

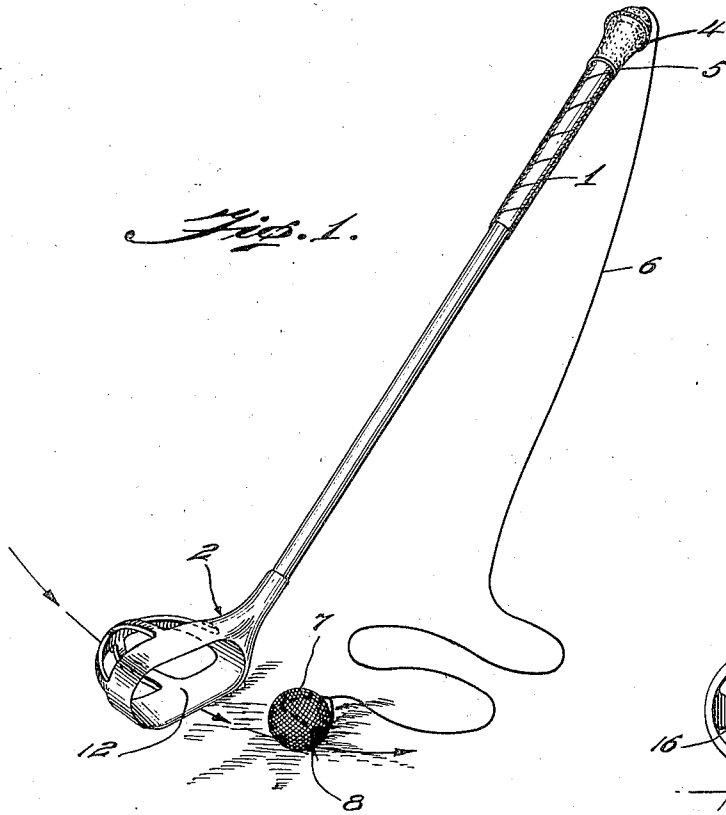
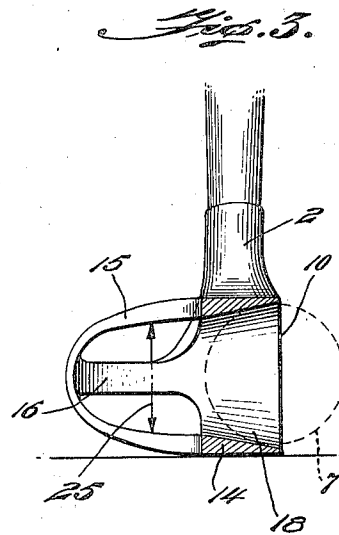
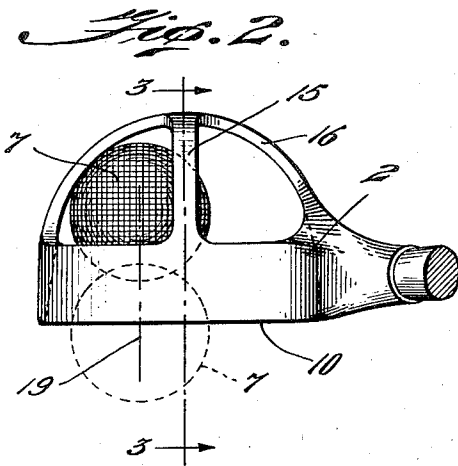
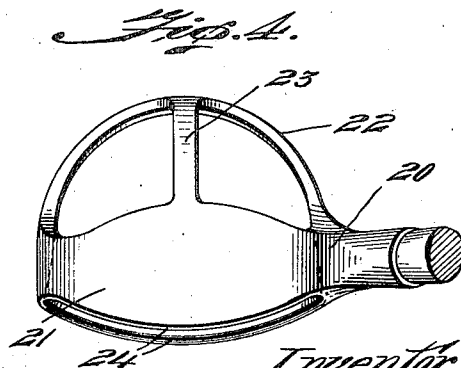
Oct. 5, 1937.

