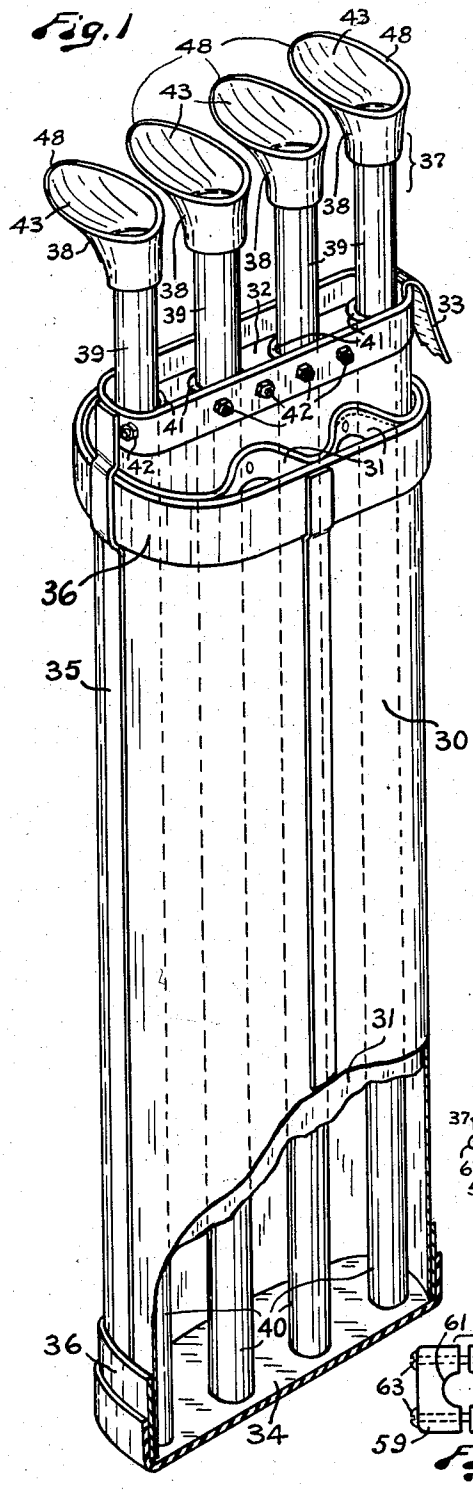
March 31, 1959 J. S. TURNBULL 2,879,819

GOLF CLUB PROTECTING AND SEPARATING DEVICES

Filed April 26, 1956 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1



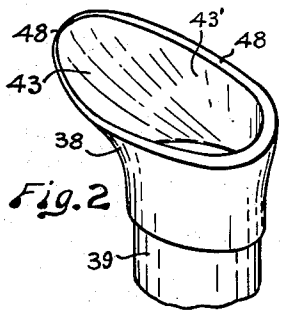


Fig. 2

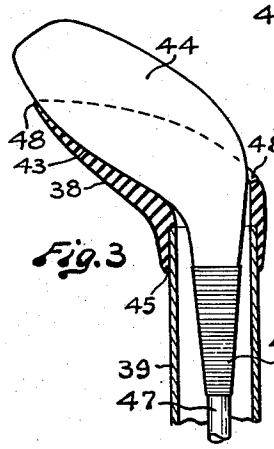


Fig. 3

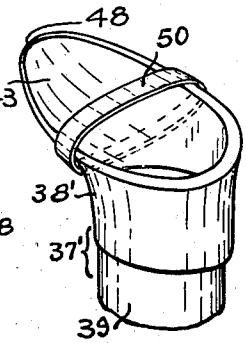


Fig. 4

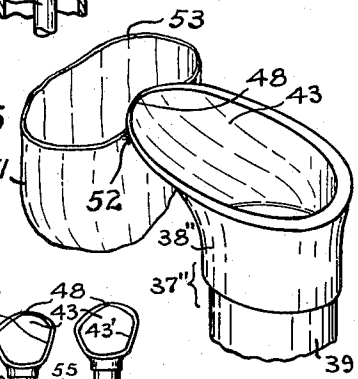


Fig. 5

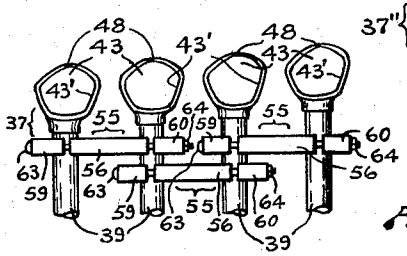


Fig. 6

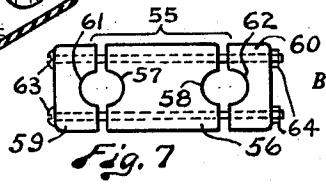


Fig. 7

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March 31, 1959 J. S. TURNBULL 2,879,819

GOLF CLUB PROTECTING AND SEPARATING DEVICES

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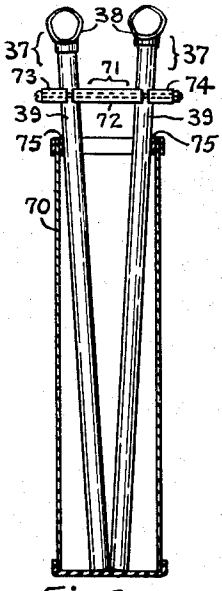


