March 1, 1949. W. J. GLANCEY 2,462,955

CLUB SWING PRACTICE MEANS FOR GOLFERS

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Fig. 1

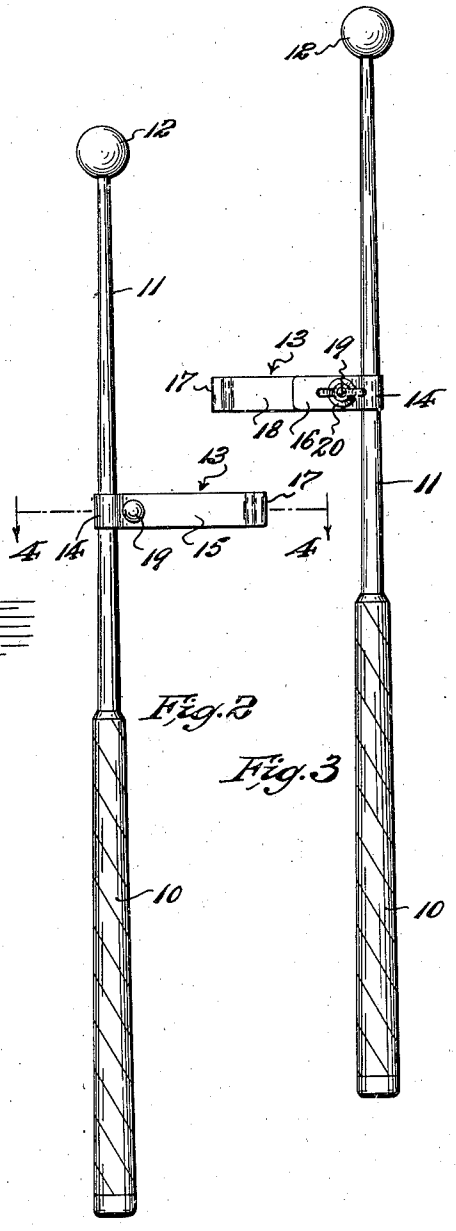


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

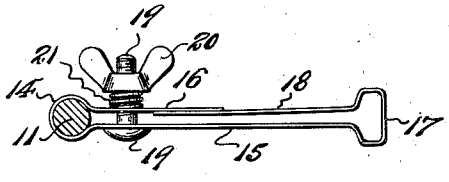


Fig. 4

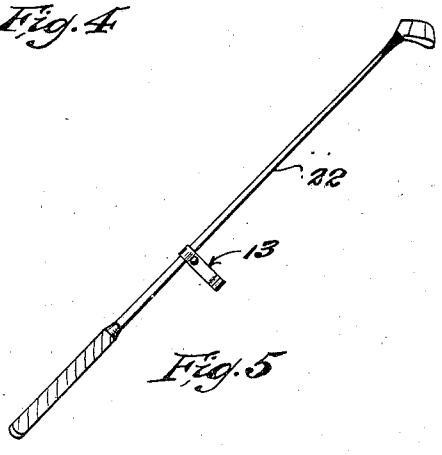


Fig. 5

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CLUB SWING PRACTICE MEANS FOR GOLFERS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

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This invention relates to novel practice means for instructing and training golfers in the use of golf clubs.

The invention has for an object to provide a novel means in combination with either a practice stick or an actual club which is adapted, by touching contact with the user's body, to indicate that the stick or club is properly initially poised by the user, and the user's arms and body in proper initial stance, preparatory to swinging the club in a golf-ball playing stroke.

