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2,005,915

GOLF CLUB

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Fig. 1.

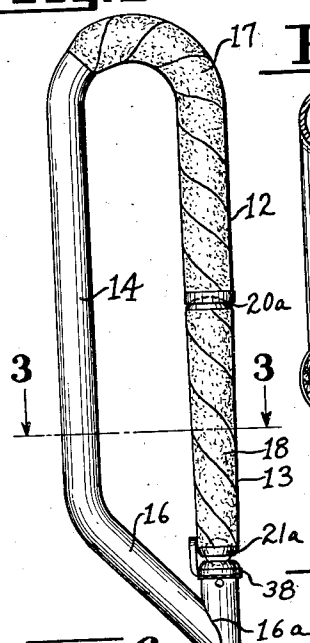


Fig. 3.

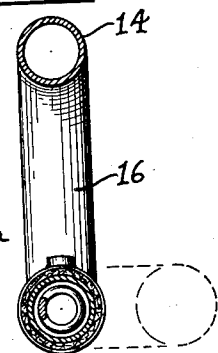


Fig. 4.

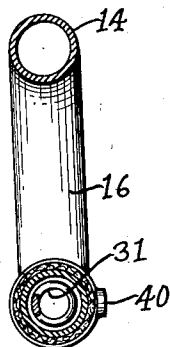


Fig. 6.

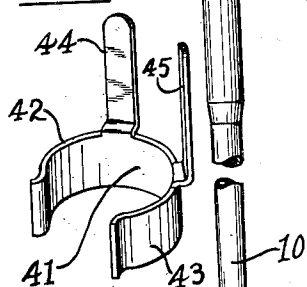


Fig. 7.

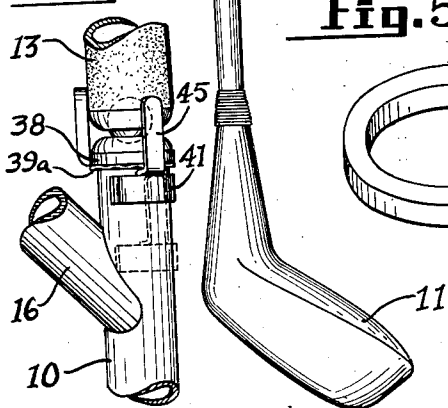


Fig. 5.

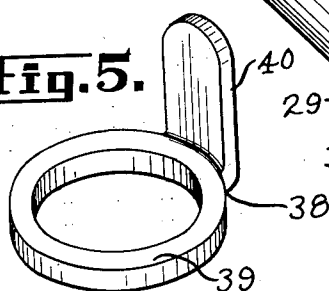
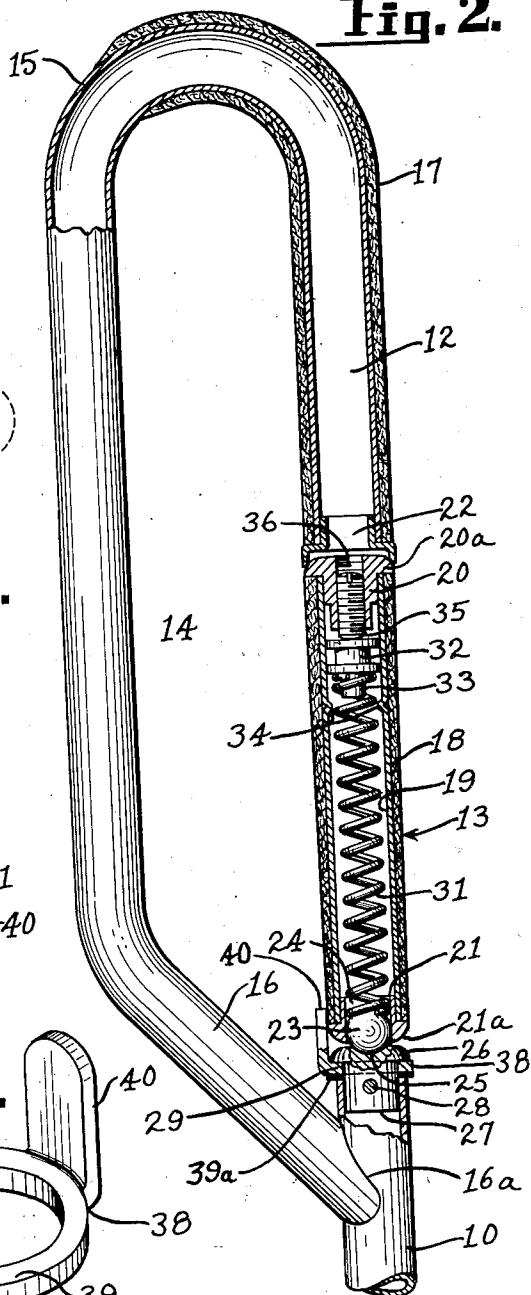


