Aug. 12, 1969 A. C. STEWART 3,460,207

GOLF CLUB COVER FASTENER

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FIG. 1

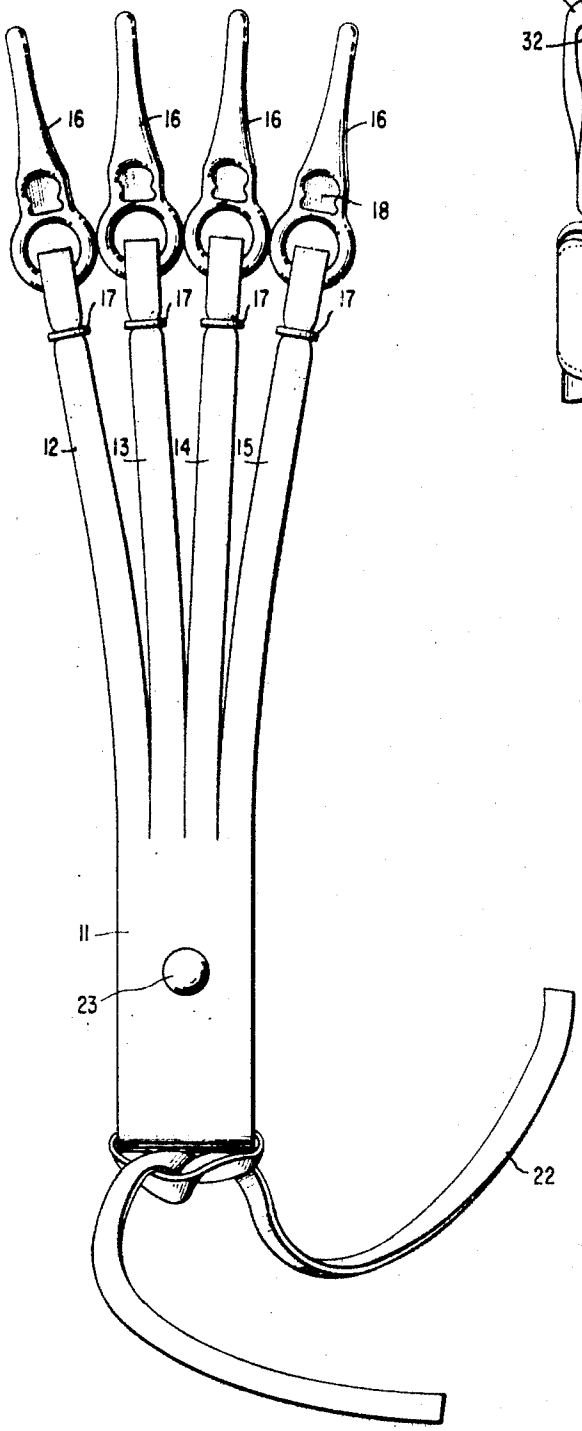


FIG. 3

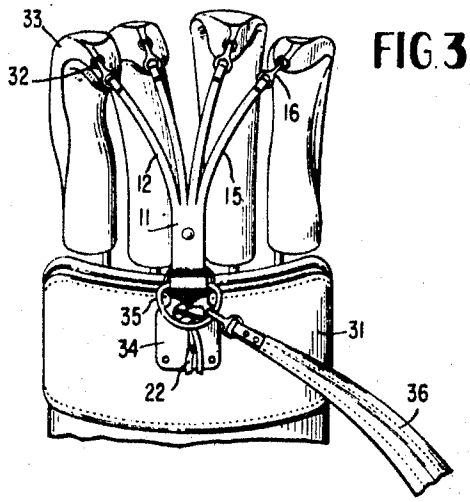
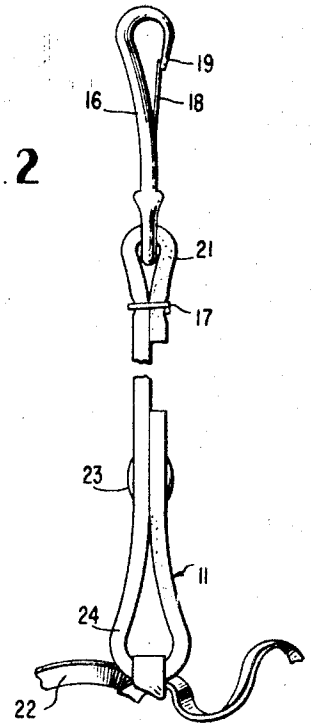


