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PRACTICE GOLF CLUB

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Fig. 1.

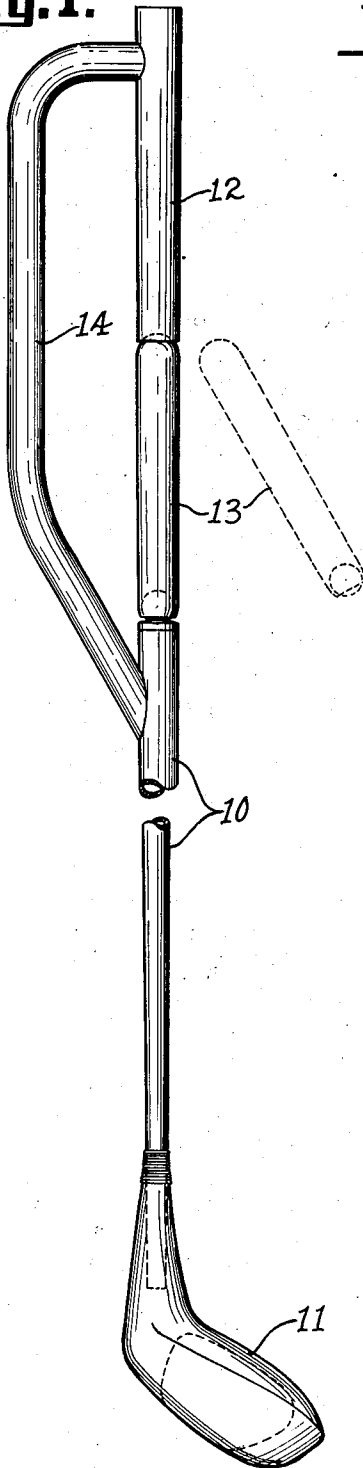
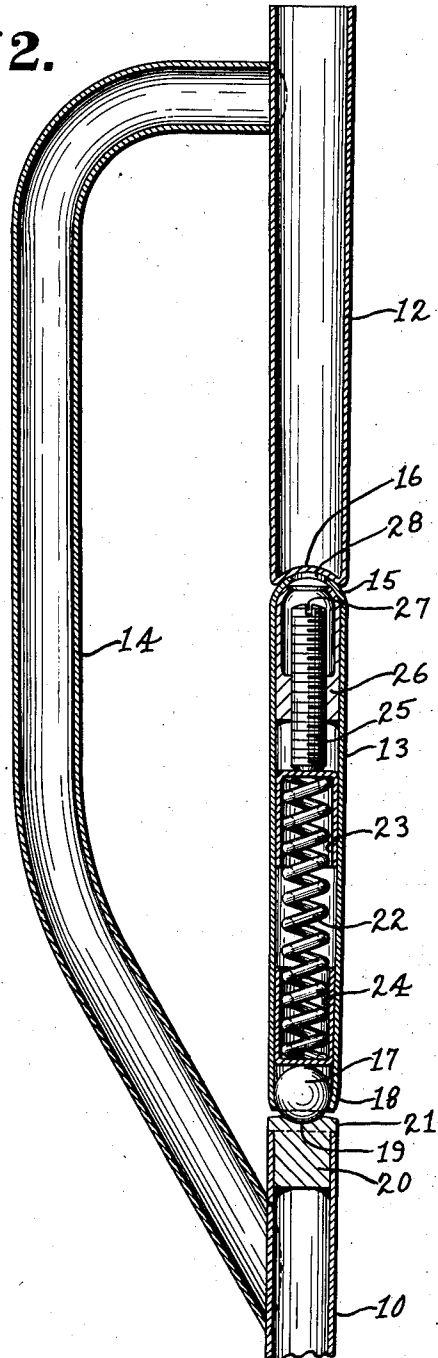


Fig. 2.



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PRACTICE GOLF CLUB

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13 Claims. (Cl. 273—81)

This invention relates to golf clubs, and more particularly to a club designed for use in practicing the game of golf whereby a smooth back swing and body turn may be developed, and the right-hand punch on the "down" swing delayed until the moment of impact.

