Sept. 17, 1957 T. E. MEAD 2,806,650

HANDICAP COMPUTER

Filed Feb. 16, 1956

Fig. 1

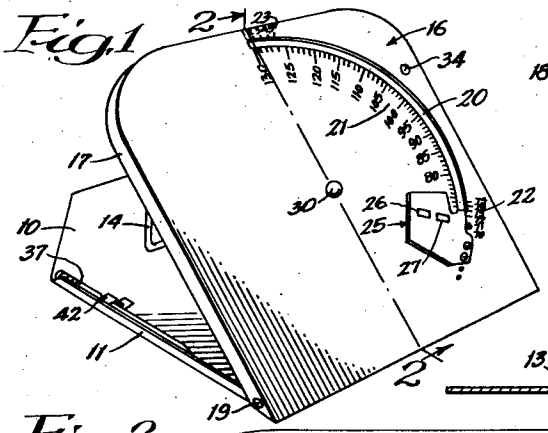


Fig. 2

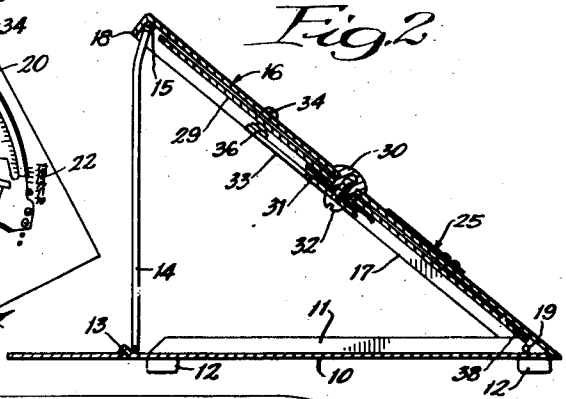


Fig. 3

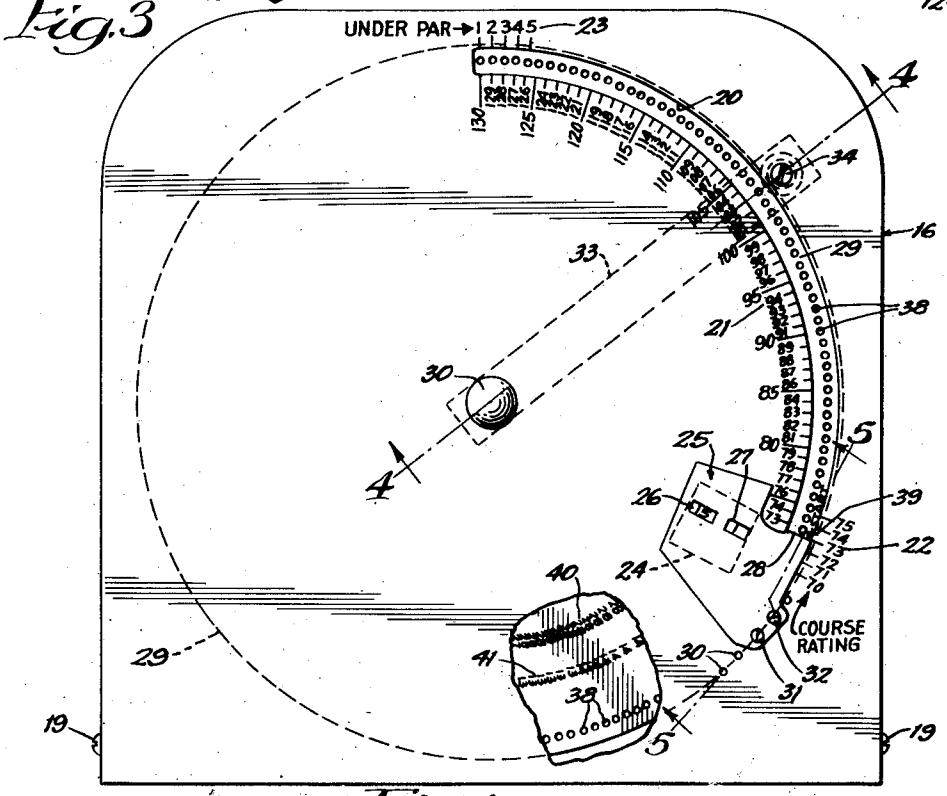


Fig. 4

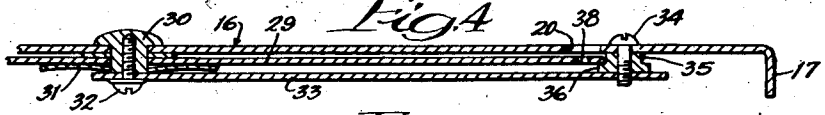
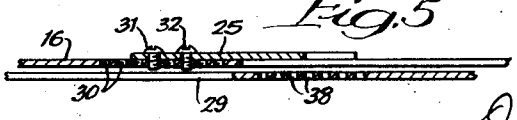


Fig. 5



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HANDICAP COMPUTER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 235—88)

This invention relates to a handicap computer, and is particularly useful in computing a golf score handicap.