FIG. 2



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FIG. 5

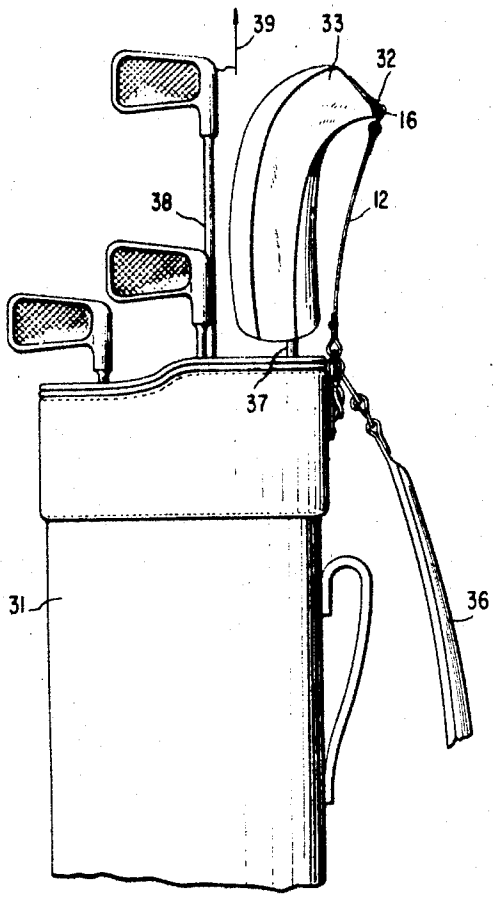
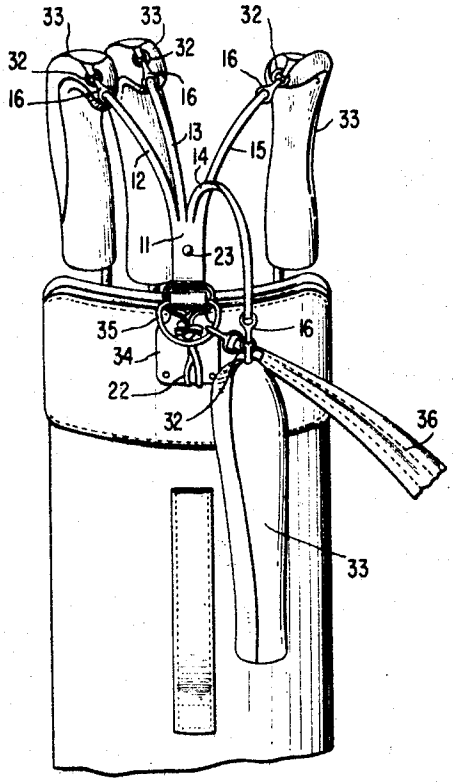


FIG. 4



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GOLF CLUB COVER FASTENER

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U.S. Cl. 24—73 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fastener for securing covers for golf club woods to a golf club bag comprises a leather base having four straps extending from it. At the end of each of the straps is a snap selectively connected to an eye fastener on the golf club covers. At the end of the base remote from the straps, a further flexible strap holds the fastener assembly to the golf bag.

The present invention relates generally to fasteners for golf club covers and more particularly to a fastener comprised of a plurality of flexible straps having a common base.

In the game of golf, two different types of clubs are generally employed, namely woods and irons. As their names indicate, woods have wooden club heads, while irons have metal club heads. The clubs are generally carried in a sectioned bag, whereby the irons are located in one section and the woods in the other section. The woods have polished heads having a tendency to become scratched and marred in response to contact with each other while in the bag. To avoid damage to the wood heads, it has been the practice in the art to provide each wood head with a cover, generally fabricated from a flexible material, such as plastic, leather or knitted material.