One object of this invention is to provide a golf club of the above nature having a detachable handle for the player's right hand which will become detached if his stroke is improperly made.

A further object is to provide a practice golf club, the use of which will train the left arm and hand of the player to assume control of the club in order to produce a perfect golf swing.

A further object is to provide a club of the above nature which will prevent the right hand from dominating and spoiling the swing.

A further object is to provide a club of the above nature which will be simple in construction inexpensive to manufacture, easy to manipulate, compact, ornamental in appearance, and very efficient and durable in use.

With these and other objects in view there has been illustrated on the accompanying drawing, one form in which the invention may be conveniently embodied in practice.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation view of the practice golf club.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken through the handle portion of the same.

In learning to play golf, the beginner usually attempts to strike the ball with his club dominated by his right hand, the result being that his stroke lacks the proper rhythm and smoothness. The purpose of the present invention is to cause the club to come apart during the stroke unless the club is swung properly under the control of the left hand. By means of this simple and positive indication, the player is enabled to quickly learn the proper method of swinging the club without the aid of an instructor.

Referring now to the drawing in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 10 indicates a tubular slightly tapered shaft of steel, or other suitable material, having a head 11 affixed to its lower end. The shaft 10 of the present invention differs from the ordinary golf club shaft by having a handle 12 which is provided with an intermediate detachable right-hand gripping section 13, which will be hereinafter more fully described.

The handle 12 is adapted to be rigidly held in alinement with the lower part of the shaft 10 by means of an offset tubular brace member 14, which is secured as by welding to the handle 12 and shaft 10.

The brace 14 comprises a horizontal upper end, an inclined lower end, and a vertical intermedi-

ate section which is spaced sufficiently from the handle 13 so as to not interfere with the free action of the player's hands.

In order to permit the detachable section 13 to be pulled away from the shaft 10 in case the player uses too much "right hand" in the stroke, the upper end of said detachable section 13 is formed with a spherical extremity 15, which is adapted to fit in a concave socket 16 of similar configuration formed on the lower extremity of the handle 12. The lower end of the section 13 is provided with a snap action ball 17 having a slidable fit in the interior thereof. The lower end of the tubular section 13 is tapered inwardly at 18 to prevent the ball 17 from dropping out, and at the same time, permits the ball 17 to protrude slightly. The ball 17 is adapted normally to seat in a concave socket 19 formed in the top of a plug 20, fitted into the upper end of the shaft 10, said plug 20 being supported in said shaft by means of a shouldered head 21 at the top of said plug.

The ball 17 is adapted to be pressed downwardly at all times by means of a helical compression spring 22 having its opposite ends seated within a pair of opposed slidable piston cups 23 and 24. The lower cup 24 is in contact with the ball 17, while the upper cup 23 engages against the lower end of a headless set screw 25. The set screw 25 has threaded engagement within a sleeve nut 26 which is suitably secured in the upper end of the detachable handle section 13, and is kerfed at 27 for the reception of a screw driver or similar tool.

The upper extremity 15 of the section 13 is formed with a central aperture 28 to permit the insertion of the screw driver therethrough into engagement with the set screw 25. The tension of the spring 22 may thus be adjusted to any desired extent to suit the requirements of the player.

Operation

In the use of the improved practice golf club, the player will employ the customary "grip"—thus, he will grasp the handle 12 in his left hand and the removable section 13 in his right hand. The club will then be swung in the usual manner. If the swing of the club is properly controlled by the left hand to produce a smooth, even and rhythmical stroke, the club will remain intact throughout the entire swing. If, however, the pupil makes the swing in a jerky manner, or exerts too much force with his right hand, the detachable section 13 will become disengaged from the shaft 10 and will thus indicate to the player that his swing has been faulty.

By reason of the snap engagement of the ball 17 with the socketed plug 20, the detached section

13 may be readily replaced and the club will then be ready for another stroke.

