ABSTRACT: For the containment and organization of golf tees a holding means may be used to hold nine or 18 tees so that they will be readily available for use during a golf game and to provide a relatively flat packet of tees from which the latter may be selectively removed or replaced. The packet protects the player from the sharp ends of the tees as they are carried around during the game and keeps the tees in one place for ready use.
GOLF TEE HOLDING MEANS

Common golf tees, whether they be made from wood, plastic or whatever material, are designed for insertion into the ground and upon which the golf ball is supported. The ball is necessarily raised off the ground by a distance the golfer deems appropriate. To facilitate insertion into the ground, the end of the tee is generally pointed. Golfers generally keep a handful of these tees in their pockets. As a result of this, the tees become entangled with loose change, ball markers and other tees, with the very real possibility of injuring the golfer when he takes his pocket out by jumbling the pointed end of a tee underneath his fingernail which may be extremely painful; or he may eventually rip or tear his pocket by the constant wear of the pointedly sharp tees.

Actually the greatest number of tees used in a round of golf is 18. However a tee is not always lost or broken so that 18 represents the maximum number that would be used. In the average round and this conception is a golf tee dispenser and organizer which comfortably fits into the golfer's pocket without bulging and maintains unrestricted freedom for the golfer's movements. The holder, which may be made in a number of different designs, organizes the tees that would otherwise be carried around loose, into groups of nine or eighteen so that they will be instantly available and convenient to the golfer without fumbling throughout his round of golf. Allowing small permanent form pockets or unconnected entanglement with other objects in the golfer's pocket present a few of the advantages of the present invention. The holder can be used repeatedly with new or used tees. He simply loads the holder before each round and then forgets about having to borrow tees for the remainder of the round and can concentrate on the important aspects of his game.

Important aspects of the invention includes the provision of a holder in which tees can be stored so that the sharp ends thereof will be prevented from doing damage to the clothing or person of the wearer or player; to provide a holder which may be made wholly or partly of flexible or semiflexible material so that the golf tees can be readily removed or replaced quickly and with little effort; to provide a holder into which golf tees may be placed in an accurate position with the needs of the game to be played and means for facilitating the loading and unloading of the holder so that tees are saved and arranged in accordance with the desires of the player; to provide a holder preferably made of plastic material having yieldable portions which assist in allowing the tees for convenient use; to provide a holder which can be carried in the pocket of the players garments without bulging the latter and retaining the free movements during play; and to provide a holder that lends itself to fanciful configurations for distinctive ownership, is efficient, long lasting and can be readily manufactured at reasonable cost.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises certain constructions hereininafter described and then particularly pointed out in the claims and a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in side elevation of a tee holder of substantially arcuate form arranged to hold a single line or row of tees for easy removal or replacement and illustrating a novel form of holding the imprisoned tees in proper position,

FIG. 2 is a view of one end of the holder taken on the line 2--2 of FIG. 1 showing the relation of the adjustable strap, tee securing means to the body of the holder,

FIG. 3 is a (vertical) section through the holder taken on the line 3--3 of FIG. 1 with the end wall omitted and illustrating the relative position of the tees within the holder.

FIG. 4 is a (vertical) section similar to FIG. 3 showing a holder shaped to contain 18 tees and the means of arranging the same conveniently for removal,

FIG. 5 is a (view in vertical section) sectional view of a modified form of holder of unitary structure made preferably from a yieldable substance that permits removal or replacement of the tees as desired,

FIG. 6 is a (vertical section) sectional view showing the opposed arrangement of rows of tees in flanking relation to the central section of the holder shaped to support the tees in position for ready removal shaped to support the tees in position for ready removal or replacement,

FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 6 showing a modified form of the structure having advantageous features for holding and supporting the tees, and

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary end view looking at the bottom lower end of the holder shown in FIG. 1 and illustrating the position of one of the strap-engaging ends that coat with the base of the holder to imprison the tees.

Referring to the drawing in detail, and in particular to FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 8, the numeral 10 indicates a base member substantially channel shaped to provide a flat bottom 11, vertical sidewalls 12 and over turned or flanged upper edges 13 which overlie the peripheral edges of the cupped top portions of the tees 14 supported in the holder, generally designated by the numeral 15.

