Dec. 25, 1962 W. BRINATI ET AL 3,070,372

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

Filed Oct. 23, 1961

Fig. 1

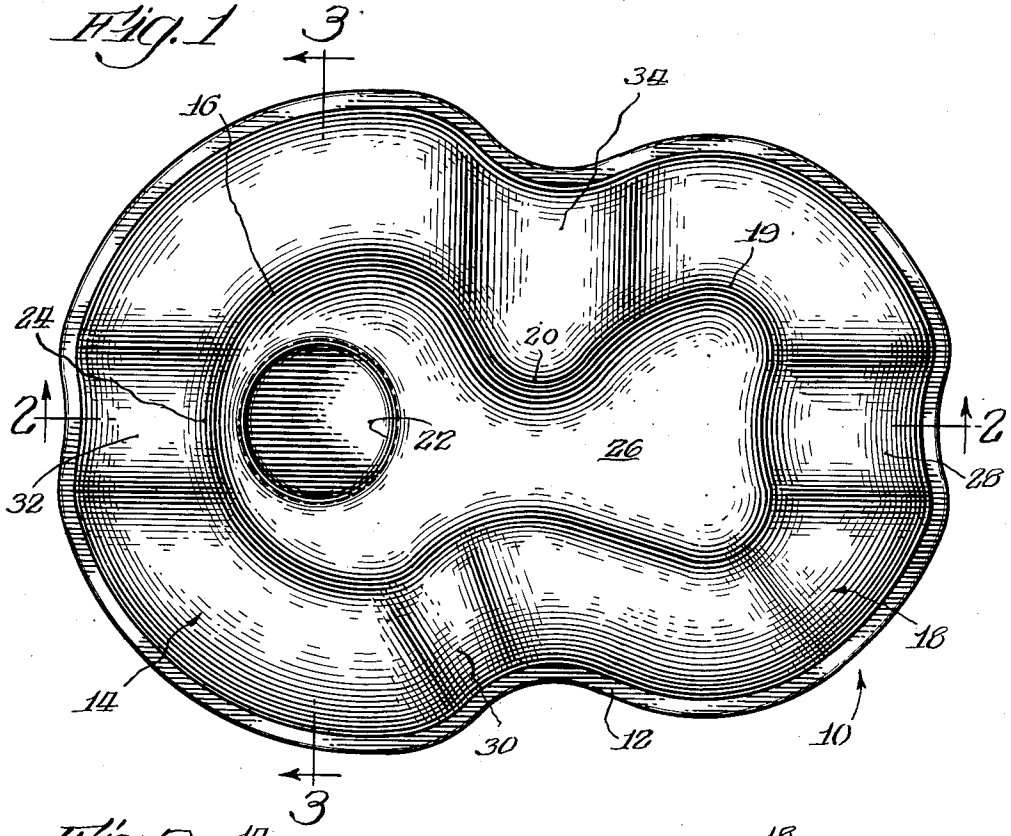


Fig. 2

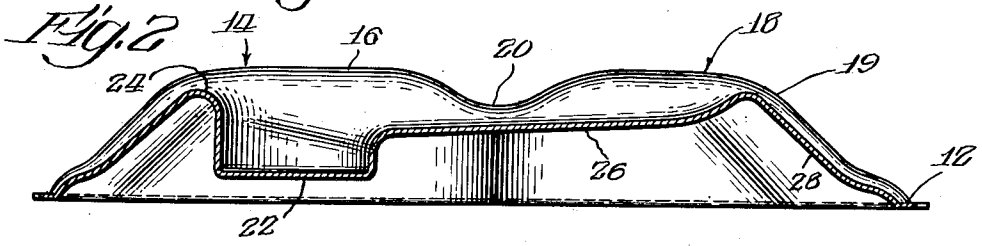
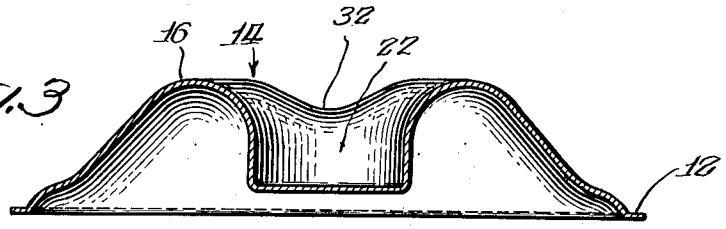


Fig. 3



Inventors:
William Brinati
Louis J. Sylvester

By FROST & VANDENBURGH Attys.

United States Patent Office

3,070,372

Patented Dec. 25, 1962

3,070,372

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

William Brinati and Louis J. Sylvester, Elmwood Park, Ill., assignors to Putt-Er-Up Enterprises, Inc., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Filed Oct. 23, 1961, Ser. No. 146,786
2 Claims. (Cl. 273—173)

The present invention relates to a device for use in the game of golf and more particularly it relates to a device to be utilized in practicing a putting approach to the cup.