Fig. 8

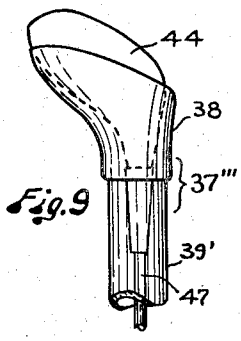


Fig. 9

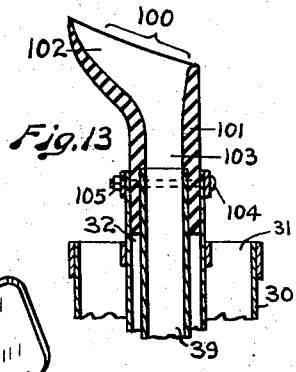


Fig. 13

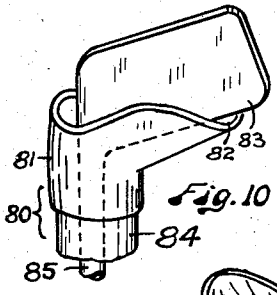


Fig. 10

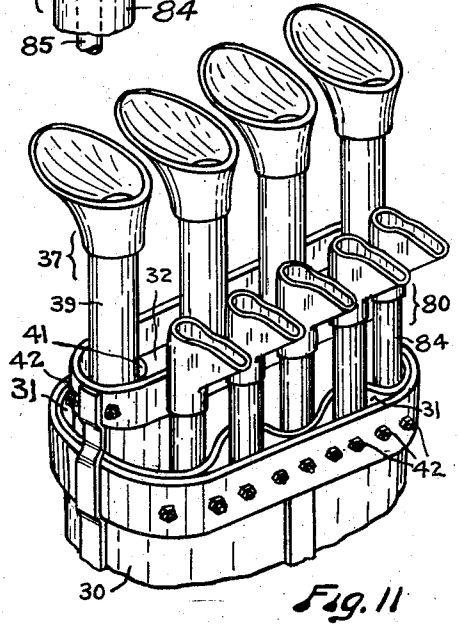


Fig. 11

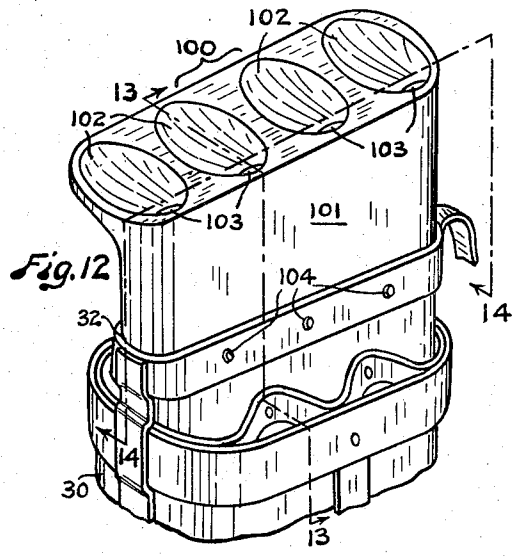


Fig. 12

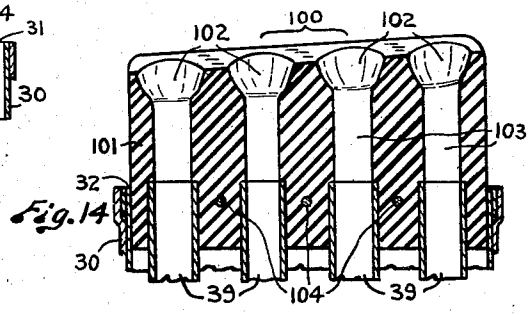


Fig. 14

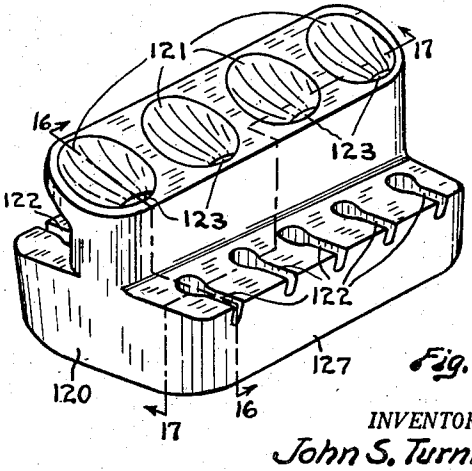


Fig. 15

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March 31, 1959 J. S. TURNBULL 2,879,819

GOLF CLUB PROTECTING AND SEPARATING DEVICES

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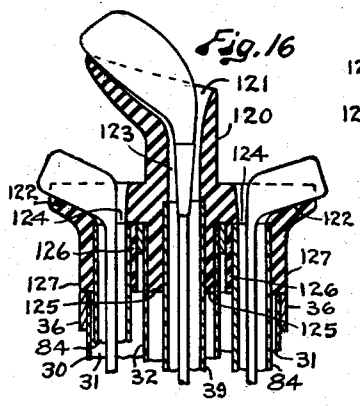


