May 5, 1970 H. P. YOKERS 3,510,145

GOLF CLUB CARRIER

Filed April 8, 1968

Fig. 1

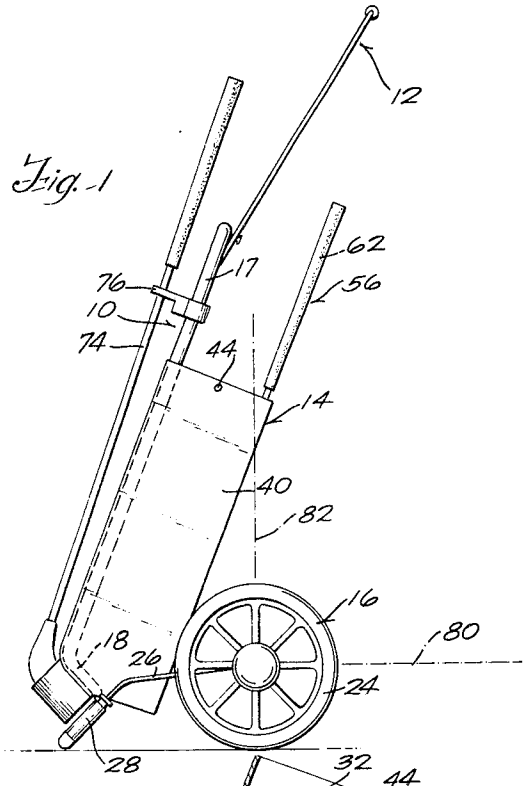



Fig. 2

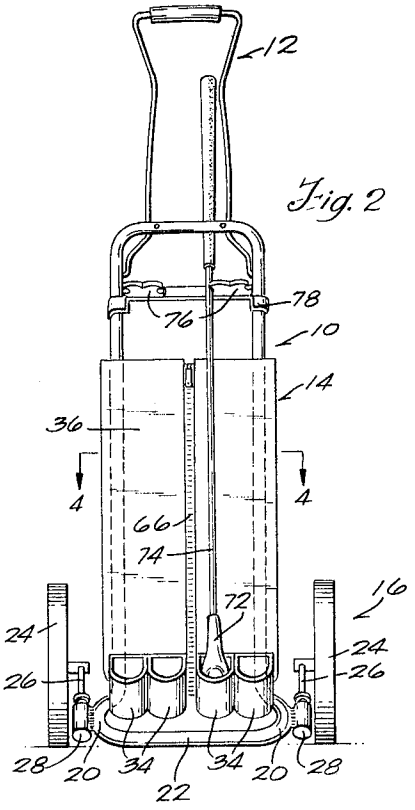



Fig. 3

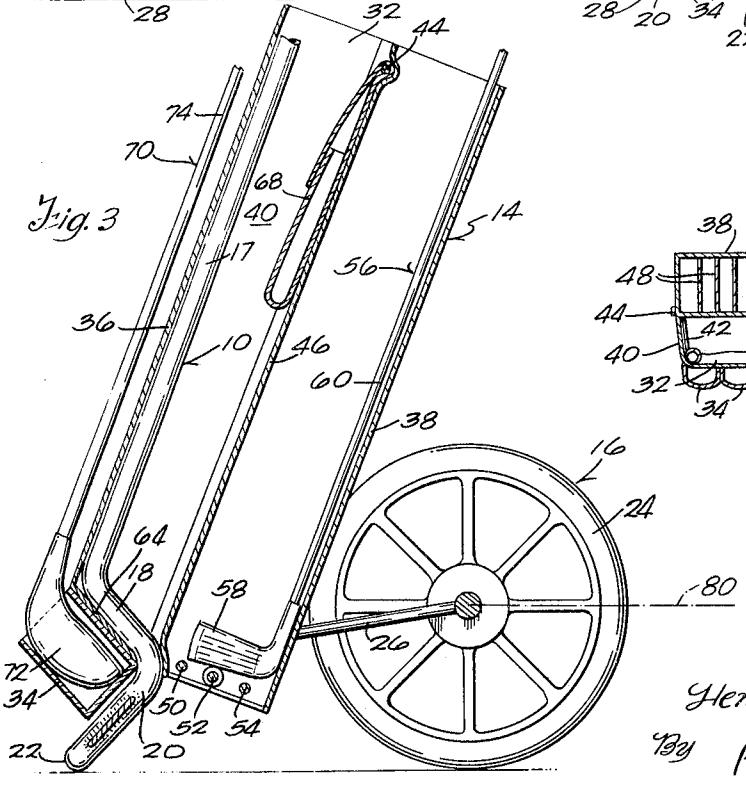



Fig. 4




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# GOLF CLUB CARRIER

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U.S. Cl. 280—47.19 11 Claims

