United States Patent

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[54] GOLF CLUB INCLUDING HEAD-WEIGHTING STRING ENCASED IN PLASTIC SHEATH
1 Claim, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl. ..... 273/194 A, 24/27, 117/232, 273/171
[51] Int. Cl. A63b 69/36
[50] Field of Search 273/171, 170, 169, 194, 193, 32, 162, 81.4, 81.5, 162, 84, 67, 77, 81

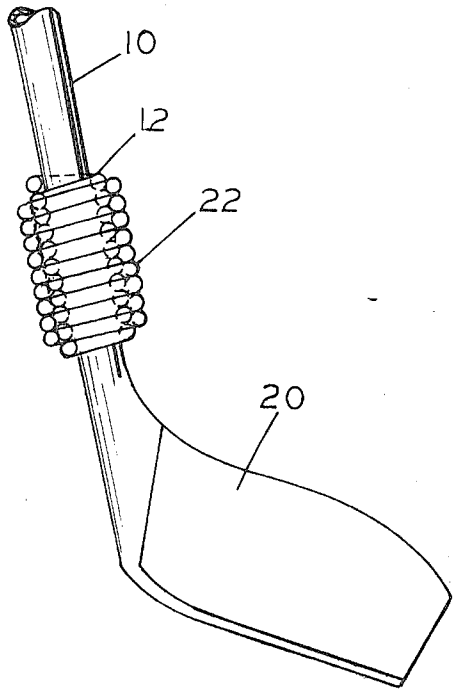
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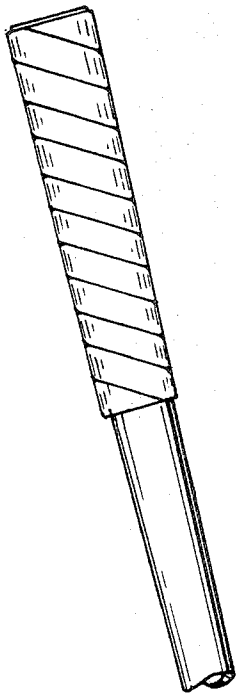
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ABSTRACT: Plastic coated string solder adapted to be spirally wrapped around the shank of a golf club to weight the same as desired. The plastic coating may be heat shrunk about the string solder to close off the ends.





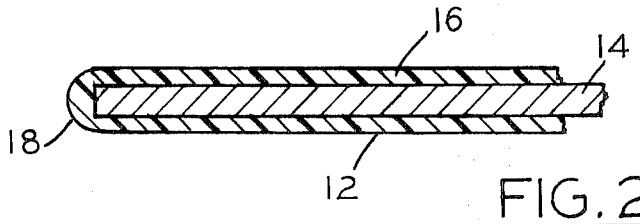


FIG. 2

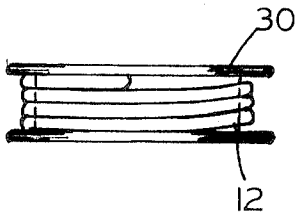


FIG. 4

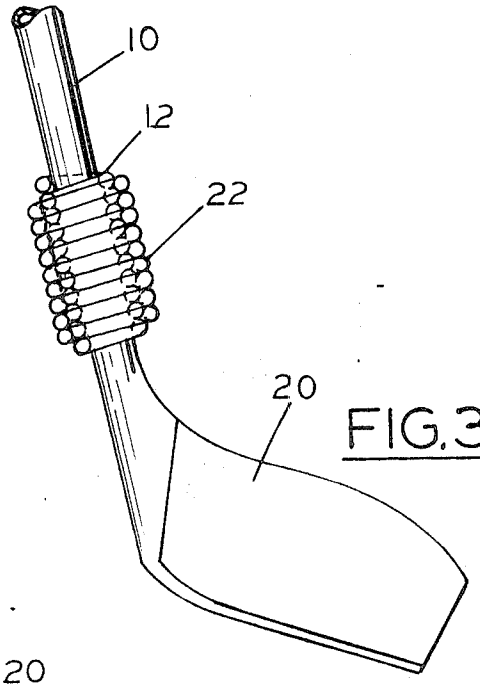


FIG. 3

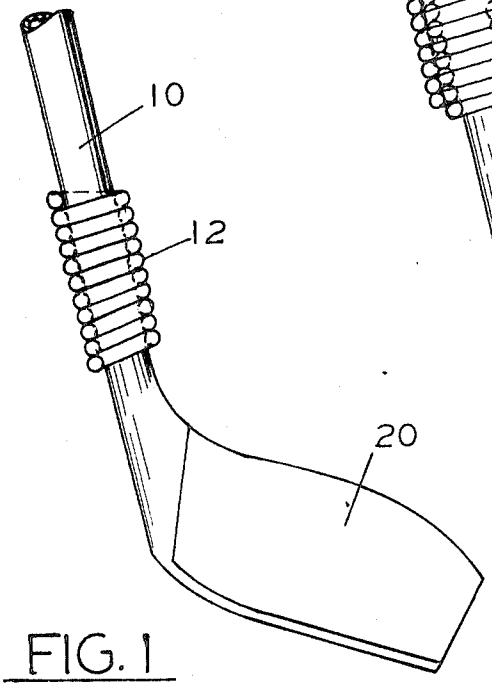


FIG. 1

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GOLF CLUB INCLUDING HEAD-WEIGHTING STRING ENCASED IN PLASTIC SHEATH

This invention relates to golf clubs, and more particularly a means and method for varying the heft of the club immediately adjacent the head.

