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3,459,429

GOLF STANCE GUIDING DEVICE

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5 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact training and practice device having a body with three chambers in each of which a roll-up tape is housed, two of the tapes being aligned and bearing indicia which, when the tapes are extended, guide the position of the golfer's feet in relation to the ball according to the sex of the golfer and the club to be used, and the third tape, when extended in a direction normal to the mentioned two tapes, providing a gauge that has an end that lines up the device with the ball and with the golfer's line of sight.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The execution of a successful drive or other golf stroke depends, in a large measure, upon the golfer's ability to align himself properly with the ball and the desired line of flight thereof. A proper stance is one that allows a free and smooth movement throughout the swing. For each club, and depending whether the golfer is tall or short, male or female, the stance assumed will be different in relation to the ball, whether closed or open, more off one foot than the other, and other such position factors.

The present invention contemplates the provision of a device as characterized which, from a compact and easily stored condition, may be extended to a desired operative position relative to the ball to be stroked and, in said position, serving to locate the golfer's feet, his line of sight, and distance from the ball. Continued practice in swinging at a ball, while so properly positioned, will ultimately teach the golfer how to take the proper stance without aid and enable him to find the desired "groove" for stroking the ball with any of the several clubs used in the game of golf.

Golfers' feet- and ball-positioning devices are representatively disclosed in U.S. Patents Nos. 2,025,519; 2,886,326; and 3,229,981. The first of these shows a gauge comprised of three flexible hinge-connected members, a circular case being provided for housing these members when the same are first mutually aligned and then rolled up, as a unit, to fit said case. The second shows a caliper-like arrangement of rigid members which can only be contracted to a minimum size due to telescopic interengagement of the several parts. The third is comprised of hingedly connected bars and arms incapable of being contracted to a compact form. Of further interest are Patents Nos. 2,150,580; 2,169,407; and 2,777,697.

This invention also has for its objects to provide such means that are positive in operation, convenient in use, easily installed in a working position and easily disconnected therefrom, economical of manufacture, relatively simple, and of general superiority and serviceability.

The invention also comprises novel details of construction and novel combinations and arrangements of parts, which will more fully appear in the course of the following description, which is based on the accompanying drawing. However, said drawing merely shows, and the following description merely describes, preferred embodiments of the present invention, which are given by way of illustration or example only.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The stance guiding device of the present invention comprises, generally, a casing 10 which is divided by partitions 11 and 12 into three compartments 13, 14 and 15, and flexible and independently extensible tapes 16, 17 and 18, respectively, housed in said compartments, the tape 16 being provided with indicia 19 to gauge the extension thereof for locating the left foot 20 of the golfer, the tape 17 being provided with indicia 21 to gauge the extension thereof for locating the right foot 22 of the golfer, and the tape 18 being provided with gauge marks 23 and with a marker end 24 for guiding alignment with the ball.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing, like reference characters designate similar parts in the several views.

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the present stance-guiding device in extended, operative position.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged plan view of said device shown in contracted position.

FIG. 3 is a partly broken side view of the device, as in FIG. 2.

FIGS. 4, 5 and 6, to the scale of FIGS. 2 and 3, are face views of the three position-guiding tapes of the present device.

FIG. 7, to the scale of FIG. 1, is a plan view of a modification.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The casing 10 has its compartments 13 and 14 coplanar and the compartment 15 normal thereto. In FIG. 1, the compartment 15 is located with the other two in L-arrangement. In the modification of FIG. 7, the compartment 15 is centered on the other two in T-arrangement. In either case, the two tapes 16 and 17 are coplanar with the tape 18 normal thereto.

The particular construction of the tapes is immaterial except that the ends 25 and 26 of the respective tapes 16 and 17 are oppositely directed and, when drawn from the chambers 13 and 14, extend oppositely, as shown in FIG. 1. The mentioned tape end 24, when drawn from the chamber 15, extends in a direction away from the coplanar tapes. The tapes may be of the self-latching type when drawn out, so the same will remain in extended operative position as set, and will roll up under suitable spring bias to the condition of FIGS. 2 and 3 when release thereof is effected. The ends of the three tapes are formed as stops to limit retraction thereof and serve as handles by which the tapes are extended.