The invention has for another object to provide a practice stick or an actual golf club with the novel indicative touch effecting means above mentioned, said means including means for adjustably locating and affixing the same to the stick or club so as to accomodate its use to the physical size and arm lengths of the particular user of the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel practice stick, provided with the indicative touch effecting means above mentioned, which stick is especially adapted to be used within doors for golf club swinging practice.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated, will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

Illustrative embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a pictorial view showing the operation of the club swing practice means of this invention by a user.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of a practice stick equipped with the indicative touch effecting means according to this invention; Fig. 3 is an opposite side elevational view of the same; and Fig. 4 is a horizontal or transverse sectional view, taken on line 4—4 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a golf club equipped with the novel indicative touch effecting means, this view being drawn on a greatly reduced scale.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

In Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, the embodiment of the invention illustrated thereby provides a practice stick having the indicative touch effecting means operatively mounted thereon. The practice stick

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comprises a hand grip portion 10 from which axially extends a shaft 11. The hand grip portion 10 is formed to substantially correspond in cross sectional shape and size and in length to that of an actual golf club, and is likewise preferably provided with an external surface structure or covering such as ordinarily used in connection with an actual golf club so as to furnish the same with corresponding hand grip characteristics. The shaft 11 is of substantially less length than that of the shaft of an actual golf club so that, in use, the practice stick may be safely and conveniently swung within comparatively confined indoor space, when the user desires to practice golf club strokes within the home or within other indoor location or other confined space. In order that the practice stick may substantially approximate in weight and balance that of an actual golf club, an enlarged body 12 of appropriate weight is affixed to the free end or outer extremity of the shaft 11; said body being preferably of spherical shape.

The indicative touch effecting means of the club stroke practicing device is adjustably mounted on the shaft 11 of the practice stick intermediate the hand grip portion 10 and the weighted outer extremity of said shaft 11. In its general form said indicative touch effecting means comprises an arm 13 disposed to project laterally outward from a side of the shaft 11; said arm being of appreciable length, preferably from three to four inches long. It will be obvious that said arm 13 is subject to wide variation in shape and detail construction. A perferred construction thereof, as shown, comprises, however, one fabricated from a strip of sheet metal, one end portion of which is doubled upon itself to form an attachment loop or socket 14 shaped to conform to the cross-sectional shape of the shaft 11 so as to embrace, and form a seating for, the same. Said attachment loop terminates at one side in an outwardly extending arm member 15 and at the other side in an outwardly or forwardly extending tongue portion 16 which is disposed in spaced opposed parallel relation to the arm member 15. At its outer end said arm member 15 is doubled upon itself and suitably shaped to provide an enlarged touch portion 17 extending transversely thereof. Extending rearwardly from the side of said touch portion 17 opposite to that whereby it

is connected with the arm member 15 is a tongue portion 18 which is disposed in spaced opposed parallel relation to said arm member 15. The free end part of said tongue portion 18 is disposed to lap the inner face of the free end part of the forwardly extending tongue portion 16. Extending through opposed portions of the arm member 15 and tongue portion 16, adjacent to the attachment loop 14, is a headed draw bolt 19, and threaded on said draw bolt is a thumb or wing nut 20, which, when turned home on the threaded shank of the draw bolt, operates to contract the attachment loop 14 about the shaft 11, and thus to clamp the arm 13 to the latter in suitably adjusted outwardly spaced relation to the hand grip portion 10 of the practice stick. If desired, a compressure spring 21, or other resilient form of lock washer, may be interposed between the thumb or wing nut 20 and the tongue portion 16 to which the latter is opposed, whereby to retain the thumb or wing nut against accidental loosening while the practice stick is in use.

The practice stick as equipped with the indicative touch effecting means, since it is of considerably less length than that of an actual golf club, is therefore particularly adapted for indoor practice use. Since, however, the indicative touch effecting means will equally well serve its purpose when properly mounted on the shaft of a full length or actual golf club, it will be obvious that the former may be optionally applied to the latter, thus adapting an actual golf club for out of doors practice. This is shown in Fig. 5, wherein the indicative touch effecting arm 13 is shown as operatively assembled with a full size golf club 22.