H. O. COSTELLO

2,094,766

GAME APPLIANCE

Filed Sept. 28, 1934



Inventor
Henry O. Costello
By *Curley H. Plant*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,094,766

GAME APPLIANCE

Henry O. Costello, Providence, R. I.

Application September 28, 1934, Serial No. 745,857

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

This invention relates to an improved game appliance particularly adapted for use by golfers in practice or as a means for testing and perfecting them in the art of accurate driving, as preliminary to actual play or upon practice grounds such as may be laid out particularly for that purpose.

One object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character which is particularly adapted for use in areas of limited extent or to prevent partially missed balls from being driven long distances or into sections where they are liable to cause damage or where they may be incapable of being recovered readily.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an improved device of this character comprising means adapted for ready application to a golf club and employed for connecting a ball thereto in such a manner as to prevent the ball being driven a long distance when practicing drives.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an improved golf club adapted for use in practice and so constructed as to trap the ball, if the ball is struck fairly, and further indicate that part of the normal face portion of the golf club head which would have made contact with the ball, in order to show the user what errors are present in his swing and how his play may be improved.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a golf club head provided with an opening in one face thereof for receiving a golf ball or practice ball, and having inwardly converging walls for gripping the ball as it is driven into the opening to retain the ball and indicate by its position within the club head that portion of the face of the club head which would contact with the ball.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a golf club head provided with an opening upon the striking face thereof and having means for receiving and gripping a ball passed through the opening in such a manner as to retain the ball in position to indicate its striking point relative to the center of the theoretical surface of the club head.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a golf club of this character having a head portion provided with an opening extending throughout a substantial portion of what is normally the striking surface of the club head and provided with a rigid portion or portions extending rearwardly of what is normally the striking surface of the club head and formed substantially integral with the club head to provide a substantially integral club head having means for trap-

ping a golf ball in such a manner as to indicate that portion of the theoretical striking surface contacting with the ball.

Other objects and advantages of the invention relate to various improved details of construction and novel arrangements of the parts as will be more fully set forth in the detailed description to follow.

Referring to the drawing:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the golf club together with the ball attaching means shown in position upon the end of the shaft, and illustrating the location which the parts may assume as the user is about to strike the ball.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of one form of the golf club head which may be employed in practice.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view through the club head, taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a somewhat modified form of club head.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated herewith, 1 designates the handle or shaft portion of a golf club and 2 the head thereof. In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 1 an attaching member 4, which may consist of a cap formed of rubber or other suitable material, and having a sleeve portion 5 adapted to extend downwardly over a portion of the end of the golf club and grip the same sufficiently to normally retain the cap in position thereon while at the same time permitting its ready removal when desired, is shown attached to the end of the shaft 1. A cord 6 formed of any suitable material has one end connected to the cap 4 and has the opposite end thereof connected to a golf ball or practice ball 7 in any suitable manner, as indicated at 8.

The club head 2 may be provided with an edge portion 10 corresponding with and defining the plane of the normal striking surface of a golf club of this character. The edge portion 10 surrounds an opening 12 formed in the face of the golf club head which may be of such extent longitudinally of the head as to be nearly co-extensive with the length of the striking surface of the usual golf club head of this type. To provide the opening 12 as above described the golf club head is shaped to form a substantially rigid oblong closed loop portion 14, from which may extend rearwardly integral or interconnected substantially rigid loops 15 and 16, each of which may be formed integral with or fixedly united with the oblong loop portion 14 of the club head.

