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GOLF BALL TEE

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Fig. 2

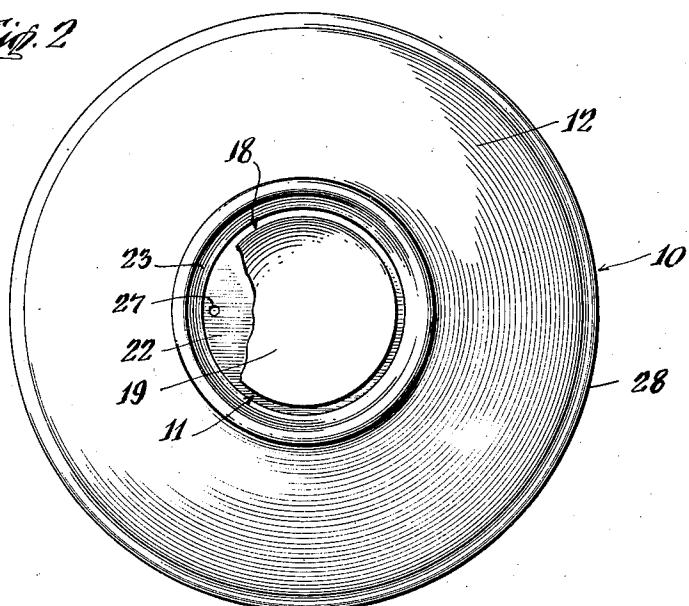
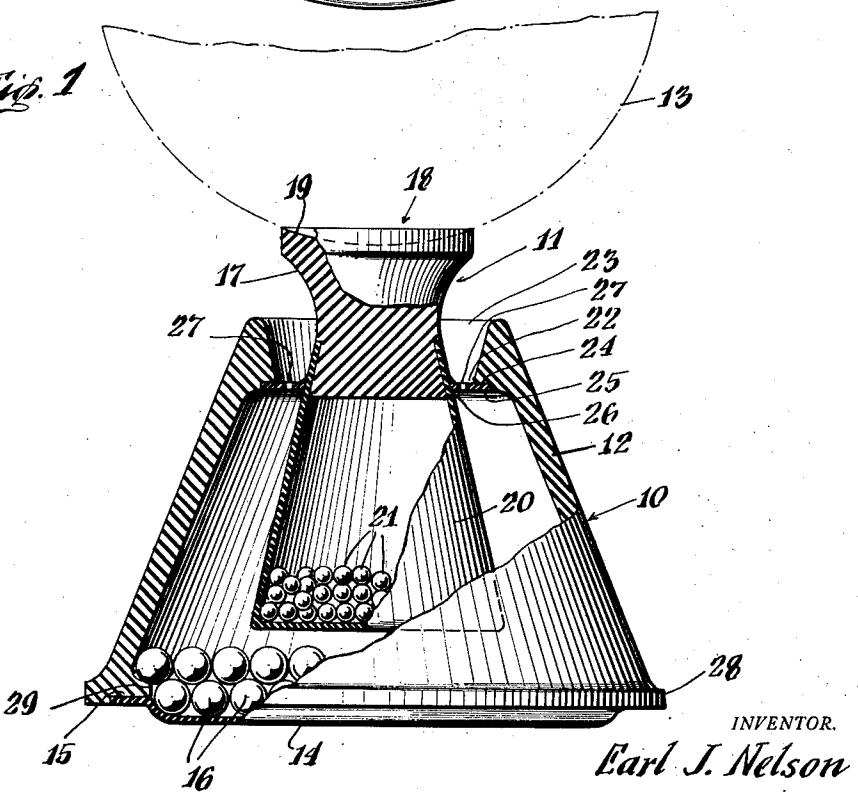


Fig. 1



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## GOLF BALL TEE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

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This invention relates to tees used by golf players to "tee-up" the golf ball.

It is well known in the game of golf that in driving it is customary to tee-up the golf ball slightly above the ground. Various methods of teeing-up the ball are used. One popular method is the use of a small peg of wood which has a cupped head at the upper end of a sharp pointed shaft which may be pressed into the ground.

The tee provided by this invention is quite different in that it is made of rubber or other similar material and it is not necessary to press it into the ground as it is so designed that it can merely be dropped or set on the surface of the terrain and by reason of its novel construction it will adjust itself to irregular surfaces and will tend to cling to the ground while at the same time the tee head or cup for the ball will assume an upright or level position.

In general, a tee made in accordance with the invention comprises a foundation mounting or base member and a tee-head member. The foundation mounting is made in the form of a hollow base in which may be inserted a mobile material of considerable weight. The tee-head member is of rigid material and has a cupped head to support a golf ball and a shank integral therewith from which depends a sack extending into the hollow base member. This shank sack is also partially filled with a mobile material of considerable weight. The shank of the tee-head member is mounted on the base member by means of a flexible diaphragm secured both to the tee-head shank and the base member and the arrangement is such that the tee-head shank will tend to assume a vertical position so that the cupped head will set level irrespective of irregularities of the surface on which the tee is placed for use by the golf player.

It is an object of the invention to provide a tee having the characteristics mentioned and others which are described hereinafter.