An object of the invention is to provide an efficient and effective device for the rapid and accurate calculation of a handicap through the dialing of a series of golf scores, etc. A further object is to provide apparatus which may be compactly folded and then, when desired, unfolded to a slanting position convenient for the dialing of golf scores and the like while recording, through the use of an adapter shield, the handicap, the adapter shield relating the handicap to the known course rating. Yet another object is to provide a score indicator mechanism for automatically selecting a handicap based upon a series of scores, or the like. A still further object is to provide in such an apparatus means for adapting the computer to courses of different course ratings and to unusual situations where players play under par or have exceedingly high scores, etc. Yet another object is to provide a computer which is complete in itself, carrying a stylus for dialing numbers and providing a structure which may be slanted to an easel-like position for operation and then moved to a compact, book-like position for transportation. A still further object is to provide in such a structure means for supporting a dialing disk for accurate movement, while at the same time providing marginal support of the disk adjacent the points of dialing. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown, in an illustrative embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a computer device embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, an enlarged top plan view of the apparatus, a portion of the front plate being broken away; Fig. 4, a sectional detail view, the section being taken as indicated at line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and Fig. 5, a broken sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

In the illustration given, **10** designates a base plate equipped at its sides with upwardly-extending ledges or flanges **11** and provided at its bottom with resilient knobs or legs **12**. The base **10** is also preferably provided near its rear with a pair of upwardly-extending knobs or projections **13** adapted to serve as stops for a hinged supporting bracket **14**.

The hinged supporting bracket **14** is provided at its top with outwardly-turned ends secured within hinges **15** of the front plate **16**. The front plate **16** is provided with side flanges **17** and a rear flange **18**, and the hinges **15** are preferably formed by striking inwardly segments of the rear flange **18** about the feet of the frame or bracket **14**.

The front plate **16** is pivotally secured at its lower front end to the side flanges **11** of the base plate **10** by means of the pivot screw hinge pins **19** so that the front plate may swing to an inclined position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or, upon swinging the frame **14** upwardly,

the front plate may swing downwardly to a collapsed position with the side walls **17** of the front plate enclosing the side walls **11** of the base plate **10**.

The front plate **16** is provided along one side with an arcuate slot **20**. On the inner side of the slot is a scale **21** consisting of numbers which are applicable to golf scores, the numbers running in sequence from **73** up to **130**. It will be understood that these numbers may be varied, as desired. At the lower end of the slot **20** is a second scale **22** appearing above the words "Course Rating," and this scale comprises the numbers **70** to **75**, it being understood that such numbers may be varied also as desired. At the top of the arcuate slot near the center of plate **16** is a third scale **23**, in which the numbers 1 to 5 are provided adjacent the words "Under Par." The three scales **21**, **22** and **23** lie adjacent the arcuate slot **20**, in the positions indicated.

The plate **16** is provided, at a point inwardly of the scale **22** and of the scale **21**, with an enlarged rectangular slot or opening **24** providing a window through which numerals may become visible, as will be later described.

One major problem involved in the computing of handicap scores for golf players hinges upon the fact that different golf courses have different course ratings. In order to provide the proper handicap for a particular course, it is necessary that the handicap be figured upon the particular course rating as a base. In order to provide a computer which may be employed for the different courses, I provide an adapted shield **25** which provides at its inner side two windows **26** and **27**, through which handicap figures can be observed, while at the same time it provides a marker ledge or line **28** which is adapted to be aligned with a starting point on a rotatable disk **29** and also with the course rating of the scale **22**. To render the shield effective for automatic computation based upon the course rating, I provide the lower portion of the front plate **16** with a plurality of spaced threaded openings **30** adapted to receive screws **31** and **32** carried by the shield **25**. By this means, the shield can be readily placed in position to bring the line **28** into alignment with the known course rating of the particular course, and thereafter the operation of the device is accurate in computing handicaps for such a course.

The computer disk **29** is rotatably mounted upon pivot member **30** and is frictionally secured in position by the spring disk **31** and the screw **32**. The screw **32** also secures a laterally-extending arm or strap **33** which threadedly engages the screw **34** at its outer end. Mounted upon screw **34** is a collar **35** having a supporting flange **36** adapted to support the outer end of the disk **29** when the same is being pressed downwardly by a stylus **37**.

