Jan. 13, 1970 F. L. SMITH 3,489,415

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

Filed June 28, 1968

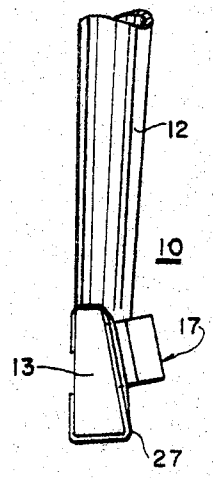


FIG. 2

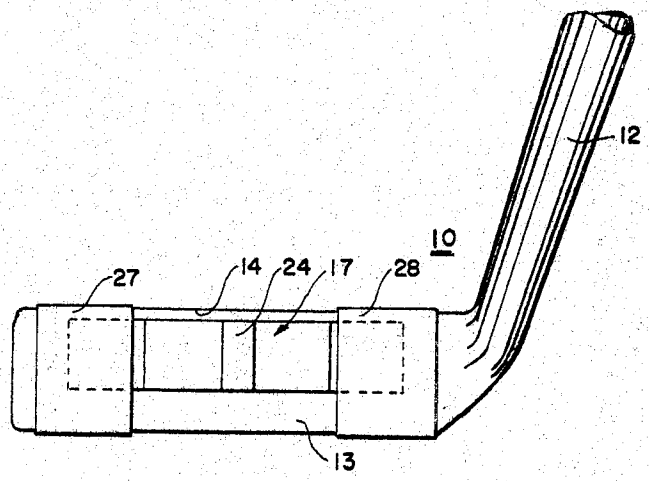


FIG. 1

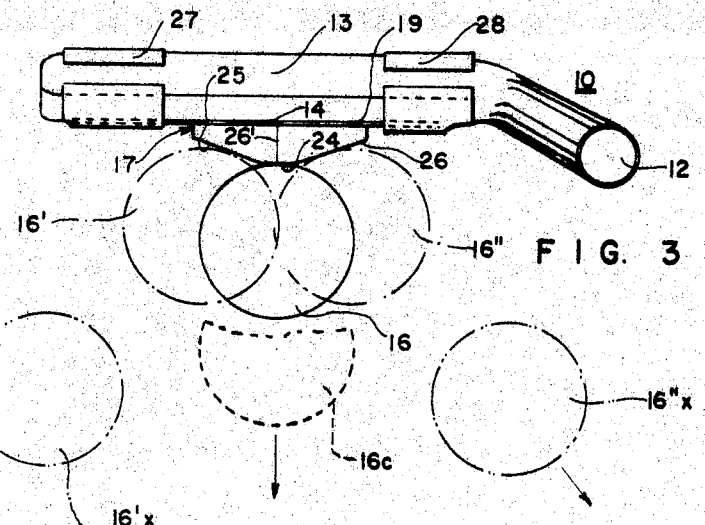


FIG. 3

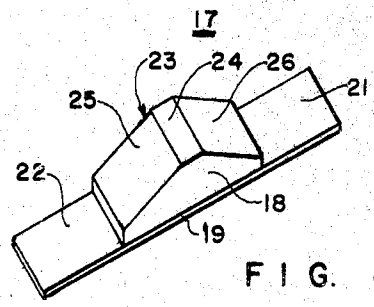


FIG. 4

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GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

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U.S. Cl. 273—186 2 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A practice attachment for a golf putter having a ball engaging face of substantially trapezoidal shape in section and including a base face portion and side face portions intersecting the base face portion at obtuse angles, there being wing portions extending from the attachment for engagement with strips of pressure sensitive tape to removably secure the attachment to the putting face removably with the base face portion parallel to the putting face.

This invention relates to game devices. More particularly, this invention relates to an attachment for a golf putter or the like for use in practice therewith.

An object of this invention is to provide an attachment for a conventional putter which provides a narrow area extending normally to the direction of swinging of the club for delivering a correct impact to a golf ball and other areas on opposite sides of the "correct" area which slope thereto so that if one of the other areas hits the golf ball, the ball is directed at a sharp angle to the correct direction.

