Aug. 27, 1940. A. J. SANDERSON 2,212,651

GOLF CLUB OR PUTTER

Filed April 1, 1938 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

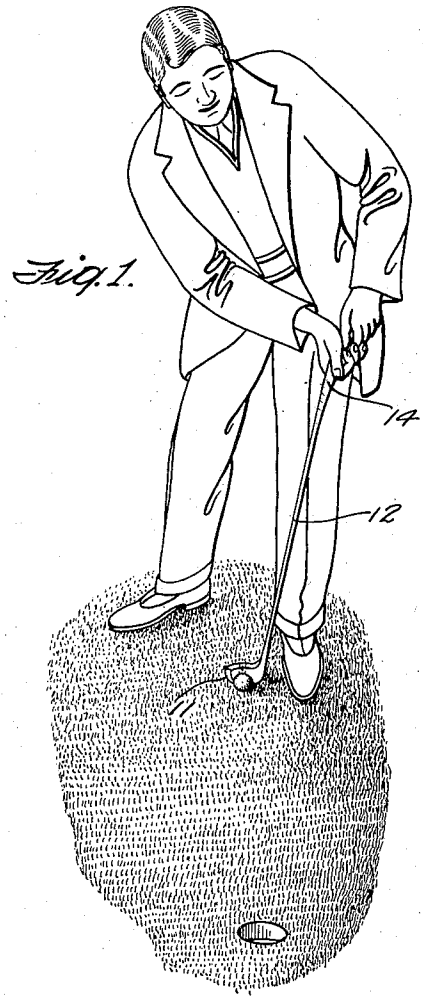

Fig. 8.

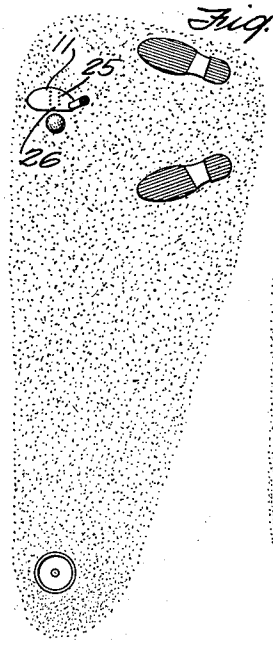

Fig. 9.

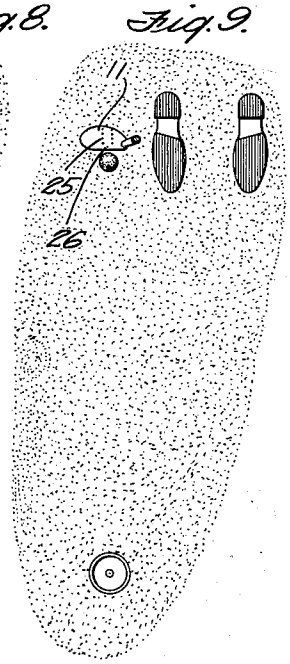

Fig. 2.

