May 18, 1948. W. S. SEELEY, JR 2,441,647

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

Filed Oct. 29, 1945

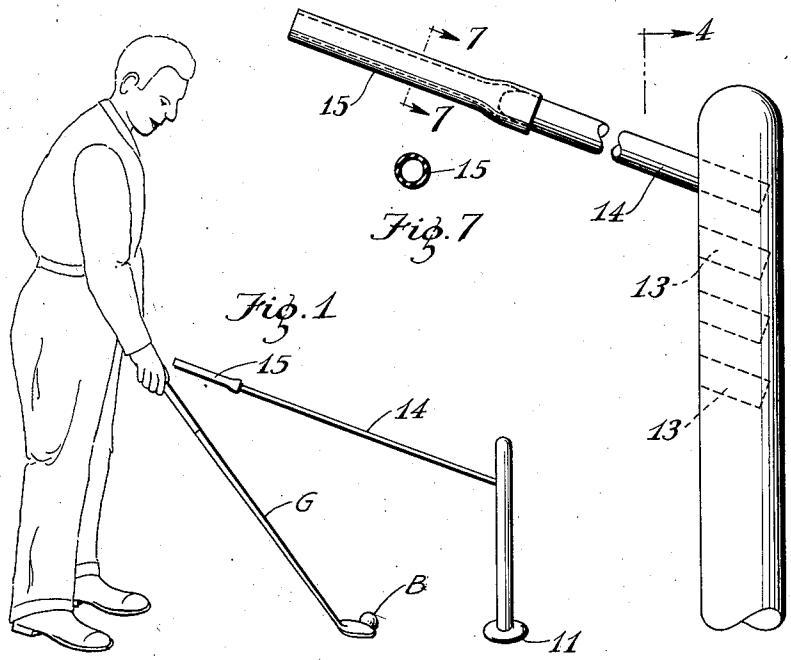



Fig. 7

Fig. 1

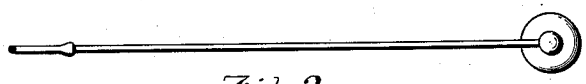


Fig. 2

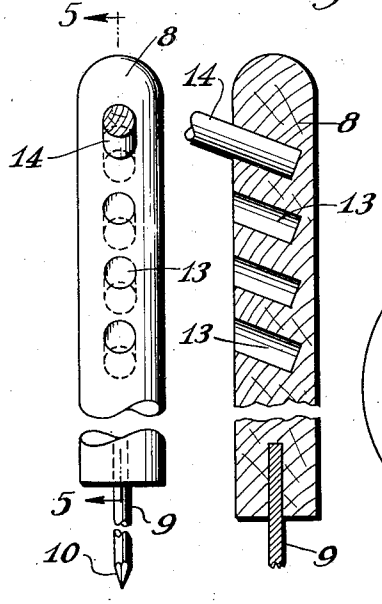



Fig. 4




Fig. 5

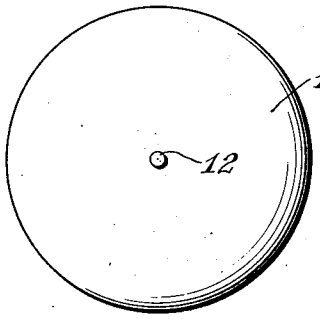



Fig. 6

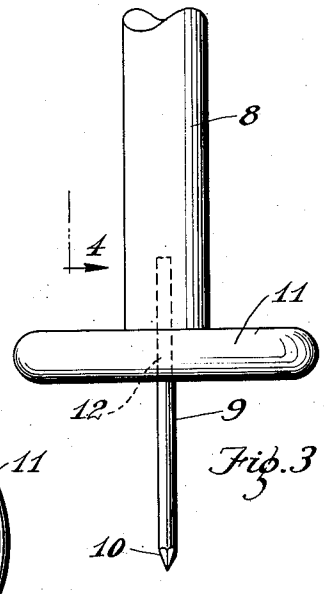



Fig. 3

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Patented May 18, 1948 2,441,647

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,441,647

## GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

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Application October 29, 1945, Serial No. 625,261

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—35)

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This invention relates to practice devices such as are particularly useful in the practice of the game of golf.

In playing the game of golf, it is important that the hands of the player be kept close to the body of the player in the course of swinging the club particularly in making the longer shots in the game of golf for so to do insures greater accuracy in the flight of the ball and enables the full power of the swing of the club to be impressed upon the ball. It is, therefore, an important object of this invention to afford a device which will facilitate the player of the game of golf developing a swing of the club that will entail keeping the hands of the player close to his body in the course of swinging the club.

Yet other objects of this invention are to provide a device of the aforesaid character that may be utilized by a player at any suitable place where sufficient space is afforded to enable a complete swing of a golf club to be effected; to so arrange the device that it will be capable of use by players of different heights; to so arrange the device that it may be quickly erected in condition for use and yet be disassembled and packaged in a compact manner; and to afford a device of simple and economical construction and which will be efficient and simple in use.

Other and further objects of the present invention will be apparent from the following description and claims and are illustrated in the accompanying drawing which, by way of illustration, shows a preferred embodiment and the principles thereof and what I now consider to be the best mode in which I have contemplated applying that principle. Other embodiments of the invention embodying the same or equivalent principle may be used and structural changes may be made as desired by those skilled in the art without departing from the present invention and the purview of the appended claim.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the device of this invention is to be used;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device as illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the device, drawn to a relatively enlarged scale;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 on Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 on Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the base of the device; and

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Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 7—7 on Fig. 3.