Briefly, this invention provides a practice attachment for a golf putter which includes a body having a ball engaging portion of substantially trapezoidal shape and a backing portion attached to the body at the longer base thereof and having extensions extending in opposite directions therefrom. The extensions are used for mounting the practice attachment on the putting face of the putter. The shorter base of the trapezoid forms a "correct" hitting face which drives a golf ball on a true course. The sloping faces of the trapezoid impinge on or hit the golf ball if the putting swing is incorrect to drive the golf ball on a course sharply angled away from the correct course so that it will be immediately apparent if the putter swing is incorrect.

The above and other objects and features of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains from the following detailed description and the drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in front elevation of the head portion of a golf putter having a practice attachment constructed in accordance with an embodiment of this invention attached thereto;

FIG. 2 is a view in end elevation of the head portion and practice attachment illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the head portion and of the practice attachment shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a golf ball being shown in association therewith in correct putting relation in full lines, in positions for improper engagement by the practice attachment in dot-dash lines, the position of the golf ball as it advances away from the attachment after being hit in correct putting relation being shown in dashed lines, the position of the ball as it advances away from the attachment after improper

engagement being shown in double-dot-dash lines; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the practice attachment removed from the putter.

In the following detailed description and the drawing, like reference characters indicate like parts.

In FIGS. 1–3 inclusive is shown the lower portion of a golf putter **10** having a shank **12**, only a portion of which is shown, and a head **13**. One face **14** of the putter normally is used to hit or putt a golf ball **16** therewith. For practice purposes, a practice attachment **17** is attached to the putter overlying the putting face. As shown in FIG. 4, the attachment **17** includes a body **18** and a backing member **19**, which can be attached to the body by soldering, brazing or the like.

The backing member **19** can be a rectangular metal strip or plate having end portions or wings **21** and **22** extending on opposite sides of the body **18**. The body has an exposed ball engaging face of generally trapezoidal shape in section having a narrow base or "correct" ball engaging base face portion **24** and sloping side face portions **25** and **26** on opposite sides of the "correct" face portion, the side face portions intersecting the base face portion at obtuse angles thereto. A line **26'** (FIG. 3) can be provided on an upper face of the body perpendicular to the base face portion to indicate the correct point of impact.

The practice attachment **17** is attached to the putter with the backing member **19** in face-to-face engagement with the putting face **14** as shown in FIG. 3. The attachment can be held in place by strips **27** and **28** of pressure sensitive tape which overlay the wings **21** and **22** and are wrapped around end portions of the head **13** of the putter.

Operation of the practice attachment will be apparent from FIG. 3. If the putter is swung correctly and the "correct" face **24** engages the ball **16**, the ball is advanced in a true direction as indicated at **16***c* in dashed lines. If, on the other hand, the club is swung in such a manner that the sloping face **25** engages the ball **16'** (shown in dot-dash lines), the ball is directed at a sharp angle to the true direction as indicated at **16'***x* (shown in double-dot-dash lines). Similarly, if the club is swung in such a manner that the sloping face **26** engages the ball **16''** (shown in dot-dash lines), the ball is directed at an oppositely disposed sharp angle to the true direction as indicated at **16''***x* (shown in double-dot-dash lines).

For ordinary play, the practice attachment **17** and the pressure sensitive strips **27** and **28** are removed from the putter, and the putter can be used in the usual fashion. For practice, the attachment is mounted on the putter and makes it possible immediately to see if the putter is swung in such a manner that it improperly hits the ball.

The practice attachment illustrated in the drawing and described above is subject to structural modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a golf putter, a practice device positioned over the ball striking face of said putter, said device comprising a body having a ball engaging face of substantially trapezoidal shape in section and including a base face portion and side face portions in-

tersecting the base face portion at obtuse angles, and means removably attaching the body to the ball striking face of the putter with said base portion parallel to the putter striking face, said means removably attaching the body to the striking face including a flat backing member attached to the body parallel to said base face portion, and wing portions on said backing member extending in opposite directions from the body.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein strips of pressure sensitive material overlay the wing portions and secure the device to the putter striking face.

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GEORGE J. MARLO, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

273—163, 171, 194