Skill in playing the game of golf depends on developing swing with constant practice. It has been proposed that proper follow through can be developed more readily if the weight of the club, at the head is increased for practice. Various proposals for adding weight to the head have been made. However, most of them require structural changes in the head, so that when one becomes proficient, and no longer needs the weighted head, the club is returned to its unweighted state by removal of the weight, which may leave the club scarred, or otherwise altered from the usual club. The addition and removal of the weight may also require tools and not be readily effected in a moments time.

The present invention is directed to weighting of a golf club adjacent the head by applying any predetermined amount of weight as desired. More particularly the weight is added by spirally wrapping a relatively flexible plastic clad string weight about the shaft immediately adjacent the head. In practice string solder of a suitable diameter has been employed for the purpose, the solder being clad in a tubular plastic sheath sealed over at its end.

The above and other novel features of the invention will appear more fully hereinafter from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. It is expressly understood that the drawings are employed for purposes of illustration only and are not designed as a definition of the limits of the invention, reference being has for this purpose to the appended claims.

In the drawings where like reference characters indicate like parts:

FIG. 1 shows a side elevational view of a golf club with a spiral wrap about the shank to increase the weight;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view of one end of the plastic clad string weighting material;

FIG. 3 is elevation view of a golf club head to which increased weighting is had by applying a second spiral layer; and

FIG. 4 is a view of a spool having a suitable length of the weighting material wound thereon.

Referring to the drawings, the shank 10 is shown with a spiral wrap 12 of plastic clad lead alloy such as string solder, preferably of the solid circular cross section type. Such an assemblage is indicated in FIG. 2 wherein one end of a length of string solder 14 is shown encased in a plastic sheath 16 which is sealed off at its end 18. It will be understood that a suitable length of material such as solder will be encased in the manner shown and sealed at both ends. The encased solder is then readily wrapped spirally about the shank 10 of the club as shown in FIG. 1. The plastic protects the shank of the club from being marred by the metal weight, and by reason of its resilience provides frictional grip of the spiral wrap upon the shank that will withstand shock, the centrifugal force to which the club is subjected in striking a golf ball, and in the swinging of the club.

If additional weight is desired, or it is desirable to concentrate the weight closer to the head 20 of the club, a second layer 22 may be spirally superimposed over the bottom layer 12, as shown in FIG. 3.

String solder has been found to have the necessary stiffness, flexibility and weight so that when encased in a sheath of plastic or rubber composition, the length of encased solder is readily wrapped neatly about the club shaft as shown. It can be seen that the time taken to apply the weight is but a fraction of a minute and the weight is even more quickly removed leaving the club without injury.

A length of encased solder may be applied and removed any number of times. Preferably before applying the weight, it is desirable to straighten the length of encased metal string, which is readily accomplished by rolling the length on or between flat surfaces.

Any weight and length of metallic string can be employed. In practice, a player may readily carry with him several different lengths of one diameter, as well as several lengths of a different diameter, and either one length or various combinations applied to the shank.

To maintain the length of encased solder free of kinks, it may be wrapped about a small flat spool such as indicated in FIG. 4 of relatively large diameter so that the encased solder can be withdrawn, without serious bending and immediately applied to the club shank. Such spools may be carried in a pocket, and will keep the weight in suitable condition for immediate application.

While string solder of the solid type, free of flux or acid has been found to provide the desired characteristics, the reference to solder is to be interpreted as including equivalent alloys having the desired characteristics, namely that of ready application, ability to remain in position, and provide the desired weight. The plastic may be tubular spaghetti or the like, and may be of the extruded type that is readily heat shrunk about the solder string and to close off the ends.

While a single form of the invention with modifications has been illustrated and described, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto. As various changes in the construction and arrangement may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art, reference will be had to the appended claims for a definition of the limits of the invention.

I claim:

1. In combination, a golf club having a shank close to the head thereof and means for adding weight to the shank of the club adjacent the head comprising a length of heavy lead alloy metal in solid string solder form encased in a tubular plastic sheath sealed around the ends of the length, said encased metal in string solder form being spirally wrapped about the shank with the sheath in tight frictional engagement with the shaft, the metal having sufficient stiffness to hold the sheath in tight frictional engagement with the shaft.