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A golf club carrier comprising a substantially rectangular frame member having a pair of wheel assemblies mounted thereon which extend toward the rear of the carrier. A club receiving container is permanently mounted on the frame and extends toward the rear thereof. The container is comprised of a golf iron receiving compartment in the rear portion thereof and a storage compartment (for jackets, shoes, balls, etc.) in the front portion thereof. The golf iron compartment is adapted to receive golf irons therein with the heads thereof supported at the bottom of the compartment and with the shafts extending outwardly from the open top of the compartment to permit easy removal and insertion thereof. The frame member has an offset portion at the lower end thereof which provides a space for mounting a plurality of golf wood supporting pockets which are fastened to the bottom panel of the storage compartment. The golf wood pockets extend downwardly and rearwardly under the container and are adapted to receive the heads of golf woods with the toes thereof pointed downwardly and rearwardly with respect to the container. With the wood heads "tucked under" the container, the adjacent frame portions provide a protective bumper to prevent denting and scratching of the wood club heads. The heads of the woods and irons are positioned below the level of the center points of the wheels to provide a low center of gravity for improved stability both when the carrier is at rest as well as when it is being pulled along the ground in use.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### Field of the invention

This invention relates to golf club carriers and more particularly to a golf club carrier wherein the containing and supporting means for the golf clubs is permanently mounted on the carrier.

### Description of the prior art

The most pertinent prior art known to the applicant are U.S. Pat. 2,858,140 and 2,985,462. In the prior art patents referred to, the golf woods are mounted on the front portion of the carrier just as in the present application. However, in the prior art the wood clubs are supported in pockets fastened to the front portions of the club container which pockets extend forwardly from the supporting frame and are adapted to receive the golf woods with the toes thereof extending forwardly of the frame thus placing them in a somewhat vulnerable position from the standpoint of possible damage. In the present invention, the frame member is specially designed to provide a protected offset area in which golf wood receiving pockets are mounted in a position whereby the golf wood heads are supported with the toes thereof pointed downwardly into the protected offset space provided by the frame. As so positioned, the golf woods are not only better protected than in the prior art but in addition provide a compact profile, a lower center of gravity and an improved arrangement for insertion and removal thereof.



## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A golf club carrier comprising a frame member of substantially rectangular configuration having an offset portion at the lower end thereof and a pair of wheel assemblies mounted on the frame and positioned rearwardly thereof. A golf club container is permanently mounted on the frame and positioned rearwardly thereof. The container has a compartment for receiving golf irons and a plurality of golf wood pockets mounted on the lower front portion thereof which extend downwardly and rearwardly into the space formed by the offset portion of the frame. The pockets are adapted to receive the heads of golf woods with the toes thereof pointed downwardly and rearwardly with respect to the container.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of a golf club carrier embodying my invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevation view of the carrier shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the carrier with parts broken away; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

Referring to the drawings, the carrier is comprised of a tubular frame member **10**, a handle **12**, a club container **14** and a pair of wheel assemblies **16**, **16**.

Frame member **10** is of substantially rectangular configuration and is preferably of tubular steel construction. The configuration of the lower portion of the frame **10** and its relationship to the construction of carrier **14** is of particular importance. As most clearly shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, frame **10** is comprised of parallel side members **17**, **17**, rearwardly and downwardly angling offsetting portions **18**, **18** and forwardly and downwardly angling wheel mounting portions **20**, **20** which are interconnected by a horizontally extending foot portion **22**.

Wheel assemblies **16** are comprised of wheels **24** rotatably mounted on resilient struts **26** which, in turn, are mounted on portions **20**, **20** of frame **10** by means of cylindrical housing members **28** adapted to rotatably receive the ends of struts **26**. As shown in FIG. 2, frame portions **20** are bowed outwardly at their point of attachment to housing members **28**. The wheel assemblies described above are constructed to permit each wheel to be folded from its operating position as shown in the drawings to a folded position for storage (as shown in dotted lines in FIG. 1). The details of construction and operation of such a folding wheel arrangement are disclosed in the previously identified U.S. Pat. No. 2,785,462 and will thus not be described herein.

