Nov. 3, 1959 G. L. BUTLER 2,911,221

STRIKING DEVICE FOR GOLFERS

Filed June 18, 1957

FIG. 1.

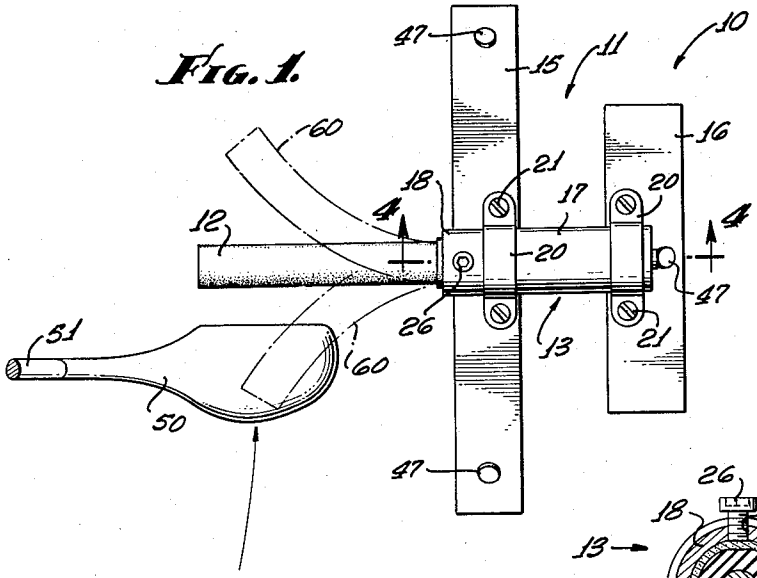


FIG. 3.

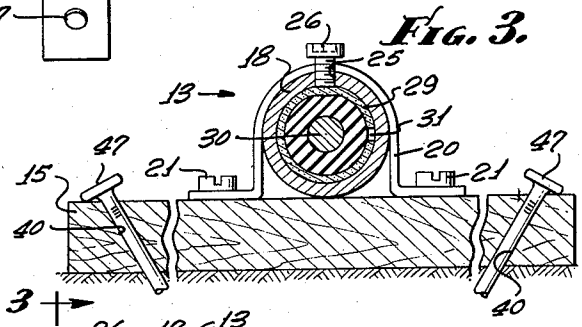


FIG. 2.

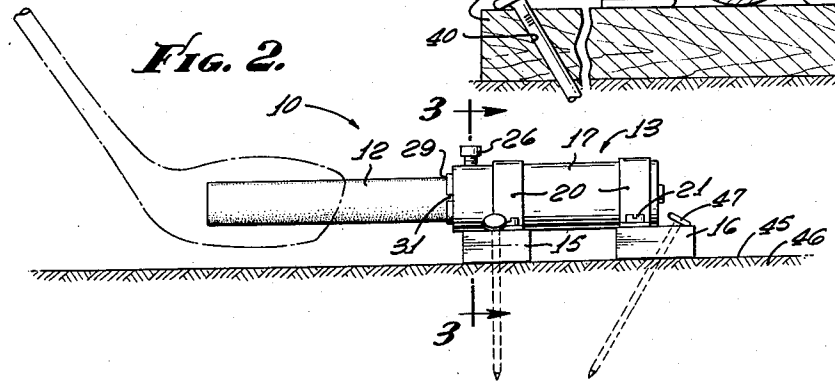
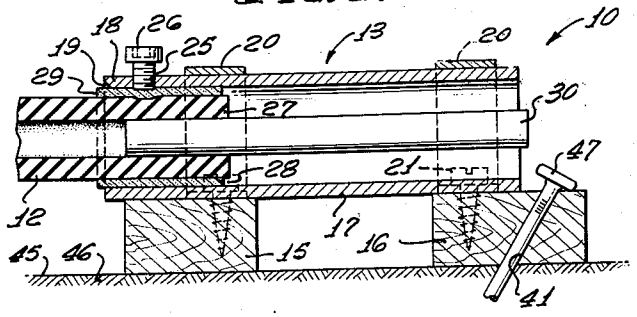


FIG. 4.



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2,911,221

Patented Nov. 3, 1959

2,911,221

STRIKING DEVICE FOR GOLFERS

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Application June 18, 1957, Serial No. 666,338

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—196)

This invention relates to striking devices which are provided to aid the golfer in perfecting his accuracy especially with the wood clubs.

Such devices are essentially substitutes for a golf ball and are adapted for giving exercise in striking with a wood club where space will not permit the use of golf balls.

It is an object of the present invention to provide such a striking device which will be relatively inexpensive to manufacture, which may be sold at a relatively low price, and which will have a long life when in use and be easy to maintain and replace parts thereof which are worn out by use.

It is another object of the invention to provide such a device which may be applied to the top of the ground or a floor or some other supporting surface and will not require an excavation for the installation thereof.

The manner of accomplishing the foregoing objects as well as further objects and advantages will be made manifest in the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the invention as installed on the surface of the ground or on a lawn and illustrates how the invention is employed as a striking device.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the striking device shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged longitudinal fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the invention is thereshown as embodied in a striking device **10** which includes a base **11**, a flexible piece of hose **12** and a hose gripping means **13**.

The base **11** includes a front cleat **15** and a back cleat **16**, the latter being shorter than the front cleat and the two cleats being arranged in symmetrical parallel relation as shown in Fig. 1.

