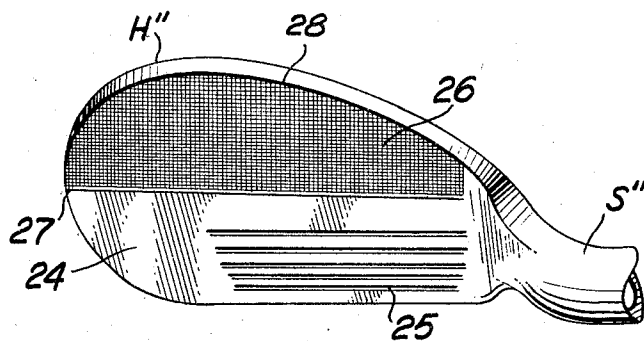
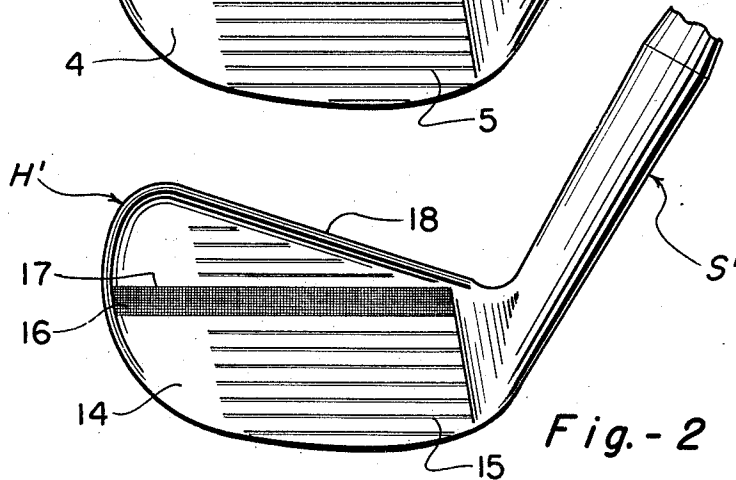
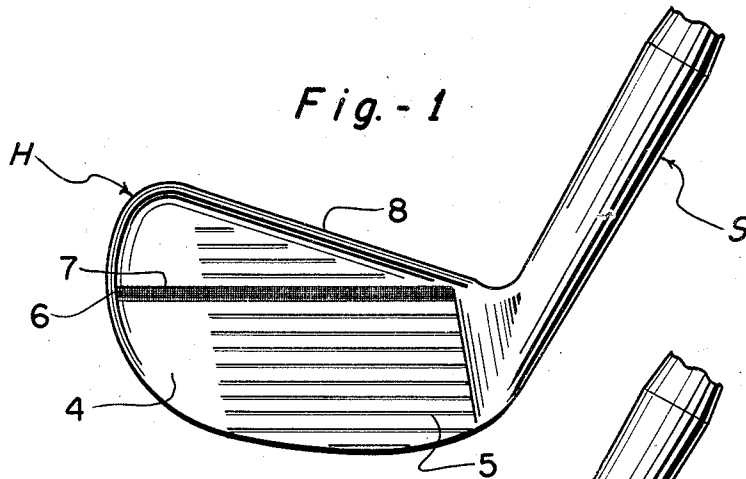


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GOLF CLUB CONSTRUCTION
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GOLF CLUB CONSTRUCTION

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This invention relates to golf club construction and more particularly relates to the marking of golf club heads to assist in proper alinement of the club.

Before a golf club is used to strike a ball, the player "addresses" the ball, i. e., aligns the club properly relative to the ball to insure proper relationship between club and ball when the ball is struck by the club. The iron clubs of the set for the most part are played while the ball is resting in grass, which substantially covers the lower surfaces of the club head, and consequently the player judges the club position in addressing the ball, by consciously or unconsciously observing the line of the upper edge of the club in relation to the contemplated line of flight of the ball.

Similarly, in the use of wood clubs, the striking face or surface of which in some instances are flat and in others are rounded with the top surface rounding therefrom, the player experiences difficulty in making a proper determination of the correct line of flight by reason of the optical illusion created by the flare of the top of the club.

