Jan. 21, 1958 C. H. ENDEE 2,820,498

GOLF BAGS

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FIG. 1

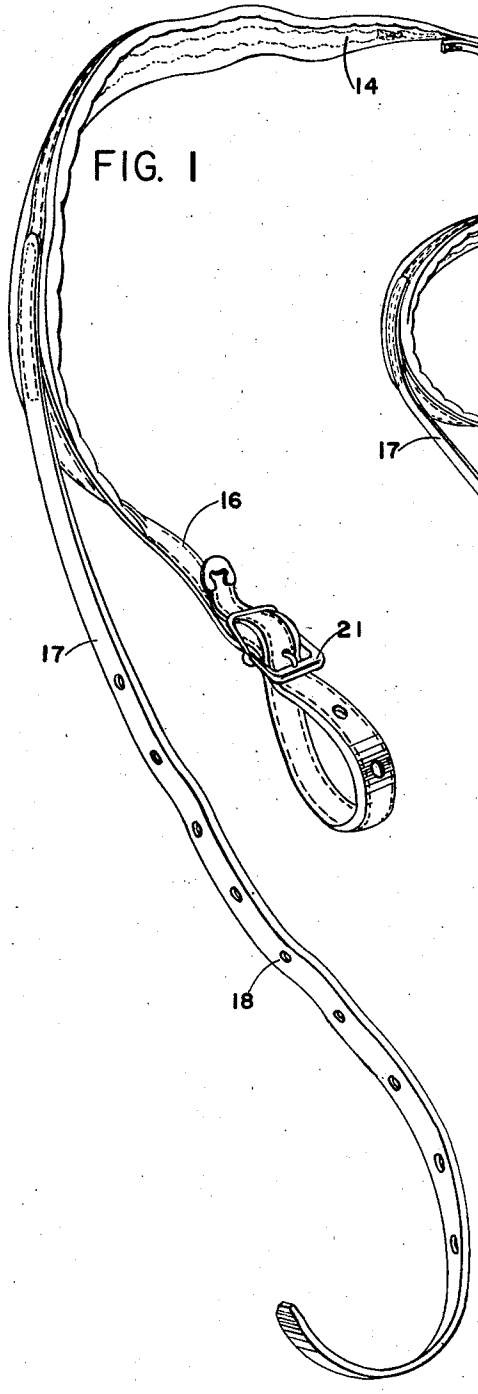
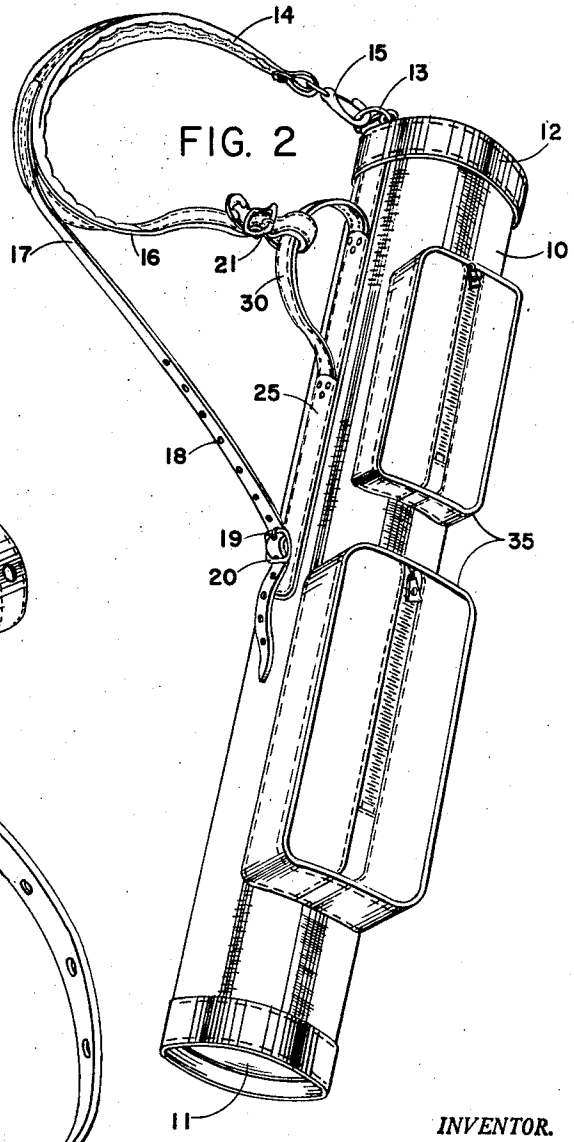


