

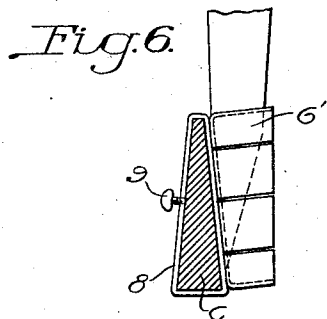
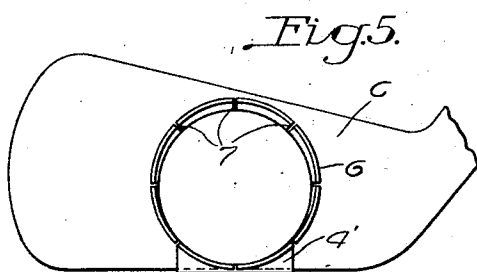
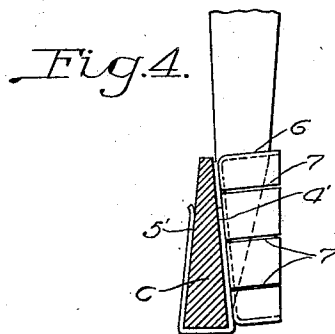
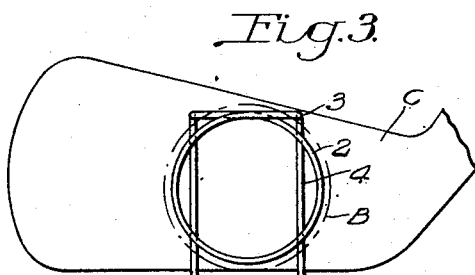
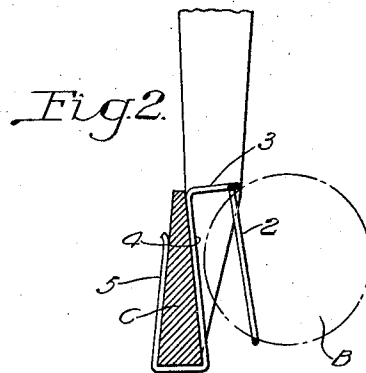
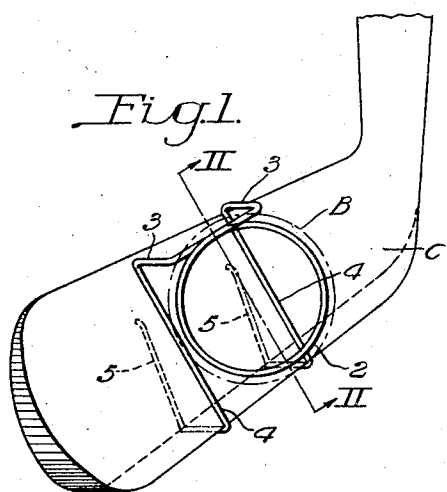
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ATTACHMENT FOR GOLF CLUBS

Filed March 11, 1929



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ATTACHMENT FOR GOLF CLUBS

Application filed March 11, 1929. Serial No. 345,989.

The present invention relates broadly to the art of games and toys, and more particularly to a device adapted to be attached to the head of golf clubs and the like for indicating to the player whether or not the club is being swung properly.

The great majority of golf players is almost continuously faced with the necessity of making some change either in the stance used or in the swing of the club. I have found that a professional instructor may quite often so change the style of a player as to improve the path of his swing. Even in such case, however, it is often quite difficult to determine whether or not the pupil is accelerating or decelerating his stroke at the proper times and to determine whether or not there is any break in the continuity of the swing. In accordance with the present invention, a player is immediately informed of the point in the swing at which he is violating some rule or accepted standard of playing.

In the accompanying drawings, there are shown for purposes of illustration only, certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, it being understood that the drawings are illustrative only.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of attachment suitable for use with the more common form of iron clubs,

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view through the head of such a club, with the attachment in position thereon,

Figure 3 is a front elevation of the structure illustrated in Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 2 illustrating a slightly modified embodiment of the invention,

Figure 5 is a front elevation of the structure of Figure 4, and

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figures 2 and 4, illustrating still another embodiment of the invention.

In playing the game of golf, if the player properly swings a golf club, during that swing he must consciously or unconsciously follow certain rules with respect to acceleration and deceleration of the club. He must also observe certain well recognized rules as to the movements of his arms and wrists and

the position of such members at all times during and after the ball has been hit. Not infrequently there is observed the fault of a quick back-swing, tending to throw the player off balance. Such a fault, when carried to the extreme, can be easily detected. In some cases, however, the style of the player is such as not to make the fault so easily detectable.

