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G. W. BELDAM

GOLF OR SIMILAR GAME BALL

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FIG. 1.

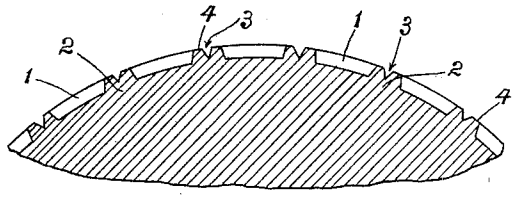
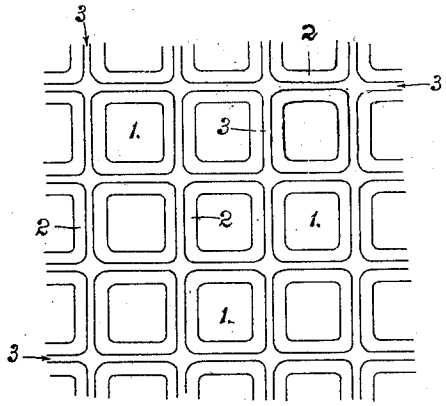


FIG. 2.



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GOLF OR SIMILAR GAME BALL.

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This invention has reference to golf and similar balls which are struck in playing games, but more particularly to golf balls.

Golf balls are usually provided with sunken areas or recesses in the surface, which according to the arrangement produce different surface effects, and the object of which mainly is to promote a steady or true flight of the ball, and without which the flight is irregular. In many forms of surface, the actual outer surface which is struck by the golf club is in the form of circumferential or intersecting ribs or bars in relief, the ribs or bars being truly circular or more or less irregularly circular, whilst in others they are in zig-zag form, or partly ring or partly zig-zag form or arrangement, the zig-zag lines or ribs or bars in some cases extending from ring to ring. Thus the ball surface is in some cases made up mainly of rectangular or other recesses with the upstanding bars or ribs all joined up in one continuous manner so as to form a striking surface on the outside.

While as stated balls having such a character of surface have a better or truer and steadier flight than balls not so formed, nevertheless the flight is not completely true or steady, and we have found that this is due largely to the absence of "grip" between the playing club, and the surface of the ribs, which as a whole offer a relatively smooth surface; and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a form or character of surface by which a better "grip" of the club with the ball of the kind referred to when struck, is obtained, so that there is no slip or relative movement between the surface of the club, and the surface of the ball, and in consequence the truth and steadiness of flight of the ball is thereby enhanced.

According to this invention, this improved effect is produced in connection with balls having a ribbed or ringed surface of the kind named, by providing on these striking surfaces themselves, a local uneven surface, so that wherever the ball is struck by the club, it will strike a part having an uneven or irregularity of such a character that the grip referred to takes place; and this in the preferred form may consist of a narrow groove formed in the surface of the ribs or bars, forming more or less sharp edges on each side of them. The grooves and the edges at each side may extend along the bars either truly rectilinearly, or in lines other than a straight line from point to point; and in a ball having the ribs or bars all ramifying into one another, the narrow grooves will form a net or chequer work formation over all the ball, the grooves running in different directions, running or merging into one another in a true net work or chequer work formation. Where the grooves run into one another or intersect there is formed a substantial sunken area say of rectangular, triangular, or like form, which is produced by the edges of the grooves diverging at the points of intersection or running into one another; and the parts of the surface of the ball within each mesh or area of the chequer work or net, will consist of an isolated frame, separated from all the other adjacent frames or units of the surface with a sunken space within it. The corners of the net or chequer work frames will be cut off or rounded by this formation, and the inner corners of the frames may, if desired, be rounded or cut off, or sharp.

It is found with a ball having a construction or formation of surface described, a true engagement and grip of the club face with the surface of the ball without slip or relative movement, is provided, by which the flight effect referred to is improved. Also the "grip" between the air and the ball surface flight due to the stream of air which flows through the grooves (coupled with the action of the air with the recesses,) is such that it promotes truth or steadiness of flight, and the formation also similarly furnishes a better grip of the "green", and hence a truer run.

The invention, the nature of which is above described, is illustrated in the annexed drawings, in which Figure 1 is a section showing a part of the ball according to the invention, and Figure 2 is a face view illustrating the form or construction of the surface of the ball.

The surface of the ball is provided as shown with the recesses or sunken parts 1—in the case shown square recesses or sunken parts, and the crossing ribs or raised rings 2; in the centre of which, running into one another at the points of intersection, are the shallow grooves 3, by which the surfaces of the ribs or rings 2 are cut up; and the edges of the grooves are preferably in the form of angles 4, and wherever the ball is struck by the club it will strike a part which is broken up or uneven as regards its surface, so that a grip between the striking instrument and this surface will take place, it being arrested if the edges are angular as just specified.

Therefore instead of, as usual, there being only the edges or angles of the ribs on the outside surface of the ball, immediately round the recesses 1, there are in this ball in addition the edges 4 forming the edges of the crossing grooves 3. This characteristic exists when the edges of the grooves 3 are quite sharp, or slightly rounded.

It will be plain that this construction of golf or similar balls which have to be struck with a club or like instrument, will apply to balls having various patterns of ribs 2, and recesses 1, that is balls in which the ribs run in different angular relationship to one another—of which there are many on the market—and having recesses or sunken parts of rectangular, triangular, or other form.

In the construction shown in the drawing, at the points the grooves 3 run into one another or intersect, the edges or sides of the grooves are rounded as shown, and the width of these portions of the grooves is relatively great.

What is claimed is:—

1. A golf or similar game ball having surface cross ribs or rings, and recesses or sunken parts within or surrounded by such ribs or rings, and wherein the surfaces of the ribs or rings within their outer edges are provided along the same with continuous small or narrow grooves, which intersect or run into one another, for the purposes specified.

2. A golf or similar ball having a striking or contact surface consisting of cross ribs 2, rectangular recesses 1 surrounded by said ribs, and small V-shaped grooves 3, having sharp edges 4, which intersect and run into one another, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

GEORGE WILLIAM BELDAM.