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GOLF BALL MARKING DEVICE

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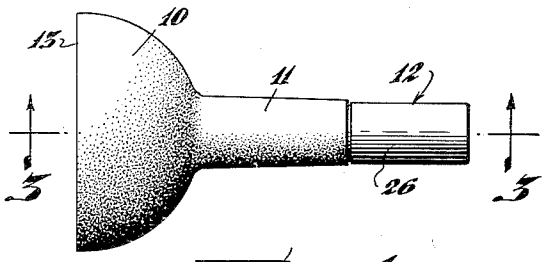


Fig. 1

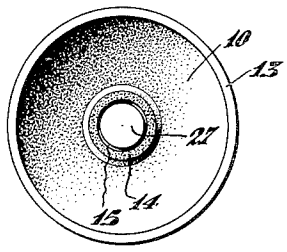


Fig. 2

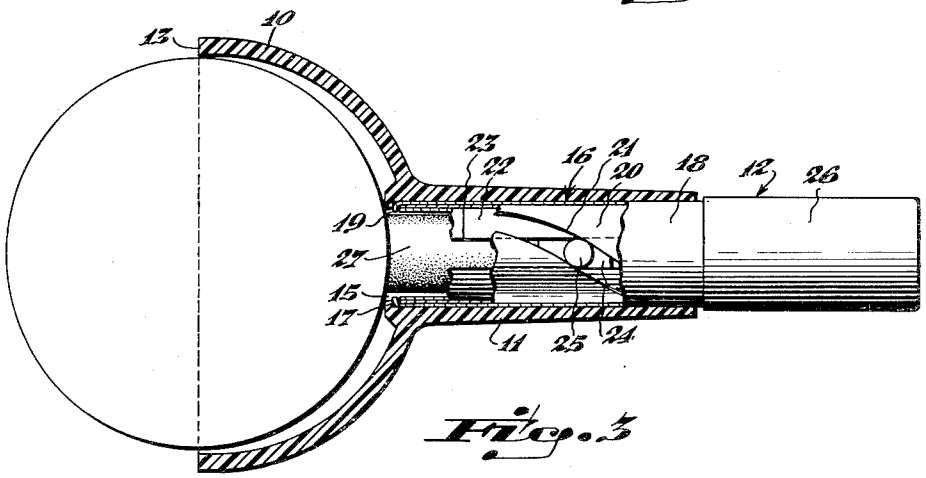


Fig. 3

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GOLF BALL MARKING DEVICE

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This invention relates to marking devices, and it is directed in particular to a device for placing a small spot of marking substance upon a golf ball so that when the ball is struck upon the spot by a golf club the marking substance transfers from the ball onto the face of the club and thereby indicates to the golfer the exact area of the club head which made contact with the ball during the stroke.

Of course, anyone who plays the game seriously strives constantly to improve his score. Designers of golf equipment are constantly striving to provide the best possible clubs, balls and other equipment for the golfer to assist him in improving his score. Every year new clubs appear upon the market. Materials are changed, weights are changed or shifted, new and different grips, heads and shafts are tried, and new claims for greater distances and truer flights are made. Theories to improve the game are legend. Quite obviously, however, the flight of a golf ball is dependent solely upon its being hit squarely and with the center of the face of the club. Hours of practice, expensive equipment and instruction etc. are all directed toward this end.

The primary objective of this invention has been to provide a simple, inexpensive expedient for the golfer to enable him to determine for himself the exact spot on the face of his club that makes contact with the ball. Otherwise expressed, this invention provides a solution to the fundamental problem of indicating to the golfer just exactly what takes place in the critical relationship of club to head at the instant the club meets the ball. Direction, distance, hooking and slicing are all directly influenced by whether or not the ball is struck with the center of the club face. Thus, by "reading" the spot on the club head the golfer will know whether or not he is hitting the ball correctly, if not he will see the reason for his errors on the club face at the times they are made and can make his own corrections in his swing in order to improve his game.

The small spot which is placed upon the ball by the device of this invention interferes in no way with the flight of the ball, and thus it can be used at any time during actual play upon a golf course on a driving range or on a practice fairway.

Other objectives and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a golf ball marking device incorporating the principles of the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view thereof.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged cross sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 1.

The marking device of this invention comprises only two elements. One is a golf ball receiving and positioning cup **10** having a hollow sleeve or tube **11** formed as an integral part of it, and the other is a marking stick designated generally by the numeral **12**. It is preferred that the cup and tube be made of a semi-resilient plastic, such as polyethylene, which is molded into the configuration shown. The cup terminates in a circular rim **13** which is of a size to fit a golf ball to be marked. The bottom center of the cup has a central rim or boss **14** formed as an integral part of it, this rim or boss surrounding a circular opening **15** in the bottom of the cup which is in communication with the hollow interior

of the tube **11**. The bore at the inside of the tube is designated generally by the numeral **16** and it may be seen that it is slightly oversized with respect to circular opening **15** to provide an internal shoulder **17** where the tube meets the cup. To facilitate the removal of the device from a mold, it is preferred that the tube taper outwardly away from the cup as shown in FIGURE 3.