Development of the proper putting technique in the game of golf is one of the most important elements of the game itself. The ability to putt a golf ball well is one of the most effective means available to golf enthusiasts to reduce the total number of strokes required for them to traverse the conventional 18-hole play. Approximately 30% to 60% of the average golfer's total number of strokes are accumulated in putting the golf ball into the cup. With such a large percentage of the total number of strokes concentrated on this one short portion of the game, it is readily seen that a little concentration and practice upon proper putting techniques can help to improve a golfer's game and thereby reduce his total score.

In the normal playing of a game of golf there, of course, is little if any time to practice any specific phase of the game since the play requires attention to all facets thereof. The golf enthusiast may practice driving on any of a number of driving ranges commonly available or he may use practice balls which, when struck, travel only a very short distance, and thus practice driving within the confines of his own property.

The practice of putting, however, is difficult to simulate on an individual's own property. A golf green, upon which one's putting is done in a game, is a very special and expensive surface to produce and maintain. Normally, the cost of reproduction of such a putting surface on one's own lawn renders such installation prohibitive. Furthermore, without the careful installation of such a putting green and the very careful maintenance thereof one cannot satisfactorily duplicate the surface and thereby adapt a conventional lawn for such practice.

A desirable smooth surface is found in putting on a rug or carpet. Practice on such surfaces, however, is not entirely satisfactory since peculiarities of approach often realized on many different putting greens cannot be simulated and thus much of the ability to develop a technique adaptable to a variety of approaches to the cup can not be developed. Additionally, the conventional drop into a cup, such as is experienced on golf greens, is not available on a carpeted surface.

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a device that may be placed on any suitable flat putting surface, said device having a number of different approaches to a depressed cup portion so that a golfer may develop a more general technique to different approaches.

It is, therefore, a general object of the present invention to provide an improved device which may be utilized on any flat surface as a putting practice device.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide an improved putting practice device having varying surface conformations defining raised and depressed areas, each of the depressed areas leading to a recessed cup portion.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved putting practice device that is light in weight and takes up little space, thereby making it readily and conveniently portable for the most efficient use.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide an improved putting practice device having varying surface conformations thereon to simulate varying

approaches to the cup of a putting green, thereby permitting the user to develop an accurate putting technique through continued practice.

The novel features which we believe to be characteristic of our invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. Our invention itself, however, together with further objects and advantages thereof will best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the putting practice device of the present invention, showing, in plan, the depressed area simulating the cup on a putting green and the varying approaches to said depressed area;

FIGURE 2 is an elevation view, partly in section, taken along lines 2—2 of FIGURE 1, illustrating the varying conformations in greater detail; and

FIGURE 3 is an elevation view partly in section, taken along lines 3—3 of FIGURE 1, illustrating the depressed area in greater detail.

Referring now to FIGURES 1 to 3 in greater detail, the putting practice device of the present invention is indicated generally at **10**. A base portion **12** defining a flanged area surrounds the lower portion of the putting practice device **10**.

An elevated portion or lobs, indicated generally at **14**, generally circular in outline, rises from the base portion **12** in gradually sloping fashion to a preferred height at the top ridge **16** thereof of approximately 2½ to 2¾ inches. A second elevated portion or lobe, indicated generally at **18**, is integrally joined to lobe **14** by an intermediate raised portion, indicated generally at **20**. The elevated portions, including the lobes **14** and **18** and the intermediate portions **20**, are approximately at the same level above the base **12**. It will be readily appreciated that a golf ball can be driven from one point to another on a conventional level carpeted surface, or the like, with less striking force and greater ease than that required for rolling a golf ball over the same distance on a grass-covered putting green. It is very likely that an individual practicing putting upon such a carpeted surface will unconsciously develop a substantially weaker stroke than is actually required in putting a golf ball on a slower grass-covered putting green. Thus, practice of this nature, while it does tend to develop the directional abilities of a golfer on a straight and level approach to the cup, nevertheless does not lend itself adequately to an appreciation or refinement of the power needed to deliver the ball from one point to the next on a grass-covered surface. The elevated portions of the putting practice device of the present invention require that the ball be struck with greater striking force than that required for simply rolling the ball across a conventional carpeted surface in that adequate force must be imparted to the ball to enable it to climb the sloped faces of the elevated portions. Thus, it will be appreciated that the putting practice device **10** of the present invention will not only develop the directional abilities of the practicing golfer but also will tend to compensate for the differential in striking force required to drive a ball the same distance over a conventional carpeted surface and over a grass-covered green.

A depression **22** is formed in the central area of the lobe **14**, the upper lip **24** of the depression **22** merging into the top ridge **16** at a plane slightly below the terminal of said ridge. The depression **22** is provided to simulate the recessed cup in the conventional golf putting green into which cup the ball must be directed to terminate play on each hole. The depression **22** is substantially the same diameter as the cup diameter on a conventional putting green.