It is an object of the present invention to provide simple, durable and efficient means for providing a line or marking on the head of a golf club which is readily visible while the player is addressing the ball to thereby insure proper positioning of the club head in striking the ball.

Another object of the invention is to provide a marking arrangement for golf club heads which is applicable to either iron or wood clubs and is calculated to insure proper flight of the ball in any stroke.

A further object of this invention is to provide a form of marking for golf club heads which may be embodied in different forms, all of which are equally effective in providing proper direction for the club head in striking the ball.

Other objects reside in novel details of construction and novel combinations and arrangements of parts, all of which will be fully described in the course of the following description.

Briefly stated, the present invention is based on the discovery that it is possible to position the club head properly in playing all shots by having a color marking or division line extending across the striking face of a golf club head which is perpendicular to the line of intended flight, and if projected, would intersect the point of intersection of the top surface of the club head with the periphery of the shaft. The shaft surface determining the point of intersection substantially parallels the axis of said shaft, but is spaced therefrom, and such spacing serves to break the

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optical illusion caused by the flare of the top of the club.

The invention will be more fully explained with reference to the accompanying drawings, in the several views of which like parts have been designated similarly, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a golf club head embodying features of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view embodying a modified form of the invention; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view of a golf club embodying features of another modification of the present invention, and viewed from directly above the striking face of the club when said club is in the position of addressing a ball (not shown).

The present invention is applicable to golf club heads having either pitched or substantially flat striking surfaces. In the form illustrated in Fig. 1, the iron club comprises a head H and a shaft S. The striking surface 4 of head H has a series of grooves or indentations 5, preferably arranged in parallel and also substantially parallel to the surface over which the club is moved when it is held in proper striking position relative to a ball resting on such surface.

In order to provide a proper indicia for the correct position of the club, as when addressing the ball, I prefer to apply or impress a band or strip 6, which contrasts in color or shade with the natural color or shade of the club head H, and the upper edge 7 of this strip is disposed to intersect the point of intersection of the upper edge 8 of the club head with the adjoining peripheral surface of shaft S. Most modern type iron clubs have a curved rather than flat-bottom edge making proper balancing difficult. By having the color contrast line in the stated intersecting relation to the shaft, it is high enough not to be obscured by tall grass when addressing the ball and yet low enough to keep the point of intersection visible and thus enables the golfer to readily determine when the contrast line is in true horizontal position in addressing the ball.

The arrangement shown in Fig. 2 is substantially the same in function as the form illustrated in Fig. 1.

In this form, the head H' has its striking face 14 provided with a series of grooves or indentations 15 which should parallel the ground surface when the club head is moved into proper striking relation to a ball resting on the ground. Again in this form, a band or strip 16 extends either completely or substantially across the face of the club head in color contrast with the face of the club, and parallel to the ground surface when in

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proper striking position. As in the form of Fig. 1, the top edge 17 of band 16 is arranged so that if extended, it will intersect the point of intersection of the top edge 18 of club head H with the adjacent peripheral surface of shaft S'.

Another arrangement for utilizing the features of the present invention has been illustrated in Fig. 3. In this form, the club head H'' has the usual grooves or indentations 25 on its polished striking face 24 and a dull shade-contrasting strip 26 extends along the length of the striking face with its lower edge defining a line 27 parallel to the surface on which the club is rested and which also parallels the lower edge of the striking face which is flat rather than rounded as in the other forms. Again in this form, line 27, if extended, would intersect the point of intersection of the shaft S'' with the club head H'' but extends in offset relation to the axis of said shaft as is clearly evident in the plan view position shown in Fig. 3.

As a consequence, the optical illusion created by the relation of the lengthwise axis of the shaft with the curvature of the top edges 8, 18 or 28 is broken and the contrasting band may be readily located in perpendicular or transverse relation to the line of flight, thus enabling the golfer to obtain the proper addressing position and resulting correct line on the shot. While Fig. 3 represents a modified form, the view is a correct representation of the plan view of the Figs. 1 and 2 forms except for the flat bottom edge and the width of the shade-contrasting strip.

