Dec. 15, 1925. **1,565,414**

E. J. BYRNE

DEVICE FOR CLEANING GOLF BALLS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES

Filed Nov. 26, 1921

Fig. 1.

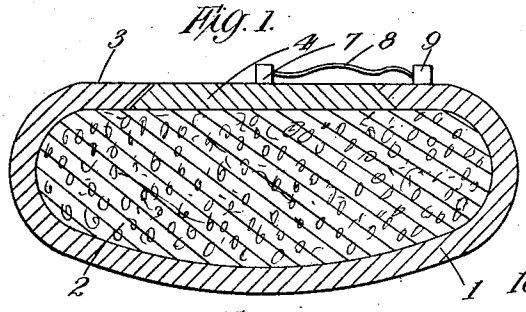


Fig. 2.

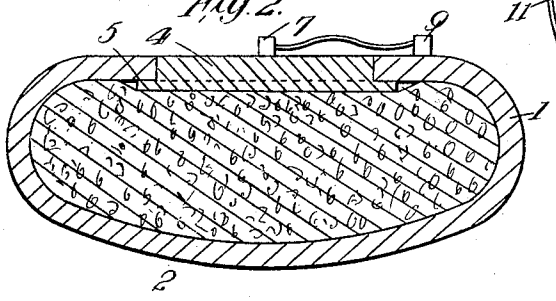


Fig. 3.

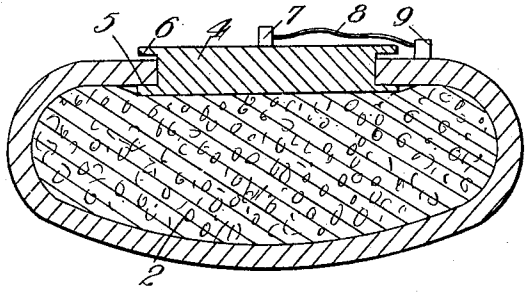


Fig. 4.

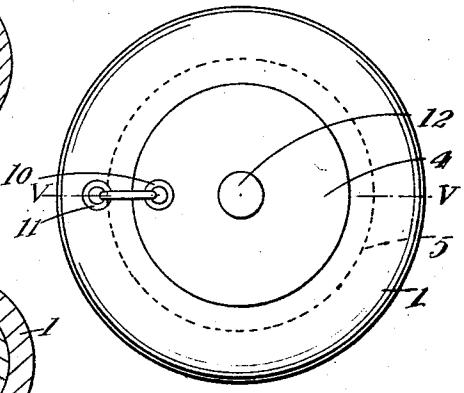


Fig. 5.

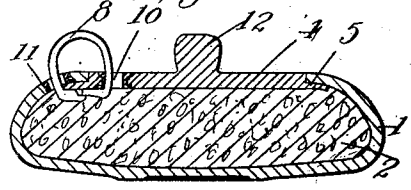
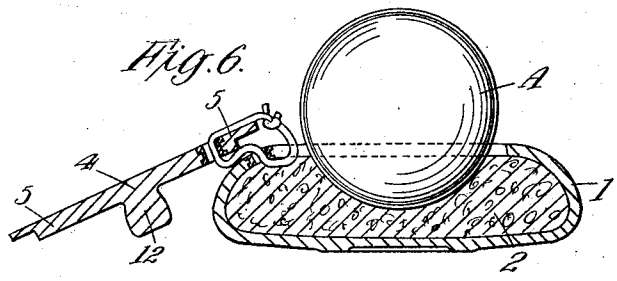


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDMUND JOSEPH BYRNE, OF PICCADILLY, LONDON, ENGLAND.

DEVICE FOR CLEANING GOLF BALLS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES.

Application filed November 26, 1921. Serial No. 517,924.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDMUND JOSEPH BYRNE, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 3 Albermarle Street, Piccadilly, in the county of London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Devices for Cleaning Golf Balls and Similar Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to devices for cleaning golf balls and similar articles of the kind comprising a casing serving as a receptacle for a sponge or the like.

In accordance with the invention the casing is made of india rubber, preferably moulded to the desired shape, and is provided with an opening adapted to receive a lid or cover of such diameter as to fit tightly in the said opening the resilience of the casing or the lid permitting the latter to be inserted into and removed from position when required.

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention the opening in the casing is provided with undercut or inwardly sloping walls and the edges of the lid or cover are sloped or bevelled to correspond with those of the opening.

In another form of the invention the walls of the opening may be either straight or bevelled and the lid or cover or a part thereof is made of greater diameter than that of the opening; for instance, the lid may be made with a resilient or rigid body portion of a diameter to fit in the opening and provided with a flexible or resilient peripheral flange or flap integral with or attached thereto, the said flange or flap being adapted to lie beneath the under surface of the casing around the opening, so that the pressure of the sponge or the like will maintain the flange pressed against the casing and thus insure a liquid tight closure. If desired, the body portion may be provided with a second flange or flap adapted to extend over the upper surface of the casing around the opening.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention means are provided whereby the lid remains always attached to the casing so that when it is removed from the opening there is no liability of it being lost. For this purpose on the upper surface of the lid a knob, projection, staple, ring or other similar means of attachment is provided to which a tape, chain or the like may be attached, the other end of said tape or the like being connected to another knob, projection or equivalent device, integral with or secured to the casing.

In order that the said invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, the same will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view illustrating one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a similar view of a second embodiment.

Figure 3 is a similar view of a modification of the form shown in Figure 2.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a further modification of the golf ball cleaner according to this invention.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line V—V of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is also a sectional view similar to that shown in Fig. 5, but illustrating the cover or lid removed from the casing with golf ball shown pressed against the sponge in the casing.