Fig. 16

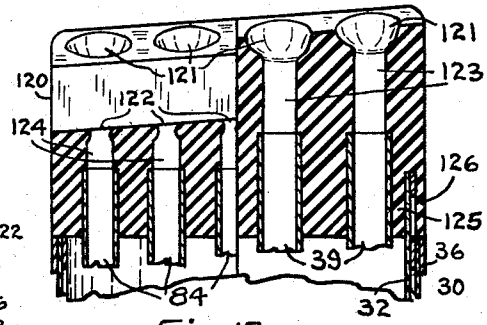


Fig. 17

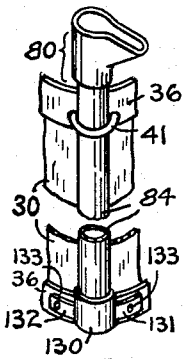


Fig. 18



Fig. 20

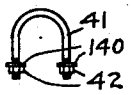


Fig. 19

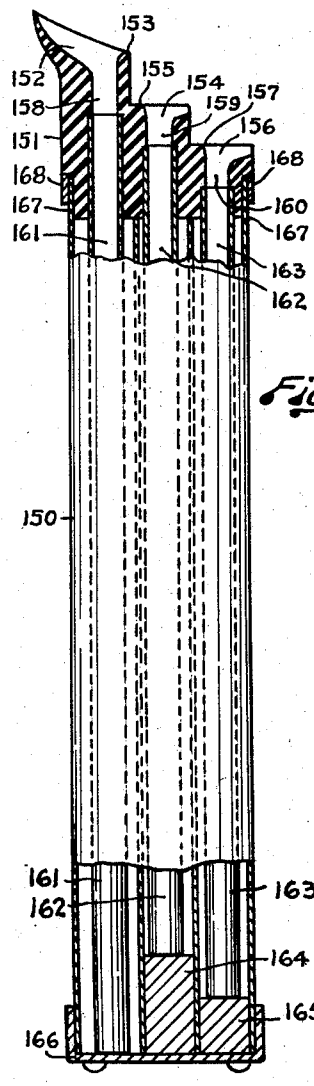


Fig. 24

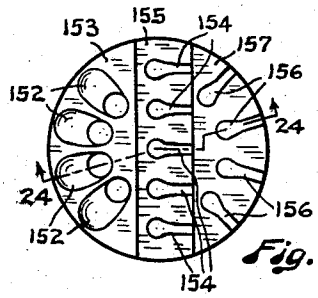


Fig. 23

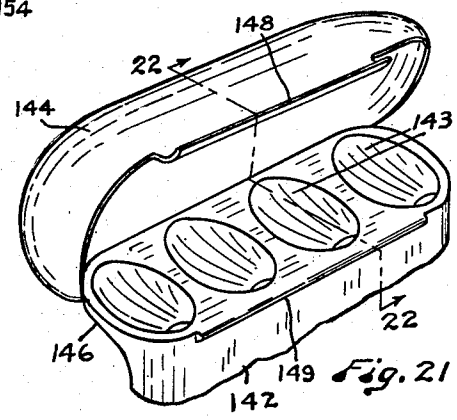


Fig. 21

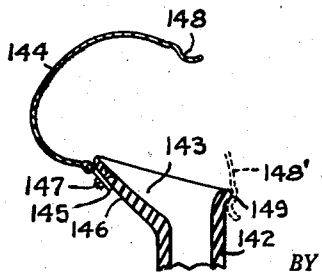


Fig. 22

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United States Patent Office 2,879,819
Patented Mar. 31, 1959

2,879,819

GOLF CLUB PROTECTING AND SEPARATING DEVICES

John S. Turnbull, Seattle, Wash.

Application April 26, 1956, Serial No. 580,937

8 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.5)

This invention relates to golf club separating and protecting devices and more particularly relates to improved means for separating and protecting the individual golf clubs of a set thereof as carried in a golf bag, such separation and protection being provided by either individual or composite protective elements attachable to golf bags of conventional construction. Other aspects of the present invention contemplate modification of golf bag design to provide protective compartments for separation of the individual units of a set of golf clubs and protection of both the woods and irons thereof, all in a manner obviating marring and abrasion of the clubs caused by contact thereof with other clubs while being carried and used.

As is well known, golf clubs are of two general types; "woods," each having a driving head of rounded contour and of predominately wood construction in the driving head, and "irons," each having a relatively thin blade-like driving head of metal construction. Both the woods and irons of a set of golf clubs (exclusive of the putter) by standardized terminology are categorized by numeral designations in sequence depending upon the slope of the ball contacting surface of the driving head, with higher numerals being assigned to clubs with a more sloped driving surface, as compared with the line of the club shaft. Thus, in a complete set of golf clubs there may be four woods, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and otherwise termed driver, brassie, spoon and mashie, and nine irons, numbered 2 through 10, the 10 iron being more commonly called the putter and having a head with its driving surface substantially in line with or parallel to the shaft. Both the woods and irons of a given set of clubs by standardized design also vary in the length of the club shafts, the woods being provided with substantially longer shafts than the irons, the lower numbered woods having longer shafts than the higher numbered woods, and the lower numbered irons having longer shafts than the higher numbered irons. When arranged in a golf bag in sequence according to conventional practice, the heads of the clubs are arranged in a step-like manner and all of the clubs are rather loosely assembled in allotted compartments with consequent damage being caused, particularly to the heads and shanks of the woods, when the clubs knock against each other while so carried.

More specifically, it has been noted that the predominant cause of wear and scuffing of golf clubs in use is occasioned by the clubs being loosely arranged in the bag and free to knock against one or more other clubs when carried, and that when carried in golf bags of conventional design the blades of the irons of the set of golf clubs have a pronounced tendency to cause marring and deterioration of the shank portions of the woods of the set of clubs since the customary design of conventional golf bags arranges the blades of the irons at generally the same level as some or all of the windings on the woods at the shank between the shaft and head of each wood. When the irons are free to rotate loosely in their respective pockets the blades of the irons will

necessarily periodically knock or bang against the wood shafts and particularly the shaft windings of the woods. Further, it has been found that with respect to the woods themselves, when left loosely in the allocated bag pocket or pockets the heads of the woods will mar each other. With respect to this latter consequence, it is of course known that prior protective devices have evolved which are commonly called "gloves" which are usually of a soft fabric material and applied over each of the heads of the woods to protect them to some extent. However, even with the use of so-called "gloves" considerable marring through the soft fabric is occasioned and use of gloves has otherwise proven not altogether satisfactory because the "glove" must be removed and preferably reapplied after each use of a particular wood.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide various forms of separating and protective compartmentation for the individual clubs of a set of golf clubs as arranged in a golf bag, in order to shield the same and effectively eliminate contact abrasion and marring as normally occasioned by certain of the clubs knocking against parts of other clubs, and particularly the woods thereof, when carried.

It is another object of the present invention to provide golf club protective units for the woods or irons or both, whereby the clubs are maintained in a separated and protected condition with respect to contact with other clubs of a given set when arranged in a bag carrying an attachment or modified in design according to the concepts of the present invention. It is a further related object of the present invention to provide such separation and protection of the clubs of a golf club set when arranged in a golf bag in a manner so that the clubs are nevertheless readily accessible and replaceable in a desired and predetermined arrangement.

It is a further related object of the present invention to provide separator and protector means for use in conjunction with the woods of a set of golf clubs whereby not only the head portions but the shafts thereof as well are protected against the marring action of the iron blades. More specifically, it is an object of the present invention to provide a protective unit either singly or in plurality with respect to the woods of a set of golf clubs, wherein each such protective unit or units comprises a cup-shaped head portion in which the head of the wood nests and which protective head portion advantageously has attached thereto a tubular portion surrounding the staff of the wood. It is a further and more specific related object of the present invention to provide such wood protective units fixedly arranged with respect to a golf bag to prevent relative movement of the woods of a set of clubs with respect to each other. It is a further and conjunctive object of the present invention to also provide corresponding protective units for the irons, each comprising a head portion in which the head of an iron may rest and each advantageously having a connected tube portion surrounding the shaft of said iron, such iron protective units being also fixedly mounted with respect to the bag.