Fig. 2.



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GOLF CLUB

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Application June 12, 1934, Serial No. 730,194

16 Claims. (Cl. 273—81)

This invention relates to golf clubs, and more particularly to a club designed for use in practicing the game of golf to facilitate the development of a smooth back swing and body turn, and the delayed application of the "right-hand" punch on the "down" swing until the moment of impact.

One object of this invention is to provide a golf club of the above nature having a gripping section for the player's right hand which will become displaced or detached if force is applied to the club in making the stroke without the proper rhythm.

A further object is to provide a practice golf club, the use of which will train the left arm and hand of the player to assume control of the club in order to produce a perfect golf swing.

A further object is to provide a club of the above nature which will prevent the right hand from dominating and spoiling the swing.

A further object is to provide a club of the above nature in which the detachable section of the handle may be prevented from displacement merely by the impact of the ball on the club face.

A further object is to provide a club of the above nature which will be simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, easy to manipulate, compact, ornamental in appearance, and very efficient and durable in use.

With these and other objects in view there has been illustrated on the accompanying drawing, one form in which this invention may be conveniently embodied in practice.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 represents a side view in elevation of the improved practice golf club.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged longitudinal fragmentary sectional view taken through the handle portion of the same.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken through the handle portion along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, showing the stop ring in "unlocked" position.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the stop ring in "locked" position.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the stop ring on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of an adjustable attachment clip which may be applied to the club for preventing the detachable handle from being accidentally detached when carried around in a golf bag.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view of the club showing the clip in operating position.

This invention is an improvement over that

disclosed in a previous application by the same inventor, Serial No. 658,110, filed February 23, 1933.

In learning to play golf, the beginner usually attempts to strike the ball with his club dominated by his right hand, the result being that his stroke lacks the proper rhythm and smoothness. The purpose of the present invention is to cause the club handle to become displaced or "break" during the stroke unless the club is swung properly under the control of the left hand. By means of this simple and positive indication, the player is enabled to quickly learn the proper method of swinging the club with the minimum of assistance from an instructor.

Referring now to the drawing in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 10 indicates a slightly tapered tubular shaft of steel, or other suitable material, having a head 11 affixed to the lower end thereof. The shaft 10 of the present invention differs from the ordinary golf club shaft by forming the handle in two sections 12 and 13, the lower section 13 being detachable.

The upper handle section 12 is adapted to be rigidly held in alinement with the shaft 10 by means of a laterally offset tubular brace member 14 arranged parallel with the handle section 12 and shaft 10. The brace member 14 is connected integrally with the upper gripping section 12 by a loop section 15. The lower end 16 of the brace member is inclined forwardly and has a rigid connection with the upper end of the shaft 10, as by a welded point 16a. The brace member 14 is spaced sufficiently from the handle sections 12 and 13 so as not to interfere with the free action of the player's hands in swinging the club.

The upper handle section 12 and the lower detachable section 13 are preferably covered with the usual leather windings 17 and 18 respectively, but it will be understood that other soft gripping materials may be employed if desired.

