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Schafer

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[54] **GOLF SWING TRAINING DEVICE**

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

[58] **Field of Search** 273/183, 200, 184, 185, 273/186, 197, 198, 199, 188, 190, 196

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A golf swing training device and practice tee for aiding a golfer in developing the habit of keeping his head down while swinging a golf club. The training device includes a pivotally mounted horizontal attachment bar which selectively pivots in a horizontal plane, a golf ball suspended by a tether from the attachment bar, and an adjustable sighting guide member located between the golfer's head and the tethered golf ball. The golfer using the device may hit the tethered golf ball or alternatively, may pivot the tethered golf ball out of the way and substitute an untethered golf ball therefor.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures

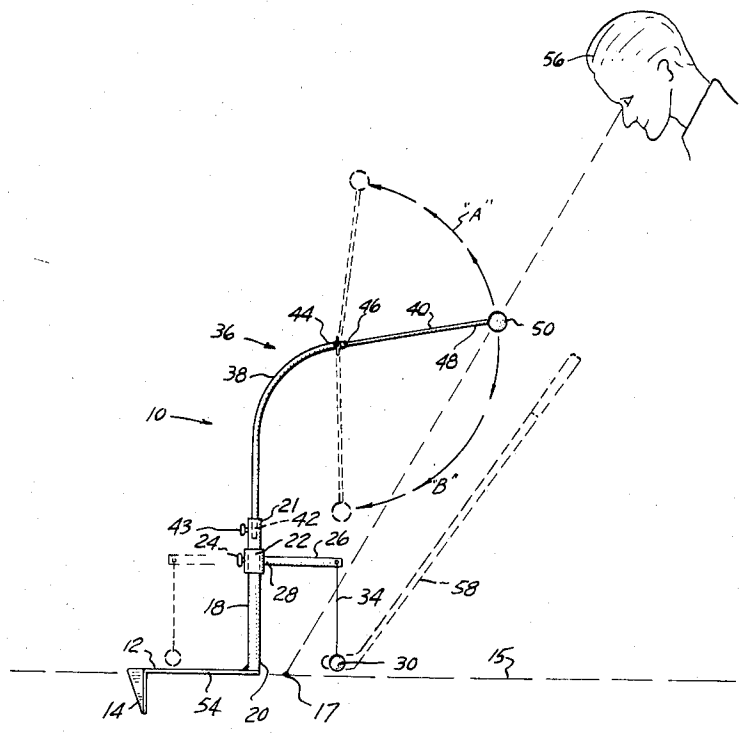
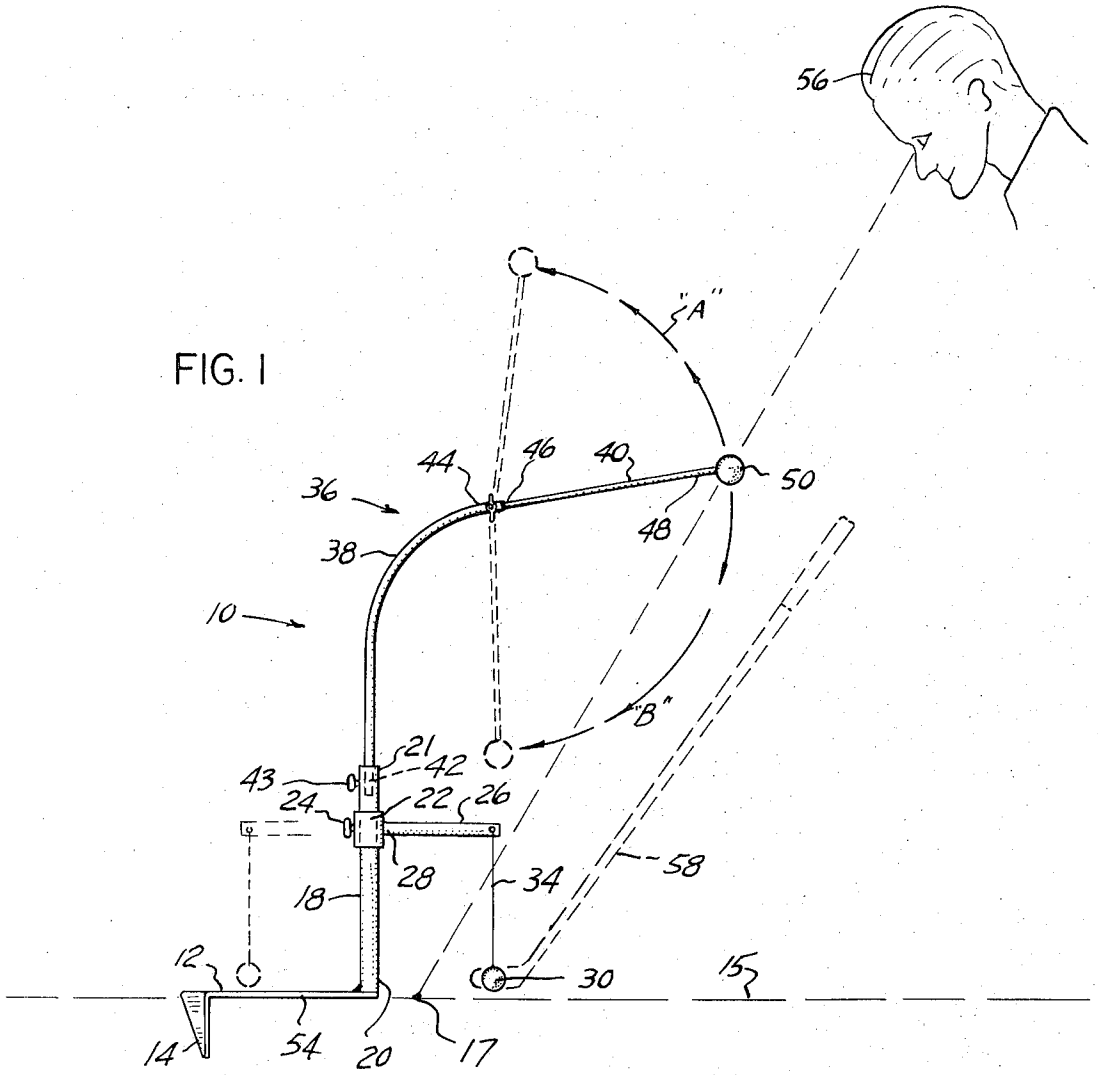