Further objects of the present invention include presentation of various illustrative forms of the invention wherein the head portion of each protective unit in which a wood nests has also provided therewith covering or retaining means for enclosing and/or retaining the head portion of the club therein, such as elastic means or a water resistant hood or cover. Further objects of the present invention involve presentation of modified forms of arrangements of plural protective units individually fixedly mounted to the bag or molded or otherwise formed into a unitary construction attachable to or mountable on the open end portion of a golf bag to provide the ad-

vantageous protection and separation of the golf clubs with respect to each other as is characteristic of the present invention.

Yet another object of the present invention involves presentation of forms of protective units for separating and protecting the clubs of a set of golf clubs, which protective units can be readily expanded from single use to arrangements thereof in pairs, threes or fours by means of duplication of brackets interconnecting said units or connecting said units to the bag in which the same are mounted. Other objects of the present invention involve presentation of specialized arrangements of plural protective units in golf bags, including unitary composite assemblies thereof and a further form of the invention wherein the tube portions of a plurality of such protective units are fixedly maintained in relatively spaced relation in the upper portion thereof and substantially touch at the lower extremity thereof to provide a V-shaped protective unit configuration adaptable to frictionally engage the sides of the bag rim and maintain said units in rigid contact therewith.

Other objects of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of various embodiments thereof, set forth by way of illustration and not limitation, it being understood that various structural details thereof may be varied without departing from the scope and essence of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, various such embodiments of the invention are presented, in which illustrative forms like numerals have been used to refer to like parts, when appropriate, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of a golf bag equipped with golf club protective units according to the present invention for the golf woods, with each such protective unit being retained in relatively fixed relation with respect to the bag by means of retaining means comprising U-bolts, said protective units each comprising an open protective cup at the upper end thereof contoured to permit the head of a wood to nest therein;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective partial view of the upper portion of one of the wood protective units shown in Fig. 1, so shown in greater detail the internal configuration of the protective cup head portion thereof;

Fig. 3 is a cross-section partial view of the protective unit portion illustrated in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 presents a modified form of protective cup of the character illustrated in Fig. 2, wherein said cup is provided with an extensible elastic band to aid in retaining the wood in position in the cup portion of the protective unit, as desired;

Fig. 5 presents a further modified form of protective unit having a cup portion provided with an elastic hood over the cup;

Fig. 6 is a partial perspective view of a modified form of retaining means for maintaining in relatively fixed relation an assemblage of protective units according to the present invention, wherein each of a plurality of four of said protective units is connected to one of the other units by means of a recessed block connector;

Fig. 7 is a detached plan view of a recessed block connector means of the type illustrated in Fig. 6, designed for connecting two protective units together in the manner presented in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a side view of a modified form of the present invention with the associated bag shown in cross-section, wherein two protective units according to the present invention are connected between the upper portions thereof by a connector means similar to that illustrated in Fig. 7, in a manner so that the upper portions of the protective units so connected are separated a substantial distance permitting the tubular portions of the protective units extending therebelow to be wedged in the general form of a V between the sides of said golf bag;

Fig. 9 is a partial side view of a modified form of protective unit according to the present invention, generally similar to that illustrated in Fig. 2, wherein the tubular portion of the protective unit is substantially transparent;

Fig. 10 illustrates in enlarged perspective partial view a further form of the present invention, wherein the protective unit has the head or protective cup portion thereof recessed to receive a golf club of the iron type;

Fig. 11 is a perspective partial view of a golf bag equipped with both golf iron and wood protective units, the former being of the character presented in Fig. 10, and the latter of the character presented in Fig. 2;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of a further modified form of the present invention, wherein is provided a multiple wood protective unit in integral form extending above the central section of a golf bag shown in partial view, in a manner presenting the protective cup portions thereof as a molded unit accommodating at least the head portions of the woods in separate protective compartments;

Fig. 13 is a sectional view taken substantially on broken line **13—13** of Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a sectional view taken substantially on broken line **14—14** of Fig. 12;

Fig. 15 is a detached, perspective view of a further modified form of molded block construction according to the present invention, wherein such unitary molded unit presents compartmented protective cups accommodating both the woods and the irons of a set of golf clubs;

Fig. 16 is a transverse, vertical cross-sectional view of the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 15, taken substantially along line **16—16** thereof, with detail of a portion of a bag associated therewith also being shown;

Fig. 17 is a longitudinal, vertical cross-sectional view of the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 15, taken substantially along line **17—17** thereof, with detail of a portion of a bag associated therewith also being shown;

Fig. 18 is a broken, partial, perspective view of a modified form of a protective unit suitably mounting a protective unit externally of a golf bag, as for an additional iron, wherein the protective unit is attached to the upper portion of the bag by retaining means comprising a U-bolt, and wherein the lower portion of the protective unit is attached to the bag by a suitable retaining means such as a cup-shaped clamping member;

Fig. 19 is a detail view illustrating a typical U clamp suitable as a retaining means in the forms of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1, 11, and 18;

Fig. 20 is a detailed partial view illustrating the cup-shaped form of clamping means suitable for attaching the lower portion of a protective unit to a golf bag as in the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 18;

Fig. 21 presents in perspective, partial view a further variation in the form of the invention, involving a unitary assembly of protective units, such as presented in Figs. 12 and 15, wherein the central or wood accommodating section of such assembly is provided with a hinged weather cover spanning all of the plurality of wood protective cup portions;

Fig. 22 is a transverse cross sectional view of the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 21, taken along the line **22—22** thereof;

Fig. 23 is a top view of yet another form of the present invention providing a multiple wood and iron protective unit in integral form, designed to be mounted in the open portion of a golf bag of essentially cylindrical configuration; and

Fig. 24 is a view in elevation, with the upper and lower portions broken away, of the integral protective unit illustrated in Fig. 23 mounted on a golf bag, which golf bag is also provided with a raised lower section to close the protective tubes of the golf iron protective compartments, which view is taken substantially along line **24—24** of Fig. 23.

