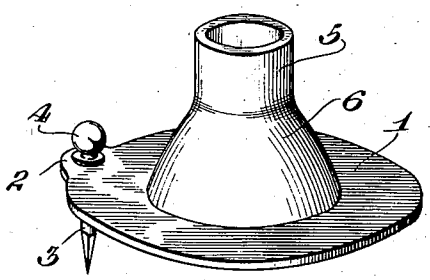
Feb. 8, 1927. 1,617,232

W. J. BUTLER ET AL

GOLF TEE

Filed Oct. 23, 1926

Fig. 1.



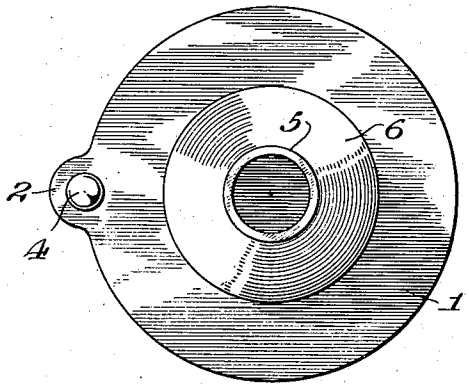
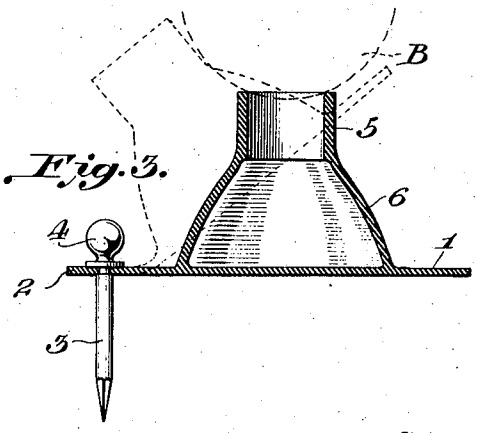


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOLF TEE.

Application filed October 23, 1926. Serial No. 143,727.

This invention relates to improvements in golf ball tees, having for an object to provide a tee of such construction as will provide the player-user with a means for supporting his golf ball at a uniform height and in a position whereat it will be positively available to be perfectly struck without interference from or by the tee; thus, with constant use upon part of a user, permitting him to become accustomed to the height of the ball from the ground and to increase his accuracy whereby to secure the greatest result from the play.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a golf tee which is of a flexible construction, so that the same offers no resistance to the club as it meets the ball supported thereupon, and will not in any way interfere with the perfect stroke of the club or interfere with proper movement of the ball therefrom after being hit.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a tee wherein a flexible means is employed for effecting connection of the tee shoulder and the anchoring means, the latter being so positioned with respect to the tee as to be in front thereof and in the same direction that the ball is to be hit, so that should the club hit the tee, the latter will flex upwardly upon itself in a manner simulating a pivotal movement, inasmuch as the anchoring means engaged with the terrain will serve in the fashion of a hinge connection, thus offering no resistance in the striking.

Other objects of the invention will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved device,

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same, and

Figure 3 is a vertical section therethrough showing the manner in which the tee shoulder is carried upon the flexible base and likewise, the manner in which the pivotal connection is effected as between the flexible base of the tee and the anchoring means; one possible position of the tee after being struck by the club being shown in dotted lines and indicating that the same flexes at that point of the flexible base adjacent the anchoring means whereby to minimize resistance.

Having more particular reference to the drawings, in connection with which like characters of reference will designate corresponding parts throughout, the improved tee may be stated to comprise a base of flexible material, such as rubber or the like, designated by the numeral 1, such base in this particular embodiment of the invention being shown to be of circular formation, although, of course, the same may be varied, such as conditions or preference may dictate. One marginal portion of the flexible base 1 is provided with an extension or tongue 2 through which a normally perpendicularly arranged anchoring pin 3 is adapted to be passed, the pointed end of the pin being downwardly disposed whereas the upper end of the pin is headed as indicated at 4, whereby to provide a convenient means for engaging the same and forcing it into or drawing same from the terrain, during usage of the improved tee.

Fixedly arranged upon or formed integral with the intermediate portion of the upper side of the flexible base 1 is what we term as a tee shoulder 5, this shoulder being formed of flexible material corresponding to that from which the base 1 is constructed and being of hollow or tubular construction, the basal part of the shoulder being enlarged or flared outwardly as indicated by the numeral 6, whereby to lend stability to the construction and to ensure positive jointure as between the same and the adjacent portion of said base 1. The upper portion of this tee shoulder 6 is reduced as is shown in the Figure 3, being more or less of hollow cylindrical formation and upon the open upper end of this reduced upper portion of the shoulder 5, the golf ball B, shown in dotted lines in the Figure 3, is adapted to be arranged.

In usage of our improved golf tee, the base portion 1 thereof is placed upon the terrain of a starting tee, preferably flushly thereupon. The anchoring pin is forced downwardly into the terrain to the full extent of the exposed portion of the shank thereof, by bearing upon the headed portion 4, thus affording a positive connection as between the flexible base 1 and said terrain. In this connection, it is to be noted that in securing the anchoring pin 3 in the terrain, the same is so arranged that it will be adjacent the front side of the tee and in the same direction that the ball subsequently positioned thereupon is to be hit. Thus, should it happen that the club strikes the tee, the flexible

base portion 1 will flex forwardly and upwardly upon itself in the manner as indicated in the dotted lines in the Figure 3, simulating a pivotal movement inasmuch as the anchoring means engaged with the terrain will serve in the fashion of a hinge connection. Because of this pivotal movement of the flexible base 1 of the tee construction, it will be appreciated by players that interference to a material extent with a proper take-off of the ball from the tee will be avoided. Furthermore, because of the fact that the tee shoulder 5 is of flexible material, corresponding to the material from which the base portion 1 is constructed, it will be understood that this element too will give with the impact of a blow from the club thereupon and in so doing, will offer no material interference with proper striking of the ball or the ball's leaving the upper end of said shoulder.

It is preferable that the tee be built at a certain height which will be productive of the best results in playing. Such height of the tee, however, is largely a matter of personal choice with a user of the device and if desired, such a user may readily trim a portion of the reduced upper end of the tee shoulder therefrom until it has been brought to the desired height.

After usage of the improved tee, the anchoring pin 3 may be readily withdrawn from the terrain and the tee may be dropped into the club bag of a player until it is again desired to use the same.

Manifestly, the construction shown is capable of considerable modification and such modification as is within the spirit of our claims, we consider within the spirit of our invention.

We claim:

1. A golf tee comprising a flat and annular flexible base, a shoulder fixedly arranged upon and concentrically of the base, and anchoring means piercingly engaged with a portion of said base in proximity to the adjacent margin thereof.

2. A golf tee comprising a flat and annular flexible base, a tubular shoulder having an enlarged lower extremity fixedly arranged upon and concentrically of the base, said base being of a diameter materially greater than that of the enlarged lower portion of the shoulder, and anchoring means piercingly engaged with a portion of the flexible base in proximity to the adjacent margin thereof.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

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