This invention relates to artificial golf tees for golf clubs and practice tee establishments. Golf clubs spend large sums of money in the attempt to maintain the tees of the golf courses covered with the proper growth of turf. In many localities, due to the unfavorable weather, the grass does not thrive with the result that the tees are hard and dusty in dry seasons and soft and muddy in rainy weather.

Among the objects of this invention is the provision of an artificial tee having an insert of fibrous or similar material so that the wooden golf ball tee or peg can be readily inserted thereinto and supported in position to hold a golf ball, and which insert is durable so that it will withstand the wear and tear caused by the players teeing off or walking thereon.

Another object of the invention is to provide an artificial tee which is replaceable so that a new tee can be readily inserted in position in lieu of the worn one.

Another object of the invention is to provide an open topped box or container adapted to be placed in the ground flush with the surface thereof and to provide an insert of fibrous or similar material placed in said box and projecting slightly thereabove and adapted to receive the wooden golf ball tee or peg.

A further object of the invention is to provide an artificial golf tee comprising a plurality of strips of fiber board, or similar material, arranged closely together and set on their edges in a suitable support whereby the upper edges of said strips form the teeing surface for receiving the golf ball wooden tees, or pegs.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts heretofore more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of my artificial golf tee.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of same.

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical cross section taken on line 2-3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged vertical cross section taken on line 4-4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged vertical cross section taken on line 5-5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of a modified form of my tee.

Figure 7 is an enlarged vertical cross section taken on line 7-7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is an enlarged vertical cross section taken on line 8-8 of Figure 6.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawing, 10 indicates an open topped container or support, and 11 a replaceable tee member. The support is preferably box-shaped having side walls 12, end walls 14, and a bottom 15. The walls 12 and 14 can be made of lumber of suitable thickness and width, in the instant case lumber two inches by five inches being used. The support or frame is rectangular in shape and is approximately eight feet long and four feet wide, although other sizes can be used.

The pieces of lumber can be nailed together, as indicated at 16; however, one of the end walls 14 is preferably secured in position by screws, as indicated at 17, in order to permit easy removal of said end wall when it is desired to replace the worn tee member 11 with a new one.

The bottom 15 preferably consists of a plurality of sections of lumber 18, nailed or otherwise secured in position in spaced-apart relation with each other so as to provide openings 19.

The tee member 11 consists of a plurality of strips 20 of fiber board or other suitable material. The strips are cut to a length to fit within the space formed by walls 12 and 14 at right angle to bottom members 18. Thus, if said bottom members 18 extend lengthwise between the end walls 14, said strips 20 run transversely between side walls 12 and intersect and rest on said bottom pieces 18. Strips 20 are pressed or packed closely together so as to fill completely the space formed by walls 12 and 14. The lower edges of said strips 20 rest on said bottom pieces 18. The height or width of said strips is such that they extend slightly above the upper edges of wall members 12 and 14, as indicated at 21. Preferably all sides of the projecting portion are rounded or beveled off, as indicated at 22, to eliminate abrupt shoulders.

These strips 20 are made of fiber board, and the cut edges of said strips are exposed and form the teeing surface. Thus the golf ball tees or wooden pegs can be readily inserted in said surface and rigidly supported thereby to carry the golf ball. At the same time said fiber material is sufficiently strong and rigid to withstand the wear and to support the player standing thereon.

While I prefer to use strips formed from fiber board, other fibrous or cellular material can be used, either in the form of strips or a single piece.

In installing the artificial tee, a shallow pit or cavity is dug in the ground to a depth sufficient to receive the box or support so that the upper edges thereof are flush with the top of the ground. This leaves the insert member 11 ex-
tending slightly above the ground a distance equivalent approximately to the height of the surrounding turf.

The artificial tee is preferably painted green so as to blend with the surroundings.

To replace the worn tee insert 11, the container 10 is swung out of the bed and the end wall 14 is detached, whereupon the old strips 20 are removed and replaced with new ones. The removable end wall is then secured in position and the container or support is replaced in the ground.

The bottom pieces 18 space the strips 20 from the bottom of the pit or cavity in which the device rests. The spaces 19 formed by pieces 18 permit water or moisture to drain away from said strips into said cavity thereby maintaining said strips dry.