Turning to a more specific consideration of the various typical forms of the invention presented, Fig. 1 presents, with various parts broken away, a golf bag **30** of gen-

erally conventional design of the type known as a "side pocket" bag, the perspective view thereof provided by Fig. 1 showing the side pocket areas at 31 for accommodating the irons and the central pocket area at 32 in which the woods are normally placed. Bag 30 is also provided with a conventional carrying strap, shown in partial view at 33, and with a conventional base portion 34 as well as suitable conventional strengthening strips or bands at 35 and 36. According to the present invention, individual protective and separating units 37 are provided for the woods, each such protective unit 37 comprising an upper resilient, club head nesting or cup portion 38 mounted on and supported by a tubular portion 39, said tubular portion 39 in each instance being relatively stiff and optionally formed of rolled waterproofed paper, other wound sheet material, or extruded tubular stock, and extending down adjacent to or in contact with the interior of bottom 34 of bag 30, the lower extremities 40 of each said tube portion 39 serving to surround and protect the shafts of the woods. In the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 through 3, each protective unit 37 is maintained in fixed relation with respect to each other such unit and with respect to the bag by means of suitable retaining means such as U-bolts 41, each encircling the associated tube portion 39 and pressing the same against a side of the inner wall of the central pocket 32 of bag 30 by means of suitable nuts, certain of which are indicated at 42, for example.

It will be noted that the cup portion 38 of each protective unit 37 is provided with a generally concave interior surface 43 of a configuration so that at least a portion of the head portion of a wood can nest therein, as most clearly seen in the cross-sectional view of a single protective unit 37 and associated club 44 shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 also demonstrates that head portion 38, which is advantageously of relatively soft and resilient material such as soft rubber or polyethylene, being as such resilient and relatively soft as compared with the hardness of the wood head, will not mar the head portion of club 44, and further is suitably recessed opposite cup surface 43 to surround the upper lip of tube portion 39 in pressure engagement therewith, such connecting joint being indicated at 45 in Fig. 3. Such connecting joint 45 obviously can be maintained either by pressure fit or the joint can be augmented by adhesive, as desired. Further, from Figs. 1 and 3 it will be evident, in that the individual protective units 37 each comprises a cup portion 38 and tube portion 39, complete protection for the wound shank portion 46 as well as shaft 47 of each of clubs 44 is positively achieved, the tube portion 39 protecting wound shank portion 46 of club 44 from being cut or otherwise marred or damaged by the blades of irons carried in side pockets 31 of bag 30 or by contact with other woods 44, irrespective of whether or not separating and protective units are also provided for the irons of the set of clubs.

Said concave surface 43 advantageously has a relatively flat inner surface on the side thereof to face and conform to the flattened ball contacting surface of club 44, such relatively flattened portion being indicated in Fig. 2 at 43' on the side to accommodate a right-handed wood. From such arrangement it will be evident that the configuration of inner surface 43 of cup portion 38 of unit 37 can be readily designed to accommodate left-handed woods by placement of the relatively flat portion 43' on the near side wall of cup portion 38, as shown in the perspective view of Fig. 2, and further, that the relative configuration of concave surface 43 and relatively flat surface 43' of said cup portion 38 can be varied to nest with or conform to the configuration of the slope or slant of the relatively flat driving surface of each of a set of woods, although in practice it has been found that the yieldable resiliency characteristic of cup portion 38 of the given wood protective unit 37 will readily accommodate itself at flattened surface 43' to variously sloped flat, driving face portions of the woods of a set.

In other words, as a matter of practice, each of the cup portions 38 used in a set of protective units, such as the four shown in Fig. 1, can each be identical with respect to the other cup portions 38 and still effectively conform to and support any of the wood heads as may be assigned thereto. Thus standardized design and consequent simplicity and efficiency of manufacture of said head portions 38 in large volume can also be realized. In this regard, it will also be apparent that, since the woods of a set of golf clubs are conventionally designed with the driver having a somewhat longer shaft than the mashie, with the spoon and brassie of proportionate intermediate length, the length of respective tube portions 39 may be correspondingly stepped somewhat, as shown in Fig. 1, although of course the relative length of said tube portions 39 is not critical to the separating and protecting functions accomplished by the present invention, and said tube portions 39 may alternatively all be of equal length sufficient to receive the longest shaft of the set of woods, as desired.

In the art, prior use has been made of iron shaft protecting tubes of a length substantially coextensive with the length of a golf bag. The tubular stock from which such conventional protecting tubes are made is well suited for the manufacture of protective tube portions 39 according to the present invention, since a given protective tube portion 39 can be easily formed merely by cutting such tubular stock to the appropriate longer length.

It will also be evident that the upper or lip portion 48 of cup portion 38 can extend to the degree desired along the head portion of club 44. In this respect it has been found satisfactory to provide a nesting portion extending only the major portion of the lateral dimension of the head of wood 44, such major dimension adequately providing for positioning and separation of the club head and nesting of the same against inner surface 43 of cup portion 38 of the protective unit. However, as desired, the lip portion 48 can extend even to the entire lateral dimension of the head portion of club 44.

Fig. 4 presents a form of protective unit 37' having a protective cup 38' modified in form to the extent that there is attached to a portion of the convex outer surface thereof an extensible retaining band 50 of rubber or the like, the length of said band 50 spanning the open portion of cup portion 38 and facing concave cup portion 43 thereof being free to be selectively removed from or placed over a contained club head nesting against the concave surface of cup portion 43.

Fig. 5 presents in partial perspective view yet another form of protective unit 37'', similar to the forms of protective units shown in Figs. 2 and 4, for example, as to the design of tube portion 39 and cup portion 38'', the latter being modified to the extent of having another form of retaining and protective cover for a wood head contained therein. More specifically, the form of protective means over the head portion of a club inserted in protective unit 37'' as contemplated by the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 5 involves an elastic closed hood 51 attached along one edge thereof to the outer portion of lip 48, a segment of which attachment area is designated at 52. Hood 51 is suitably molded from thin elastic material such as rubber, and dimensioned so that free edge 53 thereof may be stretched readily around and over lip 48 of cup portion 38'' of the protective unit, thus providing a watertight container for the upper portion of the wood. It will also be apparent that either band 50 in the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 4 or hood 51 in the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 5 may be engaged and disengaged quite readily from club head securing or enveloping position, and that each is considerably easier to manipulate than conventional "gloves" as they are

used in common practice to envelope the head portion of a wood.