The disk **29** is provided with a circumferential row of spaced openings **38** adapted to receive the end of a stylus, so that the disk can be rotated by the stylus. The disk is provided at one edge with a starting line indicated by the numeral **39**, and when the computing begins, the starting line is brought into exact alignment with the marker edge **28** of the shield **25**.

The handicap of the golf player is indicated by a series of numerals visible through the windows **26** and **27**. The inner series of numerals, which are designated by the numeral **40**, is shown in Fig. 3, and the numerals here indicate the handicap in the instances where the scores are high and the disk **29** is rotated more than once. The lower handicaps are indicated in the annular column designated by the numeral **41**, and such numerals apply when the disk **29** is rotated less than once during the dialing of ten scores. The dialing is accomplished suitably by the stylus **37**, which is preferably held by the spring finger **42** against the side flange **11** when the device is not being actively used, as shown best in Fig. 1.

Operation

In the operation of the device, the starting line **39** is brought into alignment with the marker edge **28** of the adapter shield **25** and at the same time the shield **25** is secured in a position in which the line **28** is in alignment with the rating of the particular course for which the handicaps are to be computed. If, for example, the course rating is **73**, the adapter plate **25** is secured in the position shown in Fig. 3. With the starting line **39** in alignment also with the edge **28**, the operator now dials consecutively ten selected gross scores, holding the stylus perpendicular to the dial **29**. When exactly ten scores have been dialed, the correct handicap appears in the window **26** or the window **27**. As stated, if the dial has made less than one revolution, the right-hand window **27** is observed, while if the dial has made more than one revolution, the left-hand window **26** is read. In actual operation, the operator knows generally from the scores dialed which window to observe.

Occasionally, scores are made under par, and to accommodate the device for such lower scores, there is provided the upper scale **23**, and from this scale it is easy to dial back the number of strokes under par. Thus the number of strokes under par are actually subtracted by the rearward dialing of the disk **29**. For occasional scores over **130**, the operator will dial **130** and then dial the number of excess strokes, either separately, or by adding them to the next score.

The disk **29** remains always in the position to which it has been dialed by reason of the friction plate **31**, while at the same time the outer edge of the disk is constantly supported by the flange **36** of the collar **34** adjacent the area where the greatest amount of dialing occurs. If desired, additional supports for the outer edge of the disk **29** may be provided. The accuracy of the dialing operation is further increased by thus supporting the outer edge of the disk **29** and maintaining it close to the front plate **16** during the dialing operations. Such support is provided even though the front plate may be swung upwardly to the inclined position shown best in Figs. 1 and 2, in which position the actual dialing can be most effectively carried on. After the computations have been made and the device is no longer needed, the supporting bracket **14** may be swung inwardly upon its hinges at the upper end of the front plate **16** and the structure may be collapsed into a flat compact arrangement for storing or transportation.

While, in the foregoing specification, I have set forth a specific structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating an embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that such details of structure may be varied widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. In a golf handicap computing device, a front plate having thereon an arcuate slot and a scale having stroke numbers arranged sequentially adjacent the slot and having also on the other side of the slot a course rating scale, an adapter shield having a marker edge extending over said slot and adapted to be aligned with points on said course rating scale and being provided along its inner side with a plurality of windows arranged inwardly of said slot, an inner disk rotatably mounted upon said front plate and having a circumferential series of spaced holes exposed through said slot as the disk rotates, said disk having inwardly of said holes circular rows of numbers in radial alignment with said holes and adapted to be exposed through the said windows as the disk rotates, the holes of said disk being adapted to be engaged by a stylus for the rotating of said disk, and means for supporting the outer edge of said disk as it rotates.

2. The structure of claim 1, in which the disk is engaged by a spring plate to maintain the same frictionally in a set position.

3. The structure of claim 1, in which an under par scale is provided on a side of the slot opposite that of the first-mentioned scale for guiding reverse rotation of said disk.

4. In a golf handicap computing device, a front plate having thereon an arcuate slot, scale numbers along one side of said slot, scale numbers along the opposite side of said slot at each end of said slot, an adapter shield alignable with the scale numbers at the lower end of said slot opposite said first-mentioned numbers and having spaced windows inwardly of said slot, a disk pivotally mounted upon said front plate on the inner side thereof and having a circumferential row of holes exposed through the arcuate slot of said front plate, said disk having also circular columns of numbers alignable with the windows of said adapter shield, a spring plate engaging said disk, a strap extending laterally from the center of said disk, screw means urging said inner strap end and said spring plate against said disk, a collar supported by the outer end of said strap, said collar providing a flange engaging the outer edge of said disk, and means securing said strap and collar to said front plate.

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