FIG. 1


56
"A"
44
46
40
50
36
48
38
10
"B"
21
42
43
24
22
26
28
34
58
18
12
30
15
14
54
20
17

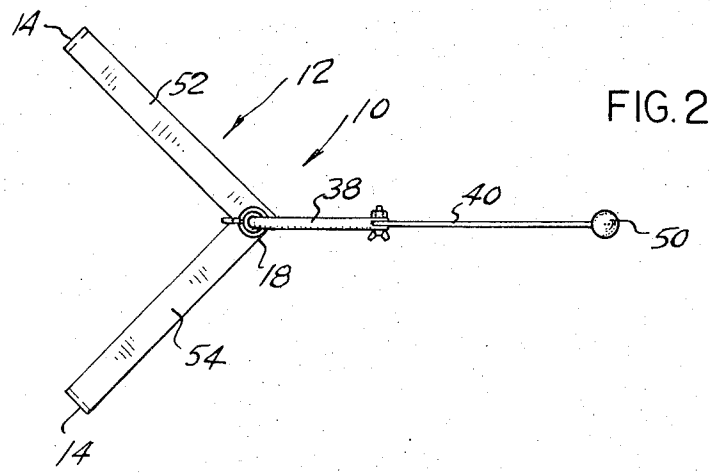

14
52
12
10
38
40
50
18
54
14

FIG. 2

GOLF SWING TRAINING DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The pesent invention relates to apparatus by which contests of skill may be practiced. In particular, the invention pertains to a novel golf swing training device which has a golf ball connected to a post by a flexible member, which golf ball is to be struck by a golf club, and a sighting means located between the head of the user of the apparatus and the golf ball.

2. Description of the Prior Art

There are presently known various golf form training devices. A number of these devices include an apparatus which directly indicates undesired head movement to the user. The various embodiments of this type of device includes one version in which the indicating apparatus engages the head of the user to physically restrain it from movement. Another version has the indicating apparatus abutting the forehead of the user such that if the user's head moves, the apparatus will either slide out of contact with, or will be forced against the user's head, depending upon the direction of movement of the user's head, thus, indicating head movement. Yet in another version, the apparatus surrounds at least a portion of the user's head such that if his head moves it will come in contact with the apparatus, thus, indicating head movement.

The above-mentioned devices have a number of drawbacks. All of them physically interfere with the user. The user is constantly aware of the presence of the device in the area of his head, and, therefore, may have some apprehension in making a complete swing of a golf club. Furthermore, these devices distract the user from the degree of concentration required to make a correct golf swing.

Another type of previously known golf training device includes merely a golf ball suspended from an arm which is in turn mounted to a base. This type of device does not include any means to aid or indicate to the user if his form is correct or if it is not, how to correct it. A disadvantage of this kind of device is that the user could perpetuate a fault in his form by, in ignorance, continuing to practice the fault.

