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2,436,687

CLUB HEAD RETAINING MEANS FOR GOLF CLUB BAGS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

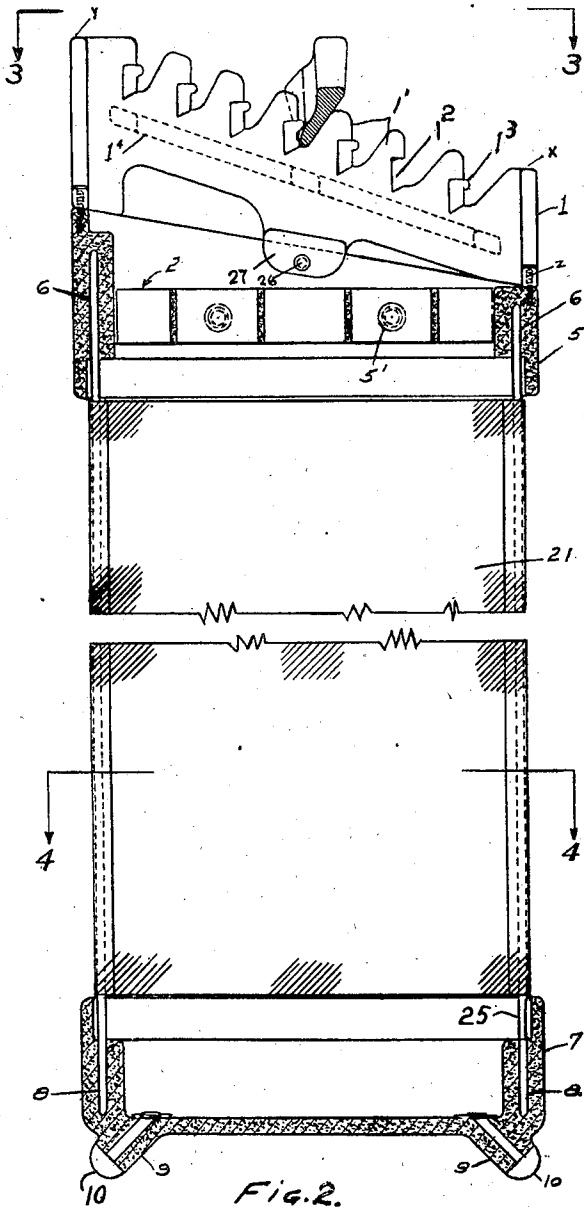


Fig. 2.

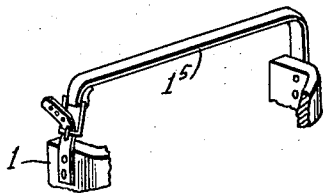


Fig. 1a.

