United States Patent [19]

King

[11] **3,885,796**

[45] **May 27, 1975**

[54] **GOLF PUTTING PRACTICE APPARATUS**

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[22] Filed: **July 5, 1974**

[21] Appl. No.: **486,181**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/186 C;** 273/192; 273/80.1; 273/193 R; 273/183 D

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 69/36**

[58] **Field of Search** 273/191, 192, 186, 183, 273/193, 194

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device for an individual's practice and training in correct putting consisting of a guide member having an adjustable width slot running the length thereof and open along the top to receive the head of a practice putter club, the width of the channel being adjustable to the length of the putter head so that even a slight twisting of the club head as it passes through the channel would cause the head to become lodged in the channel, and the putter head being adjustably connected to the shaft to provide for the adjustment of the angle of the head with respect to the shaft, the device providing for the developing of an individual's smooth and even putting stroke.

1 Claim, 6 Drawing Figures

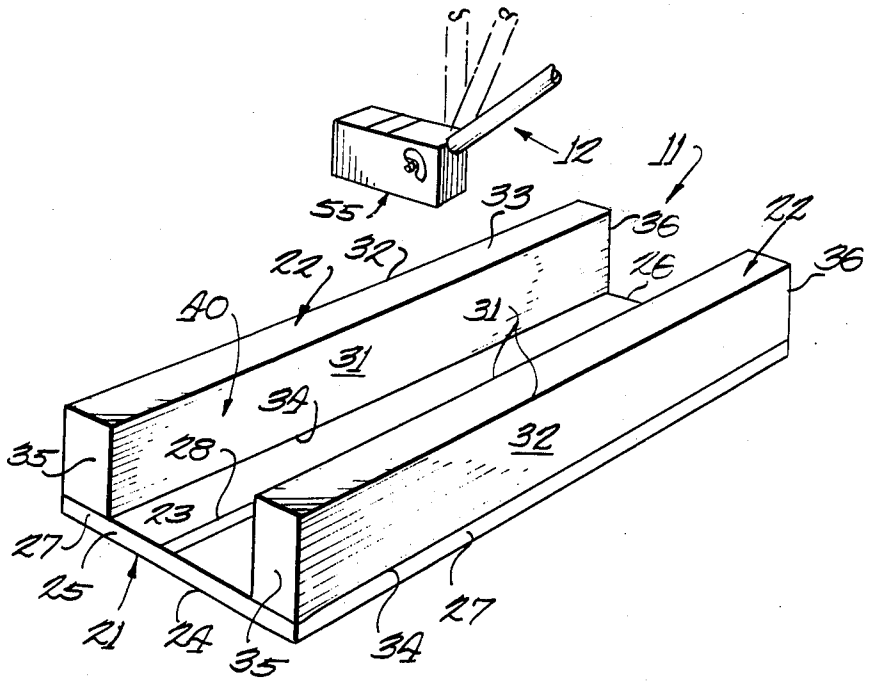


Fig. 1.

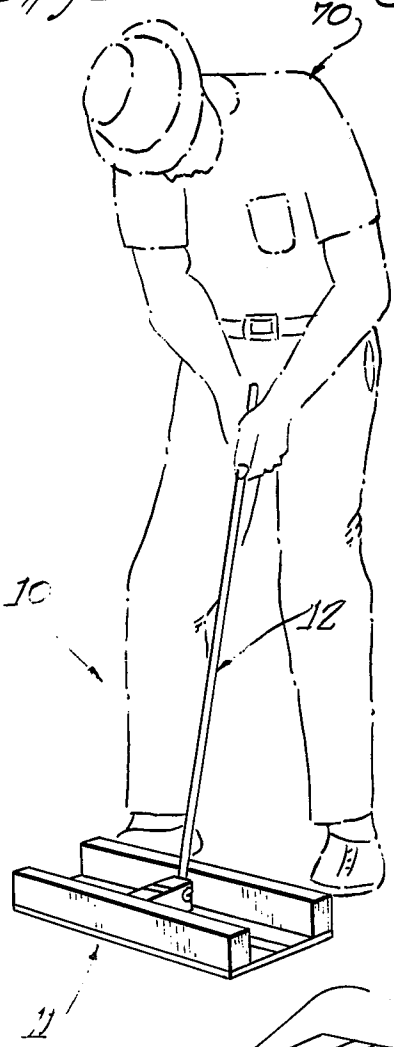


Fig. 3.