While any suitable method of providing the color or shade contrast may be utilized as by applying the bands 6 or 16 as by painting, staining or the like, I prefer to employ either chemical or electrical deposition of another metal on the polished surface of the club face to provide a substantially permanent contrast. Such methods are in general use in industry and hence detailed description of same appears unnecessary. In the wood club forms, the use of a bright metal strip provides sufficient contrast with the painted or lacquered surface of the club head, but contrast painting, surface indentation and similar distinguishing effects may be utilized within the scope of this invention.

While I have referred to the use of a band or strip in shade contrast with the striking surface of the club, which strip preferably would be from one-eighth to one-half inch in width, another method of providing the line demarcation is to color the top portion of the striking face as for example above the edges 7 or 17 as shown in the drawings to contrast with a natural metallic color or shade extending throughout the remainder of the striking surface. In such event, this shade marking would extend up to and across the top surface of the club head 8 or 18, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and in addition to providing the line demarcation required in the practice of the present invention, would serve as a glare eliminating means, which feature would be particularly valuable in proper alinement and stroking of the club. Other variations in said contrasting arrangements utilizing the imaginary intersecting line previously described may be utilized within the spirit and scope of this invention.

Consequently, where the term "band" is used in the description and claims as defining the color contrasting area which defines the visual line utilized in alining the club, such term is intended to apply to irregularly shaped areas, as well as ribbon-like strips so long as such areas provide

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the flat edge located on the aforesaid imaginary line. Preferably, such bands will be within the dimensional range specified, although as specifically pointed out hereinbefore, other arrangements may be utilized within the spirit and scope of this invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is.

1. A golf club head having a shaft inclined upwardly from one end and a band on the upper surface of its striking face in shade contrast with the shade of the rest of said striking surface, said band having one edge arranged to parallel the surface over which the club is moved in striking a ball and lying on an imaginary straight line intersecting the point of intersection of the top edge of the club head with the adjoining peripheral surface of said shaft in the plane of said striking face, and said line being offset with relation to the axis of said shaft to break the optical illusion created by the relation of the axis of said shaft with said top edge when looking down on said head and shaft in the normal playing position.

2. A golf club comprising a head portion and a shaft portion, said head portion having curved top and bottom edges and a striking surface between said edges inclined with respect to the axis of said shaft, a portion of said striking surface being marked in shade contrast to an adjoining surface, thereby defining a line extending for a substantial distance along the striking surface perpendicular to the line of flight of a golf ball struck by said striking surface, and arranged so that if extended, said line would intersect the point of intersection between the top head surface and the peripheral surface of the shaft in the plane of said striking face, and said line being offset with relation to the axis of said shaft to break the optical illusion created by the relation of the axis of said shaft with said top edge when looking down on said head and shaft in the normal playing position.

3. A golf club head as set out in claim 1 wherein said band is of uniform width and the upper edge forms said one edge.

4. A golf club head as set out in claim 1 wherein said striking face is formed of polished metal and said band is formed by a contrasting metal deposited on said polished metal.

5. A golf club as set out in claim 1 wherein said head is of polished metal, said band is a dull contrasting surface covering the upper portion of said striking face to the upper edge of said head, and the lower edge of said band forms said one edge.

6. A golf club head having a shaft inclined upwardly from one end thereof, said head including a striking face, a band on the upper surface of said striking face in shade contrast therewith, said band having one edge paralleling the surface over which the club head is intended to be moved in striking a golf ball, said band being offset with relation to the axis of said shaft and being so positioned that an extension of said one edge thereof will be tangential to the periphery of the club shaft at the juncture of the club head with said shaft.

7. A golf club head having a shaft inclined upwardly from one end thereof, said head including a striking face, a band on the upper surface of said striking face in shade contrast therewith, said band having the upper edge thereof paralleling the surface over which the club head is intended to be moved in striking a golf ball,

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said band being offset with relation to the axis of the shaft and being so positioned that an extension of the upper edge thereof will be tangential to the periphery of the club shaft at the juncture of the club head with said shaft.

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