GOLF PUTTING PRACTICE DEVICE AND PUTTING AID

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ABSTRACT

A golf hole simulator includes a central portion with a pair of similar arm portions extending therefrom to form an open arcuate wall which simulates the cup of the hole. The wall formed by the arm and central portions is shaped so that when a ball is putted thereagainst at the right position and at the right speed, it will be retained in the simulated "hole", while putts made at too high a speed or striking the wall at the wrong position will not be retained. A slope indicator is provided to indicate the slope of the surface on which the device is placed for indoor or outdoor use. A gage is provided to be utilized in conjunction with the slope indicator to set the device at an angulated position with respect to the location of the ball to be putted, this position being indicative of the proper putting line to be used to compensate for the measured slope.

12 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures
This invention relates to a golf putting practice device and more particularly to such a device which simulates the conditions encountered in an actual putting situation and which includes means for measuring the slope of the surface on which the device is located and indicating the proper putting line needed to compensate for such slope.

Numerous putting practice devices have been introduced to help golfers develop their putting skills. In order to properly simulate the actual conditions encountered on a putting green, such devices should not only indicate the direction of the ball, but also should indicate to the user when the speed of the putt is too great. A further factor which must be considered and which takes particular skill and experience to handle, is the slope of the green.

Certain golf putting practice devices involving golf cup simulators have been developed in the prior art which indicate to the golfer when the ball is hit too hard or off the proper putting line. Such prior art devices, however, do not provide any special training aids incorporated therein for handling sloped conditions. Further, many of the prior art devices are somewhat more complicated and costly in their construction than to be desired, and involve moving parts which are subject to breakage.

The device of the invention provides simply and effectively means for practice putting in which training not only to achieve the proper putting line and the proper speed of putting is afforded, but also as to handling slopes in the putting green. Further, the device of this invention is of a simple and economical fabrication which is not subject to breakage even with rough handling. The device of this invention also is relatively lightweight and compact so that it can easily be carried in one's pocket or golf bag for use away from home, on putting greens, etc.

It is therefore the principal object of this invention to provide an improved golf putting practice device and putting aid which affords training in the hitting of the ball at the proper speed and on the proper line for both level and sloped conditions with or without a putting pole.

It is another object of this invention to facilitate the training of golfers in putting, in both the level and sloped conditions. It is still another object of this invention to provide an improved putting device of simple, economical and highly rugged construction.

Other objects of this invention will become apparent as the description proceeds in connection with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of one embodiment of the device of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an embodiment of FIG. 1, and

FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the use of the embodiment of FIG. 1 on a slope.

Briefly described, the device of the invention comprises a main body member which includes a central portion and a pair of arm portions which extend from the central portion. The arm and central portions form an arcuate wall which has an arc radius substantially equal to that of a typical golf hole. The sides of the wall are shaped such that a ball striking the wall at the proper speed and at the proper position thereon will end up proximately thereto, while a ball striking at an improper position and at improper speed will either pass over the wall or be deflected away therefrom. The device further includes a slope indicator for indicating the slope of the medium on which the device is supported. An indexor is further provided which enables the adjustment of the angular position of the device relative to the golfer so as to simulate the measured slope condition.

Referring now to the figures, one embodiment of the device of the invention is illustrated. The device of the invention includes a main body 11 which may be of unitary construction and fabricated out of a material such as cast aluminum, this main body having a central portion 12 with a pair of arm portions 13 and 14 which extend therefrom. An arcuate wall 15, which extends between the central and arm portions, provides a surface towards which the golf ball is directed. Arms 13 and 14 have top edge portions 13a and 14a which have a flattened slope configuration so that when the ball strikes these edges, it will tend to ride along these flat portions and over the device, simulating the pasting of the ball over the edge of the hole that would occur in actual putting conditions. Arms 13 and 14 also have sloped inner edge portions 13b and 14b which tend to cause the ball to follow a "half rimming" path over the indented path 12b of the central portion 12 of the device, thus simulating the half rimming which would occur under actual putting conditions.

Mounted behind indented portion 12b is a transparent casing 18 which has a ball member 19 freely contained therein. The surface on which ball member 19 rides in container 18 is aligned with the bottom surface of the device so that the ball member indicates a level condition for the support medium when the ball is aligned (as indicated in FIG. 1) with the central one of indicator markings 21.

Pivotedly mounted on main body member 11 by means of rivet 26 is slope indexor 25 which has a plurality of larger and smaller indicator holes 27a and 27b respectively formed therein which, as to be noted in connection with FIG. 3, correspond to respective longer and shorter ones of indicator markings 21. Central portion 12 further has a pointer 12c which is utilized as to be explained further on in the specification, to set the device for a measured slope condition.