An elongated recess **26** extending continuously from the top ridge **19** of the lobe **18** through the intermediate

portion 20 to the depression 22 is included to serve as a guiding channel for a golf ball. The recess 26 intersects a recess 28 at the intersection of the sloping face of the lobe 18 and the top ridge portion 19. The top ridge portion 19 has a slight depression, as shown in FIGURE 2, at the line of intersection of the recess 28 and the recess 26 to thereby provide a continuous guiding channel for a golf ball from the base 12, through recesses 26 and 28, to the depression 22. Thus, a ball struck at the central portion of the recess 28 will enter said recess and, if it possesses the required momentum to move up and along the sloping face of the recess 28, will pass along the recessed portion 26 and into the depresion 22. Any ball that is not aimed at the approximate central area of the recess 28 will very likely be diverted away from the device 10 by the curved faces thereof and will not enter the depression 22.

A second recess 30 is provided on one sloping face of the intermediate portion 20. The recess 30 generally intersects the elongated recess 26 and provides a guiding channel for a golf ball from the base 12 to the depression 22.

A third recess 32 is provided in the sloping face of the lobe 14 and terminates in a depression in the top ridge 16. The recess 32 also forms a guiding channel to the depression 22 for a golf ball struck at its approximate central area.

An additional recess 34 is formed in the sloping face of the intermediate portion 20. The recess 34 intersects the elongated recess 26 where said recess 26 passes through the intermediate portion. A ball struck at approximately the central area of the recess 34 will, if it possesses the requisite momentum, move up and along said recess and into the channel 26. It will be readily seen that careful attention must be given to the power with which the ball is struck since said ball must be diverted approximately 90° from its initial direction of travel up the recess 34 into the recess 26 and thus into the depression 22. If the ball is struck with too much force, it will very likely move up the recess 34, into recess 26 and directly thereacross into the recess 30, whereupon it will subsequently be directed away from the depression 22 and away from the practicing device 10.

It should be noted that the most satisfactory method of directing a golf ball into the depression 22 is to strike it into one of the recesses 28, 30, 32 or 34, whereupon said ball will move along said recesses and into the depression. If the ball should hit any other area of the practice device 10, it is very likely that it will be directed away from the device by the sloped and curving faces of the elevated portions thereof. If the ball is struck with sufficient force to move it up and along an area of the sloping face of the elevated portions that is not defined by one of the aforementioned recesses, it is also very likely that it will be diverted from the depression 22 due to its erratic behavior upon entering one of said recesses at the improper angle or upon striking one of the top ridges of the practice device.

The putting practice device of the present invention is preferably formed of polystyrene material. It should be noted, however, that the practice device may be formed from polyvinyl chloride resins, acrylic resins, and the like without detracting from the employment of the device for the purposes herein mentioned.

It will be observed that the putting practice device 10 is formed in a dome-shaped, cross-sectional configuration. Forming of the device in such manner provides a generally self-supporting physical structure. As noted above, the materials employed in forming the device 10 are very light for maximum portabiilty. It will be appreciated that if the device were flat in nature, such as is the starting sheet, that the bearing loads would be resisted

at normal frame engaging points at or near the ends of the sheets. The characteristic bending moments inherent in flat, load-bearing sheets is not present in the domed construction of the present invention. The load is resisted in compression rather than bending. The compression characteristics of the materials noted exceed by a substantial margin the bending or flexure characteristics of said material.

While we have shown and described a specific embodiment of the present invention, it will, of course, be understood that other modifications and alternitive constructions may be used without departing from the true spirit and scope of this invention. We, therefore, intend by the appended claims to cover all such modifications and alternative constructions as fall within their true spirit and scope.

What we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A golf practice device for practicing putting technique, said practice device comprising:
a base portion;
an elevated portion rising in gradually sloping fashion from said base portion, said elevated portion comprising first and second raised lobes joined by an intermediate raised portion;
a depression formed in said first lobe, said depression simulating the hole in a putting green;
a gradually sloping first recess formed in said second lobe and extending continuously on one side thereof down the gradually sloped portion of said second lobe to the base and on the other side thereof through the intermediate raised portion to the depression, said continuously formed recess defining a first guiding channel for a golf ball;
a second recess extending continuously down the gradually sloped portion of said intermediate raised portion said recess extending from the base portion to said depression and defining a second guiding channel for a golf ball;
a third recess formed in said first lobe and extending continuously along the gradually sloped portion of said first lobe, said third recess extending from the base portion to said depression and defining a third guiding channel for a golf ball; and
a fourth recess extending continuously along the face of said sloped portion opposite that of said second guiding channel, said fourth recess extending from the base portion to intersect said first guiding channel and defining a fourth guiding channel for a golf ball.

2. A golf practice device comprising:
a base portion;
an elevated portion rising from said base portion, said elevated portion defining a generally domed, cross-sectional configuration and having at least a first and second raised lobe portion;
a depression formed in said first lobe ,said depression simulating the hole in a putting green;
a gradually sloping first recess formed in said second lobe and extending continuously from the base portion along the rising portion and the second lobe to said depression, said continuously formed recess defining a first guiding channel for a ball;
and a second recess formed in said first lobe and extending from the base portion to said depression along the rising portion of said first lobe and defining a second guiding channel for a ball.

References Cited in the file of this patent

FOREIGN PATENTS

25,751 Great Britain ---------- Aug. 20, 1914