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L. F. TAYLOR

3,199,872

GOLF PUTTER WITH MARBLE HEAD

Filed Oct. 27, 1961

FIG. 1

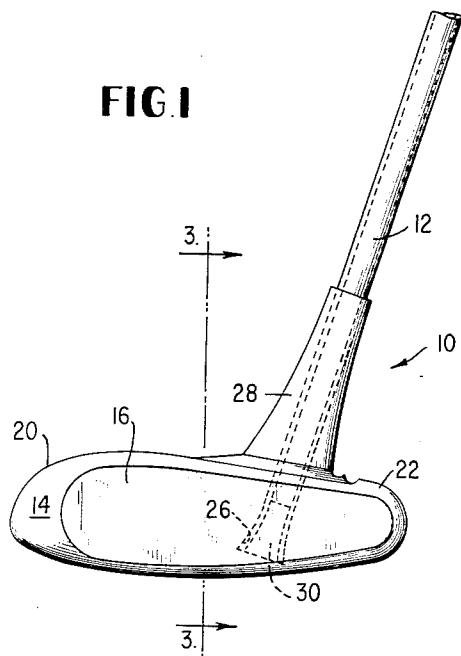


FIG. 2

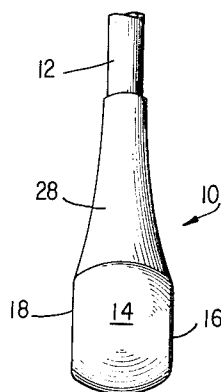


FIG. 3

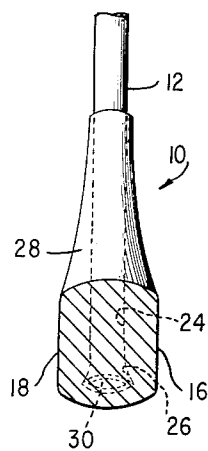
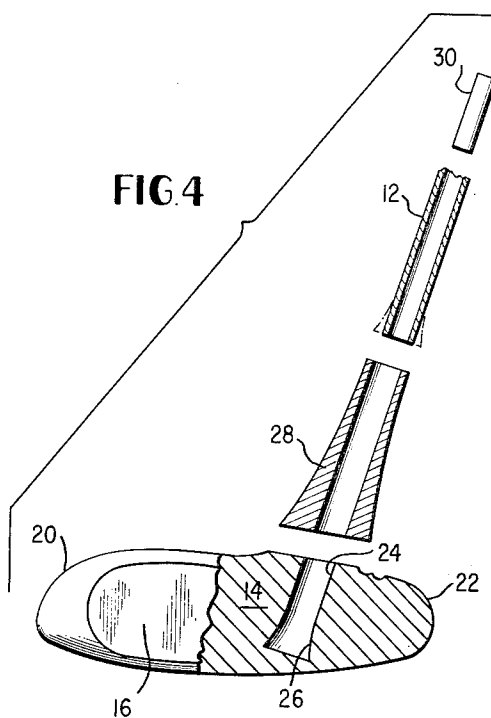


FIG. 4



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GOLF PUTTER WITH MARBLE HEAD

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6 Claims. (Cl. 273-80.5)

This invention relates to clubs used in playing the game of golf, and more particularly to the type of golf club generally known as a "putter."

In order to achieve a maximum of accuracy in putting, it is desirable that the club have a combination of weight, balance, and rigidity, which lend to the club a particular "feel" with a face on the club that is smooth and does not chip, dent or mar easily.

Efforts have been made in the past to accomplish such a desired combination of these qualities and the resultant "feel" by fabricating putters with heads of wood, plastic or metal such as steel, brass, bronze, or aluminum.

A putter embodying this invention has a head portion formed of marble with a highly polished face. It has been found that marble possesses qualities of strength, rigidity and resistance to impact and may be formed into golf putter heads having desired qualities of "feel." Moreover, marble may be polished to an extremely smooth finish and it is not subject to dent, scratch or mar easily.

The invention further contemplates the use of a combined weight and handle securing means which will rigidly secure the shaft of the club to the head portion and lend to the club the appropriate weight desired by the player. It is therefore a primary object of the present invention to impart to a golf putter the proper combination of weight, balance and rigidity to provide the club with the desired "feel."

Another object of the invention is to reduce the tendency for the club to impart rotational impetus to the ball, thereby increasing the accuracy with which the ball may be directed toward the cup.

Another object of the invention is to secure the handle of the club to the head thereof by use of a member of predetermined weight, whereby clubs of this type may be manufactured to satisfy the weight requirements of various players.