The tees are shaped to provide ground-piercing shank portions 16 pointed at one end as at 17 and having a head 18 at the opposite end, which head is cupped on its face, as well understood, to support a golf ball in position to be hit by the club of the player. As seen in FIG. 2, the outer ends, tabs or terminals 19 of the bottom 11 are notched as at 22 to receive the serrations 23 formed at spaced intervals in the side edges 21 or end walls of a strap member 25 which is shaped to provide the end extension or tabs 19. The median portion 27 of the top of the strap 25 is of arcuate shape to conform concentrically to the arcuate shape of the bottom or base and constitutes a channelled enclosure 26 of substantially semicircular cross section to imprison the upper pointed ends of the tees and provide (o) a protective shield for the sharp ends thereof. The tab 19 at the opposite end is to facilitate the removal of the tees from the left end of the holder, the right-hand strap having the same function with respect to the right-hand end of the holder. Beneath the strap members constitute end walls, as hereinafter referred to.

It is evident that as, that the tees are used from the holder, the strap member 25 may be accordingly adjusted so that the remaining tees are held in place and cannot fall out. The tees are of wood, plastic or other suitable material and are arranged for use in groups of nine or 18 as preferred.

Reference to FIG. 5 will show that easy removal of the tees is possible by forcing the pointed ends thereof from the channelled enclosure (26) 45 trough or cap means by deforming the flange 45 by means of the ridge 46 because the material of the device is somewhat flexible or yieldable for this purpose.

Referring to FIG. 4 which may be a section as on the line 3--3 of FIG. 1, through a slightly modified structure, the base thereof of arcuate shape, as shown in FIG. 1, is provided with double parallel channels 29 formed by a central wall 31 having a flared upper edge 32 whose edges overhang the enlarged head portions 33 of the tees to coat with similar flared edges 34 formed at the upper edges of the vertical side or outer walls 35 of the channel-shaped base 28. The tees are held in place or imprisoned at their upper pointed ends in the channel-shaped strap or capping member 26 having depending flanges 37 at opposite sides thereof. While it is not deemed necessary to be illustrated, it will be understood that the opposite ends of the channelled enclosure or cap member 26 of FIG. 3 and the extended integral strap members may be of the type shown in FIG. 1. While preferably integral, the straps may be adjustable as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Where the shape of the holder permits, suitable end walls 30 may be used to prevent loss of the tees.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in FIG. 5, the holder 38 is molded or otherwise formed to provide a base portion 39, the section being at the point denoted by line 3--3 of FIG. 1. The base portion 39 provides a channel 41 bounded at one side by a flange 42 having a retaining ledge 43 formed along the upper edge of the flange 42 for overlying the heads of the tees; and at the opposite sides provides a wall 44 ter-
minating at its upper end in a strap or capping enclosure 45 which is of inverted trough shape to cover the pointed ends of the tees. The cap 45 is provided with a ridge 46 so that the golfer may use his finger to snap the top open at the location where removal of a tee is necessary, or in loading the holder.

In the modified form of FIG. 6, the holder 47 is shaped to provide a base 48 presenting twin channels 49 for holding the heads of the tees. The channels have sidewalls 51 presenting tee-retaining ledge 52 and a central wall 53 having a bulbous portion 54 adjacent the lower portion thereof to overlie the heads of the tees and along with the sidewalls 51 and ledges 52 being yieldable for manual access to the tees. The upper end of the central wall 53 is shaped to form a top section 55 providing parallel capping enclosures 56 overlying the pointed ends of the tees and edge lips 57 for convenience in lifting a section of the top where a tee is to be removed or replaced. Referring to FIG. 7, the holder 58 is arranged to hold tees at opposite sides thereof in reversed position, and to this end, the opposite faces of the holder, defined by a central wall 59 are each shaped to provide lower and upper channels 61 and 62, respectively, having sidewalls 63 and tee-retaining rims or ledges 64 along with lower and upper capping channels or enclosures 65 and 66 respectively whose edge rims 67 yieldably retain the pointed ends of the tees in place.