While the operation of the club has been herein described for use by a right-handed player, it will be understood that the invention is equally useful for left-handed players, it being merely necessary to change the club head without changing the handle or gripping section.

While there has been disclosed in this specification one form in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that this form is shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosure but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all the modifications and embodiments coming within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent, is:

1. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head and a handle, said handle having a detachable section therein adapted to be grasped by the lower hand of the player and to become completely detached from the remainder of the handle and the shaft in case the player holds back too much with his lower hand on the down swing.

2. In a practice golf club, a shaft, and a handle spaced therefrom, an offset bracket for holding said handle in axial alinement with said shaft, and a removable indicating section located intermediate said handle and said shaft adapted to become separated from said shaft and handle in case the player exerts too much lateral force with his right-hand.

3. In a practice golf club, a tubular shaft, a tubular handle portion spaced longitudinally from said shaft, and supported in alinement therewith by means of a tubular offset bracket, and a removable indicating section between said handle and said shaft and having resilient engagement with said shaft.

4. In a practice golf club, a shaft having an upper "left hand" gripping section, a detachable "right hand" gripping section immediately below said upper section and in alinement with said shaft, and yieldable means for normally retaining said right-hand gripping section in position, but permitting the lateral detachment thereof when the right hand exerts too much force in the swing.

5. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a two-part handle, the upper part of said handle being rigidly connected with said shaft and forming a "left hand" grip, and the lower part of said handle constituting a "right hand" grip and located in alinement with said upper part, said right-hand grip being removable from said upper part and having detachable resilient engagement with said shaft.

6. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left hand" gripping portion having a concaved socket in its lower end, an offset bracket for supporting said left-hand gripping portion in axial alinement with said shaft, a detachable "right hand" gripping portion having its upper end normally engaged in said socket and having a spring-pressed ball projecting from its lower end, said shaft having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping section being adapted to separate from the remainder of said club to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand.

7. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left hand" gripping portion having a concaved socket in its lower end, an offset bracket for supporting said left-hand gripping portion in axial alinement with said shaft, a detachable "right hand" gripping portion having its upper end normally engaged in said socket and having a spring-pressed ball projecting from its lower end, said shaft having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping section being adapted to separate from the remainder of said club to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, and means in said detachable right-hand gripping section for adjusting the spring pressure on said ball.

8. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle at the top of said shaft, said handle having a detachable section adapted to be grasped in the right hand of the player, said detachable section having a pair of upper and lower opposed slidable cups, a coiled spring seated in said cups, a ball in said section normally protruding from the lower end thereof and pressed outwardly by said lower cup, and an adjusting screw in the upper part of said section for engaging said upper cup.

9. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle at the top of said shaft, said handle having a detachable section adapted to be grasped in the right hand of the player, said detachable section having a pair of upper and lower opposed slidable cups, a coiled spring seated in said cups, said section having an aperture at its lower end, a ball in said section below said lower cup and normally pressed outwardly through said aperture by said lower cup, an adjusting screw in said section above said upper cup, and means for permitting manipulation of said screw from the exterior of said detachable section for adjusting said spring.

10. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle portion spaced longitudinally from said shaft and supported in alinement therewith by means of an offset bracket, and a removable indicating section between said handle and said shaft and having resilient engagement with said shaft, said indicating section being adapted to become separated from the remainder of the shaft in case the player exerts too much punch or force with his right hand when making the swing.

11. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle spaced therefrom, an offset bracket for holding said handle in alinement with said shaft, and an indicating gripping section located between and in alinement with said handle and said shaft, and adapted to be moved out of alined position in case of a faulty application of force in making the stroke.

12. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle spaced therefrom, means for holding said handle in alinement with said shaft, and an indicating gripping section located between and in alinement with said handle and said shaft, and adapted to be moved out of alined position in case of a faulty application of force in making the stroke.

13. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a two-part handle grip, the upper part of said handle being rigidly connected by a loop with said shaft by a downwardly extending offset section, the lower part of said handle being laterally displaceable from said upper part and having detachable resilient engagement with the lower part of said shaft.

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