Fig. 6 presents a modified form of means for maintaining each of a plurality of protective units 37 in separated and relatively fixed position with respect to each other in a manner so that units so assembled are readily insertable in and maintained in position with respect to the central pocket portion 32 of a golf bag (see Fig. 1), which separating or spacing means comprises a plurality of recessed block connectors 55, one of which is shown in detached plan view in Fig. 7. Each of said recessed block connectors consists of a central block 56 provided with end recesses 57 and 58 of generally semi-cylindrical configuration, and two end blocks 59 and 60, also respectively provided with recessed generally semi-cylindrical surfaces 61 and 62, together with clamping elements such as bolts 63 and nuts 64, all arranged in a manner so that a given pair of tube portions 39 of protective units 37 can be clamped together in the manner indicated in Fig. 6 with a pair of recessed surfaces, say 57 and 61, clamping one tube portion 39 while another pair of recessed surfaces, say 58 and 62, clamp another tube portion 39. As shown in Fig. 6, successive arrangement of such recessed connector blocks can be used to develop the spacing of all of the wood protective units 37 with respect to each other, such as the four thereof shown in Fig. 6. Such recessed connector blocks 55 thereby function for this purpose in a manner similar to U-bolts 41 in the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 1. Obviously, a single recessed connector block assembly 55 can incorporate two or more central blocks 56 in a manner so that a given recessed connector block assembly is provided with more than two pairs of recessed, semi-cylindrical clamping surfaces, as desired. In other words, a slightly modified form of the combination illustrated in Fig. 6 is accordingly designed to clamp four protective units together and involves a recessed block connector means having three central blocks 56, two end blocks 59 and 60, with the bolts 63 of the clamping elements extending through all of such blocks. However, the form of the said connector blocks shown in Fig. 7 has proven quite advantageous in that by use thereof a given assembly of protective units, say two, is readily expanded to a three-unit or a four-unit assembly merely by addition of the appropriate number of connector blocks and additional protective units, should the number of woods in a set of clubs be increased at a later time.

Fig. 8 presents a view in side elevation of a modified form of the present invention, with the associated bag shown in cross-section. In this form of the invention, the recessed connector unit 71 is constructed from an end-recessed central block 72 and end-recessed end blocks 73 and 74, all of which respectively correspond in general configuration to elements 56, 59, and 60 connector unit illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7, except that central block 72 is relatively longer than central block 56 in order to provide the dimensional separation between tube portions 39 of protective units 37 necessary to accomplish the wedging action of tubular portions 39 with respect to bag 70, the resulting pressure points therebetween being indicated at 75. It will be noted that in this form of the invention not only are the cup portions 38 of protective units 37 relatively separated and maintained in generally fixed position with respect to each other in order to accomplish the separating and protective functions according to the present invention with respect to clubs received thereby, but such protective units 37 are also functionally related to the bag 70 so as to be forcibly positioned in and retained by the sides of bag 70. Thus in use and for practical purposes the protective units 37 become a portion of the bag 70 itself.

Fig. 9 presents in partial side view a modified form of protective unit 37''', wherein cup portion 38 is identical with that shown in the forms of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 through 6. However, tubular portion 39', rather than being formed from rolled waterproof paper tubing, is formed from transparent plastic extruded tubular stock. It will be apparent that insofar as separation and protection of shaft 47 of club 44 is concerned, transparent tubular portion 39' of protective unit 37''' is as effective tubular portion 39 of the earlier discussed forms of the invention, and that such transparent form of tubular portion 39' provides the further advantage that a reduction in the apparent bulkiness of a plurality of such protective units when assembled is thereby accomplished.

Fig. 10 presents in enlarged perspective partial view a further form of protective unit 80, constructed according to the present invention, for accommodating an iron of a set of clubs, such construction consisting of a cup portion 81 presenting an interior surface 82 in which an iron 83 is nested readily, the construction of such protective unit 80 further comprising a tubular portion 84 surrounding and protecting shaft 85 of said iron 83. Such protective unit 80 is designed for arrangement in plurality and for alternative or conjunctive use with wood protective units such as presented in Fig. 1, for example, as will be more fully apparent from the following discussion of the typical form of the invention presented in Fig. 11.

Fig. 11 presents in perspective partial view golf bag 30 equipped with wood protective units 37, constructed in the manner presented in Fig. 1, said bag 30 being also equipped with iron protective units 80, such as shown individually in Fig. 10, the tube portion 39 of each wood protective unit 37 being clamped to the bag 30 in the central pocket 32 thereof by clamping elements such as U-bolts and associated nuts, certain of such being indicated at 41 and 42. Similarly, each of iron protective units 80 is arranged in a side pocket compartment 31 of bag 30 and tube portion 84 thereof clamped therein by clamping elements such as U-bolts and nuts, certain of the latter being indicated at 42. In the form of the invention in Fig. 11, another row of iron protective units 80 can be similarly arranged and fixedly positioned in the remote side pocket 31 and thereby provide a complete set of iron protective units, it being understood that a complete set of golf clubs normally consists of four woods and nine or ten irons, as above indicated. However, such second row of iron protective units 80 has been omitted from the perspective view presented in Fig. 11, for the sake of clarity and simplicity of illustration.

It will be readily evident from the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 11 that individual separation, protection, and relatively fixed relation of all of the woods and irons with respect to each other are provided by the assemblage of club protective units 37 and 80, and that the head portions as well as the shanks and shafts of all of the clubs of a set contained therein are fully protected and at no time during use would normally contact another club of the set. It will be further apparent from the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 11 that wide flexibility in arangement of a given number of wood protective units 37 with a given number of iron protective units 80 in a golf bag of any configuration may be readily and flexibly varied to conform to any bag construction presented, since both the wood protective units 37 and iron protective units 80 are each essentially individual in function with respect to the associated club and can be arranged readily in any desired particular pattern in a bag by U-bolts or other appropriate clamping means, as desired.