In order to permit the handle section 13 to be pulled out of alinement or completely away from the shaft 10 in case the player uses too much "right hand", or other wise makes a faulty application of force in the stroke, said section 13 is detachably connected to the club by the following construction.

The section 13 includes a tubular blank 19 having the same diameter as the tubular portion of the handle section 12, and is provided at its upper and lower ends with a pair of bushings 20 and 21 which are adapted to fit into the upper

and lower ends respectively of said blank 19. The bushings 20 and 21 are provided with headed ends 20a and 21a respectively to provide shoulders for engaging the ends of the tubular blank 19 and also forming projecting flanges for the ends of the leather winding 18 with which the handle of said bushings are flush.

The head 20a of the upper bushing 20 is slightly domed to permit it to seat detachably in a cup-shaped socket 22 affixed to the lower open end of the upper tubular handle 12.

The lower bushing 21 is provided with a "snap-action" ball 23 having a slidable fit in a cylindrical cage 24 located within said bushing 21, said ball being prevented from dropping out of said cage by an inwardly extending annular rim embracing said ball at a line slightly below the center thereof, thus securely holding it in position and at the same time permitting the ball to protrude downwardly slightly.

The ball 23 is adapted, normally, to seat in a concave socket 25 formed in the headed upper end 26 of a plug 27 fitted into the upper end of the shaft 10. The plug 27 is supported and secured in the upper end of said shaft 10 by means of a transverse rivet 28 which is located below the bottom of the head 26 of said plug 27, leaving a space 29 for a purpose to be hereinafter described.

The snap-action ball 23 is adapted to be pressed downwardly at all times by means of an elongated helical compression spring 31, the lower end of which is in direct engagement with said ball 23, while the upper end thereof is abutted against a spool shaped member 32 which is slidable within the upper end of the tubular handle blank 19. The spool member 32 is provided with a depending stud 33 which projects into the upper end of the spring 31 for holding it in centralized position. The downward movement of the spool member 32 is limited by means of a pair of opposed nibs 34 struck inwardly from the walls of the detachable handle tube 19.

In order to control the degree of compression of the spring 31 and consequently the force with which the ball 23 presses against the socket 25, provision is made of a headless set screw 35 which is threadedly engaged in a central tapped hole 36 formed in the upper bushing 20. The lower end of the set screw 35 engages against the top of the slidable spool 32, while the upper end thereof is provided with a kerf which is readily accessible through the tapped hole 36 to a screw driver or similar tool (not shown). The compression of the spring 31 may thus be adjusted to any desired extent to suit the requirements of the player.

Stop attachment

In case it is desired to prevent the detachable handle 13 from being forced out of operating position by the shock of impact with the ball, provision is made of a stop member 38 comprising an annular ring 39 having an upstanding finger 40 formed integral therewith at the outer edge thereof.

The stop member 38 is rotatably mounted upon the body of the plug 27, and the ring 39 is positioned in the space 29 previously referred to (see Fig. 2). The finger 40 extends upwardly a sufficient distance to engage the lower end of the detachable section 13, and when said finger is at right angles to the plane of the offset brace member 14 and in the plane of the swing, it will effectively prevent the displacement of the same by the impact with the ball. (See Fig. 4)

A resilient undulated washer 39a is preferably located between the ring 39 and the top edge of the tubular shaft 10 to prevent wear and maintain a uniform resistance to turning of said stop member 38 (see Figs. 2 and 7).

Operation

In the use of the improved practice golf club, herein disclosed, when it is desired to make a practice swing without striking at a golf ball, the player will first twist the stop member 38 so that the finger 40 will lie in the position at the underside of the club handle as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, in the plane of the offset brace 14. The finger 40 will then lie out of the path of the normal swing and will not interfere with the displacement of the indicator section 13 if a faulty stroke is made. If the swing of the club is properly controlled by the left hand to produce a smooth, even and rhythmic stroke, the club will remain intact through the entire swing. If, however, the pupil makes the swing in a jerky manner, or exerts too much force with his right hand, the detachable section 13 will become disengaged from the shaft 10 and will thus indicate to the player that his swing has been faulty.