In still other cases, a player may tend to break the swing or, as it is some times termed, "break his wrists" at the wrong time.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided an attachment adapted to be applied to the head of a golf club and adapted to frictionally retain either an actual golf ball or a practice ball in proper position on the head of the club. With the attachment in position, and a ball frictionally held thereby, a player can swing the club in the usual manner. If his defect lies in a quick back-swing or upstroke, the ball carried by the attachment is released during the back swing and projected in a direction rearwardly of the player. If the back swing is properly executed, the ball will remain in position throughout such swing. Thereafter, if the player tends to too quickly accelerate his club at the commencement of the down stroke, the ball will be released and dropped to the ground. If, on the other hand, there is an abrupt change in the speed of movement at some point in the stroke, such change in speed will release the ball, and by following its trajectory it is possible to determine just where the mistake occurred. If the stroke is properly executed, the ball remains in position until the club reaches approximately the position at which a ball would normally be hit, whereupon the club, having assumed substantially its maximum velocity, throws the ball forwardly therefrom in substantial parallelism to the ground, thereby indicating to the player that his stroke was a proper one.

The attachment may take several different specific forms, but it is preferably of such character as not only to frictionally hold the ball, but also to center the ball with respect to the club. It also has relatively light mass so as not to noticeably change the weight of

the club, and must be so applied to the club as not to interfere with the normal swing thereof.

Realizing that the invention may take several different specific embodiments, I have herein illustrated some of the different forms. In Figures 1, 2 and 3 there is illustrated an attachment made from suitable spring wire, bent intermediate its ends to provide a loop 2 of such dimensions as to frictionally grip a ball at one side of the center. The ends of the loop 2 are bent rearwardly to provide loop sustaining portions 3, preferably extending in substantially parallel spaced relationship. These portions are of such length, and are so disposed, as to maintain the loop 2 in substantial parallelism to the face of a club C and at such a distance therefrom that when a ball B is placed in position therein, as indicated in dotted lines, it will be out of contact with the face of the club.

Projected downwardly from the loop supporting portions 3 are risers 4 adapted to lie over the face of the club as clearly indicated in the drawings. These risers and their associated parts are held in position by clips 5 adapted to extend upwardly on the back side of the club head and hold the attachment in proper position.

With the attachment so applied that the center of the loop 2 substantially coincides with the position of the "sweet spot" on the club, the player may grasp the portions 3 and by exerting a slight pressure thereon expand the loop so as to facilitate the positioning of a ball therein. With a ball in position, the portions 3 are released, and the ball is frictionally held in the manner described ready for a practice swing.

In Figures 4 and 5 there is illustrated a slightly modified embodiment of the invention, in which the clips 5 are replaced by a single spring clip 5', conveniently comprising a piece of flat spring material carrying on the riser portion 4' thereof a cup 6. This cup may be secured to the clip in any desired manner, and may be of any preferred construction. I have found, however, that it is desirable in many cases to provide the cup with a series of slits 7 extending substantially throughout the depth thereof and adapted to provide a series of closely adjacent spring fingers effective for engaging and grasping a ball. Where a cup of this general character is utilized, I have found that desirable results are obtained by making the cup shallower adjacent the bottom of the club than it is at the top, this construction not only facilitating the release of the ball but also enabling the lower edge of the cup to be positioned more closely adjacent the bottom of the club.

In Figure 6 there is shown still a further embodiment of the invention in which the spring clip is replaced by a band 8 adapted

to embrace the head of a club, and provided with a thumb screw 9, by means of which it may be clamped in position. This band carries a cup 6' of a construction generally similar to that referred to in connection with Figures 4 and 5.

It will be apparent that all of the foregoing forms of my invention not only provide means for effectively gripping a ball, but also means for effectively centering the same so that the ball occupies a predetermined position during each swing. The gripping is also accomplished in such manner as not to cut or otherwise destroy or disfigure the surface of the practice ball or the material of which it is composed. Each form is also capable of easy manufacture and application to a club and removal therefrom, thereby enabling a player to use the attachment on his own favorite clubs to determine the difficulty with his stroke.

While I have herein illustrated certain preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be understood that the invention is susceptible of embodiment in a plurality of different forms without departing either from the spirit of my invention or the scope of my broader claims.

I claim:

1. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to engage a club head, and ball retaining and centering means carried thereby.

2. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to detachably engage a club head, and ball retaining and centering means carried thereby.

3. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to engage a club head, and ball retaining and centering means carried thereby and effective for frictionally engaging a portion only of the periphery of a ball.

4. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to engage a club head, and resilient ball retaining and centering means carried thereby.

5. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to engage a club head, and ball retaining and centering means of generally annular form carried thereby.

6. As an article of manufacture, an attachment for golf clubs, comprising means adapted to engage a club head, and resilient ball retaining and centering means of generally annular form carried thereby.

7. The combination with a golf club including a golf head, of club head engaging means secured to and projecting from said head, and other means secured to said head engaging means for engaging a ball and centering the same with respect to the striking face of the club head, said last mentioned means providing a frictional engagement with the ball.

8. The combination with a golf club, of resilient ball engaging means secured to the club head and projecting outwardly therefrom, said resilient means providing a ball receiving opening of less diameter than the diameter of a ball and effective for frictionally receiving and centering a ball.

9. The combination with a golf club including a head, of a clip embracing a portion of said club head, and a cup shaped ball receiving member carried by said clip, said member having an opening of less diameter than that of the ball to be engaged thereby.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN J. KENNEY.

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