The tape 16, as shown in FIG. 5, is provided with graduations 27 which, together with the mentioned indicia 19, guide the extended setting of said tape so its end 25 will serve as a marker for locating the left foot 20 of the golfer, said indicia 19 advising which graduation 27 should be placed in reference to side face 28 of the casing 10, according to the club to be used and the sex and/or physical size of the golfer. It will be seen from FIG. 1 that the extension of the tape 16, as above indicated, locates the golfer's foot 20 a distance from the line of the tape 18 and the sight line on the ball, accordingly.

The tape 17, as shown in FIG. 4, is provided with graduations 29 which, together with the indicia 21, guide the extended setting of said tape so its end 26 will serve as a marker for locating the right foot 22 of the golfer, said indicia 21 advising which graduation 29 should be placed in reference to the side face 30 of the case, according to the club to be used and the sex and/or physical size of the golfer.

It will be seen from FIG. 1, which has the tapes 16 and 17 set for men and use of the driver, that the ball will be

played off the left foot. It will be clear that the setting of said tapes 16 and 17 for the various other clubs that are used by a golfer, will guide the positioning of the golfer's feet so the stance shortens from the open stance used when driving, as well as progressively locate the line of sight of the ball nearer the right foot, as clubs with less loft, as in indicia 21, are used.

The tape 18, as shown in FIG. 6, is provided with the mentioned gauge marks to be used, selectively, with relation to the end face 31 of the case 10, for locating the marker end 24 of said tape adjacent to the ball.

Operation

The execution of a successful drive depends largely upon the golfer's ability to align himself properly with the ball and the desired line of flight. The procedure for using the present guiding means is as follows:

(1) Extend the right and left tapes to the markings 27 and 29 corresponding to the club number and the tape 18 to the proper scale marks 23 for men or women.

(2) The device is then placed on the ground with the top of the tapes 16 and 17 aligned with the desired line of flight and the tape 18 pointing directly at the ball.

(3) When playing 1 through 5 woods and 1 through 6 irons, a square stance is assumed by placing the center of each heel directly in front of the ends 25 and 26 of each club tape with the right foot at right angles to the line of flight and the left foot turned slightly inward.

(4) When playing 6 through 9 irons, pitching wedge or sand wedge, an open stance is assumed by placing the left heel directly in front of the end of the left tape, and the right heel approximately two inches in front of the end of the right tape.

(5) The shoulders are kept parallel to the line of flight, the knees are flexed slightly, and the golfer bends forward at the waist until his eyes are directly above the end 24 of the tape 18, distributing his weight evenly on the inside arches of the feet from the heel to the ball of the foot.

(6) In the above position, as guided by the markers and indicia, the stroke is made, ever mindful that the head be kept stationary and down, the eyes on the ball, the shoulders and hips free, the club head in an even plane, and the hands slightly ahead of the ball at contact.

While the foregoing has illustrated and described what is now contemplated to be the best mode of carrying out the invention, the constructions are, of course, subject to modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, it is not desired to restrict the invention to the particular forms of construction illustrated and described, but to cover all modifications that may fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A golf stance device comprising:

(a) a casing divided by partitions into three chambers, two of which are coplanar and the third being normal thereto,

(b) a rolled-up extensible tape in each chamber, each tape having an end adapted to be drawn in a direction outward from the casing, the tapes in the coplanar chambers being substantially aligned when extended and the tape in the third chamber, when extended, being substantially normal to said aligned tapes,

(c) graduations and related indicia on the aligned tapes to guide the degree of extension thereof and having ends to guide the location of a golfer's feet, and

(d) graduation marks on the third tape to selectively guide the extension thereof for taller and shorter golfers, the latter tape having an end to guide the line of sight of the golfer,

(e) the two aligned tapes, when placed on the ground in operative position, and along the desired line of flight of the ball, thereby guiding the positions of the feet of the golfer relative to said line, and the third tape, with the device in operative position, constituting means to align the eyes of the golfer with the ball.

2. A golf stance device according to claim 1 in which the third compartment of the casing is offset to one end of the coplanar compartments to provide the casing with an L-shape.

3. A golf stance device according to claim 1 in which the third compartment of the casing is centered on the coplanar compartments to provide the casing with a T-shape.

4. A golf stance device according to claim 1 in which the tapes are independently adjustable.

5. A golf stance device according to claim 1 in which the extensible end of the third tape is provided with a sighting marker.

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