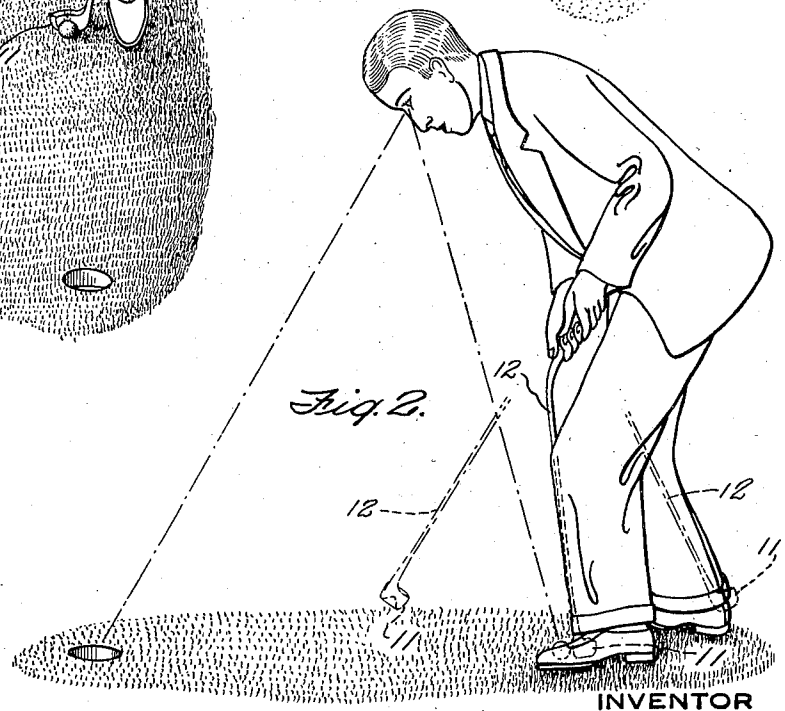

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Fig. 7.

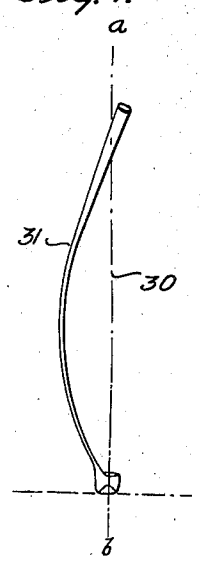


Fig. 3.

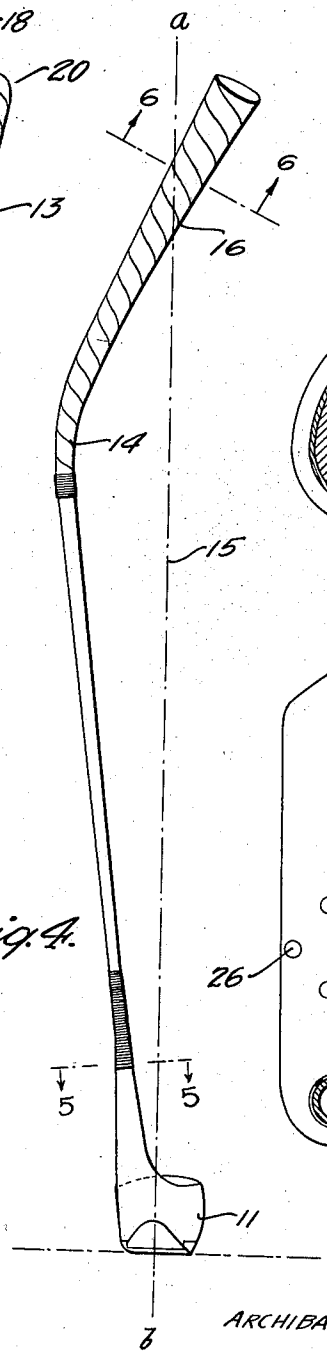


Fig. 4.

Fig. 6.

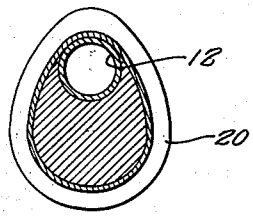
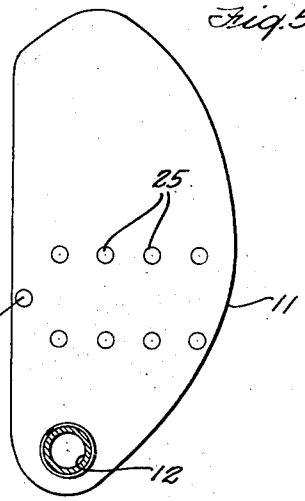


Fig. 5.



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GOLF CLUB OR PUTTER

Archibald J. Sanderson, Scarborough, N. Y.

Application April 1, 1938, Serial No. 199,336

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—77)

This invention relates to golf clubs, and more particularly to the type of club known as a putter.

It is an object of this invention to provide a putter which will enable the user of the club to obtain more direct sight from the eyes to the ball and hole, than has heretofore been possible with golf clubs which are acceptable to the game. With the ordinary straight shaft putter it is necessary for the player to stand at one side of the line from the ball to the hole so that the line of flight of the ball is necessarily observed from an angle. It is therefore impossible to be certain of the exact line and mistakes are frequently made. In the case of short putts particularly, the advantages of the present invention, whereby it is possible for the player to view the line of the putt directly over such line, are very marked.