FIG. 2



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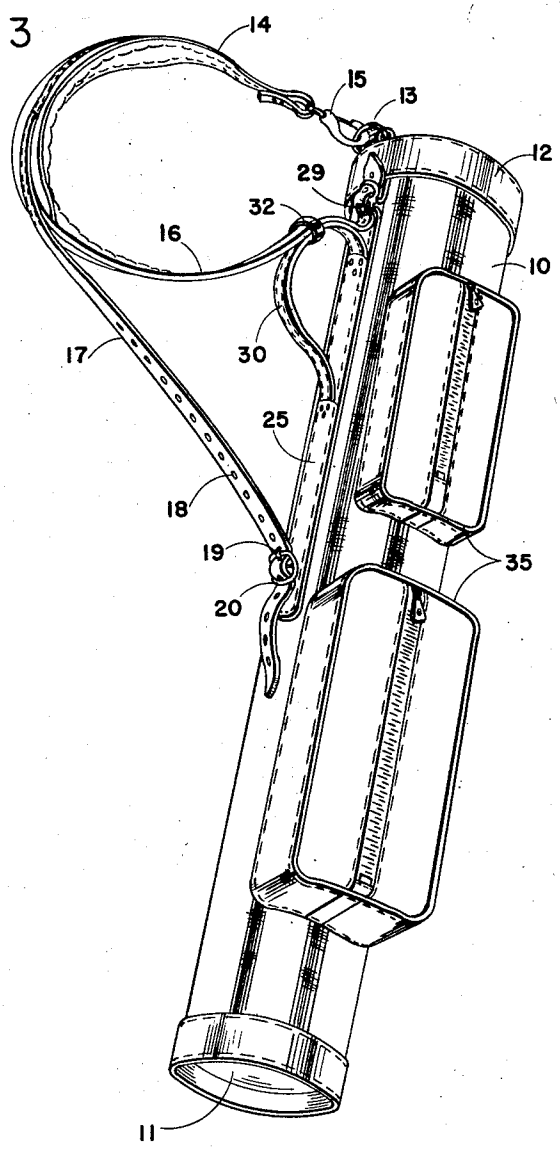
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FIG. 3



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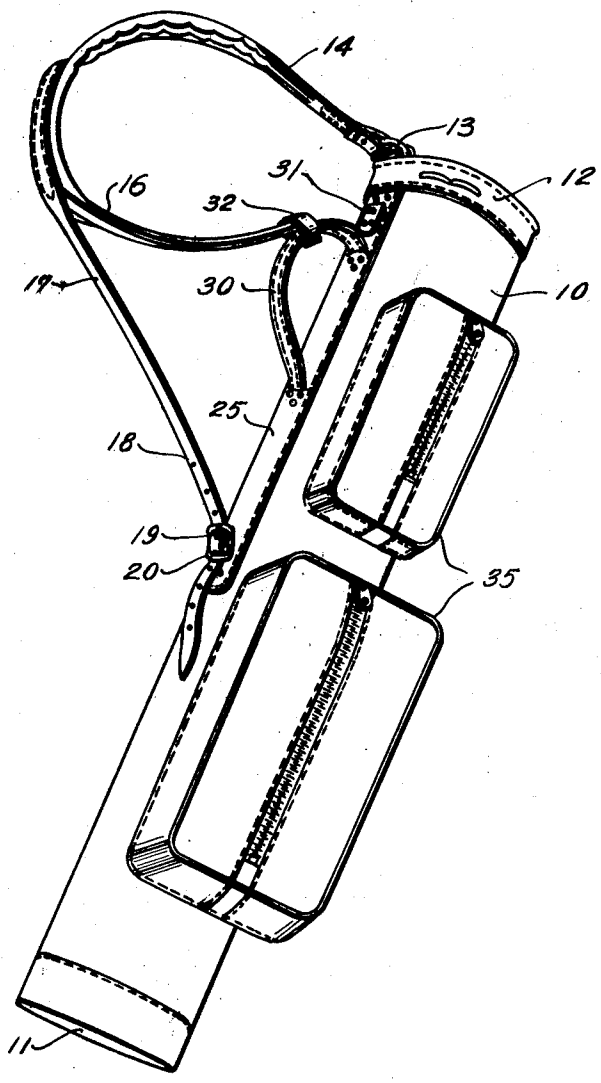
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Fig. 4



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2,820,498

GOLF BAGS

Charles H. Endee, Weston, Mass.