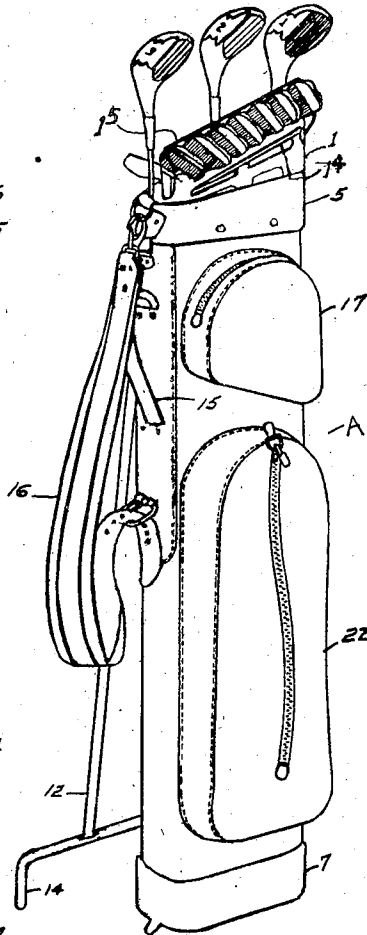


Fig. 1

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

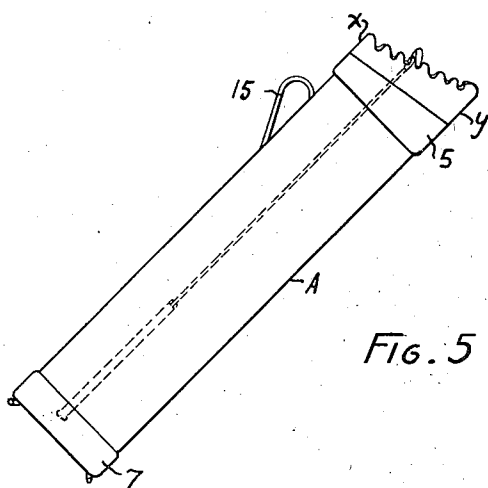


FIG. 5

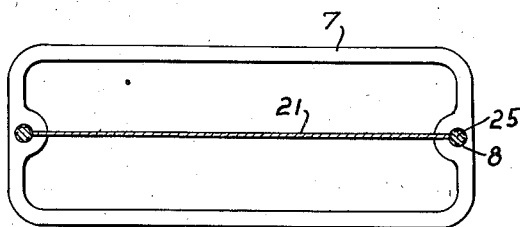


FIG. 4

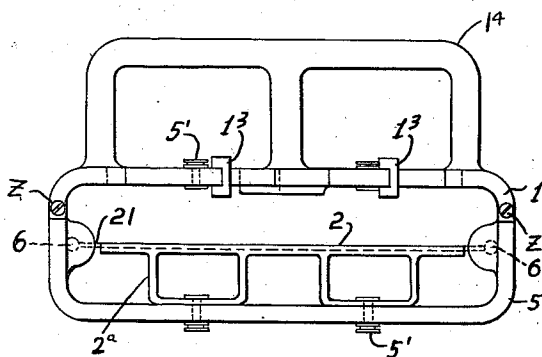


FIG. 3

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CLUB HEAD RETAINING MEANS FOR
GOLF CLUB BAGS

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Application February 1, 1945, Serial No. 575,598

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.5)

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My invention relates to golf club bags and relates more particularly to golf club supporting and retaining means associated with such bags.

It is an object of my invention to provide improved means for the individual suspension and support of each club.

Another object of my invention is to provide improved suspension and support means for each club of the so-called "iron" type whereby any damage to the club heads is prevented and any shifting of such clubs in the golf bag is totally eliminated.

A further object of my invention is to provide such improved golf club supporting and retaining means as may be detachably secured to any preferred golf bag.

As a further object of my invention, I contemplate the provision of club positioning means associated with the open mouth of a golf bag and adapted to be employed as a mounting for said improved club supporting and retaining member.

Another object of my invention is to provide improved means for mounting the golf clubs in predetermined and systematic order so that any desired club may be conveniently and easily selected.

Another object of my invention is to provide improved means for positioning the golf clubs in such manner as to equalize the load of such clubs in a golf bag and to maintain such balance throughout the use of such bag, whether the same be in the course of transportation and necessary movement about a golf course, during the playing of golf, or stored in a locker, as during non-playing intervals.

Further objects of my invention and the invention itself will become more apparent by reference to the following specification and the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a golf bag illustrating the improved club supporting and retaining means of my invention;

Fig. 1a is a perspective view of the strap shown in Fig. 1, showing a part of the element 1 broken away for greater clarity;

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view of the golf bag of Fig. 1, the outside cover material of the golf bag being omitted;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view partly in section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

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Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic view of the embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, illustrating wedging action of a club head when the bag is in normal carrying position.

Referring now to the drawings, in all of which like parts are designated by like reference characters, at "A" I indicate generally a golf bag preferably formed of leather, canvas, or like material, provided with a lower cuff and base portion 7 securely affixed thereto, which base portion is preferably formed of molded plastic material. The base portion 7 is further provided with a pair of angularly disposed leg portions 9 integrally molded therewith, said leg portions 9 being provided with wear resistant metallic buttons or lugs 10 and assisting the upright 12 as a support for maintaining the bag in standing or upright position.

The upright 12 and various novel features of the bag generally are more particularly described in co-pending applications of this applicant, viz., Serial Nos. 575,600 and 575,599, both having been filed February 1, 1945, the latter now abandoned.

A bag handle 15 and strap 16, both preferably also formed of plastic material, and a golf ball pocket 17 and utility compartment 22 for hood, shoes, and the like, are likewise provided for the bag, in a manner well known in the art. In addition to such features, a novel stay apron 21, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, and as further described in a co-pending application of this same applicant, Serial No. 575,600, filed February 1, 1945, and an upper cuff 5, of molded plastic material similar to that employed for the lower molded base element 7, are provided.

The plastic upper cuff of my invention, as shown, is provided with a pair of stay slots 6—6 similar to the stay slots 8—8 provided within the base 7 and said pairs of slots 6—6 and 8—8, when the bag is assembled, are disposed in alignment to permit the seating in such slots of the bag stays 25 to form the framework for the bag whereby the bag material may be securely anchored by the portions 5, 7, and stays 25, to form a generally elongated rectangular rigid bag structure.

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Referring now more particularly to the embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, it will be noted that the golf bag of my invention contemplates the provision of the individual placement, suspension and support of each of the clubs, commonly called "standard irons" with the exception of the putter, by means of a wedge type supporting element 1 positioned adjacent the mouth of the bag. The supporting element 1 so disposed is, in the form of my invention herein shown, preferably formed of plastic material, and as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, is generally tapered from a relatively short end "x" to a relatively taller opposite end "y"; the element 1, as shown in the drawings, is disposed generally transversely of the mouth of the bag "A" and at one side thereof, and is secured to the cuff 5 by means of screws "2" associated with the element 1 and screw threaded into the cuff 5, as shown, and by means of a stud 26 secured thereto by a forwardly extending lip 27 of the element 1. The said element 1 may also be molded integral with the cuff 5, if desired.