In the modified form shown in Figures 6 to 8, inclusive, a driving tee 24 is shown having a frame 25, bottom pieces 26, and fiber inserts, such as fiber strips 27. A board 28 of suitable thickness and of the same width or depth as strips 27 is placed parallel with one of the end walls 14 and the adjacent strip. One end of this board is cut diagonally downwardly, as indicated at 29, so as to eliminate the lower corner thereof. A vertically disposed bore 30 is formed from edge to edge near this sloping cut, but sufficient distance from the end so as to clear the corresponding bottom piece. A bolt 31 is loosely disposed in said bore with its round head 32 disposed above the upper edge of said board. A washer 33 and a nut 34 are placed on the lower end of said bolt. The length of this bolt is greater than the width of said board 28 and when the head of said bolt bears against said board the lower end of said bolt projects a suitable distance below the lower edge of said board. Normally, when board 28 is in place, said bolt drops and its head 32 rests on the upper end of bore 30 and its lower end is disposed a suitable distance below the lower edge of board 28.

When it is desired to replace some of the strips 27, the head 32 of bolt 31 is engaged by a screw driver, a piece of heavy wire, or other suitable tool, and the bolt is raised so that its upper end projects above the board 28 and can be conveniently engaged by a tool and the washer 33 bears against the lower edge of the board. By exerting upward pull on said bolt 31, the respective end of board 28 can be raised from the frame and the board removed to provide access to the strips 27 so that worn out strips can be replaced with new ones without disturbing the frame. The board 28 is then driven back in its place and locks the strips in the frame.

The bolt 31 is loosely disposed in bore 30 so that it can be easily moved or pulled upwardly in said bore. The sloping undercut portion 29 of the board permits said end of the board to be swung upwardly with the upper corner of the opposite end of said board serving as a pivot. Thus by the use of this removable board the strips can be replaced with a minimum expenditure of time and labor.

My artificial tee provides a smooth, all-weather hitting surface which is soft enough to take a tee or peg and allow the shoe spikes to take a firm bite, and at the same time it is durable and has a long life span. The golfer is assured a firm footing, a good flat and true stance at all times, in rainy as well as in dry weather, and whether he uses spiked or rubber soled shoes.

The entire structure is buried in the ground so that only the green or hitting surface is visible to the golfer.

While I have shown and described herein the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is obvious that changes in the construction and arrangement of the removable end wall could be made and substituted for those herein disclosed without departing from the spirit of my invention. I claim:

1. An artificial golf tee comprising an open topped box-shaped support having a perforate bottom, and a plurality of strips of fiber board arranged edgewise and packed closely together with their lower edges resting on said bottom and their upper edges projecting above the upper edge of said support and forming the tee surface, which is adapted to have inserted thereinto at any point a golf ball peg tee.

2. An artificial golf tee comprising an open topped box-shaped support having a perforate bottom, and a plurality of strips of fiber board arranged edgewise and pressed together with their lower edges resting on said bottom and their upper edges projecting above the upper edge of said support and forming the tee surface, which is adapted to have inserted thereinto at any point a golf ball peg tee.

3. An artificial golf tee comprising an open topped box-shaped support having a perforate bottom and a removable wall and a plurality of strips of fibrous material packed closely in said support edgewise and parallel with said removable wall, whereby said strips can be removed upon the detachment of said removable wall, the upper edges of said strips forming smooth teeing surface, each strip being adapted to have inserted thereinto a golf ball peg tee.

4. An artificial golf tee comprising a rectangular frame, a plurality of members spaced from each other and forming the bottom of said frame, and a plurality of strips of fiber board packed edgewise in said frame at right angle to said bottom members, the lower edges of said strips resting on said bottom members and the upper edges of said strips projecting above the upper end of said frame and forming a smooth teeing surface which is adapted to have inserted thereinto at any point a golf ball peg tee.

5. An artificial golf tee comprising a frame, a plurality of members fixed to and forming the bottom of said frame, a plurality of strips of fiber material packed edgewise in said frame and having their lower edges resting on said bottom members and having their upper edges projecting above said frame and forming the teeing surface, each strip being adapted to have inserted thereinto through its exposed edge a golf ball peg tee.

6. An artificial golf tee comprising a frame, a plurality of members fixed to and forming the bottom of said frame, a plurality of strips of fiber material packed edgewise in said frame and having their lower edges resting on said bottom members and having their upper edges projecting above said frame and forming the teeing surface adapted to have inserted thereinto at any point a golf ball peg tee, and a removable board interposed between one of said strips and one of the walls of said frame, whereby said strips are clamped in position by said board and are released upon the removal thereof.