By reason of the snap engagement of the ball 23 with the socketed plug 27, the detached section 13 may be readily replaced and the club will then be ready for another stroke.

When it is desired to use the practice club in the manner of a regular club for striking and driving a golf ball, the stop member 38 will be twisted about the shaft through an angle of 90 degrees until the finger 40 lies in the "swinging" plane of the club, as shown in Fig. 4, on the same side of the shaft 10 as the striking face of the club head. With the stop member 38 in this position, it is quite obvious that it will be impossible for the lower gripping section 13 to become detached from the handle 12 by the shock of the club head in hitting the ball. It will thus be possible to use the club when so adjusted for playing in the usual way.

In order to hold the detachable section 13 from being accidentally knocked out of position while the club is being carried in the golf bag, provision is made of a split resilient metal clip 41 (see Fig. 6), having a pair of opposed curved arms 42 and 43 for slidably and detachably embracing the upper end of the shaft 10. The clip 41 also has a pair of upstanding outwardly offset fingers 44 and 45 for cooperating with the stop ring 38 in preventing displacement of the lower end of the detachable section 13, as shown in Fig. 7 in operating position. When using the club, the clip 41 may be readily slipped downwardly to the dotted line unobstructing position as shown in Fig. 7.

While the operation of the club has been herein described for use by a right-handed player, it will be understood that the invention is equally useful for left-handed players, it being merely necessary to change the club head without changing the handle or gripping section.

While there has been disclosed in this specification one form in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that this form is shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosure but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all modi-

fications and embodiments coming within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent, is

1. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head and a handle, said handle having a displaceable section therein adapted to be grasped by the lower hand of the player and to be displaced from alignment with the remainder of the handle and the shaft in case the player holds back too much with his lower hand in the stroke of a practice swing, and means on said shaft for selectively preventing the displacement of said section by the impact of the club with a ball.

2. In a practice golf club, a shaft, a handle at the upper end thereof, an offset bracket connected to the upper end of said handle for holding it in alignment with said shaft, said handle having a removable indicating lower section normally forming a part thereof but adapted to become displaced therefrom when the player makes a faulty application of force to the club, and means for selectively locking said removable section against displacement from said handle and said shaft.

3. In a practice golf club a shaft, a handle spaced therefrom, an offset bracket for holding said handle in alignment with said shaft, said handle having a lower indicating gripping section detachably held in position and adapted to be moved out of normal position from alignment with said shaft by a faulty application of force in making the stroke of a practice swing, and means for holding said gripping section against movement out of aligned position by the impact of a ball with said club.

4. In a practice golf club, a shaft having an offset upper portion, a handle comprising a two-part gripping section, the upper section thereof being connected by a looped member to the offset upper portion of said shaft, the lower gripping section being adapted to be displaced from alignment with said upper gripping section to indicate a faulty application of force in the stroke by the lower hand of the player, and means for selectively holding said indicating section against displacement by the mere impact of the ball with the club.

5. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left hand" gripping portion having a cupped socket in its lower end, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alignment with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion having a pair of headed bushings located in opposite ends thereof, the upper bushing having a domed head for normally seating in said cupped socket, a spring-pressed ball slidably fitted in the bottom of said lower bushing and adapted to project beyond the headed end of said bushing, and a plug fitted into the upper end of said shaft and having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand.

6. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion having a cupped socket in its lower end, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alignment with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion

having a pair of headed bushings located in opposite ends thereof, the upper bushing having a domed head for normally seating in said cupped socket, a spring-pressed ball slidably fitted in the bottom of said lower bushing and adapted to project beyond the headed end of said bushing, a plug fitted into the upper end of said shaft and having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, and means on said shaft for holding said lower gripping portion against being removed by the impact with a golf ball.

7. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion having a cupped socket in its lower end, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alignment with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion having a pair of headed bushings located in opposite ends thereof, the upper bushing having a domed head for normally seating in said cupped socket, a spring pressed ball slidably fitted in the bottom of said lower bushing and adapted to project beyond the headed end of said bushing, a plug fitted into the upper end of said shaft and having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, and means in said displaceable gripping portion for adjusting the spring pressure on said ball to control the force necessary to cause displacement of said indicating portion.

8. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion having a cupped socket in its lower end, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alignment with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion having a pair of headed bushings located in opposite ends thereof, the upper bushing having a domed head for normally seating in said cupped socket, a spring-pressed ball slidably fitted in the bottom of said lower bushing and adapted to project beyond the headed end of said bushing, a plug fitted into the upper end of said shaft and having a socket for receiving said ball, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, means in said displaceable gripping portion for adjusting the spring pressure on said ball to control the force necessary to cause displacement of said indicating portion, and means on said shaft for selectively preventing displacement of said gripping portion by the shock of impact with a golf ball.

9. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alignment with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion below said left-hand gripping portion, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force

with his right hand, rotatable means to selectively prevent displacement of said lower gripping portion merely by the impact with a ball by said club, said shaft having friction means on its upper end to maintain a uniform resistance to turning of said rotatable means.

10. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alinement with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion below said left-hand gripping portion, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, rotatable means to selectively prevent displacement of said lower gripping portion merely by the impact with a ball by said club, said shaft having an undulated resilient washer on its upper end to maintain a uniform resistance to turning of said rotatable means.

11. In a practice golf club, a shaft having the upper portion thereof offset therefrom, a handle having its upper portion integral with said upper offset portion and connected therewith by a curved loop, the lower portion of said handle being detachably held in alinement with the lower portion of said shaft and adapted to become displaced from normal alined position when a faulty application of force is made on the swing of a practice stroke, without striking a ball, and means to hold said lower handle portion in normal position to permit an actual stroke to be made against a ball without displacing said lower handle portion merely by the impact ball.

12. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head and a handle, said handle having a displaceable portion therein which is adapted to be displaced from alinement with the remainder of the handle and the shaft in case the player makes a faulty application of force to the handle in swinging the club, and means for selectively holding said portion against displacement merely by the shock of impact with said ball.

13. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head at its lower end and a gripping handle at its upper end, said handle having a displaceable section adapted to be grasped by the right hand of the player and to be displaced from alinement with the remainder of the handle and

the shaft to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand in making the stroke of a practice swing, and means on said shaft for selectively locking said displaceable section from being accidentally moved out of position when the club is out of use.

14. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head at its lower end and a gripping handle at its upper end, said handle having a displaceable section adapted to be grasped by the right hand of the player and to be displaced from alinement with the remainder of the handle and the shaft to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand in making the stroke of a practice swing, and means detachably secured on said shaft for selectively locking said displaceable section from being accidentally moved out of position when the club is out of use.

15. In a practice golf club, a shaft having a head at its lower end and a gripping handle at its upper end, said handle having a displaceable section adapted to be grasped by the right hand of the player and to be displaced from alinement with the remainder of the handle and the shaft to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand in making the stroke of a practice swing, and means slidably and detachably secured on said shaft for selectively locking said displaceable section from being accidentally moved out of position when the club is out of use.

16. In a practice golf club, a shaft provided with an upper "left-hand" gripping portion, an offset bracket connected at its lower end to said shaft and at its upper end to said left-hand gripping portion to hold it in alinement with said shaft, a displaceable "right-hand" indicating gripping portion below said left-hand gripping portion, said right-hand gripping portion being adapted to become laterally displaced from the remainder of said shaft and the upper gripping portion to indicate when the player exerts too much force with his right hand, rotatable means to selectively prevent displacement of said lower gripping portion merely by the impact with a ball by said club, said rotatable means comprising an annular ring mounted on the upper end of said shaft and having an upwardly projecting finger adapted to be selectively moved into the plane traversed by the club in making the stroke.

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