Continuation of application Serial No. 259,453, December 1, 1951. This application May 10, 1955, Serial No. 507,293

8 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.5)

This invention relates to golf bags and particularly to a golf bag having carrying means for supporting the bag from the shoulder of the carrier so that the bag will remain in a desired upwardly inclined position while being carried with the full or partial complement of golf clubs.

It is common practice to support a golf bag with the clubs therein upon the shoulder of the carrier by a flexible strap one end of which is attached adjacent the top or open end of the bag and the other end of which is attached to the bag at a point below the mid-point of the bag. When such a golf bag is supported on the shoulder of the carrier in a desired inclined position with its open end at an elevation higher than its closed end, the bag is held in an unbalanced condition, because most of the weight of the golf clubs is in their heads, and the center of gravity of the bag, together with the clubs is not far below the upper end of the bag. If the bag is held by a conventional strap slung over the shoulder and attached to the bag at the upper end thereof and also at a point adjacent to the lower end, most of the weight will be taken by the upper attachment and the strap will tend to creep on the shoulder with each step of the person carrying it so that the bag tends to assume a horizontal position or even a position in which the open end is lower than that of the closed end. If the strap slips so that the open end of the bag is lower than its closed end, the golf clubs will slide out of the bag. This tendency of the strap to creep on the carrier's shoulder is a constant annoyance to golfers who carry their own golf bags or to their caddies. Many attempts have been made to correct this tendency of the strap to slip upon the carrier's shoulder, such as by adding weight to the bottom of the bag to lower the center of gravity of the bag or by changing the points of suspension of the strap and the like. All of these attempts either have been unsuccessful or unsatisfactory or have added objectionable features to the golf bag.

One solution of the difficulty is shown in my Patent No. 2,533,440, granted December 12, 1950. The device of this patent has overcome the difficulties successfully and in a simple and inexpensive manner. However, I have discovered an additional method of achieving the same and additional results, and have thus improved the device shown in my previous Patent No. 2,533,440. In accordance with my present invention I provide a flexible strap having ends adapted to be connected to the golf bag adjacent its top, but at points spaced apart from each other, which strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the bag, and whereby the bag is held supported from the shoulder. I then provide a second strap which is connected to the first strap at its shoulder engaging portion, and which is then connected to the golf bag adjacent its mid-section. The golf bag is then held supported by a three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination at all times. I further preferably provide a handle for manually carrying the bag. In this manner the bag may be supported at a predetermined angle of inclination with the bottom end of the bag always held at a lower elevation than its top or open end. An additional advantage of my present device is that the ends of the first strap are always spaced apart at the top of the bag widely enough to permit the golfer to shoulder the bag easily and conveniently. He does this grasping the first strap near its central portion opposite its spaced ends, and placing the strap on his shoulder. The elbow then automatically passes through the spaced ends of the strap without interference from the strap. This adds greatly to ease and convenience of positioning the golf bag upon the shoulder and carrying it.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art.

The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which,

Fig. 1 illustrates a flexible strap for a golf bag constructed according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a golf bag embodying the strap of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a golf bag embodying a strap comprising a modified form of the invention; and,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a golf bag embodying a strap comprising still another form of the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 2, there is shown a golf bag of substantially conventional construction comprising a substantially tubular elongated receptacle **10** having a closed end **11** and an open end **12** adapted to receive and hold a plurality of golf clubs (not shown), a reinforcing strip **25**, a ring **13** secured to the bag at its open top, a buckle **20** secured to the bottom end of strip **25**, and a handle **30**. Buckle **20** is located about half way between the ends of the bag. Carrying handle **30** is secured to strip **25** in any suitable manner, e. g. rivets, and is located close to the top of the bag. The bag may also be provided with zippered pockets **35** for carrying golf balls and other golf paraphernalia.