The invention generally contemplates the provision of a putter having a conventional head form of any desired type, either wood or metal, and having a shaft arising from the head, preferably from a point at the heel of the head in the usual manner, the shaft being bent or curved in such a way that the player, while gripping the club conventionally, may assume a stance which will bring his eyes in direct line with the ball and hole, the bending or curvature of the shaft being such that the club may be swung in the desired line without interference with the legs or feet of the player. In the preferred manner of use of the improved club the ball will be played from the position near the inside of the left foot, the club head being swung back inside of the left leg preparatory to making the stroke, the bent shaft and grip of the club extending partly in front of the left leg so that the club may be gripped with the hands in front of or even slightly to the left of the left leg. In addition to the advantage provided in the alignment of the eyes of the player with the line of flight of the ball to the hole, it is considerably easier for the player to control the follow through of the club head on a direct line with the line of flight and thus the customary difficulties resulting from deviation of the follow through from this line when the ordinary putter is used are obviated. The putting stroke is similar to the normal putting stroke, except that owing to the curvature of the shaft it is possible for the player to stand more or less facing the hole, and that the eye is in line with the line which the putt is to take.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a putter which will enable the player to play the ball between his feet, while holding the club handle over or outside of one leg, substantially in a conventional manner.

Further objects and advantages will appear from the description below together with the drawings which illustrate certain preferred forms of my invention, and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a preferred way of playing the ball with the improved putter, the view being taken facing the player;

Figure 2 is a side view of the player illustrating the various positions of the club during the stroke;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the club looking at the face of the club head;

Figure 4 is a rear elevation of the club;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the club head;

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view through the grip taken on line 6—6 of Figure 4 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 4 of an optional form of the invention; and

Figures 8 and 9 are diagrammatic views showing optional stances and methods of putting with the improved club.

The drawings are intended for purposes of illustration and example only, it being understood that the invention may be embodied in various modified forms differing from the precise construction shown herein, while still embodying the spirit of the invention.

The construction of a preferred form of the putter is best illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The putter comprises substantially a conventional club head of wood, metal or other suitable material 11, and shaft 12 having grip 13. As is shown in Figure 4 the shaft 12 preferably rises from the club head in an angle somewhat off the perpendicular to the plane of the sole of the club head, which may be referred to as the vertical plane assuming the sole of the club to be flat on the ground, so that it extends forwardly of the club face. The shaft 12 extends, in the form of club shown in Figure 4, in a straight line to a point 14 where the maximum distance from the vertical plane occurs. At this point, which may be on the grip of the club, it curves back and crosses the vertical plane at 16, the end of the grip being well back of this plane. This bend or angle, shown at 14 in Figure 4, we may describe as the first bend or angle of the club shaft.

In Figure 3 the broken line 17 indicates a plane perpendicular to the planes of the face and sole of the club head and passed substantially through the center of the club face. The broken line 18 indicates the axis of the straight part of the club shaft from the club heel to approximately the beginning of the angle 14. At the point 14, however, the club handle 13 leaves the axis 18 traveling first for a very slight distance in the direction of the plane 17 or toward the toe of the club head and then swinging back through the plane of axis 18 toward the heel of the club head so that the end 20 of the grip is substantially outside of the plane of axis 18. We may for con-

venience call this the second angle or bend of the club shaft.

It should be noted that the deviation of the shaft and handle from the plane 15 is considerably greater than the deviation from the plane of axis 18 and in order to obtain the advantages of this invention, it is ordinarily necessary that this difference in deviation from these two planes exist, though variations may be made in the extent of the deviation to suit the needs of the individual user of the club.