The hose **12** is preferably made of live rubber without any fabric reinforcing (such as medical hose which is made of pure latex) and the piece of hose **12** is preferably about 7 inches long with a ¾ inch outside diameter and an inside diameter of 7/16 of an inch. The piece of hose **12** may be slightly curved upwardly but it is preferably relatively straight.

The hose gripping means **13** preferably comprises a piece of pipe **17** about 4 inches long and with an inside diameter of 1 inch. This pipe may be made of standard 1-inch galvanized water pipe and an end portion **18** of this pipe is reamed out to remove burrs and preferably chamfered slightly at **19** as shown in Fig. 4.

Pipe **17** rests upon cleats **15** and **16** with the axis of the pipe lying in a vertical plane which passes through the midpoints of these cleats. Pipe straps **20** embrace pipe **17** and are secured to cleats **15** and **16** by screws **21** so as to rigidly assemble the pipe **17** on said cleats.

The end portion **18** of pipe **17** comprises a receptacle

for the hose **12** and has a threaded hole **25** formed vertically downwardly therein, a setscrew **26** being screwed downwardly in said hole.

When a short butt portion **27** of the hose **12** is extended into the receptacle portion **18** of the pipe **17** there is a free space **28** of about ⅛ of an inch between said hose and said pipe. The portion **27** of the base **12** is preferably about an inch and a quarter long and the space about this portion within the receptacle **18** is approximately filled by a leather bushing **29** which is inserted in the receptacle **18** to encircle the hose end portion **27** as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4. A core in the form of a wooden dowel **30** is inserted into portion **27** of hose **12** so that the front end of said dowel terminates about a quarter of an inch from the front end of the bushing **29**. It will be noted in Fig. 4 however that the dowel extends past the setscrew **26** so as to support the hose portion **27** from within against pressure applied by said screw through the bushing **29**.

It will be noted in Fig. 2 that the bushing **29** is split and that this split **31** is located in a horizontal plane containing the axis of pipe **17**.

The clamping of the hose butt portion **27** in the clamp means **13** is accomplished by tightening on the setscrew **26** which forces the leather bushing **29** downwardly closing the gap **31** therein and compressing the rubber hose portion **27** on the core **30**.

At its opposite ends, cleat **15** is provided with nail holes **40** which are bored in the cleat so as to converge downwardly in a vertical plane at angles of about 30° with the vertical. The angle between these two holes is about 60°. A similar hole **41** is bored downwardly in cleat **16** at a midpoint therein just back of the adjacent end of pipe **17**. Hole **41** slants forwardly at an angle of about 30° with the vertical. When it is desired to anchor the device **10** on a supporting surface, such as the surface **45** of the ground **46**, the device is rested on the ground and 20-penny spikes **47** are driven downwardly through the holes **40** and **41** as clearly shown in the drawings. Converging as these nails do, they have a clutching action on the soil **46** and firmly anchor the device **10** on the ground so it will not be disturbed from its position by its use.

To practice driving with device **10**, a golfer takes his proper stance, facing this device and in front of the same, so that when he holds his driver club in his hands, as in readiness for driving a golf ball, and with the head **50** of his club **51** disposed on the same level with and opposite the hose **12**, he is in the proper position to practice a drive with this device. The driver then draws the club **51** back and swings with it on the hose **12** just as if the latter were a golf ball. The blow thus delivered against the hose **12** causes it to flex relative to the gripped end portion **27** of the hose and vibrate rapidly back and forth as indicated by broken lines **60** in Fig. 1.

The sound of the slap made by the club striking the tubing **12** indicates whether or not the blow delivered against the hose was square on the nose or whether it was a slice or a hook. The golfer using the device **10** quickly becomes familiar with the significance of the sound produced by striking the hose **12** and is thus able to make corrections for error in any single drive.

The hose **12** is highly elastic and will stand up under use in the manner above described for long periods without any deterioration in the hose. This is due particularly to the manner in which the hose is gripped by the gripping means **13** of the invention. The leather bushing **29** provides a cushion between the rubber hose **12** and the metallic mouth portion **18** of the pipe **17**, outward from which the hose extends, so as to minimize the strain applied to the hose when the latter is violently swung by a blow delivered there against by a golf club **51**. In

like manner the core **30** provides a filler for the butt portion **27** of the hose **12** against which the latter is gripped by the gripping means **13** yet the core **30** terminates short of the front end of the bushing **29** so as not to concentrate the bending stresses on the hose **12** in a single transverse plane.

From the above description, the present invention is seen to provide a striking device for golfers which is simple in construction and adapted to give satisfactory striking practice to a golfer over a long period without the device suffering substantial damage. It is also clear that when the hose **12** does wear out that this may be readily replaced by a new hose by a very simple operation which can be performed by the owner of the device without any special tools.

While only a single embodiment of the invention is disclosed herein it is to be understood that various modifications may be made in this without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A striking device for practicing golf comprising: base means; means for anchoring said base means immovably on the ground, there being a horizontal cylindrical bore formed in said base means, said bore being spaced a short distance above the ground; a cylindrical rubber striking member of a highly resilient character having a butt portion which extends into said bore; and means for securing said butt portion of said striking member in said bore to retain said butt portion in a fixed position relative to the ground, said member extending approximately six inches horizontally from said base to the extremity of a free end portion of said member, said free end portion yielding readily to a blow struck thereagainst by a golf club simulating the driving of a golf ball.

2. A combination as in claim 1 in which said securing means comprises screw clamp means for transversely compressing said butt portion of said member within said bore, said means being readily releasable for replacing said member in said device.

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