While the wood covers perform their function satisfactorily, they are subject to being misplaced and lost. To maintain all of the covers together, and thereby prevent one of them from being misplaced from the others, it has been the general practice to provide a cord for receiving all of the covers. The cord extends through eyelets on the covers, whereby one of the covers can be withdrawn from its associated head while remaining on the cord.

A problem incident with the use of cords for maintaining the several covers together is that the covers have a tendency to become twisted and intertwined with each other and the cord. Twisting of the covers is annoying, time consuming and detracts from the pleasure of a golfing participant.

While several devices have been proposed in the prior art for avoiding the disadvantages attendent with the use of cords for connecting golf clubs together, none has been generally adopted or received wide acceptance. In general, the prior art attempts to solve the problems associated with connecting club covers together by a cord appear to be expensive and difficult to use, as devices having relatively complex mechanisms or mechanical structures are involved.

According to the present invention, an inexpensive and easily utilized fastener for covers of golf club woods comprises a plurality of leather straps, having a common base. The straps are of sufficient length to reach eyelets located at the upper portion of almost all golf club covers. The common base for the straps is secured to a ring, provided on all golf club bags. The covers are removed, without twisting, from the woods in a facile manner, and after removed the straps are positioned to fall by gravity to the outer side of the bag. The possibility

of losing covers is obviated as the straps have a common base. The straps and covers do not become intertwined and twisted on each other since the straps have suffcient transverse stiffness to remain in the same vertical plane when the cover has been removed from the wood club head.

A further feature of the invention concerns the ability of the present fastener to always direct the heads of the woods toward the edge of the golf bag 180° away from the irons. With all prior art golf bags and golf club cover fasteners with which I am familiar, the woods have a tendency to rotate and cover the irons. Thereby, a golfing participant frequently has trouble locating the iron he desires to utilize, causing annoyances, such as a delay in play and selection of an improper iron. By directing the heads of the woods invariably towards the opposite edge of the bag, the present invention enables the irons to be reached in a facile manner and avoid the problem of the wood heads covering the iron heads.

It is, accordingly, an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved fastener for covers of golf club woods.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved fastener for the covers of golf club woods, wherein the covers are not susceptible to being misplaced and the various covers and fasteners do not become intertwined and twisted on each other.

A further object of the invention is to provide a fastener for the covers of golf club woods, wherein the heads of the woods are directed in a direction opposite from the irons, in a golf bag.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a fastener for covers of golf club woods, wherein the covers are not susceptible to being misplaced, the covers and fasteners do not become intertwined, and the irons are easily reached because the heads of the woods are pointed in a direction away from the irons.

The above and still further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description of one specific embodiment thereof, especially when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a side view of the fastener of FIGURE 1, taken through the lines **2—2**;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view illustrating the manner of utilizing the fastener of the present invention in conjunction with a golf bag;

FIGURE 4 is a further perspective view illustrating how a golf club cover is selectively removed from a club with the present invention; and

FIGURE 5 is a side view of a golf bag and golf clubs, in combination with the golf club cover fastener of the present invention.

Reference is now made to FIGURES 1 and 2 of the drawings, wherein there are illustrated plan and side views, respectively, of the detailed construction of the fastener of the present invention. The fastener comprises a leather base **11**, having four leather straps **12–15** extending from one side thereof. Each of straps **12–15** is approximately ¼" in width, ⅛" in thickness, whereby it is relatively flexible along its longitudinal axis and stiff in the direction of the transverse axis.

At the end of each of straps **12–15** remote from leather base **11**, approximately 4½" from the roots of the straps, a round eye snap **16** is secured in situ by metal wire clips **17**. Snaps **16** include a spring **18**, extending from one edge of the snap to normally engage end **19** of the snap. Thereby, spring **18** in combination with end portion **19**, which defines a circular or round

eye snap, selectively enables an eyelet to be secured to each of straps **12–15**. Snaps **16** are held in situ on straps **12–15** by folding the extreme ends of the straps over approximately 1" to form a closed loop portion **21** at the end of each of the straps.