I have discovered that faulty or improperly directed and controlled swing of a golf club by a user is, to a very great extent, due to improper initial poising of the club at the end of a back swing and preparatory to performing the forward driving phase of club swing. In this connection, I have observed that, if the user lowers the head to propor head down position, whereby to focus sight upon the golf ball which is addressed, at the end of the back swing of the club, the shaft of the club should cross above the user's elevated shoulder so as to extend behind the lowered head, and with the user's arms raised to poise the club, at the end of back swing, so that the longitudinal axis of the club extends very nearly perpendicular to the vertical axis of the player's body (see Fig. 1). I have further observed that it is very difficult for the user to know whether such proper initial poise of the club after back swing has been attained, and that, without the user being aware of it, the club may in fact be poised at wrong angles in both horizontal and perpendicular planes, with the consequence that the driving phase of club swing is neither properly directed nor carried out under proper control.

Having the above observations in mind, and with a view to furnish practice means whereby an indication of proper initial poising of the club at the end of back swing may be positively signaled to the user, I have provided the above described novel indicative touch effecting means for selective attachment to either a practice stick suitable for in-door use, or to an actual club with which out of doors practice may be carried on.

When practicing with the practice stick or golf club equipped with the described indicative touch effecting arm 13, the user grasps the same by its hand grip portion in such manner that, when the stick or club is disposed in lowered position in front of the user, preparatory to back swing thereof, the touch effecting arm 13 will project in an outward direction. As the user performs and completes the back swing, if the said back swing is correcting executed so as to properly poise the stick or club at the end thereof, the touch effecting arm 13 will come in contact with the top of the user's elevated shoulder (see Fig. 1), and the user, feeling such touch, will be thus made aware that proper poising of the stick or club preparatory to driving swing has been attained. On the other hand, if such contact of the arm 13 with the user's shoulder is not attained, or if the contact is made with either front or back parts rather than the top of the user's elevated shoulder, the user will thus be made to realize that proper back swing and resultant proper poising of the stick or club preparatory to driving swing has not been attained.

It will be understood that by adjusting the position of the touch effecting arm 13 toward or from the hand grip portion of the stick or club, the practice device may be readily accommodated for use by given individual users according to the physical size and arm lengths of the latter.

From the above it will be apparent that the instant invention provides a very simple and yet highly efficient club swing practice means for golfers.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A swing practice attachment for practice sticks and golf clubs other than putters, which comprises an indicative touch effecting arm of rigid structure and of a length substantially equal to the proper distance which should separate a club shaft from the top of the user's elevated shoulder at the end of the back swing, the free end of the said arm being adapted for shoulder contact, and shaft-attaching means provided at the opposite end of the arm.

2. A swing practice attachment for practice sticks and golf clubs other than putters, which comprises an indicative touch effecting arm of rigid structure and of a length substantially equal to the proper distance which should separate a club shaft from the top of the user's elevated shoulder at the end of the back swing, the free end of the said arm being adapted for shoulder contact, and a shift-seating formed at the opposite end of the arm in substantially perpendicular relation thereto.

3. A swing practice attachment for practice sticks and golf clubs other than putters, which comprises an indicative touch effecting arm of rigid structure and of a length substantially equal to the proper distance which should separate a club shaft from the top of the user's elevated shoulder at the end of the back swing, the free end of the said arm being adapted for shoulder contact, a shaft-seating formed at the opposite end of the arm in perpendicular relation thereto, and means for adjustably securing the stick or club shaft in the seating.

4. A swing practice attachment for practice sticks and golf clubs other than putters, which comprises an indicative touch effecting arm of rigid structure and of a length substantially equal to the proper distance which should separate a club shaft from the top of the user's elevated shoulder at the end of the back swing, the free end of the said arm being formed to provide a flat shoulder-contact surface perpendicular to the arm, and shaft-attaching means provided at the opposite end of the arm.

5. A swing practice attachment for practice

sticks and golf clubs other than putters, which comprises an indicative touch effecting arm of rigid structure and of a length substantially equal to the proper distance which should separate a club shaft from the top of the user's elevated shoulder at the end of the back swing, the free end of the said arm being formed to provide a flat shoulder-contact surface perpendicular to the arm, a shaft-seating provided at the opposite end of the arm in perpendicular relation thereto, and means for adjustably securing the stick or club shaft in the seating.

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