The use of a club having this construction is best illustrated in Figure 1, which shows a player in the act of using the club. The club is shown in the hands 22 of the player, an overlapping grip being preferable, but in no sense necessary, as this may be adjusted to suit the needs of the individual player. It is assumed in this figure, and in Figure 2 that the player is right handed. A stance may be taken over the ball 23 with the left foot extending substantially in a line parallel to the line between the hole and the ball, and the right foot being in a rearward position extending at an acute angle away from this line, the ball being substantially between the two feet of the player, and a line drawn from the hole to the ball passing in or near the right heel of the player. When the face of the club head addresses the ball with the plane of the face perpendicular with the line of flight of the ball to the hole, the handle of the club takes the position shown, by virtue of the deviations of the shaft and handle from the planes 15 and 18, that is, the shaft extends upwardly toward the left leg of the player and then rearwardly and at the same time outwardly so that the club might be said to "curl around" the leg of the player. As a result of this angular construction a considerable swing of the club is possible between the legs of the player as more particularly shown in Figure 2, but the club nevertheless is grasped over or outside of the leg of the player and therefore involves a true golf stroke as distinguished from the type of stroke which could be made with a mallet or mallet type club. When held in the manner described the club head is caused to travel over a line drawn from the hole to the ball, and since the eyes of the player are directly in line with this line, and with the path of the club head, it is possible to obtain a degree of accuracy in putting which is not possible when using a conventional straight shafted club.

In Figure 5 is shown an additional aid to the alignment of the ball, hole and eyes. These are markers 25 which are located on the upper surface of the club head in two lines perpendicular to the plane of the face of the club head. In using the club these lines will be substantially in the line of movement of the club head and in the line of flight of the ball to the hole. These markers are preferably in the form of spots and may be produced in any suitable manner, as for instance by inserting pegs of contrasting color in the holes in the club. In addition to the two parallel lines of markers 25 a centrally located marker 26 close to the face of the club is preferably provided and if desired the face of the club may be provided with two lines of markers 27 diverging downwardly from a point adjacent to the central top marker 26, as clearly shown in Figure 3.

While it is possible to use the club with a grip round in cross section, it is preferable to make the grip of some irregular shape so that the club may be certain to be located securely in the hands of the player. I have found that a desirable form of grip is that illustrated particularly in Figure 6 in which the grip is given a flattened or oval shape with the longer axis of the oval in a plane substantially at right angles to the plane of the face of the club.

Use of the club is not necessarily limited to the stance shown in Figures 1 and 2. Thus Figure 8 shows a conventional stance, the feet of the player being more or less perpendicular to the line of flight of the ball to the hole, this stance being such as would be used with an ordinary putter. The improved putter may be satisfactorily used with such a stance, although when so used full advantage of the improved design is not obtained.

In Figure 9 is shown a stance in which the right foot is brought up more or less parallel to the position of the left foot shown in Figure 1, and the ball played very closely off the toe of the right foot. When the ball is played in this manner it is possible for the player to place the hole and get a good view of the projected line of the putt, although the eyes would not ordinarily be directly in line with the line of the putt.

We have described in some detail the angles which are present in the form of club shown in Figures 3 and 4. This, however, is not intended to be limiting, as is clearly shown by the alternate form illustrated in Figure 7, where the shaft, rather than extending straight from the head of the club to the point 14 and then turning back in an angle, describes a smooth curve 31. It should be noted, however, that the plane 30 which is similar to the plane 15 of Figure 4 illustrates that the essential features of the club are present in this form. That is, the angular relationship between the grip portion of the club, where it is held by the handle of the user and the face and sole of the club, is the same as in the form of club shown in Figures 3 and 4.

While I have illustrated and described in detail certain preferred forms of my invention, it is to be understood that changes may be made therein and the invention embodied in other structures. I do not, therefore, desire to limit myself to the specific constructions illustrated, but intend to cover my invention broadly in whatever form its principle may be utilized.

I claim:

A golf putter comprising a club head, a shaft, and a grip, the club head having a bottom and a striking face, the shaft extending upwardly and forwardly from the heel of the club head so that the major portion of the shaft is disposed in front of the head when the head is resting on its bottom, the grip extending upwardly from the upper end of the shaft at an angle directed rearwardly from the face of the club and outwardly from the heel of the club, and passing through a plane perpendicular to the bottom of the head and including the longitudinal central line thereof, the angular displacements of the grip being such that the ball may be addressed by a swing of the club head along a line extending between the player's feet while the shaft and grip extend across a leg of the player, the end of the grip lying to one side of the body of the player.

ARCHIBALD J. SANDERSON.