The selected embodiment of my invention shown in the accompanying drawing comprises a post 8 which advantageously may be circular in cross section and which is preferably of such height as to have the upper end thereof disposed slightly above the knees of a person of average height. A pin 9, in the form of a metallic or wooden peg, is driven into the lower end of the post 8 and preferably includes a sharpened outer end 10, the pin 9 desirably extending well beyond the lower end of the post 8. In order to facilitate maintaining the post 8 in vertical position in use, resort is desirably had to a base 11, which like the post 8, may be circular in outline. The base 11, in the present instance, has a centrally located opening 12 extended therethrough between the opposite flat faces thereof. When the device is to be put to use the pin 9 is passed through the opening 12 and the sharpened end 10 of the pin 9 is forced into the ground desirably at a flat place where sufficient space is afforded to enable the golf club to be swung in the customary manner.

One or more openings as 13 are formed in the post 8 near the upper end thereof and, as best shown in Figs. 3 and 5, the openings 13 are preferably extended into the post 8 so as to be inclined downwardly when the post 8 is erected in vertical position. An arm 14 is provided which is shaped in cross section to be complimentary to the outline of the openings 13, such arm and openings in the present instance being circular in outline. As best shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 5, one end of the arm 14 is passed into one of the openings 13, and in this respect it is desirable that more than one opening 13 be provided so that the device may be used by persons of varying heights. Thus since the openings 13 are inclined when one end of the arm 14 is inserted thereinto, the arm 14 projects from the post 8 so as to be inclined upwardly therefrom and desirably the free end of the post 14 is disposed in such position as to be substantially aligned with the hand of the person intending to use the device. Thus where the device is to be used by a comparatively tall person, one end of the arm 14 is inserted into the upper of the openings 13, and where the device is to be used by a relatively short person, the arm 14 will be inserted into the lowermost of the openings 13.

Inasmuch as it is intended that the hands of the user are to move past the outer free end of the arm 14 in the use of the device, I have found it advantageous to provide a flexible member 15

at the outer end of the arm 14 and in the present instance a section of rubber tubing is employed, one end of this rubber tubing being passed over the outer free end of the arm 14, as best shown in Fig. 3, so that most of the extent of the flexible member 15 projects beyond the free end of the arm 14. As best illustrated in Fig. 1, it is the free end of the flexible member 15 that is arranged to be disposed so that when the hands of the user of the device are moved relative to the flexible member 15, the hands will move past the free end of such flexible member.

In use the pin 9 is passed through the opening 12 and the sharpened end 10 is forced into the ground to thereby support the post 8 in vertical position. The flexible member 15 is then mounted on one end of the arm 14 and the opposite end of the arm 14 is inserted into a selected one of the openings 13 so as to dispose the flexible member 15 in such position that when the user of the device moves his hands relative thereto in swinging a golf club in the normal and proper manner, the hands of the user will pass by the free end of the flexible member 15 much in the manner illustrated in Fig. 1. When the device has been so arranged the user grasps a golf club as G in the accepted manner, and if desired a golf ball as B may be arranged beneath the arm 14 to rest on the ground near the base 11 as shown in Fig. 1. The user then places the head of a golf club as G on the ground behind a golf ball as B and then the free end of the club as G is grasped in the hands of the user and the hands are desirably slightly spaced from the body of the user and also from the free end of the flexible member 15. In such an instance the hands of the user should be close to the body of the user so as to pass thereby when the golf club G is swung in the usual manner. In such circumstances, if the user tends to swing his hands outwardly from his body in the course of swinging the golf club as G, the hands of the user will strike the flexible member 15. When, however, the hands of the user pass close to the body of the user in the proper and desired manner, the hands will freely move past the free end of the flexible member 15, thus indicating to the user that his hands are moving across his body in the course of swinging of his golf club in the proper manner. It will be understood that it is not necessary that a ball as B be employed when the device of the present invention is being used for the club G may be located in proper position whether or not a ball as B is used, this being accomplished by resting the head of the golf club on the ground in the proper manner and thereafter disposing the hands of the user close to the body of the user and also in spaced relation with the free end of the flexible member 15.

In use it has been found that once a player ascertains the proper manner in which to grasp the golf club as G and avoids breaking the left arm at the elbow when a right-hand golfer swings a golf club rearwardly, the present device quickly enables the player to develop the proper swing of a golf club so as to enable him to impress the full power of the swing of a golf club on a golf ball and yet insure accurate flight of the ball.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that the device of the present invention may be quickly assembled and conditioned for use or disassembled, and when this is done, that the parts may be arranged in a relatively compact manner so as to facilitate storage and transportation of the device of this invention. Hence it will be apparent from the foregoing description that the device of the present invention enables the hereinabove set forth and related objects of this invention to be realized. However, while I have illustrated and described a preferred form of my invention, it will be understood that this is capable of variation and modification and I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details hereinabove set forth, but desire to avail myself of such changes and alterations as come within the ambit of the following claim.

I claim:

A device for use in the practice of a golf swing with a golf club which comprises an elongated support member adapted to be operatively positioned in upwardly extending position a predetermined distance in front of a person making a practice golf swing, and an arm having one end mounted on said supporting member, said arm projecting from said support member toward the person making the golf swing in such a manner that the other end thereof projects into the same horizontal plane as the hands of said person at the lower limit of the golf swing when said support member is in said operative position relative to said person when said person is making a proper golf swing with a golf club, said arm projecting from said support member in such a manner that when said person makes a proper golf swing with a golf club the hands of said person pass between said other end of said arm and the body of said person, and the shaft and club head of said golf club pass below said arm, and when said golfer makes an improper golf swing with a golf club, wherein the hands of said person are spaced at too great a distance from the body of said person, within predetermined limits, the hands of said person will strike said other end of said arm.

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