July 12, 1932. W. L. BECKLEY 1,866,615

GOLF CLUB

Filed Sept. 9, 1929

Fig. 2.

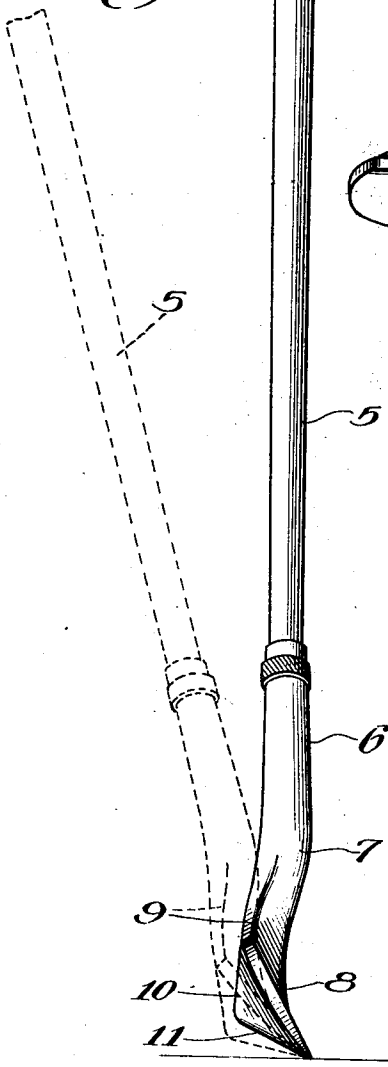


Fig. 3.

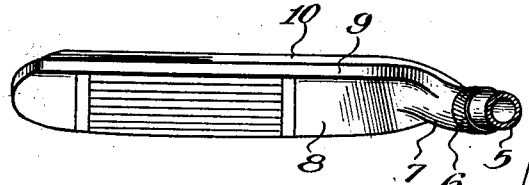


Fig. 4

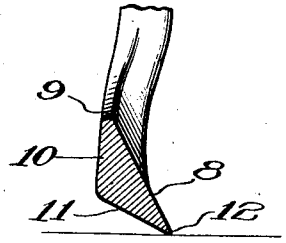


Fig. 1.

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Patented July 12, 1932 1,866,615

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WELCOME LOUIS BECKLEY, OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE BECKLEY-RALSTON CO., OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS

GOLF CLUB

Application filed September 9, 1929. Serial No. 391,186.

This invention relates to golf clubs and more particularly to metal clubs used for approach shots.

One of the objects of the invention is to produce a club in which the loft may be varied by the user according to the lie of the ball, without producing any rocker-like motion of the club sole on the ground. Heretofore, clubs of this type have been made of metal, of substantial thickness from face to back, and have been formed with a substantially flat sole. As a result of this construction, when the user altered the normal loft of the club, the sole of the club had rocker movement on the ground, which action resulted in raising the lower margin of the club face from the ground.

In the construction embodying the present invention, the club has substantial thickness from face to back, but the sole is so narrow that it practically has only line contact with the ground, and the loft of the face may be altered to a liberal extent by tilting or pivoting the club on its sole, forwardly and rearwardly thereof and without raising the lower margin of the face of the club as in other clubs of ordinary construction.

Other novel features of the construction include the curving of the sole from toe to heel by which the club may be rocked longitudinally of the sole to permit the player to vary his stance relative to the ball, as desired.

The club is provided with a horizontally disposed top which enables the player when addressing his ball to form a more accurate estimate of the angle of his club face to the line of flight than is possible when the top is angularly disposed as in clubs of conventional design.

In the drawing:—

Fig. 1 is a face view of a club embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the club shown in Fig. 1, looking toward the toe of the club, the full line showing the normal loft of the club and the dotted line indicating how the loft of the club may be altered by tilting or pivoting the club upon its sole.

Fig. 3 is a plan view, partly in section, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a vertical, sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

In that embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing, 5 indicates the club shaft, rigidly secured to the head of the club. The head is joined to the shaft 5 by an extension 6, which extends upwardly and outwardly from the heel of the club head in substantially axial alignment with the shaft when viewed from the face of the club as shown in Figure 1, but said extension 6 is curved slightly from the heel in a direction forwardly of the face of the club, as indicated at 7, and above said curved portion is substantially in axial alignment with the shaft 5 when viewed from the toe of the club head as shown in Figure 2.

The head has an inclined face 8, a flat, narrow horizontally disposed top 9, and rear surfaces 10 and 11.

Said rear surfaces 10 and 11 are joined together in a substantially horizontal line and in a plane substantially parallel to the horizontally disposed top 9. The surface 10 is inclined downwardly and rearwardly from the top 9 to about halfway down the back of the head and the surface 11 is inclined downwardly and forwardly from the surface 10 to the junction 12 of the surface 11 and face 8. This junction 12 constitutes the sole of the club, if it may be so called, and is so narrow that little more than line contact is made between the club and the ground. The angle or inclination of this rear surface 11 upwardly and rearwardly from the sole 12, relative to the face 8, is such that the club has substantial thickness through the median portion of the head, but the angle is sufficiently acute to render it unlikely that the surface 11 will touch the ground even when the player has tilted the club rearwardly to an unusual extent. The face 8 preferably extends at approximately a 35° to 45° angle to the back surface 11.

The sole 12 is curved longitudinally from the toe 13 to the heel 14 to permit the user to vary his stance to be more or less near to the ball, as desired.

It will be observed that by constructing the club head as herein described, permitting the tilting of the club forwardly and rearwardly

on the sole 12, the normal point of impact (indicated at 15 on Fig. 1) is lowered when the loft is increased, enabling the club to get further under the ball than is feasible with ordinary clubs. When the loft of a club having a sole of substantial width from face to rear is shifted from the normal angle of the face to a horizontal plane, a rocker-like motion is given to the sole of such wide-soled clubs and, assuming that the shaft has been moved rearwardly, the forward part of the sole will be raised from the ground, the lower margin of the face will be lifted and the position of the face will be such that the normal impact point will be raised.

I claim:

1. A metal golf club having a head with its face inclined relatively to the shaft, upper and lower rear surfaces extending angularly to each other and to the face, the lower of said rear surfaces merging with said face at its lower margin and forming a sharp edge, and the other rear surface extending from the first mentioned rear surface toward the upper margin of the face and merging with a narrow top of the head, the greatest weight of the head being behind the normal point of impact between ball and club face, and disposed in a plane paralleling a subjacent surface when the club is held in playing position relative to said surface.

2. A metal golf club having a shaft and a head connected to the shaft, the head having an inclined face and a rear surface joined together longitudinally at the bottom edge of the head, said rear surface extending sharply upwardly and rearwardly from its junction with the face at an acute angle to said face, and forming at the juncture a sharp edge, whereby the loft of the face may be altered to a liberal extent by tilting or pivoting the head on its bottom edge, forwardly and rearwardly thereof, and without raising the lower margin of the face of the head.

3. A metal golf club having a shaft and a head connected to the shaft, the head being of substantial thickness opposite the longitudinal center of its face and having an inclined face and a rear surface joined together longitudinally to form a sharp bottom edge for the head, said rear surface extending sharply upwardly and rearwardly from its junction with the face to said thickened portion of the head, the sole being curved longitudinally from toe to heel, and the top being substantially flat and horizontally disposed and substantially parallel to the horizontal plane in which the thickest portion of the head is disposed.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I affix my signature, this sixth day of September, 1929.

WELCOME LOUIS BECKLEY.