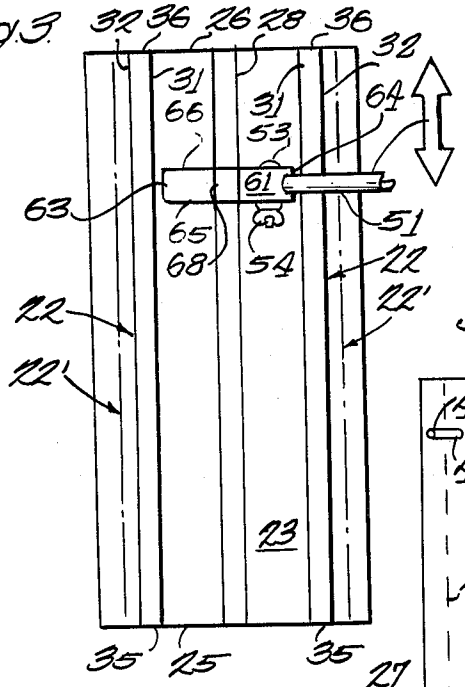


Fig. 4.

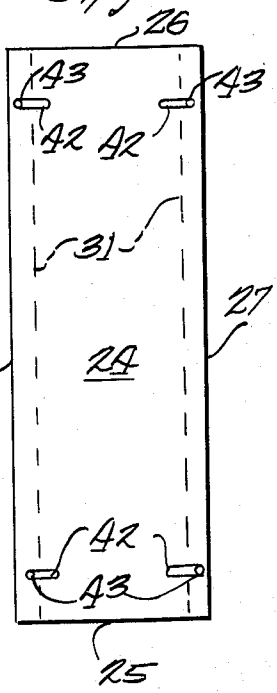


Fig. 5.

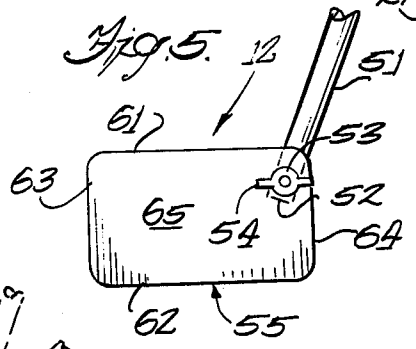


Fig. 2.

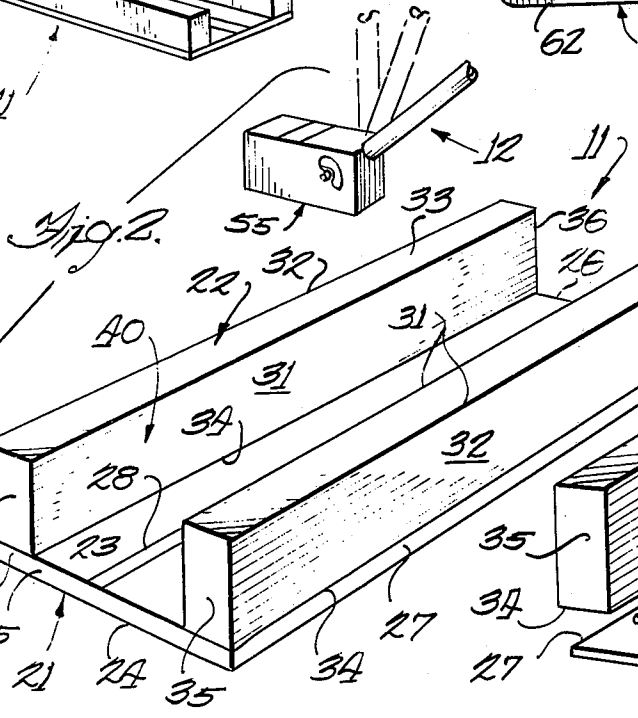
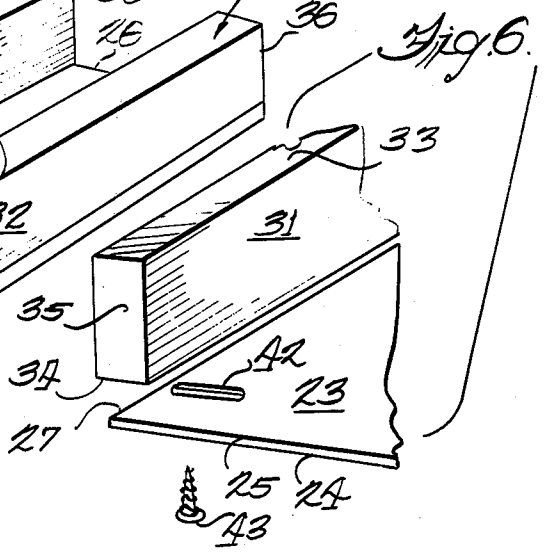


Fig. 6.



