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J. F. JEWETT

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GOLF TEEING DEVICE

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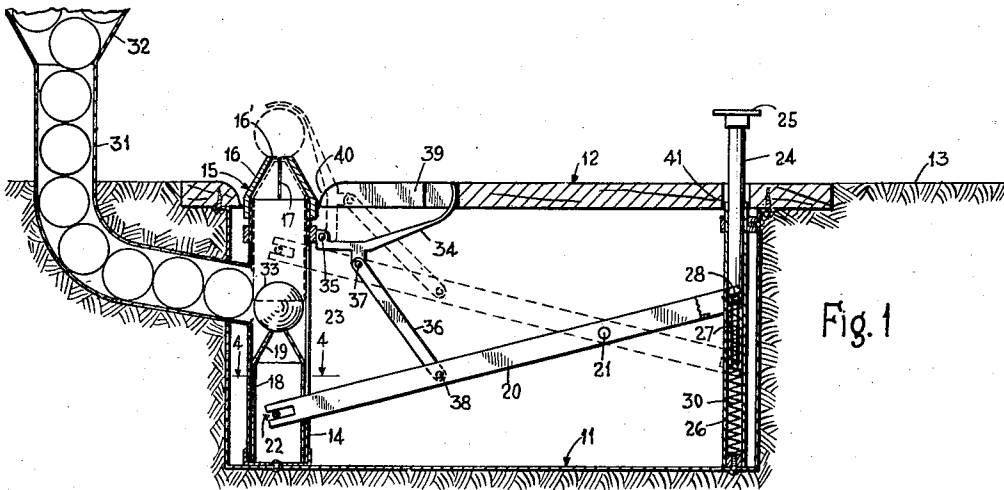


Fig. 1

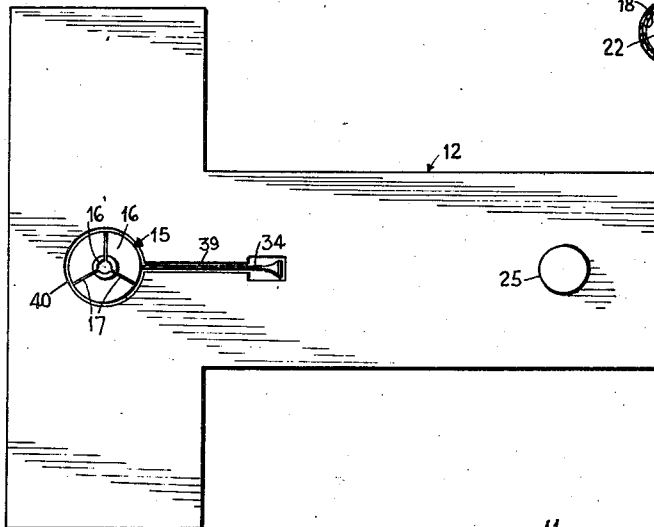


Fig. 3

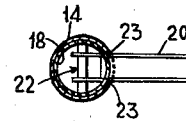


Fig. 4.

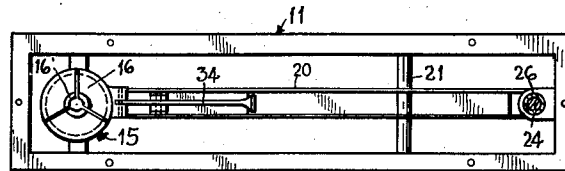


Fig. 2

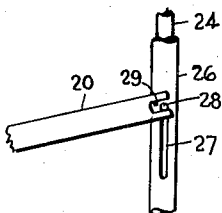


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.

Josephine F. Jewett

BY

Wm. L. Gann
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GOLF TEEING DEVICE

Josephine Françoise Jewett, Los Angeles, Calif.,
 assignor of two-thirds to D. Jackson Young,
 North Hollywood, Calif., and Robert C. Stevens,
 West Los Angeles, Calif., jointly

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9 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

This invention relates to golfing and deals with a device for teeing golf balls.

