Nov. 14, 1950 G. W. HERMAN 2,529,771

GOLF PRACTICE TEE

Filed Feb. 28, 1949

Fig. 1.

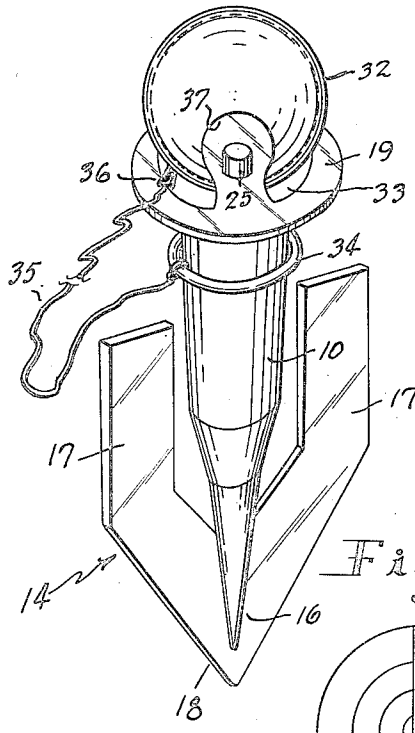


Fig. 2.

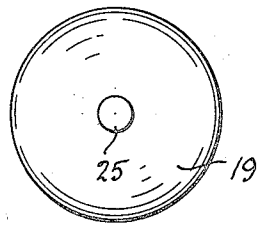


Fig. 3.

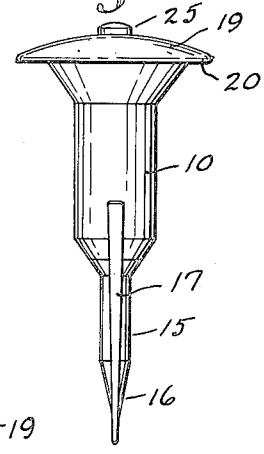


Fig. 4.

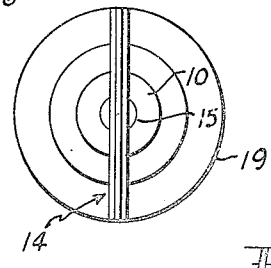


Fig. 5.

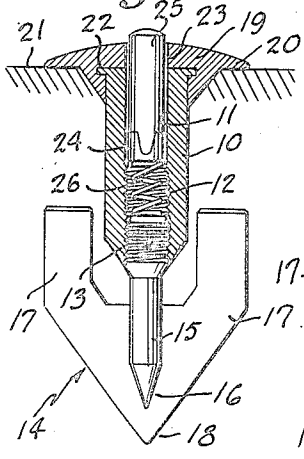


Fig. 6.

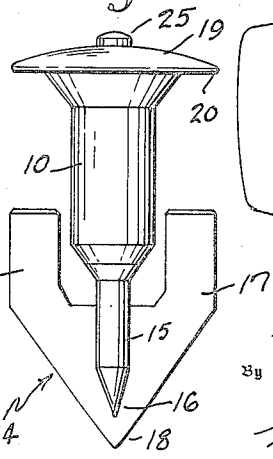
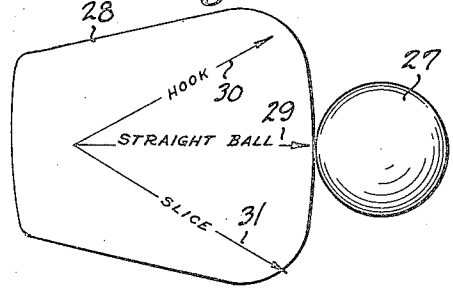


Fig. 7.



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GOLF PRACTICE TEE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 273—35)

1

This invention relates to a golf practice tee, and has for an object to provide a suitable and effective device for use in practicing the swing of the clubs in the game of golf, and will indicate whether the stroke is properly executed or whether it is out of line to one side or the other of the proper direction for driving the ball.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which will assist golfers to improve and straighten out their tee shots, and one which may be used in a relatively small area without requiring the use of a bona fide golf ball.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, I have devised the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification. It is, however, to be understood the invention is not limited to the specific details of construction and arrangement shown, but may embody various changes and modifications within the scope of the invention.

In this drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device showing a hollow soft rubber practice ball in place thereon;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation;

Fig. 4 is a bottom view;

Fig. 5 is a partial vertical section and partial side elevation;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation taken at right angles to Fig. 3, and

Fig. 7 is a diagrammatical view showing how the device will indicate whether a stroke is properly directed or executed.

The device comprises a body member 10 preferably in the form of a tubular member, with a longitudinal passage 11 opening through its opposite ends, this passage being internally threaded at its lower end portion 12 to receive the externally threaded stud 13 of a spade member 14 comprising a central stem 15 pointed at its lower end 16, on which stem is mounted the blade comprising one or more wings 17, also pointed at its lower end 18 so that it may be readily driven into the ground or sod. Secured to the upper end of the body 10 is a rounded cap or head 19. This cap is preferably of rubber vulcanized to sufficient stiffness to be able to withstand the blows of the golf club, but sufficiently yieldable and resilient so as not to injure the head of the club, and it has an outer flange 20 adapted to rest on the top of the turf or ground 21. It may be secured to the body 10 by any suitable means, but in the form shown the body has a flange 22 at its upper end em-

2

bedded in a socket in the cap. This cap has an opening 23 through it in alignment with the passage 11 in the body and in this passage is a slidable cupped carrier or follower 24 for a marking element 25 which may be a colored wax or chalk crayon or other marking medium, and between the follower 24 and the top of the stud 13 is a coil spring 26 to yieldingly support the crayon or marker.