It is evident that in each of the forms of the invention shown in FIGS. 3 to 7 inclusive, the holders may be of rectangular shape having suitable end closure walls or may be of arcuate shape having fixed or adjustable strap means at the opposite ends thereof as shown in FIG. 1.

My invention is not to be restricted to the precise details of construction shown since various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention or sacrificing the advantages to be derived from its use.

What I claim is:
1. A molded flexible golf tee container comprising;
   a. a channel-shaped base portion having sidewalls for holding the heads of golf tees,
   b. a channel-shaped top section for imprisoning the sharp ends of the tees and spaced from said base portion in accordance with the length of the Shank portions of said tees,
   c. end walls connecting said base and top sections at opposite ends thereof for providing substantially rigid self-sustaining structure thereof.
2. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1, in which:
   a. an end wall is serrated on the opposite side edges thereof,
   b. said base portion is notched at an end thereof to receive the serrations of said serrated end wall whereby said top section can be adjusted to provide for the tee capacity of said holder.
3. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1 wherein:
   a. a said base portion is substantially arcuate in form,
   b. said top section is substantially arcuate in form and parallel to said base portion,
   c. end walls are yieldable for disengagement at the lower ends thereof for providing access to said tees.
4. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1 wherein:
   a. said base portion includes a central wall and sidewalls,
   b. said central and sidewalls each being shaped to provide upper flared edge portions overlying the heads of the tees, and
   c. said top section being substantially as wide as said base portion to accommodate the upper sharpened ends of parallel rows of tees mounted in said container.
5. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1, wherein:
   a. a wall portion connects said base portion and said top section at one side of the container,
   b. one of the sidewalls of said base portion having a retaining ledge along the upper edge thereof for overlying the heads of said golf tees, and
   c. a ridge means along the upper, outer surface of said top section for facilitating selection of the tees when the container is flexed to expose the upper ends thereof.
6. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1, wherein:
   a. central vertical wall means connect said base and top portions linearly of the container to provide tee holding spaces at opposite sides of said container,
   b. said holding spaces each being shaped to provide twin parallel channels in the base portion including sidewalls and capping enclosures in said top portion.
7. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 6, wherein:
   a. tee-retaining ledges are formed on the upper edges of said sidewalls,
   b. a bulbous portion is said vertical wall means adjacent said twin parallel channels and coacting with said retaining ledges to overly the heads of the tees, and
   c. lips on the free edges of said capping enclosures for facilitating access to said tees.
8. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 1, wherein:
   a. central vertical wall means connect said base and top portions linearly of the container to provide tee holding spaces at opposite sides of said container,
   b. said holding spaces each being shaped to provide twin parallel channels disposed diagonally opposite each other in said top and base ports for receiving the heads of said tees, and
   c. said holding spaces each being also shaped to provide twin capping channels disposed diagonally opposite each other in said top and base portions for receiving the pointed ends of said tees.
9. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 8, wherein:
   a. said channels each provide a sidewalk,
   b. ledges along the edges of said sidewalk coacting with a face of said vertical wall means to retain the heads of tees in place.
10. A golf tee container of the character set forth in claim 8, wherein:
   a. said channels each provide a sidewalk,
   b. ledges along the edges of said sidewalk coacting with a face of said vertical wall means to retain the heads of the tees in place, and
   c. said twin capping channels each being shaped to provide a thickened edge rim adapted to be flexed to provide access to said tees.
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,612,261 Dated October 12, 1971
Inventor(s) Edward L. Cicero

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

In the upper right hand of the drawing "3,622,261" should read -- 3,612,261 --. Column 1, line 57, "may" should read -- my --; lines 66 and 69, cancel "(vertical)", each occurrence; line 72, cancel "(view in vertical section)". Column 2, line 1, cancel "(vertical section)"; lines 4 and 5, cancel "shaped to support the tees in position for ready removal"; line 31, "constituted" should read -- constitutes --; line 34, cancel "(0)". Column 3, line 45, cancel "(rigid)".

Signed and sealed this 24th day of October 1972.

(SEAL)
Attest:

EDWARD M.FLETCHER,JR. ROBERT GOTTSCHALK
Attesting Officer Commissioner of Patents