Secured to the golf bag is a flexible composite carrying strap constructed according to the present invention, Fig. 1 presenting an enlarged view of the same strap. This composite strap comprises a first flexible padded strap **14** and a second flexible strap **17** secured to strap **14**. At its top end strap **14** is provided with a spring buckle or snap hook **15**. Secured to the lower half **16** of strap **14** is a conventional buckle **21** similar to buckle **20**. Buckle **21** is adapted to receive the bottom end of strap **14** so as to form a loop, as shown. Strap **17** is secured at its upper end to strap **14** at its shoulder-engaging portion and preferably at the rear of the shoulder. It will be understood that strap **14** is padded to make it softer and more comfortable on the shoulder. Strap **17** is preferably permanently attached to flexible strap **14** as by stitching, or in any other suitable manner. The lower end of strap **17** has a plurality of holes **18** for receiving the tongue **19** of buckle **20**. The angle of tilt which the bag will maintain can be adjusted as desired by selection of the hole **18** to be engaged by the tongue **19**.

The strap of Fig. 1 is secured to the golf bag as illustrated in Fig. 2. The top end of strap **14** is connected to

ring **13** by spring buckle **15**. The lower end of strap **14** is secured to handle **30**, the end of the strap being looped about the handle and secured in place by buckle **21**. The free end of strap **17** is similarly secured to buckle **20**, tongue **19** of the buckle being positioned in one of the holes **18**.

It will be seen that the strap of Fig. 1 when attached to the golf bag as shown in Fig. 2 holds the golf bag at a predetermined angle of inclination on the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag and, because the strap provides a three-point suspension of the bag, the top end of the bag is prevented from sliding downwardly while being carried. The strap **14** is looped as shown to receive the person's shoulder. Buckle **21** permits the size of the loop to be varied.

Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate modified forms of the same invention. Like numerals are used in Figs. 1 to 4 to indicate substantially identical elements in the several embodiments of the invention.

The embodiment of Fig. 3 differs from the embodiment previously described in that a buckle **29** is secured to the upper end of reinforcing strip **25** between handle **30** and the open top **12** of the bag. The end **16** of strap **14** has a plurality of openings or holes similar to holes **18** of strap **17**, for receiving the tongue of buckle **29**. A loop or ring **32** of leather, metal, or other suitable material, is provided on handle **30** and the end **16** of strap **14** is slipped through it, as shown. Loop **32** functions to slidingly maintain end **16** of strap **14** against handle **30** so as to hold strap **14** in a loop.

In Fig. 4 the upper end of strap **14** is permanently attached to ring **13**, the strap being looped through the ring and secured to itself by means of rivets or other suitable fastening means. The lower end **16** of strap **14** also passes through a loop **32** as in the embodiment of Fig. 3. However, in this case the strap is riveted at **31**, or otherwise firmly secured to the reinforcing strip **25**.

The embodiment of Figs. 3 and 4 function in the same manner as the embodiment of Fig. 2. However, the embodiments of Figs. 2 and 3 are preferred over the embodiment of Fig. 4 since in the former forms of the invention the straps are removably secured to the bag, thereby permitting quick and easy replacement thereof as required. Furthermore, the strap of Fig. 2 can be readily substituted for a two-point suspension carrying strap of the type conventionally used on golf bags.

It may be observed that in all three embodiments of the invention, the member which supports the bag and clubs is a composite strap comprising the portions **14**, **16** and **17**, the portion **14** having an end attached to the bag adjacent to the top end thereof, the portion **16** having an end attached to the bag below the attached end of the portion **14**, and the portion **17** having an end attached to the bag below the attached end of the portion **16**.

Obviously many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in the light of the above teachings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts specifically described or illustrated, and that within the scope of the appended claims it may be practised otherwise than as specifically described or illustrated.

This is a continuation of my co-pending application Ser. No. 259,453, filed December 1, 1951, for Golf Bags.

I claim:

1. In a golf bag comprising an elongated hollow receptacle having its bottom end closed and its top end open and adapted to receive and hold golf clubs therein, a shoulder supporting means therefor, including a flexible strap having ends connected to the golf bag at points longitudinally spaced apart from each other at the upper portion of the bag, said strap forming a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag, whereby said bag is held supported from the shoulder, and a second strap connected to said first strap at its shoulder engaging portion, and connected to the golf bag adjacent its midportion, whereby said golf bag is held tilted by a three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination, a handle for manually carrying the bag, connected to the bag below the ends of the first strap, and a loop adjustably connecting the lower end of said first strap to said handle.