The invention to be hereinafter described has been developed for use in driving golf balls and will find usefulness in certain types of driving ranges for practising purposes. In ranges of this nature, it is customary for a person to buy a bucket of balls and then to drive the balls one after another from the same tee. The present practice is to roll the balls on the ground and then to tee them one at a time for each shot. Under these conditions the balls may become wet and dirty and the driver spends most of his time teeing up the balls and cleaning his hands. My invention has been designed and developed to mechanically tee the ball and at the same time keep the balls dry and clean. By using my device, the person need not touch the ball; consequently, he gets no dirt or moisture on his hands, with the result that his grasp on the club is not impaired, he is not continually bending over, and the ball is clean and dry for driving.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a foot operated device that will feed and mount golf balls upon a fixed tee. Another object is to provide a device of the above character that will feed a predetermined number of balls. A further object is to provide a golf ball tee of elastic material wherein the golf ball is extruded through the tee.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent as the description proceeds in conjunction with the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal cross section of my device showing the operating parts;

Figure 2 is a top view of my device with the cover board removed;

Figure 3 is a plan view showing the cover board in place;

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary elevation showing the means for connecting the foot operated pedal to the device.

Briefly stated, my invention amounts to a device having an elastic member through which the balls are extruded and upon which the balls come to rest, together with correlated mechanism for automatically extruding the balls and holding them upon the elastic member. The elastic member in effect becomes a tee and is so arranged that the ball is supported in a perfect position for a shot. In addition, the device includes an arrangement whereby a predetermined number, or any number, of balls may be continually fed to the apparatus.

Referring to the drawing, it will be seen that my device comprises a box-like casing generally designated 11, which is adapted to be set into the ground and covered with a cover board 12,

arranged to come substantially flush with the surface of the ground 13. The board may be of any shape desired or found useful and in practice I recommend that a board of the shape shown in Figure 3 be used. The box may be of any material suitable for the purpose and may be of any construction desired. At one end of the box 11, I mount an upright hollow cylinder 14, which carries at its upper end an elastic member generally designated 15. The elastic member is mounted upon the cylinder 14 in any suitable manner which will insure against it being forced from the end of the cylinder. It will be noted that the elastic member 15 has a tapered upwardly extending wall 16, which may be slotted as shown at 17 in Figures 1 and 2. Inside the cylinder 14, I mount a reciprocable piston 18, having on its upper end a conical section 19. Means is provided for reciprocating the piston 18 in the cylinder 14 and, as shown, consists of a lever 20 pivotally mounted in the case 11 on the pivot point 21 and connected to the piston 18 by means of a pin and slot connection generally designated 22. It is to be understood that the cylinder 14 is slotted as shown at 23 to permit the ends of the lever 20 to extend into the cylinder and engage the pin in the piston. On the opposite end of the lever 20 and in the opposite end of the case 11, I mount a plunger 24, which is adapted to be foot operated and carries on its upper end a foot knob 25. The plunger 24 is mounted in a sleeve 26, said sleeve being fixed in the case 11 and provided with a slot 27 adapted to pass a pin 28 fixed in the plunger 24. The pin 28 in turn works in a slot 29 in the end of the lever 20. Spring means 30 may be incorporated between the lower end of the plunger 24 and the bottom of the sleeve 26 for holding the foot knob 25 in a normally raised position so that the piston 18 will normally come to rest in the lower end of the cylinder 14. The arrangement just described will operate to raise the piston 18 in the cylinder 14 to the dotted position shown upon depressing the knob 25. The knob 25 has been designed to be foot operated and accordingly is only a slight distance above the surface of the ground 13. However, it may be operated by any other means, such as power means, manual means, and may also be electrically locked, mechanically locked or controlled by a coin controlled mechanism, if found desirable or necessary. Associated with the cylinder 14 is a tube 31, which has at its upper end a hopper 32, adapted to receive golf balls, and which communicates at its lower end with the interior of the cylinder 14. Under this arrangement golf balls may be automatically and continually fed to the cylinder and, as shown, one of the balls 33 will come to rest upon the top of the tapered portion 19. The ball 33 is then in position to be mounted upon the tee and is

so mounted by depressing the foot knob 25, whereupon the piston 18 rises in the cylinder 14 and extrudes the ball 33 through the elastic member 15 so that it comes to rest upon a seat 16' on the top of the tapered portion 16. In order to overcome any tendency of the ball 33 to shoot through the member 15, due to the sudden extruding action through the member 15, I incorporate an arm 34 arranged to swing up and over the top of the ball, as shown by the dotted lines, to engage and hold the ball against further movement once it is through the member. The arm 34 accordingly is pivotally mounted upon the cylinder 14, as shown at 35, and is operated by means of a link 36 pivotally connected at its opposite ends to the arm 34 and the lever 20, as shown at 37 and 38 respectively. The board 12 is formed with an opening 39 to pass the arm 34 and also with openings 40 and 41 to accommodate the tee member 15 and the plunger 24 respectively.