Yet a further type of previously known golf form training device includes a restrained golf ball and a relatively complicated mechanical or electrical means to indicate the imaginary flight of the golf ball when hit by the user. Such devices are expensive, and further, while indicating a fault in form exists and showing the product of the fault, such a device has no means to indicate to the user what constitutes a proper golf swing.

Two of the more serious flaws in a golf swing are the tendency, especially by beginners, to lift the head as the ball is hit to view the flight of the ball, and to sway from side to side while hitting the ball.

The present invention obviates the above-mentioned drawbacks of the prior art while providing a simple, inexpensive golf swing training device which aids the user in developing a golf form or swing characterized by a head-down attitude while hitting the golf ball and maintenance of a relatively stable position throughout the golf swing, i.e., a position with a minimum of lateral body movement or side to side sway.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a golf swing training device having a base adapted to rest upon a generally flat surface, such as the ground, a mounting tube affixed to and extending upwardly from the base, an attachment bar pivotally connected to the mounting tube for selective movement in a horizontal plane about the mounting tube, a golf ball connected to the attachment bar by a tether, and an articulated adjustable sighting means connected to the mounting tube and extending upwardly therefrom to a position generally over the tethered golf ball.

The user of the device sights or aligns the sighting means with a predetermined point. This point may be the golf ball to be hit or a point on the ground adjacent the golf ball. While swinging a golf club to hit the tethered golf ball, the user of the device continues to keep his eyes on the sighting means. In order to keep the sighting means aligned with the predetermined point on the ground throughout his golf swing, the user must necessarily maintain a relatively stable stance with a minimum of side to side body sway and must also keep his head down.

Description of the Drawings

A better understanding of the present invention will be achieved with reference to the accompanying drawings in which the reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views and in which:

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of one embodiment of the present invention, partially showning in broken lines a user of the device and a golf club; and

FIG. **2** is a top view of the device of FIG. **1.**

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to FIG. **1,** a golf swing training device and practice tee, generally denoted as **10,** is illustrated as including a base **12** having spike members **14** depending therefrom, the spikes being inserted into the ground **15** to support the device **10.**

A mounting means, such as a tubular member **18,** is connected at one of its ends **20,** as by welding, to the base **12** such as to extend generally vertically upwardly therefrom.

A pivot mounting bracket **22,** generally in the shape of a collar, is concentrically located over the tubular member **18** for selective pivotal movement about the longitudinal axis of the tubular member **18.** A set screw **24** is threadably received through a hole in the bracket **22** such that it can be screwed into forceable abutment with the tubular member **18,** thus, locking the bracket **22** in a preselected position.

An attachment means, such as a rod **26,** is connected at one of its ends **28** to the bracket **22** such as to extend generally horizontally therefrom. The rod **26** may be connected to the bracket **22** by any convenient means, such as by welding.

A golf ball **30** is suspended from the other end **32** of the rod **26** by a tether **34.** The length of the tether may be adjusted to locate the golf ball **30** at a predetermined distance above the ground **15.**

An articulated sighting means, generally denoted as **36,** is comprised of a generally arcuately shaped first elongated element **38** and a generally straight second element **40.** The first elongated element **38** is connected at one of its ends **42** to the other end **21** of the

tubular member **18.** Preferably, this connection is made by slidably, axially inserting the end **42** into the end **21,** and securing it in place therein by a set screw **43,** such that the sighting means **36** can be pivoted in the tubular member **18** about the vertical longitudinal axis of the tubular member **18.** The other end **44** of the first elongated element **38** is pivotally connected to the end **46** of the second elongated element **40** so that the second elongated element **40** is selectively movable in a generally vertical plane about the pivotal connection of the ends **44** and **46.** This pivotal connection may be a clevis joint, the U-shaped clevis portion being formed at the end **44** of the first elongated member **38** and the tongue portion which fits into the U-shaped clevis being formed in the end **46** of the second elongated member **40.** Further, a guide ball **50** is affixed to the other end **48** of the second elongated element **40.** The first and second elongated members **38** and **40,** thus, extend generally upwardly from the tubular member **18** so that the guide ball **50** is located generally over the golf ball **30.** The pivotal connection of the first elongated element **38** to the second elongated element **40** allows a user of the device **10** to adjust the position of the guide ball **50,** and the slidable, axial connection of the end **42** of the first elongated element **38** into the end **21** of the tubular member **18** allows the user of the device **10** to swing the sighting means **36** out of the way when he elects to hit the golf ball **30** unaided by the guide ball **50.**

Referring now to FIG. **2,** the base **12** is preferably formed of two legs **52, 54,** angularly displaced from one another in the horizontal plane. Each of the legs **52, 54** has a different spike member **14.** This particular configuration presents a stable anchor for the device **10.**

