the tube until such swing has been nearly completed, when it will move to the opposite end of the tube, the cocking of the wrists of the player accelerating the speed of the ball in the tube and causing it to instantly strike such end of the tube on the completion of such properly executed back swing of the club.

Should the player in said back swing of the club bend his left arm, the ball will strike the said opposite end of the tube before the completion of said swing and thereby give a premature audible signal.

Again, if the player should swing the club back with his left arm straight but with non-cocking of his wrists, the ball will roll slowly from the lower end of the tube to the opposite end thereof and the striking of the ball against such end will give an audible signal which will not be heard at the moment when the back swing is completed, but will be somewhat deferred, because the cocking of the player's wrist is necessary to give sufficient impetus to the ball and to make sure that the signal sounds simultaneously with the completion of the back swing.

Any unsteadiness of the body or arms of the player or relaxing of the grip on the club by him at the top of the back swing thereof or any hesitancy after beginning the down swing will cause the ball to bounce in the tube and thus register a double audible signal.

When the signal means are worn on the forehead of a player the tube is set on its base so that it will lie horizontally on the forehead. If the correct movements are made of the head of the player, that is in a horizontal plane, the ball will remain stationary in the tube and no audible signal will be given thereby but if he tilts his head from side to side the ball will roll in the tube and will strike that end of the tube to which

the head is tilted and thereby an audible signal will be given.

As the signal means can be used by different players either on their wrist-joints or foreheads, it is necessary that the tube in which the ball is located should be made adjustable for utilization by the different players either by allowing for adjustability of the positions of the tube by the adjusting of the securing strap in relation to the base for the tube, or by adjusting the tube for desired positions thereof on the base plate provided therefor. When the signal means are being used on the wrist-joint of the player the tube before playing is commenced must be adjusted so that its forward end will point towards the thumb of the player, and when the signal means are being used on the forehead of the player the tube before play is commenced must be adjusted so that it will lie horizontally of the player's forehead.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view depicting audible signal means affixed to the wrist-joint of a player; Figs. 2 and 3 are sectional views thereof; Fig. 4 shows said audible signal means attached to the forehead of a player; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of modified audible signal means.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 3, the audible signal means may be carried on the wrist-joint of a player. Such means comprise a tube 2 of suitable design which is open at one end 3 and closed at the other end 4; tube 2 is preferably made of non-sonorous material but its ends 3 and 4 are of sonorous material. The tube 2 can be mounted on a base plate 5 which is furnished with oppositely disposed angular slots 6 for the reception of a wristlet band 7. When mounted upon the wrist-joint of the tube 2 must point towards the thumb of the player. The angular slots 6 enable the tube 2 to be set in proper position when the plate 5 is placed upon either of the wrist-joints of the player. Within the tube 2 is a ball 22 adapted to freely move therein.

In Fig. 4 the audible signal means shown in Figs. 1 to 3 are depicted as applied to the forehead of a player, the wristlet strap 7 being substituted by a head band 34, and the tube 2 being horizontally disposed on the forehead of the player.

The audible signal means shown in Fig. 5 have a tube 16 and associated sonorous striker plates 17. Such tube 16 is pivotally mounted upon a base plate 18 which is furnished with a plurality of spaced stops 19 with which is adapted to engage a button 20, the latter being affixed to the tube 16, whereby the tube 16 may be placed in any suitable angular position in relation to the plate 18. Tube 16 also carries a freely movable ball 22, and the tube 16 has therein an opening 10 for emission of sound. A securing strap 7 is attachable to the plate 18.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Signal device for golf players, comprising a support, means to attach said support to portions of a player's body which are to perform an exactly prescribed sequence of movements when the player executes a correct swing of the club, and means on said support to produce audible signals, said signal means including a longitudinal casing having an opening therein for the emission of sound, and sonorous end members, and a ball freely movable in said casing so as to cooperate with said sonorous end members at predetermined stages of each correct swing.

2. Signal device, as claimed in claim 1, comprising further means associated with said support for adjusting said casing to the desired position with respect to the body portion to which said support is attached.

3. Signal device, as claimed in claim 1, in which said support consists of a base plate having oppositely disposed angular slots therein, and said attaching means comprises a strap secured to said base plate and passing through said slots whereby angular adjustment of said support may be effected with respect to said strap and to the body portion to which it is attached.

4. Signal device, as claimed in claim 1, in which said support consists of a base plate, said casing being pivotally mounted on said base plate.

5. Signal device, as claimed in claim 1, in which said support consists of a base plate carrying a plurality of spaced stops, said casing being pivotally mounted on said base plate and being provided with a projection adapted to engage any of said stops for positioning of said casing relative to said base plate.

THOMAS JAMES ROBERTS.