Figs. 12, 13, and 14 present partial perspective, transverse-vertical, and longitudinal-vertical cross-sectional views of a modified form of wood protective unit assembly 100 of integral construction, formed as by molding a block 101 of preferably resilient, flexible, rubber or plas-

tice material, individualized concave wood head receiving surfaces or cups **102** being provided in said block **101** along with vertically arranged passageways **103** dimensioned to surround the shanks of the woods in spaced relation therefrom when the same are inserted in the protective unit assembly **100**. Such wood protective unit assembly **100** is dimensioned in the lower portion thereof to be inserted in a central pocket **32** of bag **30** and attached thereto as by one or more bolts **104** clamping the sides of central compartment **32** of bag **30** against block **101** by means of nuts **105** (see Fig. 13). The lower portion of each of passages **103** is dimensioned to receive shaft-protecting tubes **39**, as shown in Figs. 13 and 14. However, since the construction of molded block **101** is such as to provide generally adequate protection for the head and shank portions of each wood, and since such portions of the woods are those normally most susceptible of marring and other surface deterioration in use, it will be evident that the protective unit presented in this form of the invention may consist of molded block **101** and that use of shaft-protecting tubes **39** therewith, although advantageous, is not essential. Thus, molded block **101** presents a simple unitary attachment which can be attached readily to golf bags of conventional construction, and which of itself provides a nesting or protective cup portion for each of the woods of a set of clubs and further provides protection for the windings and shanks thereof so that the same are not marred or damaged by contact with the blades of the irons carried in the side pockets of the bag.

Fig. 15 presents a detached, perspective view of yet another form of unitary molded block construction forming a protective unit presenting nesting or protective cups accommodating both the woods and the irons of a set of golf clubs. Fig. 16 presents a cross-sectional view, substantially along line **16—16** of Fig. 15, showing such unitary molded unit and the associated bag and optionally associated shaft protective tube construction, while Fig. 17 presents a view of longitudinal, vertical cross-section of said form of unitary molded unit as is presented in Figs. 15 and 16, taken substantially along line **17—17** at Fig. 15, and also showing the associated bag and shaft-protecting tube elements of the assembled combination.

More specifically, in Fig. 15 the protective unit assembly is formed from a unitary block construction formed, as by molding or otherwise, from preferably flexible material such as rubber or plastic, said unitary block **120** being provided with a plurality of concave wood head nesting surfaces or cups **121** and a plurality of iron blade nesting recesses **122**. Wood nesting cups **121** each connect in the lower portion thereof with a wood shank protecting passageway **123**, and iron nesting recesses **122** are each connected with iron shank protecting passageways **124**, as shown in Figs. 16 and 17. Said protecting passageways **123** and **124** are respectively dimensioned to receive the upper portion of the shaft protective tube for each wood or iron as the case may be, a wood shaft protecting tube being indicated in Figs. 16 and 17 at **39**, and an iron shaft protecting tube being indicated in said Figs. 16 and 17 at **84**. Said protecting tubes **39** and **84** are readily retained in block **120** by suitable dimensioning of these passageways to provide a pressure fit and pressure retention of the tubes, and similarly block **120** is provided with a recessed convolute configuration along its under surface so that the central portion thereof including segments **125**, fit within and press against the walls of central portion **32** of bag **30** while segments **126** overlap and encircle said walls of said central portion **32** of bag **30**. The outer wall segment at the lower edge of said molded unit **120**, in the form of the invention presented in Figs. 15 through 17, is designated at **127** in Figs. 15 and 16 and is dimensioned to rest downwardly against the outer wall of side pocket portions **31** and bracing strip **36** therefor, thus providing supporting strength and a pleasing external contour to the overall assemblage of such molded unit **120** and bag **30**. It will be readily understood that by virtue of this design of the form of protective unit assembly presented in Figs. 15 through 17, the pressure fit of the protective unit assembly and particularly of segments **125** and **126** thereof with respect to the walls of central portion **32** of bag **30** serve to attach said assembly to the bag without necessity for additional fastening means, although such latter means may be readily employed as by passage of bolts (not shown) through the side walls of central bag compartment **32** and segments **125** of block **120**, as desired.

It will be seen that the central portion of molded unit **120**, i.e., that portion of said unit **120** which accommodates and protects the wood heads, is essentially the same construction as provided by the wood protecting assembly **100** in the form of the invention illustrated in Figs.12 through 14, and that the form of the invention in Figs. 15 through 17 in addition provides nesting or accommodating recess portions for the blades of the irons of the set of clubs as well.

From a consideration of the various forms of the invention presented in Figs. 1 through 5, 10, 12 through 14, and 15 through 17, it will be evident that cup portions **38** and **81** or blocks **101** and **120** can be fabricated from aerated rubber or plastic or otherwise provided with hollows or voids so as to be relatively light weight and/or contain embedded metal strengthening members, as desired.

Fig. 18 is a partial perspective view with various elements broken away, of a modified form of protective unit mounting whereby an extra protective unit can be attached exteriorly of an associated golf bag. Such form of the invention merely typically involves utilization of an individual protective unit, protective unit **80** presented in Fig. 10 being selected by way of example, it being apparent that such individual unit can as well be an individual protective unit **37** designed for reception of a wood. Said protective unit **80**, as shown in Fig. 18, is mounted externally of bag **30**, as by passage through strengthening strip **36** of said bag **30** of a U bolt **41** engaging the upper portion of tube **84** of said protective unit **80**, while the bottom edge of said tube **84** is retained against the base strengthening section **36** of bag **30** by a cup-shaped receptacle **130** having integral plates **131** and **132** by means of which said receptacle **130** is fastened to said strengthening band or portion **36**, as by bolts **133**. One or several of such externally mounted protective units **80** can be affixed to a given bag whether or not said bag involves an assemblage of individual protective units of the form presented in Figs. 1 and 11, for example, or a unitary protective unit assembly of the type presented in Figs. 12 or 15, for example, or whether no other club protective assemblage is utilized in said bag. Thus, a simple and efficient means is presented of enlarging the capacity of a given golf bag and providing for the separation and protection of an additional club or clubs without impeding access to or occasioning any possibility of damage to the other clubs of the set.