Turning back to FIG. **1,** there is shown a user **56** of the training device **10,** and a golf club **58** is shown in broken lines. It is to be understood that the user **56** is holding the club **58** in his hands in preparation for hitting the golf ball **30.** The guide ball **50** is adjusted to be disposed between the head of the user **56** and a predetermined point **17** on the ground **16** adjacent the golf ball **30.** The line of sight of the user **56** is indicated as a dashed line. While keeping his eye on the guide ball **50** and keeping the guide ball aligned with the predetermined point **17** on the ground, the user **56** hits the ball **30** with the golf club **58** and continues to keep the guide ball **50** aligned therewith throughout his golf swing. This necessarily results in a head-down swing with a minimum amount of side to side body sway.

In addition, when the user **56** desires to hit a real or untethered golf ball instead of the tethered golf ball **30,** he may pivot the tethered golf ball **30** out of the way by loosening the set screw **24** through the pivot mounting bracket **22** and rotate the rod **26** around the tubular member **18** to a position shown in dash lines in FIG. **1.**

Further, the golf swing training device **10** can be used to practice with any golf club, whether it be a wood or an iron. This is possible because of the adjustable articulated sighting means **36.** FIG. **1** illustrates how this is accomplished. The guide ball **50** of the articulated sighting means **36** is movable in a generally vertical plane over the golf ball **30.** It is movable in both an upward direction, as indicated by the arrow "A", and a downward direction, indicated by the arrow "B". Whether the user of the device would adjust the guide ball **50** by moving it upward in the direction of arrow "A" or downward in the direction of arrow "B" depends somewhat upon the height of the user.

The articulated sighting means **36** can also be moved out of the way if it is desired to hit the tethered golf ball **30** without the aid of the guide ball **50** by loosening the set screw **43** and rotating the first elongated element **38** in the tubular member **18.**

The foregoing detailed description is given primarily for clarity of understanding and no unnecessary limitations should be understood therefrom, for modifications will be obvious to those skilled in the art upon reading the disclosure and may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A golf swing training device and practice tee to aid the user thereof in the development of a proper golf swing, which comprises:

a base;

mounting means connected to said base;

a selectively movable pivot mounting bracket connected to said mounting means;

attachment means connected to said pivot mounting bracket, said pivot mounting bracket allowing said attachment means to pivot around said mounting means in a generally horizontal plane;

a golf ball to be hit by the user of the training device;

a tether interconnecting said golf ball and said attachment means to restrain the flight of said golf ball when hit by the user of the training device; and

articulated sighting means mounted to said mounting means and extending generally upward therefrom to a location generally over said golf ball to aid the user of the training device to develop the discipline of keeping his head down in a relatively fixed position while hitting the golf ball.

2. A golf swing training device as defined in claim **1,** wherein said articulated sighting means comprises:

a first elongated element attached at one end to said mounting means;

a pivot joint connected at the other end of said first elongated element;

a second elongated element connected at one end to said pivot joint so as to be selectively pivotal in a generally vertical plane about said pivot joint; and

a guide member connected to the other end of said second elongated element to be visually lined-up with a predetermined point on the ground by the user of the training device when preparing to hit said golf ball, and said pivot joint allowing the user of the training device to adjust the position of said guide member.

3. A golf swing device as defined in claim **2,** wherein:

said first elongated element is generally arcuately shaped; and

said second elongated element is generally straight.

4. A golf swing training device as defined in claim **1,** wherein:

said articulated sighting means is mounted to said mounting means for rotational movement about a generally vertical axis.

5. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 1, wherein:

said attachment means is a generally horizontally disposed rod connected at one end to said pivot mounting bracket; and

said tether is connected to the other end of said rod so that said golf ball is suspended therefrom.

6. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 1, wherein:

said mounting means is a tubular member connected at one of its ends to said base and extending generally vertically upward therefrom; and

said articulated sighting means is mounted at the other end of said tubular member.

7. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 6, wherein:

said pivot mounting bracket is a collar which concentrically receives said tubular member therethrough, said collar being selectively pivotally movable about the longitudinal axis of said tubular member.

8. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 7, further comprising:

means defining a threaded hole in said mounting bracket collar generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said tubular member; and

a set screw threadably receivable in said threaded hole, said set screw to be tightened against said tubular member after said collar has been selectively located thereon to restrain said collar in the selected location.

9. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 1, wherein said base includes:

anchoring means to anchor the golf swing training device to the surface upon which it rests.

10. A golf swing training device as defined in claim 1, wherein said base comprises:

two legs angularly displaced relative to each other in the generally horizontal plane; and

two spiked elements each depending from a different one of said legs, said spiked elements to be driven into the soil to anchor said training device to the ground.

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