At the end of base **11** a soft flexible, leather cord **22** is secured in situ. Cord **22** is secured in place by folding base **11** over and providing aligned apertures (not shown) therein, which apertures receive plastic or metal binding screw **23**. The folded configuration of base **11** provides a loop **24** through which cord **22** is securely tied.

In fabrication, the fastener of the present invention is initially formed from a strip of leather approximately 10" in length, ⅛" in thickness, and 1" in width. The leather is preferably of the bark, tanned or chrome retanned type, to provide the desired transverse stiffness and longitudinal flexibility. The four straps **12–15** are formed by slitting the leather strip longitudinally at three places, each separated from each other by approximately ¼". Apertures for receiving screw **23** are formed by punching appropriately sized circular holes through the base **11**, at approximately ½" and 3½" from the end of the strip remote from the end wherein the slits were formed. After the leather strip has been cut and punched as indicated, snaps **16**, binding screw **23** and cord **22** are secured in place.

In use, leather cord **22** is tied to the base of a golf bag **31**, FIGURE 3, while snaps **16** are connected to eyelets **32**, at the top of golf club covers **33**. Bag **31** is generally of the partitioned type, wherein woods **37** are located in a rear section and irons **38** are placed in a front section. Each of golf club covers **33** is placed about the head of a different wood club and includes a sock like configuration for receiving the wood heads, which extend into the foot like portions of the covers, in a well known manner. Eyelets **32** are located approximately at the toe of each cover **33**, whereby each strap **12–15**, in combination with the included length of base **11** between the roots of the straps and cord **22**, has sufficient length to extend from ring **35** to the top of each cover **33**, at the location of eyelet **32**. Cord **22** is secured to bag **31** by tying the strap to housing **34** for ring **35**, to which is normally secured strap **36** for carrying bag **31**. Strap **22** is not connected directly to the loop of ring **35**, but is non-rotatably secured in place, relative to the bag, by tying it to the junction between ring **35** with its housing **34** and bag **31**. By connecting strap **22** to the junction between ring **35**, housing **34** and bag **31**, the fastener of the present invention is maintained rigidly in situ and exerts a substantial, constant tension on eyelets **32**. Thereby, golf club covers **33** for wood clubs **37**, FIGURE 5, are invariably pulled toward the rear of bag **31**, where ring **35** and strap **36** are located. By retracting covers **33** toward the rear of bag **31**, iron clubs **38**, placed in the front portion of sectioned bag **31**, are always easily accessible and can be withdrawn from bag **31** in a facile manner, as indicated by arrow **39**.

The leather strip employed for the base **11** and straps **12–15** of the fastener of the present invention has sufficient longitudinal flexibility to enable wood covers **33** to be suspended from the back of bag **31**, where ring **35** and strap **36** are located, as indicated by FIGURE 4. From FIGURE 4, it is also noted that straps **12–15** have sufficient transverse rigidity to prevent them from becoming twisted when a cover **33** is removed from a wood club. Thereby, if several covers **33** are simultaneously removed, the separate straps for the different covers do not become intertwined.

While I have described and illustrated one specific embodiment of my invention, it will be clear that variations in the details of the embodiment specifically illustrated and described may be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the number of straps extending from base **11** can be decreased as desired.

I claim:

1. A fastener for covers of the heads of wood golf clubs carried in golf club bags, each of said covers having a toe carrying an eyelet, comprising a base, a plurality of longitudinal straps extending from said base, means for securing said base to the bag, and a fastener at the end of each of said straps for engaging the eyelet while said base is secured to the bag, each of said straps being sufficiently flexible along its longitudinal axis to enable a cover removed from a hand to fall by gravity to the exterior of the bag while a cover remaining on a head is directed to the interior of the bag and having sufficient stiffness transverse to its longitudinal axis to prevent more than 180° rotation thereof about its longitudinal axis, said base and straps being fabricated from a single leather strip, said strip having a thickness on the order of ⅛" and each of said straps having a width on the order of ¼".

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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