In use, the lower portion of the device including the spade 14 is pushed into the ground so that the rubber top or cap 19 rests on top of the surface 21 of the ground, as shown in Fig. 5. The wings 17 keep the stem 15 from turning and also provide lateral support for the tee, so that by turning the rubber head or cap 19 the body 10 may be turned and through the action of the threaded connection 13 the wings 17 may be shifted up and down, and this acting through the spring 26 adjusts the height of the marking crayon 25 so as to have just the upper end of the crayon project a short distance above the top of the cap 19 for the marking operation on the golf club, and also to project more of the crayon as it wears down. The crayon will make a mark on the under side of the club head as it passes over the top of the tee in making a stroke, and the position or inclination of this line will indicate whether it is a good straight stroke or whether it is off, such, for example, as a slice or hook. Practice swings are made over the device until the marker or crayon comes in contact with the bottom of the club head. Scribed lines made by this marker on the bottom of the club head indicate the direction of the ball. Thus, in Fig. 7, with the ball indicated at 27 and the club head outlined at 28, a straight hit would be indicated by the line 29, while a hook would be indicated by an inclined line 30 and a slice by an inclined line 31, on the under face of the club head. Practice swings are performed until the golfer can obtain a straight line at right angles to the club face. It is not necessary to use the device on a golf course, as it may be used in the golfer's back yard or on the lawn. After the crayon has been worn down it may be readily renewed and properly adjusted by rotating the head or cap 19. A gummed label may be placed on the bottom of the club head with lines painted or printed on it to indicate the lines 29, 30 and 31 is desired, and it would indicate to the golfer what type of stroke he made from the mark made on this label by the crayon.

If desired, a resilient imitative ball may be placed over the marker. Thus, as shown in Fig. 1,

this may be a hollow rubber ball **32** with a foot or pedestal **33** resting on the cap or head **19** to seat over the top of the crayon **25**. Such a pedestal would, for example, be used with a No. 1 wooden club, while no pedestal would be used for Nos. 2, 3 and 4 woods. To retain this ball, a metal or plastic ring **34** could be provided about the body **10** and attached to the ball by a good grade of line **35** fastened to the ball at **36**. The ball could be provided with a recess or opening **37** on the club face side so as to clear the end of the crayon **25** when the ball is hit by the club.

It will be evident from the above that this is a very simple and effective device for permitting a golfer to practice his strokes at home or in a small space, and will not only permit him to practice these strokes, but will indicate whether the stroke is properly executed; this is, whether it is straight on the ball as it should be or whether it is off or out of line, such, for example, as a hook or slice.

Having thus set forth the nature of my invention, I claim:

1. A golf practice tee comprising a body member provided with a longitudinal passage, a rounded cap secured to the upper end having an opening in alignment with said passage, a spade member including a lateral wing adapted to be forced into the ground, said spade member also including a stud threaded into the lower end of the body member for longitudinal adjustment therein, and a marking element mounted in the passage above said stud and supported by the stud for adjustment thereby to a position to project above the top of the cap for marking a golf club swung over the cap.

2. A golf practice tee comprising a tubular body member open at its opposite ends, a winged spade member including a stud having threaded connection with the lower end of said body and forceable into the ground, a resilient cap secured to the upper end of the body and provided with a flange to rest on the top of the ground, said cap being provided with an opening in its top wall, a marking crayon mounted in the body member and projecting at its upper end through the opening at the top of the cap, and means operable by relative turning movements between the body and spade members for adjusting the position of the crayon.

3. A golf practice tee comprising a tubular body member provided with a longitudinal passage open at its upper end, a winged spade member connected with said body and forceable into the ground, a resilient cap secured to the upper end of the body and provided with an opening in alignment with the passage in the body, a crayon mounted in said passage, and means for shifting the crayon to project above the top of the cap

at its upper end to mark a golf club head swung over the cap.

4. A golf practice tee comprising a tubular body member provided with a longitudinal passage open at its upper end, a winged spade member forceable into the ground, means connecting the spade member with the body for relative longitudinal adjustment by turning movement of the body, a cap secured to the upper end of the body and provided with a flange to rest on top of the ground, a marking means mounted in said passage and movable to a position with its upper end projecting above the cap to mark the head of a club swung over the cap, and means operated by movement of the spade member to adjust the position of the marking means.

5. A golf practice tee comprising a body member and a winged spade member connected therewith adapted to be forced into the ground, a resilient cap on the upper end of the body member, and a marking member projecting at its upper end above the top of the cap to mark the lower surface of a golf club swung over the cap.

6. A golf practice tee comprising a tubular body member forceable to an upright position in the ground, a resilient cap secured to the upper end of the body and provided with a flange to rest on the top of the ground to limit movement of the body into the ground, and a marking means mounted to project above the top of the cap to mark the lower face of a golf club swung over the cap.

7. A golf practice tee comprising a tubular body member, a winged spade member connected to the body member and adapted to be forced into the ground, a resilient cap secured to the upper end of the body and provided with a flange to rest on the surface of the ground, a marking crayon mounted to project at its upper end above the top of the cap to mark the lower surface of a golf club swung over the cap, a hollow rubber ball open at its lower side to seat on the cap over the end of the crayon, and a cord connecting the ball to the body.

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