The marking stick may be a conventional lipstick holder. In this case the outside diameter of the lipstick case, which normally receives the lipstick cover, receives the tube **11**, and the case is inserted into the tube until its upper rim makes contact with shoulder **17**. In the preferred embodiment, the semi-resilient material of which the tube is made securely grips the casing. Otherwise expressed, the fit between the tube and the casing is a forced fit.

The marking stick shown is tubular and following conventional practice includes a casing **18**, the outer rim of which is turned over as shown at **19**, it being this rim that makes contact with shoulder **17**. Two sleeves are mounted inside of the casing. One of these, designated **20**, is fixed with respect to the casing **18** and it has a spiral shaped slot **21** formed in it. The other sleeve which is designated **22** resides inside of sleeve **20**. The latter sleeve has a longitudinal slot **23** in its side wall. The marking stick itself is mounted in a cup-shaped carrier **24** and this carrier has a pin **25** on it which projects through the straight slot **23** in sleeve **22** and into the spiral slot **21** in sleeve **20**. Sleeve **22** is fixed to an operator knob **826** and as knob **26** is rotated, the cup-shaped carrier **24** is moved to the left or right as viewed in FIGURE 3 which either feeds a stick **27** of marking substance in and out of inner sleeve **22**.

A golf ball to be marked is seated within the cup portion of the device and this portion is configurated as shown in FIGURE 3 so that the golf ball rests upon boss **14** while at the same time it makes contact with the rim **13**. With the ball seated in this fashion, the knob **26** is rotated to force the stick of marking substance out through the circular opening **15** and into contact with the ball as illustrated.

The marking stick in the preferred embodiment is cast in the same way ordinary lipsticks are cast of a semi-greasy substance carrying vivid coloring such as a chrome-green. It has been found that a chalk-like material may also be utilized for the marking stick. Whether the material be soft, as in the case of a semi-greasy type material, or brittle, as in the case of a chalk-like material, the holder protects it from being broken.

In use, the golfer merely inserts the ball in the cup and turns the knob to place the mark upon the ball. The ball then may be teed up with the spot at the side thereof which is to be hit. The contact between the face of the club and the ball transfers some of the marking substance from the ball onto the club head. The location of the spot on the club head is a direct indication to the golfer whether or not his swing is "grooved." An important feature of the present invention is that in actual use it permits a golfer to analyze his mistakes as they are made so that he can correct his stance or swing from stroke to stroke.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A device to place a spot of marking substance upon a golf ball comprising a cup dimensioned to removably receive a golf ball, a hollow tube formed as an integral part of said cup and extending from the bottom thereof, means defining a circular opening in the bottom of said cup which opens into said tube, a circular boss in the bottom of said cup surrounding said opening, a stick of marking substance, a carrier for said stick which is configurated to fit snugly in said tube, and said carrier in-

cluding means responsive to rotational movement of said carrier to advance and withdraw said stick through said opening and into contact with a golf ball disposed in said cup to deposit a spot of marking substance thereon.

2. A device to place a spot of marking substance upon a golf ball comprising a semi-circular cup dimensioned to snugly removably receive a golf ball, a hollow tube formed as an integral part of said cup and extending axially from the bottom thereof, means defining a circular opening in the bottom of said cup which opens into said tube, a stick of marking substance characterized by its ability to be transferred from a golf ball against which it is pressed onto a golf club head coming in contact with said substance, a carrier for said stick which is configurated to fit snugly into said tube, and said carrier including means to advance and withdraw said stick through said opening and into contact with a golf ball disposed in said cup.

3. A device to place a spot of marking substance upon a golf ball comprising a cup dimensioned to removably receive a golf ball, means defining a circular opening in the bottom of said cup, a stick of marking substance, a carrier for said stick, and means to hold said stick in alignment with said opening including means to bring said stick into contact with a golf ball disposed in said cup.

4. A device to place a spot of marking substance upon a golf ball comprising a receiver for removably holding a golf ball, a hollow tube formed as an integral part of said receiver, means defining a circular opening in the receiver which opens into the interior of said tube, a stick of marking substance, a carrier for said stick disposed in said tube, and said carrier including means to advance and withdraw said stick through said opening and into contact with a golf ball disposed in said receiver.

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