The carrier is provided with a handle **12** fastened to frame **10** for pulling the carrier over the ground on wheels **24**. While handle **12** can be of any suitable design, one handle design which is specially adapted for use on the carrier disclosed herein is shown and described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 3,142,087.

Club container **14** is preferably constructed of a durable and flexible material such as vinyl plastic and is designed to provide a golf iron compartment **30**, a storage compartment **32** (for shoes, jackets, etc.) and a plurality of golf wood head compartments or pockets **34**. The club container **14** is of bag-like configuration having a substantially rectangular cross section and an open top. The container is comprised of front panel **36**, a rear panel **38** and a pair of side panels **40**, **40**. The container is positioned rearwardly of frame **10** between the frame and wheels **24** with the front panel **36** of the container lying in contact with parallel side members **17**, **17** of the frame as clearly shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. The container **14** is supported on the frame in any suitable manner such as

by brackets **42, 42** (welded to the frame) and a horizontally extending support rod **44** mounted on said brackets (FIG. 4).

Container **14** is provided with a centrally located partition **46** extending between side panels **40, 40** which divide the container into the iron compartment **30** and the storage compartment **32**. The iron compartment is provided with a plurality of additional partitions **48** extending between rear panel **38** and main partition **46** as clearly shown in FIG. 4. Partitions **48** serve to divide the iron compartment into a plurality of separate smaller compartments each adapted to receive a single golf iron **56** therein. The irons are supported in the iron compartment **30** by any suitable means such as rods **50, 52** and **54** mounted between the lower ends of side panels **40** as clearly shown in FIG. 3. Also, as shown in FIG. 3, each iron **56** is positioned in compartment **30** with the head **58** of the club pointed towards the front of the carrier, and with the bottom edge of the iron head and the shaft **60** of the iron lying in contact with one or more of the rods **50, 52, 54** and the rear panel **38**, respectively. The handle portion **62** of each iron shaft protrudes upwardly out of the one top of the container **14** (FIG. 1) to facilitate easy insertion and removal thereof.

Storage compartment **32** is formed by front panel **36**, main partition **46**, the front portions of side panels **40** and a bottom panel **64**. The top of the storage compartment is open. A zipper **66** is provided in front panel **36** to facilitate access to the storage compartment. The bottom panel **64** of the storage compartment is positioned at an angle with the horizontal and extends parallel to and adjacent with the lower edges of off-setting portions **18, 18** of frame **10** as most clearly shown in FIG. 3. An additional ball storage pocket **68** is provided in compartment **32** as shown in FIG. 3.

The wood clubs **70** (or woods) are supported on the carrier by four pockets **34** fastened to the bottom panel **64** of the storage compartment **32**. Pockets **34** angle downwardly and rearwardly into the space provided by the angled portions **18** and **20** of the frame. The pockets thus positioned are adapted to receive the heads **72** of the woods with the toes thereof pointed downwardly as clearly shown in FIG. 3. The shafts **74** of woods **70** are securely and removably retained on the carrier by a pair of flexible retaining member **76, 76** mounted on the upper portion of the frame by means of a pivotally mounted bracket member **78**. A detailed description of the construction and operation of the shaft retaining means is found in U.S. Pat. 2,985,462 and thus will not be repeated here. As explained in detail in such patent, bracket **78** is adapted for pivotal movement of the frame to facilitate access to storage compartment **32**.

The above-described wood mounting arrangement provides several important advantages. With the wood heads "tucked" under the container **14**, the frame portions **18** and **20** provide a protective bumper to prevent denting and scratching of the wood club heads. The heads of the woods (and the irons) are positioned below the level of the center points of wheels **24** as represented by line **80**. This arrangement provides a low center of gravity for improved stability both when the carrier is at rest (as the drawings) as well as when it is being pulled along the ground in use. Another feature which contributes to the carrier's improved stability is the relationship of wheels **24** to the frame **10** and container **14**. By mounting the wheels on the offset portions **20, 20** of the frame, the wheels can be positioned further to the rear of container **14** and the main side members **17, 17** of the frame without unduly lengthening the struts **26**. This improved relationship can be appreciated by noting that a vertical line **82** through the center of the wheels will pass to the rear of all portions of the frame **10** as shown in FIG. 1. Another advantage is that with the heads **72** of woods **70** tucked under the container **14** the overall width of the carrier (with the wheels folded as described in Pat. No. 2,985,462) will be only slightly greater than the width of container **14** itself to thus provide a more compact profile for ease of storage. Furthermore, the golf woods can be inserted into and removed from the pockets **34** with greater ease than was the case with previous designs.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A golf club carrier comprising:
- a frame member of substantially rectangular configuration;
- a pair of wheel assemblies mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof;
- a golf club container mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof, said container having a compartment for receiving golf irons therein; and
- a plurality of golf wood pockets mounted at the lower front portion of said container, said wood pockets extending downwardly and rearwardly beneath said container, said pockets adapted to receive the head of a golf wood with the toe of the head pointed downwardly and rearwardly with respect to the container;
- said frame member further characterized by having an offset portion at the lower end thereof with said golf pockets extending downwardly and rearwardly into the space formed by said offset portion of said frame, said offset portion comprised of a pair of rearwardly and downwardly extending tubular portions and a pair of forwardly and downwardly extending tubular portions.