As best shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing, the inner surface of the oblong closed loop portion 55

14 as well as the inner surfaces of the rearwardly extending loop 15 are beveled or inclined at the top and bottom as indicated at 18 to form a vertically restricted rearwardly extending space so that as the ball 7 is driven through the opening it is compressed slightly and held firmly in position within the rearwardly extending portion of the club head and substantially in line with its point of contact with the theoretical striking surface of the club head at its point of entry into the opening 12, as indicated by the line 19 showing the path of travel of the ball as it enters the club head in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

15 In Fig. 4 of the drawing there is shown a modified form of golf club head, as indicated at 20, provided with an oblong closed loop portion 21 and having rearwardly extending loops 22 and 23 formed integral with or firmly united with the club head and which may be integrally united with each other as shown in the drawing. In this form of the invention the forwardly extending edges 24 of the closed loop portion 21 may be curved outward slightly instead of being formed straight as better adapted for use in practice for readily trapping a golf ball or practice ball.

The skeleton ball holding means extending rearwardly from the loop portion in each form of the invention are preferably of rigid construction and are so shaped as to provide a vertically restricted space 25 located rearwardly of the loop shaped portion in which the ball may be forced in making the stroke and where it is gripped firmly to hold it in a position corresponding with the point at which the ball enters the loop shaped portion.

While each form of golf club head shown herein is illustrated as of integral construction throughout and provided with skeleton ball holding means in the form of loops, such as 15 and 16, the entire club head may be in the form of a complete enclosure for the ball, or the parts forming loops, as indicated at 15 and 16, may be formed separate from and firmly secured to the closed loop portion 14 forming the main skeleton head of the golf club.

In the form of club shaft shown herein the upper portion of the shaft is wound with suitable material, as is customary, to provide a hand grip, and the cap or resiliently gripping detachable holding member 4 is secured to the free end, as being that portion of the club shaft subjected to the least movement or which travels through an arc of approximately the shortest radius of any portion of the club in striking the ball. This arrangement provides a means of attachment with the ball wherein the connecting cord or member offers substantially no interference with the free swinging of the club, and the movement of the club is unaffected by the presence of the cord.

In the use of the improved appliance the cap 4 and interconnected cord 6 and ball 7 may be carried about separately from the golf club and applied thereto, when desired, for the purpose of

practicing driving. In the use of the construction shown the ball 7 may be placed upon a driving T and in practicing driving, if the ball is hit squarely so as to contact with what would be the "sweet center" of a club of the conventional type it will enter the opening 12 and be trapped in the golf club head at a point substantially centrally of the longitudinal extent of the opening 12. If the ball is found to be trapped within the club head either towards the right or left of the central point of the longitudinal opening it will indicate that the ball was not brought into contact with the center of the theoretical striking surface, that is, that the golfer's stroke requires correction as he is not hitting the ball squarely on the center of the striking surface.

In practice the ordinary player using this club and having some experience in play will either swing to trap the ball within the club head or strike the ball a glancing blow which will not trap the ball but will drive it in a direction at an angle to the direction desired. If he strikes the ball glancingly with a part of the loop, the ball will be held against being driven a long distance by the cord 6. When he has acquired sufficient proficiency to trap the ball fairly consistently, the position of the ball in the club head will tell him whether he is swinging the center of the theoretical striking surface outwardly or inwardly of the position of the ball, and thus indicate what change he should make in his stroke.

What I claim is:—

1. The combination with a golf club comprising a head and a shaft secured to the head, a practice ball, a resiliently gripping holding member fitting over and detachably secured to the club shaft adjacent to the free end thereof, and means connecting said detachable holding member and practice ball for limiting the extent of movement of said ball when struck by said golf club.

2. In a game appliance of the character described, the combination with a golf club comprising a shaft provided with a hand grip, of a practice ball, a resiliently gripping detachable holding member detachably secured to the club shaft at a point adjacent to the portion of most limited movement when striking the ball, and means for securing said ball to said holding member in such a manner as to permit limited free movement of said ball relative to said club while limiting the extent of movement of said ball relative to said club.

3. In combination in a game appliance, a golf club comprising a head portion and a shaft provided with a hand grip, a practice ball, a resiliently gripping holding member detachably fitting upon the free end of said shaft adjacent to the hand grip, and means connecting said holding member and practice ball for limiting the extent of movement of said ball when struck by said golf club while permitting relatively free movement of said club without interference with said ball.

HENRY O. COSTELLO.