GOLF PUTTING PRACTICE APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to golfing accessories and more particularly to a novel device for the training and practice of an individual's putting for the development of a smooth and even putting stroke.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In recent years the popularity of the game of golf has increased as the game may be enjoyed by individuals of different ages, social groups, and both sexes in an enjoyable and competitive manner. In the play of the game of golf, it is important that individuals master the proper putting stroke as such forms an essential ingredient of the game as to the final putting of a ball on the green into the hole. As is well known, the game of golf is frequently lost due to a poor putt on the part of the player.

To provide for practice of a player's putting stroke, prior art devices have been provided which are a general fascimile of a cup or hole into which the golfer putts the ball for practice purposes. However, the actual stroke and act of putting itself is commonly ignored even though such is of essential importance if the ball is to be putted in a true course to the hole.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention recognizes the great need for a device to specifically improve and train an individual player in the proper putting stroke, and provides a novel solution thereto in the form of a compact and easily portable putt right training and practice device for the practice and training of a player in the keeping of a club head normal at all times to the lie of the ball, the device immediately indicating of any twisting of the golf club head relative to the position of the ball.

It is a feature of the present invention to provide a putt right training and practice device for use in the developing of a smooth and even putting stroke.

A further feature of the present invention provides a putt right training and practice device which is relatively simple in its construction and which therefore may be readily manufactured at a relatively low cost and by simple manufacturing methods such that the device may be retailed at a sufficiently low price to encourage its widespread use.

Still a further feature of the present invention provides a putt right training and practice device which is possessed of few parts and which therefore is unlikely to get out of order.

Yet still a further feature of the present invention provides a putt right training and practice device which is easy to use and reliable and efficient in operation, and one which is of an aesthetically pleasing and refined appearance.

Other features and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which like reference characters are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a golfer using the device of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a bottom plan view of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a front elevational view of the club head and its adjustable connection to the club shaft; and

FIG. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary exploded perspective view of a portion of the guide member illustrating the adjustable feature thereof.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings in detail there is illustrated a preferred form of a putt right training and practice device constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention and designated generally in its entirety by the reference numeral **10** and which is comprised of two component parts, namely a guide member **11** and a golf putter club **12.**

The guide member **11** may be manufactured out of metal, wood, hard rubber, plastic, or any other suitable satisfactory material with the preferred embodiment being manufactured completely of wood which is finished in an aesthetically pleasing color or stain. The guide member **11** consists of a flat rectangularly shaped base **21** and a pair of elongated vertical spaced apart and parallelly disposed side rails **22.**

The base **21** has a flat top surface **23,** a flat bottom surface **24,** opposed parallel end edges **25** and **26,** and opposed parallel side edges **27.** A black stripe **28** extends longitudinally along the central axis of the base member **21** on the top surface **23** thereof completely between the opposite ends **25** and **26.** The strip or stripe **28** may be painted on the top surface **23,** or may be applied thereto by pressure sensitive paper or the like.

Each of the side rails **22** are identical with each including a flat interior vertical surface **31,** a flat vertical back surface **32,** a top edge **33,** a bottom edge **34,** and opposed ends **35** and **36.** The side rails **22** are each aligned longitudinally with the longitudinal axis of the base **21** and are rested along opposite side edges **27** on top surface **23** in a manner defining a channel **40** therebetween.

Disposed in base **21** along each of the side edges **27** are a pair of transversely extending slots **42** each having a screw **43** associated therewith and extending therethrough to engage the associated side rail **22** through the bottom surface **34** thereof in a manner to retain each side rail to the base **21** in an adjustable manner permitting the side rails to be moved transversely of the base in a direction toward and away from each other to thus vary the width of the groove or channel **40.**

The putter club **12** consists of a shaft **51** which is swivelly attached at its bottom end **52** by means of a bolt **53** and wing nut **54** to a corner portion of a rectangular putting head **55.** The shaft **51** may be of a solid rod shaped member, or alternatively, may be comprised of telescopic sections to provide for the adjustment of the overall length of the shaft for players of various heights.