The base portion of main body member 11 has an undercut section 30 which accommodates indexor 25 with the portions of the base under arm portions 13 and 14 providing a flat support for the device, with the indexor not interfering with such support. Main body member 11 further has a pair of staking holes 32 formed therein to permit the staking of the device to the ground with tees or the like.

Referring now to FIG. 2, the utilization of the device of the invention, in putting on a level surface is illustrated. It is to be noted that the device of the invention may be utilized either indoors on a carpet, in one's back yard, on a putting green, or on an actual golf course green. As can be seen, the golf ball 35 is lined up with the center wall 15. Slope indicator 19 is aligned with the central one of indicator markings 21, thus indicating a level condition, therefore no slope adjustment need be made and pointer 12c is positioned opposite the central one of apertures 27a. The device may be staked in position by means of tees 40. As already noted, with proper putting, the ball will come to rest between arms 13 and 14. Where the ball is struck too hard it will go over wall 15 or will come back therefrom. Also, where the ball strikes the wall away from a 90 degree corner of the device thereof, it will tend to "full rim" or "half rim" and come out of the "hole" as would be the case in normal putting.

Referring now to FIG. 3 the use of the device in putting on a slope is indicated. As can be seen here, the ball indicator 19 has moved to a position opposite the first large indicator marking to the left of the center indicator marking. To simulate the slope condition, member 11 is rotated counter clockwise while indexor 25 is held in the original position until pointer 12c is opposite the aperture 27a corresponding to the indicator marking 21 which ball member 19 appears opposite. The ball 35, as can be seen now, is angled away from the center of wall 15. The golfer will thus observe the offset that he must utilize to compensate for the slope to enable the ball to roll into the hole. It is to be noted that if so desired the device can be utilized on a putting green to measure the slope as a putting aid in putting into a regular golf hole.

The device of this invention thus provides a simple and economical and highly effective device for perfecting putting skills both as to the direction and speed of putting as well as providing the necessary compensation for putting on a slope.

While the device of this invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is to be clearly understood that this is intended by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and scope of this invention being limited only by the terms of the following claims.
I claim:
1. A golf putting device comprising:
a main body member having a central portion and a pair of
arm portions extending from said central portion, said
central and arm portions forming an arcuate wall which
simulates a golf hole, and
slope indicating means mounted on said main body member
for indicating the slope of the support medium on which
said member is resting.
2. The device of claim 1 and further including indexer
means for angularly positioning said main body member rela-
tive to a predetermined putting position in accordance with
the reading on said slope indicating means.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein said indexer means com-
pri ses a flat plate member pivotally supported on said main
body member, the central portion of said main body member
having a pointer for indicating the pivotal position of said in-
dexer means relative to said main body member.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein said indexer means has in-
dicia thereon for setting the pivotal position.
5. The device of claim 2 wherein the main body member has
an undercut portion in which said indexer means is positioned.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein said slope indicating
means comprises a transparent container member and a ball
member freely supported within said container member for
movement along a predetermined path, said container
member being mounted on the central portion of said main
body member, and fixed indicator markings positioned in
spaced relationship on said central portion opposite said con-
tainer means along the path of said ball member.
7. The device of claim 6 and further including clip means
for retaining the container member on said main body member.
8. The device of claim 1 wherein said arm means has sloped
portions at the ends thereof to provide a riding surface for a
golf ball striking thereagainst.
9. The device of claim 1 wherein said central portion is in-
dented so that the wall formed thereby is of a substantially
lower height than the wall formed by the arm portions so as to
facilitate the passage of a golf ball over the central portion
when the ball is stroked at greater than a predetermined
speed.
10. The device of claim 1 wherein the arcuate wall is sub-
stantially semi-circular.
11. A device for use in practice putting golf balls from a
predetermined position relative thereto comprising:
a main body member including a central portion and a pair
of arm portions extending from opposite sides of the cen-
tral portion, the central and arm portions forming a sub-
stantially semicircular wall which simulates a golf hole,
the central portion being vertically indented so the wall
section formed thereby is substantially lower than the
wall sections of said arm portions,
slope indicator means mounted in said central portion for
indicating the slope of the support medium on which the
main body member is resting, and
indexer means pivotally mounted on the main body member
for use in angularly positioning the main body member
relative to said predetermined position in accordance
with the indication on said slope indicator means.
12. The device of claim 11 wherein said slope indicator
means comprises a transparent container defining a predeter-
mined linear path, a ball member retained in said container for
motion along said path and fixed markings on said central por-
tion positioned in spaced relationship to each other adjacent
to said container along said path.

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