These and other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following specification and drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in side elevation of a golf putter embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary section of a detail of the invention taken along the lines 3-3 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an exploded fragmentary view of the device shown in FIG. 1.

The head portion of the playing club embodying the invention is fabricated from a single, solid billet of class "A" dense grained marble. A socket in the upper surface of the club head is adapted to receive a shaft of the club and a weighted retaining member is adapted to fit within the handle and socket to secure the parts in the desired relationship.

Referring now to the drawings, a golf putter 10 includes a tubular steel shaft 12 and a head 14 formed of a single billet of dense grained class "A" marble. A pair of flat, highly polished playing faces 16, 18 are vertically disposed on opposite sides of the head 14 and extend substantially the full length thereof. Those portions of the playing faces 16, 18 adjacent the forward end of the club terminate in a contoured toe portion 20 and the rearwardly disposed portions of the playing faces 16,

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18 terminate in a similarly contoured heel portion 22.

A blind bore 24 extends angularly inwardly of the head 14 at a point between the center of the club head and the heel thereof and terminates in a flared convex walled chamber 26. The tubular shaft 12 is of a diameter adapted to fit within the bore 24 and extends from the bottom of the chamber 26 upwardly any desired distance. Shaft 12 extends along a line substantially parallel to the planes of the polished playing faces 16, 18. A ferrule 28 mounted on the shaft 12 adjacent the club head 14 may be formed of any suitable material and is blended to complement the contour of the head portion 14 and lend a pleasing appearance to the point of connection between the shaft 12 and the head 14.

Upon the completion of preliminary assembly of the shaft 12 within the bore 24 of the head 14, that portion of the shaft extending into the chamber 26 is internally expanded and deformed to engage the flared walls of the chamber, thereby securing the shaft rigidly to the head. This may be accomplished by forcing a cylindrical locking member 30, in the form of a lead plug, down the tubular shaft and into engagement with the end wall of the chamber 26. With the locking member 30 in position within the shaft 12 and against the end wall of the chamber 26 pressure may be applied to the upper end of the lead plug (locking member) 30 by any suitable tool (not shown) in sufficient quantity to cause the plug 30 to deform thereby expanding the end of the shaft and plug 30 within the chamber 26 outwardly to engage the flared walls thereof.

As a result of the assembly operation, the shaft 12 is rigidly secured to head 14 and capable of withstanding indefinitely the impact and strain to which it will be subjected in use. If it is so desired, the shaft 12, bore 24 and plug 30 may all be coated with a suitable cementitious material which will lend additional strength to the connection and preclude the entrance of moisture or other foreign matter.

The lead plug 30 may be formed in various lengths thereby rendering it possible to control the weight of the finished club and thereby enhancing the saleability of the device by permitting the purchaser to select a club having any weight he desires, yet still retain uniform outer dimensions of the playing device.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have provided a putter which embraces all of the desired qualities of weight, balance, and rigidity in an esthetically appealing and unique device. It will, however, be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the subject matter of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf putter comprising a head consisting essentially of solid marble formed with a highly polished playing face, and a shaft secured to said head and extending in a line substantially parallel to the plane of said playing face.

2. A golf putter comprising a solid marble head formed with an inwardly extending bore terminating in a flared convex walled chamber, a tubular shaft having one end disposed in said bore and said chamber, and deformable plug means disposed within the end of said shaft and expanded into said chamber to retain said shaft secured to said head.

3. A golf putter comprising a shaft having secured to one end a substantially oval shaped head consisting essentially of solid marble with a pair of oppositely disposed smooth playing surfaces formed in substantially parallel relation to each other and means securing said head and shaft portions together in the form of a deformable lead

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plug positioned within said shaft and said head, said plug being of a selected weight whereby the weight of said club may be chosen to suit the needs of the user without affecting the external appearance of said club.

4. A golf putter comprising a solid marble head formed with an inwardly extending bore terminating in a flared convex walled chamber; a tubular shaft having one end disposed in said bore and said chamber; a substantially cylindrical lead plug laterally expanded within the end of said shaft to force the walls of said shaft into said chamber for securing said shaft to said head, said plug being of a selected weight whereby the weight of said club may be chosen to suit the needs of the user without affecting the external appearance of said club.

5. A golf putter having a head attached to a supporting metal portion including a shaft, the head consisting essentially of solid marble, the marble extending completely from the front face to the rear face.

6. A golf putter having a head attached to a supporting metal portion including a shaft, the head consisting

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essentially of solid marble, the marble extending from the front face to the rear face of the club head and from the heel to the toe of the club head.

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