Likewise disposed generally transversely of the mouth of the bag is a plastic index strip 2 formed into a suitable number of compartments 2a, as shown in Fig. 3, for the accommodation of "woods" and "special irons." The said strip 2 is also attached to the cuff 5 as is the element 1, the strip 2 being secured thereto by studs 5' or the like.

The club supporting and retaining member 1 of my invention is provided with a plurality of upstanding fingers 1', each finger being tapered to conform to the taper of the face of a preferred club head (of the "iron" type) with which it is to be associated, and, to further adapt each finger to closely retain the associated club head in contact therewith, a trough 12 or groove, is provided in each said finger 1' within which replaceable wedge type fitting strips 13 may be placed.

These fitting strips 13, or bumpers, as they might well be described, are preferably formed of resilient material, such as rubber, or plastic material, and are shaped to conform to the shape of the trough and to the back contour of the club head on their forward face. They are further adapted to be so tightly press-fitted into the troughs 12 that they are securely retained within the said troughs and are adapted to wedgingly engage the club head to tightly hold the same between each adjacent pair of fingers 1' whereby displacement of said club head therebetween is impossible without the application of considerable force, as by manual pressure, as best shown in Fig. 3, the strips 13 are preferably of considerable width and contact a considerable extent of the club head to securely grip the club head to be associated therewith and to counteract any torsional action.

Furthermore, it is contemplated that different size wedge strips or fitting strips 13 may be employed as desired for different size club heads wherefor a definite size strip may be used with a predetermined type of club head so that as secure a seating of the club head between the adjacent fingers may be afforded as is possible.

It will be noted that the wedge supporting element 1 is located on the right hand side of the cuff in relation to the bag handle to accommodate right hand clubs, and, in the event that left hand clubs be employed, the supporting element 1 will then be mounted on the left hand side of

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the cuff in relation to the bag handle 15. Hence, when the bag is being transported, as shown in Fig. 5, the wedging action is increased rather than lessened.

A guard rail 14 may further be provided, as shown in connection with the wedge support element 1 of these figures, said rail protecting the club heads carried by said element when the bag is placed on the ground or placed against a wall or the like. A strap 15 may also be provided, secured at either end to the club head supporting element 1 and this may be tightened by buckle means or the like, shown in Fig. 1a, and drawn over the club heads, as shown in Fig. 1 to eliminate club disengagement when travelling and transporting or shipping the bag in the event it is up-ended.

After the assembly of the bag proper, the wedge supporting element is suitably attached to the cuff, the replaceable plastic wedge type fitting strips or bumpers inserted in the grooves in the fingers, and the bag is completely assembled for the form of Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive. The apron, it can be seen, serves the useful purpose of dividing the bag into two compartments, whereby two rows of club shafts may be accommodated.

It should be noted that the bumpers or fitting strips 13 may be replaced as new and different clubs may be desired placed within the bag and in the club head supporting element 1 and different size bumpers may be utilized as required by the particular clubs to be used in connection therewith.

Certain features of the golf bag apart from those herein described are described and claimed in my copending applications for Letters Patent, Serial Nos. 575,600 and 575,599, both having been filed February 1, 1945.

Although I have described my invention in connection with a preferred embodiment thereof, I am, of course, aware that numerous and extensive departures could be made therefrom without, however, departing from the spirit of my invention and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. Club head supporting means for golf bags comprising a plurality of upwardly extending fingers, each of said fingers having a generally vertically disposed face and a tapered face, said vertically disposed face having a groove disposed therein, a wedge element having a vertically disposed rear portion adapted to be inserted and lockingly seated within the said groove and having a protruding nose portion adapted to engage the back of a club head to be positioned between the said vertically disposed face of each said finger and the tapered face of each adjacent finger, said wedge element being adapted to lockingly engage the said club head to securely maintain the same in its allocated position.

2. Club head supporting means for golf bags comprising a wedge supporting element, said element being disposed transversely of the mouth of said golf bag and secured thereto, said wedge supporting element being provided with a plurality of upstanding fingers tapered to conform to the taper of the face of a club head to be associated therewith, each finger being provided with a groove, a removable wedge type strip adapted to be inserted within said groove and to contact the back contour of the said club head, said wedge supporting element to be positioned on the right hand side of the bag in relation to a bag handle therefor when right hand clubs are to

be used whereby a positive wedging action when carrying the bag is secured.

3. Club head supporting means for golf bags comprising a plurality of upwardly extending fingers, each of said fingers having a groove disposed therein, a bumper element adapted to be inserted and lockingly seated within the said groove and having a protruding nose portion adapted to engage the back of a club head to be positioned between the said bumper retaining finger and the confronting face of an adjacent finger, said bumper element being adapted to lockingly engage the said club head to securely maintain the same in its allocated seated position.

ROBERT LEE CORBETT.

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