**2.** A golf club carrier according to claim **1** in which said wheel assemblies are comprised of a strut member and a wheel rotatably mounted thereon, said struts mounted on said forwardly and downwardly extending portions of said frame.

**3.** A golf club carrier comprising:
- a frame member of substantially rectangular configuration having an offset portion at the lower end thereof;
- a pair of wheel assemblies mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof;
- a golf club carrier mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof, said container having a compartment for receiving golf irons in the rear portion of the container, said container further characterized by a storage compartment located in the front portion thereof, said storage compartment having a bottom panel positioned adjacent to and overlapping the offset portion of the frame;
- a plurality of golf wood pockets mounted at the lower front portion of the storage compartment, said wood pockets extending downwardly and rearwardly beneath the bottom panel and offset portion of the frame of said storage compartment, said pockets adapted to receive the head of a golf wood with the toe thereof pointed downwardly and rearwardly with respect to the golf club container.

**4.** A golf club carrier according to claim **3** in which said wheel assemblies are comprised of a strut member and a wheel rotatably mounted thereon, said struts mounted on said offset portion of said frame.

**5.** A golf club carrier comprising:
- a frame member of substantially rectangular configuration having an offset portion at the lower end thereof;
- a pair of wheels mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof so that when said carrier is in its at rest position said frame will angle upwardly and rearwardly with respect to the ground;
- a golf club container mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof, said container having a compartment for receiving golf irons therein with the heads of said irons positioned in the bottom of said compartment; and
- a plurality of golf wood pockets mounted at the lower front portion of said container, said wood pockets overlapping said offset portion of said frame and extending downwardly and rearwardly into the space formed by the offset portion of said frame, said

pockets adapted to receive the head of a golf wood with the toe of the head pointed downwardly and rearwardly with respect to the container.

6. A golf club container according to claim 5 in which the heads of the golf woods and irons are positioned below the level of the center points of the wheels when said carrier is in its at rest position.

7. A golf club container according to claim 6 in which the relationship between said wheels and said frame is such that a vertical line through the center of said wheels will pass to the rear of all portions of said frame when said carrier is in its at rest position.

8. A golf club container according to claim 5 in which golf club container includes a storage compartment in the front portion thereof having a bottom panel to which said wood pockets are fastened.

9. A golf club carrier according to claim 5 in which said offset portion of said frame is comprised of a pair of rearwardly and downwardly extending tubular portions and a pair of forwardly and downwardly extending tubular portions connected by a horizontal portion which makes contact with the ground when said carrier is in its at rest position.

10. A golf club carrier according to claim 9 in which each of said wheels are rotatably mounted on a strut member, said strut members mounted on said forwardly and downwardly extending portions of said frame.

11. A golf club carrier comprising:

a frame member having a pair of wheel assemblies mounted thereon and positioned rearwardly thereof;

a golf iron container mounted on said frame and positioned rearwardly thereof, said container adapted for receiving golf irons therein with the heads of said irons positioned in the bottom of said container and with the shafts of said irons extending upwardly out of said container rearwardly of said frame member;

a plurality of golf wood pockets mounted underneath the lower front portion of said container, said wood pockets extending downwardly and rearwardly to receive the heads of golf woods with the toes thereof pointed rearwardly and beneath the heads of the irons in said golf iron container and with the shafts of the woods extending upwardly adjacent said frame member forwardly thereof; and

a golf wood shaft retaining means mounted on the upper front portion of said frame member for removably retaining the shafts of the golf woods when the heads thereof are positioned in said golf wood pockets.



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