

Jan. 26, 1932.

J. R. O'BRIEN

1,842,944

PRACTICE GOLF SPHERE

Filed Dec. 17, 1930

Fig. 1.

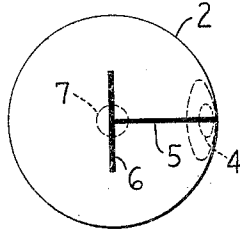


Fig. 2.

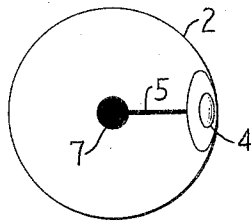
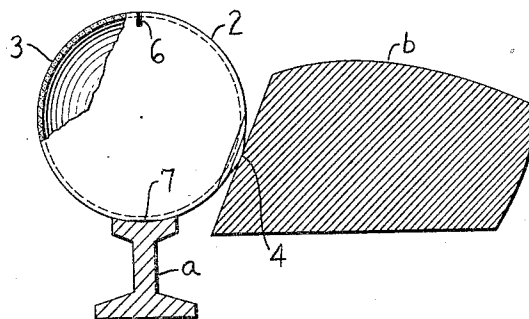


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR
John R. O'Brien
BY
J. H. Henderson
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN R. O'BRIEN, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

PRACTICE GOLF SPHERE

Application filed December 17, 1930. Serial No. 502,937.

The object of the invention is to provide a novel and inexpensive article adapted to be used in place of a golf-ball for practising driving. It consists of a sphere of the size of a golf-ball having a cap or detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is properly hit. In order that the sphere may be teed accurately, it has orientation marks so that when the ball is placed in accordance with these marks the cap or detonating organ will be in the precise position to be struck by a properly executed swing of a golf club. The article is especially suitable for use on lawns, or in interiors where golf-balls can not be driven. By making the sphere hollow and employing a composition for its wall which shatters, or better still practically disintegrates, under shock, little or no muss results from exploding the spheres.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan; and

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the practice golf sphere, partly broken away and in section, resting on a tee; the head of a club being indicated as if at the moment of striking the explosive cap.

The sphere 2 corresponds in size to a golf-ball, and is preferably hollow. Its wall 3 is fragile, without being too fragile for shipment and handling. A cap 4 of detonating composition is applied to one spot on the sphere, though obviously the detonating part of the device might be embedded or be contrived in a different manner.

A meridian line 5 intersecting a cross line 6 at right angles makes it easy to orient the ball on a tee *a* in such manner that the cap 4 will be presented in precise relation to a proper swing of the club. The head *b* of a club is shown in section in Fig. 3 merely for purpose of illustration. The intersection of the sight lines 5, 6 indicates the top, or north pole, of the sphere, and a spot 7 may be placed directly opposite to indicate the south pole, which is to rest on the tee.

It would be disadvantageous if the breaking of the sphere resulted in hard or sharp

fragments of considerable size, and as it is desirable to produce a minimum of litter I prefer to make the wall of the sphere of material which disintegrates quite readily. Various compositions may be employed, plaster of Paris and sand, preferably not sharp sand, being very suitable. An excess of sand is desirable though not necessary. Three parts of sand can be used to one part of plaster of Paris, with economy.

When the practice golf-ball sphere is properly placed and properly struck, the cap will be exploded, indicating that a good drive has been made. Whether the cap is exploded or not, the sphere is dispersed practically into particles.

I realize that various changes may be made in the article claimed herein, and while I have described the preferred embodiment of the invention in detail it will be understood that I do not wish to limit myself to this form of execution since other embodiments, realizing the advantages of the invention more or less fully, may be devised.

I claim:

1. An article for practice in driving comprising a sphere of the size of a golf-ball provided with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

2. An article for practice in driving comprising a sphere of the size of a golf-ball provided with indications for orienting the sphere and with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

3. An article for practice in driving comprising a sphere of the size of a golf-ball and of material to be shattered by shock, said sphere being provided with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

4. An article for practice in driving comprising a sphere of the size of a golf-ball and of material to be shattered by shock, said sphere being provided with indications for orienting the sphere and with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

5. An article for practice in driving com-

prising a shatterable hollow sphere of the size of a golf-ball provided with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

5 6. An article for practice in driving comprising a shatterable hollow sphere of the size of a golf-ball provided with indications for orienting the sphere and with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded
10 when the sphere is hit properly by the club.

7. An article for practice in driving comprising a hollow sphere of the size of a golf ball provided with a detonating charge so disposed as to be exploded when the sphere
15 is hit properly by the club, the wall of said ball being composed of material which is adapted to be substantially disintegrated by shock.

JOHN R. O'BRIEN.

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65