2. In a golf bag comprising an elongated hollow receptacle having its bottom end closed and its top end open and adapted to receive and hold golf clubs therein, a shoulder supporting means therefor, including a flexible strap having ends fixedly connected to the golf bag at points longitudinally spaced apart from each other at the upper portion of the bag, said strap forming a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag, whereby said bag is held supported from the shoulder, and a second strap fixedly connected to said first strap at its shoulder engaging portion, and connected to the golf bag adjacent its midportion, whereby said golf bag is held tilted by a three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination, a handle for manually carrying the bag connected to the bag below the ends of the first strap, and a loop adjustably connecting the lower end of said first strap to said handle.

3. In combination with a golf bag having a closed bottom end and an open top end and a carrying handle positioned proximate to said top end, a first flexible strap, means securing one end of said first strap to said bag at said top end, means connecting the other end of said first strap to said handle in spaced relation to said one end of said strap whereby said strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag, a second flexible strap, one end of said second strap being secured to said first strap at its shoulder-engaging portion, and means securing the opposite end of said second strap to said golf bag approximately equidistant the ends thereof, whereby said golf bag is supported by said first and second straps in a three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination.

4. The combination of claim 3, wherein said first strap at said other end is looped about said handle and held in place by a buckle secured thereto.

5. In combination with a golf bag having a closed bottom end and an open top end and a carrying handle positioned proximate to said top end, a first flexible strap, means securing one end of said first strap to said bag at said top end, a buckle secured to said bag between its top end and said handle, a ring surrounding said handle, said first strap extending through said ring and having its opposite end secured by said buckle, whereby said strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag, a second flexible strap, one end of said second strap being secured to said first strap intermediate the ends thereof, and means securing the opposite end of said second strap to said golf bag approximately equidistant the end thereof, whereby said bag is supported by said first and second straps in a three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination.

6. In combination with a golf bag having a closed bottom end and an open top end and a carrying handle positioned proximate to said top end, a first flexible strap, means securing one end of said first strap to said bag at said top end, means fixedly securing the other end of said first strap to said bag between its top end and said handle, a ring holding said strap against said handle, whereby said strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of the person carrying the golf bag, a second flexible strap, one end of said second strap being secured to said first strap intermediate the ends thereof, and means securing the opposite end of said second strap to said golf bag approximately equidistant the end thereof, whereby said bag is supported by said first and second straps in a

three-point suspension at a predetermined angle of inclination.

7. In combination with a golf bag having a closed bottom end, an open top end, and a carrying handle fixedly secured to said bag between its mid-portion and said top end, a first strap flexible throughout its entire length, means securing one end of said first strap to said bag at said top end, means securing the opposite end of said first strap to said bag at a point adjacent to said handle and between said handle and said top end, whereby the ends of said first strap are spaced from each other and said first strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of a person carrying the golf bag, and a second strap also flexible throughout its entire length, one end of said second strap being secured to said first strap intermediate the ends thereof, and means securing the opposite end of said second strap to said golf bag adjacent its mid-portion and below said handle, whereby with said first strap surrounding the shoulder of a person said bag is supported by said first and second straps in a three-point suspension effected by the two ends of said first strap and said opposite end of said second strap.

8. In combination with a golf bag having a bottom end and a top end with said bottom end closed and said top end open, a first strap flexible throughout its length, means securing one end of said strap to said top end in load-bearing relation with said bag at said top end, means

securing the opposite end of said strap to said bag in load-bearing relation therewith and at a point located between the mid-portion and the top end of said bag, whereby said first strap forms a loop adapted to pass around the shoulder of a person carrying said bag, a second strap flexible throughout its length, one end of said second strap being secured to said first strap intermediate the ends of said first strap, and means securing the opposite end of said second strap to said golf bag adjacent its mid-portion and in load-bearing relation therewith, whereby the two ends of said first strap and said opposite end of said second strap form a three-point load-bearing suspension for said bag.

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