Fig. 19 presents in detached view a typical form of a U clamp suitable as retaining means of the forms of the illustration in Figs. 1, 11 and 18, which, as will be apparent, is conventional per se and involves a return bend bolt portion **41**, nuts **42** and washers **140**, the latter being utilized as desired.

Similarly, Fig. 20 presents a detached perspective view of the cup-shaped receptacle **130** employed in the form of the invention shown in Fig. 18 to mount the lower portion of tube **84** against strengthening band **36** at the lower edge of bag **30**.

Fig. 21 presents in partial perspective view a variation in the form of central portion of a unitary wood protective unit assembly, of the type presented in Figs. 12 and 15, for example, wherein block **142** having wood

protective cup portions 143 formed therein is provided with a hinged weather cover 144 of appropriate configuration to envelope all of the wood heads when nested in said protective cup portions 143. Hinged cover 144 can be advantageously hinged to a hinge plate 145 fastened to exterior surface 146 of block 142 as by bolt and nut retaining means 147, the bolt heads of retaining means 147 being suitably recessed in the concave surface of cup portions 143 to prevent contact thereof with the wood heads. The hinge means alternatively can be molded integrally in block 142 in a manner known per se. Block 142 is also advantageously provided with a free edge lip portion 148 cooperating with a raised ledge portion 149 on block 142 to releasably retain said hinge cover 144 in closed position thereon, as shown in partial dotted line on said Fig. 22 at 148'. By such mode of construction, the retaining means thus formed can be readily engaged and disengaged by virtue of the resilient nature of raised ledge portion 149 of the block 142 and by virtue of the spring-like action inherently resulting from the curved cross-sectional configuration of hinge cover 144.

Said hinged cover 144 is preferably formed from sheet metal, such as aluminum, but it will be apparent that the same can be of molded rubber or like resilient construction as well. Further, the hinge means can be designed with removable hinge pins or the like to render the cover 144 detachable from block 142, in a manner known per se.

Turning to a consideration of yet another form of the present invention, as presented in top view in Fig. 23 and elevation with various portions broken away in Fig. 24, such further modified construction provides a multiple wood and iron protective unit assembly in integral form, designed to be mounted in the open portion of a golf bag of essentially cylindrical configuration. More specifically, associated with bag 150 of essentially cylindrical construction as indicated, is a molded unitary protective unit assembly 151 designed to present three levels of club protective units, a plurality of four wood protecting cups 152 being arranged in an arcuate row at level 153, a plurality of five iron protective cups 154 being arranged in a straight row at level 155, and a plurality of four iron protective cups 156 being arranged in an arcuate row at level 157. Each of wood protective cups 152 is connected with a wood shank protecting passageway 158, each of iron protective cups 154 is connected with a shank protecting passageway 159, and each of iron protective cups 156 is connected with a shank protecting passageway 160. Each of passageways 158, 159, and 160 is suitably recessed to receive respective shaft protecting tubes 161, 162, and 163 in pressure engagement. In the lower portion of bag 150, there is optionally provided stepped ledge portions 164 and 165 serving to close and support the lower ends of tubes 162 and 163, while wood shaft protective tubes 161 extend entirely to the bottom 166 of said bag 150, such arrangement of tubes and ledge portions 164 and 165 all being designed to arrange the clubs accommodated by the protective units and bag in the most compact manner.

The lower portion of block 151, in the form of the invention presented in Figs. 23 and 24, is recessed at its outer edge to fit within the upper portions of outer wall 167 of bag 150 and rest on strengthening band 168 thereof, and as such provides a pressure attachment of said block 158 to render said block 158 and the bag 150 unitary in use.

The present invention in its various forms is also quite flexible in color schemes of an assemblage or arrangement of units with a golf bag. Thus any of units 37 and 80, or any of molded blocks 101, 120, 142, and 151 can be of a color or colors identical, harmonizing or contrasting with one or more colors of the golf bag or the clothing of the user. Different colors, each associated with a different club protective unit to identify the type or number of the club allocated thereto, are also quite practical. Thus, all or part of each protective unit 37 in Fig. 1 can be a different color—to identify the wood accommodated in each, for example.

While the golf clubs associated with the various forms of typical protective units illustrated have been shown only in Figs. 3, 9, 10 and 16, it will of course also be understood that such clubs themselves are conventional per se and have been omitted from the other views of these forms of the invention for the sake of clarity and simplicity of illustration.

Other forms and modifications of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art, within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf club protective unit attachable to a golf bag and designed to receive a golf club inserted shaft first therein, said unit comprising a recessed head portion having interior surfaces dimensioned to receive and snugly contact at least a major portion of the club head surface facing the said recessed head portion to restrain the same against lateral movement while being carried, said recessed head portion being provided with a club head retaining means attached to said head portion, said club head retaining means comprising an elastic cover attached along a segment thereof to an edge of said head portion and dimensioned so that said elastic cover is readily stretchable around and over the opposed edge of said head portion, thus providing a water resistant envelope for covering the upper portion of a golf club and retaining the same in said protective unit.

2. A protective unit according to claim 1, wherein said recessed head portion has extending therefrom an exteriorly smooth tubular portion dimensioned to surround the shaft of a golf club when the head is received by said recessed head portion.

3. A protective unit according to claim 2, wherein said tubular portion is formed of wound sheet material.

4. A protective unit according to claim 3, wherein said tubular portion is formed of rolled waterproof paper.

5. A protective unit according to claim 1, in combination with a golf bag having side walls, a closed bottom and an open end into which golf clubs are insertable shaft first, such protective unit being detachably mounted in fixed position with respect to said bag.

6. A protective unit according to claim 2, in combination with a golf bag, such protective unit being detachably mounted in fixed relation with respect to said bag by means encircling said tubular portion.

7. The combination according to claim 6, wherein said mounting means comprises a U-bolt encircling said tubular portion and pressing the same against a side wall of the golf bag.

8. The combination according to claim 5, wherein said tubular portion rests against the closed bottom of said golf bag.

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