Although the novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the invention will be pointed out in the annexed claims, the invention itself as to its objects and advantages and the manner in which it may be carried out may be better understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in elevation and partly in section of a tee made according to the invention, and

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Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device shown in Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, the device shown comprises a hollow base member 10 and a tee-head member 11. The base member is made of rubber or other similar material and is in the shape of a truncated cone. It comprises side wall 12 which is sufficiently rigid to support the weight of a golf ball 13 without substantial deformation of the side wall 12. The side wall is provided at its bottom with an annular ridge 28 and an inwardly projecting shoulder 29 for further strength. The bottom of the base member 10 is closed by a rubber diaphragm 14 secured at its periphery 15 to the side wall 12 of the base member. This diaphragm is of relatively thin flexible rubber and is sufficiently flexible that when the tee is placed on the ground it will flex and adjust itself to irregularities of the ground surface. To weight the base member a quantity of small steel balls 16 are inserted in the hollow base 10. Thus when the tee is placed on the ground the balls, being mobile, will shift about if the rubber diaphragm 14 becomes flexed by reason of irregularities in the ground surface, and at the same time the tee is weighted so that it will stay in place on the ground, unless the tee itself is struck by the club when the golf player makes the swing to strike the golf ball mounted on the tee. Should the player strike the tee itself, it will do no serious damage as the tee, although weighted, is not permanently secured to the ground. Moreover, the tee will, in any event, travel but a short distance—not more than a few feet—if it is struck.

The tee-head member 11 comprises a shank 17 the upper end of which is flared outwardly at its top end to form a tee-head 18. The tee-head has formed therein a shallow cup 19 in the shape of a segment of the spherical surface of a golf ball so that the ball when placed on the tee-head will be properly accommodated to tee-up the ball. The shank 17 and its tee-head 18, which is an integral part thereof, is made of hard rubber or other suitable hard material.

Secured to the lower end of the shank 17 and depending therefrom is a hollow shank sack 20 made of thin flexible rubber. Inserted in the sack 20 is a quantity of steel balls 21 the weight of which tends to maintain the shank 17 in vertical position and its integral tee-head 18 in level position.

The tee-head member 11 is secured to the base member 10 by means of an annular thin flexible rubber diaphragm 22 which is secured to the hol-

low neck 23 of the base member, it being noted that the upper end of the side wall 12 of the base member 10 is thicker to form an annular shoulder 24 to which the outside periphery 25 of the annular diaphragm 22 may be secured. The inner periphery 26 of the annular diaphragm 22 is secured to the shank 17. It will be observed that the hollow neck portion 23 of the base member 10 is somewhat greater in diameter than the diameter of the shank 17. If desired the rubber diaphragm may be vented by providing small apertures 27 through it, such vents being indicated by the dotted lines.

When the tee is placed on the ground for use and the ball 13 mounted on it, the ball will be properly "teed-up" as the steel balls 16 will shift about and settle to conform with the flexing of the diaphragm 14 and even if the base member should not set perfectly level, the diaphragm 22 is sufficiently flexible to permit the balls 21 in sack 20 to find their position of rest and the shank and sack will hang as does a plumb bob. Hence the shank 17 will hang vertically with the tee-head then setting in level position; and the ball 13 placed in the cup 19 of the head is in proper teed-up position for driving off.

In the foregoing description the weighting material mentioned is steel balls. Other mobile material which has considerable weight and will shift about on change of position of the tee will also be suitable, such as shot or even liquid material such as mercury may in some instances be serviceable.

While a specific embodiment of the invention has been described in detail, it will be understood that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention comprehended by the annexed claims.

#### What is claimed is:

1. A tee for the game of golf which comprises a hollow base member having a bottom wall, a side wall, and a hollow neck at its top end, a tee-head member having a head to accommodate a golf ball and a shank depending therefrom extending into said hollow base member, means securing said shank to said base member at the neck of said base member, said means suspending said shank in the center of said hollow neck and being flexible to provide universal movement of said shank, and means including a weighting material acting in the manner of a plumb bob, secured to the lower end of said shank to maintain it in vertical position when said tee is placed with its bottom wall on the ground.

2. A tee for the game of golf which comprises a hollow base member having a bottom wall, a side wall, and a hollow neck portion at its top end, a tee-head member having a cupped head to accommodate a golf ball and a shank depending

from said head extending into said hollow base member, a flexible diaphragm secured to said shank and to the base member at said neck portion, and means including a weighted member suspended from said shank and acting in the manner of a plumb bob to maintain said shank in vertical position when said tee is placed with its bottom wall on the ground.

3. A tee for the game of golf which comprises a hollow base member of truncated cone shape having a bottom wall of flexible material, a side wall of rigid material and a hollow neck at its top end, a tee-head member having a head made of hard material to accommodate a golf ball and a shank integral with said head depending therefrom and extending into said hollow base member, a flexible member secured to said shank and to said base member at its neck, a sack made of flexible material extending into said hollow base member and depending from said shank, a quantity of weighty mobile material in said hollow base member and a quantity of weighty mobile material in said sack.

4. A tee for the game of golf which comprises a hollow base member of truncated cone shape having a bottom wall of thin flexible rubber, a side wall of rigid rubber, said side wall terminating at its upper end in a hollow neck portion, a tee-head member having a cupped head of hard rubber to accommodate a golf ball and a shank integral with said head depending therefrom and extending through said hollow neck into said hollow base member, a thin flexible annular rubber diaphragm securing said shank to said base member at its neck portion, a sack of thin flexible rubber secured to and depending from said shank and extending into said hollow base member, a quantity of weighty small balls within said base member in contact with said flexible bottom wall and a quantity of weighty small balls within said sack to act as a plumb bob on said shank to maintain said head level when said tee is placed with said flexible bottom wall in contact with the ground.

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