1 is the casing of india rubber which may be moulded to any suitable shape, the walls preferably being made of sufficient thickness that the casing will maintain its shape and will not readily crumple when carried in the user's pocket. 2 represents a sponge or the like contained therein, this sponge preferably when damp filling the interior of the casing. In the form illustrated in Figure 1 the casing is provided with an opening having inwardly sloping walls 3 and the said opening is adapted to be closed by the lid 4 which as shown is in the form of a circular plug or disc, the edges of which are bevelled to correspond with those of the opening, the lid being made of such diameter that it fits tightly in the opening, the resilience of the rubber permitting it to be passed into and removed from position when required. As will be apparent from the drawing, with this arrangement the pressure of the sponge will tend to make the closure more effective so that there is no liability of leakage of liquid as sometimes occurs with the devices at present used. In the form shown in Figure 2 the walls of the opening and the corresponding part of the lid are straight. The lid is provided at its lower part with a pe-

ripheral flange or flap 5, the flexibility or resilience of which permits the lid to be passed through the opening. In this form of the invention the pressure of the sponge will cause the flange or flap 5 to be pressed closely against the under surface of the casing surrounding the opening thus maintaining a liquid tight closure.

Figure 3 shows a modification of the lid illustrated in Figure 2. A second flange or flap 6 is provided in the upper part of the lid 4, this flange or flap 6 extending over the upper surface of the casing around the opening. With this form of the invention it is not essential that the body portion of the lid should closely fit the opening since either the flange 5 or flap 6 will ensure liquid tightness. In all the forms illustrated in the drawing the lid is provided with a knob or projection 7 which may also be of rubber and may, if desired, be formed in the process of moulding the lid. To this knob or projection is attached a tape, cord, chain or the like 8, the other end of which is attached to a similar knob or projection formed on or carried by the casing 1. Thus means are provided whereby the lid remains always attached to the casing so that there is no liability of the lid being lost when removed from the opening. In lieu of the knobs or projections shown any suitable ring, staple, hook or equivalent device may be employed. For example a small hole, strengthened if desired by an insertion of canvas, may be formed in both the lid and the body to receive an eyelet or a similar device to which the cord or the like may be attached.

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 show a modification in which metal eyelets 10 and 11 are provided in the lid 4 and casing 1 respectively, a silken cord 8 or the like being passed through these eyelets and suitably tied or secured to attach the lid to the casing. In this example the lid is formed with a flange 5 at its lower part, which flange is adapted to bear against the inner surface of the casing surrounding the hole in which the lid fits as shown in Fig. 5. The lid is provided with a central knob or projection 12 by means of which the lid can be readily removed when it is desired to clean the golf ball.

In cleaning the golf ball which is represented by the reference A in Fig. 6 it is pressed against that portion of the sponge 2 exposed through the opening in the casing which is held in one hand so that the golf ball may be suitably moved or rotated by the other hand against the exposed portion of the sponge in order to clean the whole of the outer surfaces of the golf ball. It will be seen from Fig. 6 that the cord retains the lid on the casing so that there is no likelihood of the lid being detached and lost when removed from the opening. After the golf ball has been cleaned in the manner aforesaid the lid is inserted in the opening in the casing and owing to its flexibility and the flexibility of the casing it can be readily tucked or passed through the opening so that the flange thereon bears against the inner surface of the casing around the said opening. The sponge serves to retain the lid in the closed position and by reason of the flange bearing against the inner surface around the said opening egress of moisture from the sponge is prevented.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a casing of flexible material having an opening therein, a sponge closely fitting in said casing with a portion of the same exposed through the said opening, a closing lid adapted to be fitted in said opening, and means on the lid adapted to engage the interior edge of the opening to produce an effective closure due to the pressure of the sponge on the said lid.

2. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a casing having an opening therein, a sponge closely fitting in said casing, a flexible lid adapted to fit in said opening, and a flange on the lower part of the lid adapted to bear against the inner surface of the casing surrounding the said opening.

3. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a casing having an opening therein, a sponge closely fitting in said casing, a flexible lid adapted to fit in said opening and having a portion which is of greater diameter than the outer part of the opening and a securing cord which secures the lid and casing against separation but enables the lid to be readily inserted in or removed from said opening.

4. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a casing having an opening, a sponge closely fitted in said casing, a flexible lid adapted to be fitted in said opening and having a portion which is of larger diameter than the diameter of the outer part of the opening, whereby said lid when fitted in said opening forms an overlapping joint with the casing and a knob or projection on the outer surface of said lid.

5. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a substantial bowl-shaped casing having an opening in the top thereof, a sponge in said casing, a flexibile lid adapted to fit in said opening and having an annular flange engaging said casing when the lid is inserted in the opening, and flexible means connecting the lid to the casing.

6. A golf ball cleaning device comprising a casing formed with an opening, a sponge fitted in said casing, a flexible lid detachably fitted in said opening, means on said lid and said casing forming an overlapping joint or

closure between the lid and casing, metal eyelets in said lid and casing and a securing cord loop in said eyelets.

7. A golf ball cleaning device, comprising a casing having an opening therein, a sponge closely fitted in said casing, a flexible lid adapted to fit in the said opening, a flange on the lower part of said lid to bear against the inner surface of the casing surrounding the said opening, eyelets provided in the said lid and the casing, a securing cord tied through said eyelets and a knob or projection on the outer surface of said lid.

EDMUND JOSEPH BYRNE.