In operation, the device is first loaded with balls by putting a predetermined number, or any number of balls, in the hopper 32. The balls in turn are fed through the pipe 31 to the cylinder 14 and the person using the device merely depresses the foot knob 25 to mount a ball upon the member 15. It is to be noted that the ball is extruded through the same member that serves as a tee for the ball. The arm 34 is so arranged that it will come over the top of the ball just as it is extruded through the member 15 and will hold the ball in place upon the tee. After the pressure upon the foot knob 25 is released, the spring 30 brings the mechanism back to its normal position, whereupon the finger 34 drops back to its normal, out-of-the-way position and another ball rolls into place upon the top of the piston 18. The device is simple, inexpensive, durable and easy to operate.

I claim:

1. A golf ball teeing device comprising an elastic member having a seat thereon adapted to hold a golf ball in a driving position, there being a passage through said member communicating with said seat, and means for forcing a golf ball through said passage to mount the same upon said seat.
2. A golf ball teeing device comprising a hollow cylinder, an elastic tee mounted over the end of said cylinder, means for admitting golf balls to said cylinder, a piston in said cylinder, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude golf balls through said elastic tee and mount said balls upon said tee.
3. A golf ball teeing device comprising a hollow cylinder, an elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having a passage therethrough tapering upwardly and inwardly and ending in an external seat for a golf ball, a piston in said cylinder, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude golf balls through said passage and mount said balls upon said seat.
4. A golf ball teeing device comprising a hollow cylinder, an elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having a passage therethrough tapering upwardly and inwardly and ending in an external seat for a golf ball, a piston in said cylinder, said piston having an upwardly tapered portion adapted to

fit into said elastic member, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude golf balls through said passage and mount said balls upon said seat.

5. A golf ball teeing device comprising a casing adapted to be set in the ground, a cylinder in said casing, a reciprocable piston in said cylinder, means for admitting golf balls to said cylinder on top of said piston, a tubular elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having an inner diameter less than the diameter of said golf balls and terminating in an external golf ball seat, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude said golf balls through said elastic member to mount the same upon said seat.

6. A golf ball teeing device comprising a casing adapted to be set in the ground, a cylinder in said casing, a reciprocable piston in said cylinder, means for admitting golf balls to said cylinder on top of said piston, a tubular elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having an inner diameter less than the diameter of said golf balls and terminating in an external golf ball seat, means for reciprocating said piston to extrude said golf balls through said elastic member to mount the same upon said seat, and means arranged to extend over said seat and engage said balls as they are extruded through said elastic member.

7. A golf ball teeing device comprising a casing adapted to be set in the ground, a cylinder in said casing, a reciprocable piston in said cylinder, means for admitting golf balls to said cylinder on top of said piston, a tubular elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having an inner diameter less than the diameter of said golf balls and terminating in an external golf ball seat, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude said golf balls through said elastic member to mount the same upon said seat, said last mentioned means including a lever pivotally mounted in said case and connected at one end to said piston, and means operably connected to the opposite end of said lever to reciprocate said piston.

8. A golf ball teeing device comprising a casing adapted to be set in the ground, a cylinder in said casing, a reciprocable piston in said cylinder, means for admitting golf balls to said cylinder on top of said piston, a tubular elastic member mounted over the upper end of said cylinder, said elastic member having an inner diameter less than the diameter of said golf balls and terminating in an external golf ball seat, and means for reciprocating said piston to extrude said golf balls through said elastic member to mount the same upon said seat, said last mentioned means including a lever pivotally mounted in said case and connected at one end to said piston, a plunger mounted in said case operably connected to the opposite end of said lever, and means external of said case for depressing said plunger to reciprocate said piston.

9. In a mechanical golf ball teeing device, an elastic hollow tee and means for extruding golf balls through said tee to mount said balls upon said tee.

JOSEPHINE FRANÇOISE JEWETT.