Dec. 2, 1930. W. E. BALDWIN 1,783,211

GOLF TEE

Filed Oct. 10, 1928

Fig. 1.

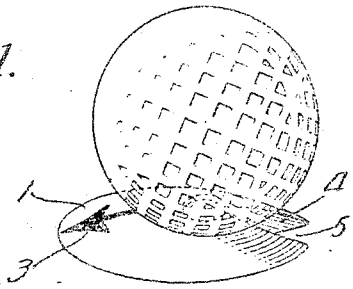


Fig. 2.

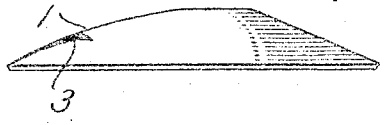


Fig. 3.

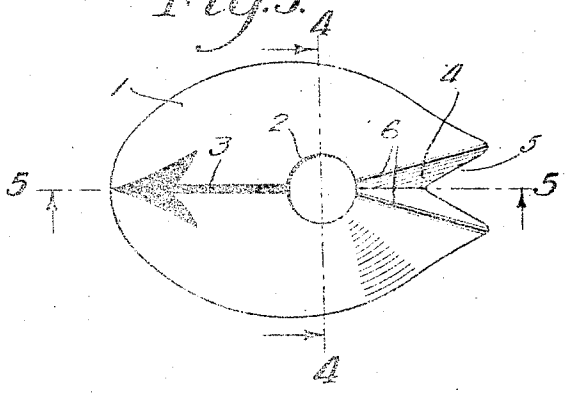


Fig. 4.

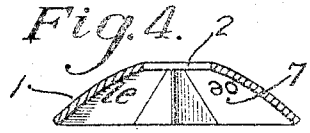


Fig. 5.

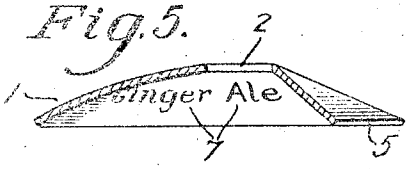


Fig. 6.

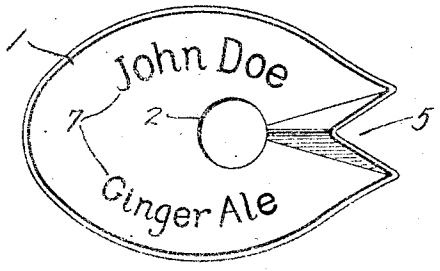


Fig. 7.

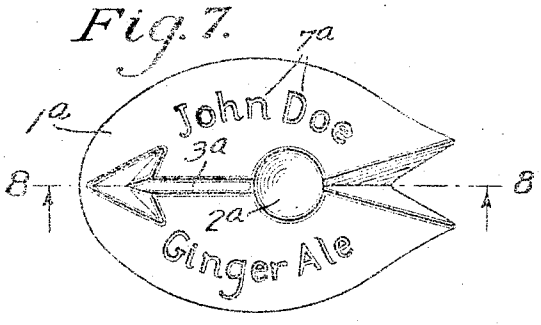


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM E. BALDWIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GOLF TEE

Application filed October 10, 1928. Serial No. 311,675.

Important objects of the present invention are, first, to provide an extremely simple, compact, cheap and satisfactory golf tee; second, to provide such a golf tee designed to indicate the direction of a drive; third, to provide a tee formed of readily severable sheet material so that if left upon the grass a lawn mower may be run over it without injury; and fourth, to provide a tee designed to serve as a cheap and effective advertising means.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the tee with a golf ball resting upon it;

Fig. 2 a side view of the tee;

Fig. 3 a top plan view of the tee;

Fig. 4 a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 a bottom plan view of the tee;

Fig. 7 a top plan view of a slightly modified form of tee; and

Fig. 8 a section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive, my improved golf tee is formed of a single sheet of stiff material which is cut and pressed to form a shell-like body 1 having a convex upper surface, a concave lower surface and a substantially elliptical contour in plan. At the top of its convexity the body is formed with a small circular opening 2 to form a seat for a golf ball. This opening lies on the major axis of the oblong plan of the body and is spaced slightly off center, toward what will be referred to as the rear end of the tee. The upper convex surface is provided with a direction-indicating mark 3 which extends from the hole 2 outwardly along the major axis to the opposite or front end of the tee. In the present instance the mark 3 is in the form of an arrow whose head extends to the front edge of the tee. However, any other suitable mark may be used. Rearwardly of the hole 2 the body 1 is cut and pressed inwardly to define a tail 4 for the arrow mark 3. The arrow tail is formed by notching the rear end of the sheet forming the body 1, as at 5, and pressing inwardly along two lines 6 which diverge outwardly from the hole 2. The bifurcated form of the arrow tail makes it clearly visible under the shadow of a ball upon the tee. Also, the inwardly pressed form of the tail forms a ridge within the tee which reinforces or stiffens it. The arrow head and tail are in direct alinement along the plan of the major axis and, in effect, they form two cooperating sights at opposite ends of the tee for lining up the direction of flight of the ball. Location of the point of ball-support toward the rear end of the tee, and the depression of the latter to provide the arrow tail, provide a good clearance at the back of the ball for the golf club.

I prefer to make the tee of cheap sheet material having sufficient stiffness to retain the shape of the tee. It is desirable that the material be readily severable so that if left upon the grass the tee will not injure a lawn mower. In practice I have found that the stiff, water-proofed paper usually used to make paper spoons serves the purpose very satisfactorily. Other sheet materials such as celluloid, rubber, tin etc. may, however, be used.

The tee forms an excellent carrier for an advertising legend. In Fig. 6 a legend 7 is shown upon the under side of the tee. It is preferably placed upon the concave under surface for protection to prevent its being washed off or obliterated by impact of the golf club. The tee is exceedingly cheap to manufacture and its shell-like form adapts a large number of tees to nest compactly together in a small space for carrying and shipment. They make very acceptable, effective and inexpensive advertising articles for free distribution.

The use of the tee materially aids the golf player. He places the tee upon the ground with the arrow pointing in the direction of the drive, and places the ball upon the tee. The tee is slightly longer than the diameter of a golf ball and the two registering sights extend outwardly sufficiently to be clearly visible to the player from his stance position. They relieve him of the necessity of looking along the course repeatedly to get his drive direction properly and enable him to concentrate his gaze in the direction of the ball.

In Figs. 7 and 8 is shown a tee 1^a similar to the form just described except that an arrow 3^a, a ball-receiving depression 2^a and an advertising legend 7^a are all impressed or indented in the upper convex surface of the tee. The impressed arrow and ball-receiving depression serve to reinforce and stiffen the tee, and the impressed advertising matter may be more conspicuously located upon the upper surface of the tee without danger of washing off or obliteration by impact of the club.

While I have shown and described two very satisfactory forms of my invention I do not wish to be limited strictly to this disclosure, but reserve the right to make such changes as will lie within the scope of the claim.

What I claim is:

A golf tee comprising a stiff, shell-like body formed of a single sheet of readily severable sheet material, substantially elliptical in plan, having a convex upper surface and formed to support a ball at a high point of its convexity, said ball support being located at an intermediate point on the major axis of the body; an arrow on the upper surface of the body co-incident with the major axis thereof and extending from the ball support longitudinally to the opposite front and rear margins of the body, the tail of the arrow being formed by a tapered depression in the shell extending from the ball support to the margin of the shell and defining a substantially V-shaped cleft in the outline of the rear margin directed toward the ball support to cooperate with the portion of the arrow at the opposite side of said support for indicating the direction of a drive.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

WILLIAM E. BALDWIN.