The club head **55** is of a rectangular block shape configuration having top surface **61,** bottom surface **62,** opposed side surfaces **63** and **64,** and opposed face surfaces **65** and **66.** The bolt **53** extends through the club head **55** between the face surfaces **65** and **66.** A white

stripe **68** is located along the top surface **61** normal to the plane of the face surfaces **65** and **66** and of a width corresponding to the width of the black stripe **28** on base **21.**

In operation, golfer **70** adjusts the length of shaft **51** for his particular height, and then by use of the wing nut **54** adjusts the angle of the putting head **55** with respect to the shaft **51** for the proper stance with the bottom surface **62** of the club head disposed parallel to the ground surface. The side rails **22** of guide member **11** are adjusted to their maximum spread apart position to provide for the maximum width of channel **40.** The golfer then takes the normal stance adjacent one of the side rails, such as seen in FIG. **1,** and practices his putting stroke by aligning the stripes **68** and **28** and passing the club head between side rails **22** spaced above top surface **23** of base **21** between ends **25** and **26** with the club head always normal to the stripe **28,** this representing the proper position of the face of the club head as being normal to a ball to be struck by the club head in the center thereof in the conventionally accepted manner.

After a golfer has acclimatized himself to use of the device **10,** the side rails **22** are then adjusted inwardly to a position where the channel **40** is just slightly wider than the length of the club head **55,** with the golfer then again practicing his putting stroke with it being understood that as the club head passes through the channel **40** that even a slight twisting of the club head to disturb its normal disposition to the length of the stripe **28** will cause the side edges **63** and **64** to engage the interior surfaces **31** of side rails **22** and thus cause the club head to become lodged and bind in the channel. This immediately teaches the golfer that the club head is not normal to the path of travel representing its path to the golf ball, and provides for the teaching of the golfer of a smooth and even putting stroke with the club head being maintained normal to the golf ball.

In addition, it is to be understood that the vertical height of the side rails **22** above the base **21** is such as to prevent the golfer's bad habit of lifting the club head **55** high off the ground during the putting stroke. The preferred embodiment has the channel **40** being 24 inches long with the base **21** having a width of 8 inches, and the height of the side rails being about 3¼ inches. The golfer adjusts the spacing between the side rails to that varying the difficulty in moving the golf head therebetween in a manner normal to the axis of the side rails at all times, this channel width being adjusted by the golfer depending upon the individual skill of the golfer.

There is thus provided a novel putt right training and practice device for the developing of a smooth and even putting stroke, this being a putting stroke which is straight and close to the ground at all times with the face of the club head normal to the desired path of travel of the golf ball.

It is to be understood that the form of this invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that this invention is not to be limited to the exact arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawings or described in this specification as various changes in the details of construction as to shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of the novel concepts thereof, or the scope of the sub-joined claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An improved practice device for training in establishing correct putting technique and in the development of the correct putting stroke in the game of golf, said device comprising, in combination:

A guide member having a generally U-shaped crossection adapted to be supported on the ground, said guide member being defined by a flat rectangularly shaped base having a flat top surface and a flat bottom surface with opposed front and back edges and opposed parallel side edges, the guide member further including identical side rails having top, bottom and back surfaces with a flat interior vertical surface and opposed end edges, each said side rail associated with one of the base side edges and extending therealong with the side rail bottom surface being supported upon the base top surface, the guide member further defining a pair of transversely extending slots associated with each of the side edges and disposed adjacent opposite end edges of the base member, each slot extending completely through the base member with the guide member further including fastening means associated with each said slot and extending therethrough to engage the associated side rail through the bottom surface thereof each of the side rails being adjustably movable transversely of the base member in a direction either toward or away from each other to selectively vary the width of the channel defined therebetween; and

a club element adapted to be used in combination with said guide member, the club having a head member adapted to pass through the side walls of said guide member and including a shaft extending from the head member and adapted to be gripped by the user for use in guiding the movement of the head member, the club being defined by an elongated shaft having a gripping portion at the top terminal thereof and a block shaped rectangular club head having substantially parallel top and bottom surfaces and parallel side surfaces disposed normal to the top and bottom surfaces, the club further defining an opening extending through the head adjacent one corner thereof and being defined between the top surface and one of the side surfaces, the club head including an aperture extending through the terminal end of the shaft normal to the axis of the shaft and adapted to receive a bolt to pass through the club head hole and aligned shaft aperture to pivotally secure the shaft to the club head, the club further being defined by a fastening means threadibly adjustably received on the bolt to permit adjustment of the angle of the club head with respect to the axis of the shaft; and

a first indicia extending along the central axis of the base member of the top surface thereof between opposite end edges thereof and a second indicia disposed on the top surface of the club head intermediate the side surfaces thereof and extending in a direction normal to the front and back surfaces thereof said second and first stripes being identical in general configuration and adapted to the aligned in use for training purposed.

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