United States Patent

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[73] Assignee **By direct and mesne assignments, to Maycase Corporation, a corporation of Pennsylvania**

[54] **GOLF BAG**
4 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **150/1.5**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 55/00**
[50] **Field of Search** 150/1.5A, 1.5B, 1.5C; 220/23.4; 190/52; 224/43, 44; 150/28.1

[56] **References Cited**

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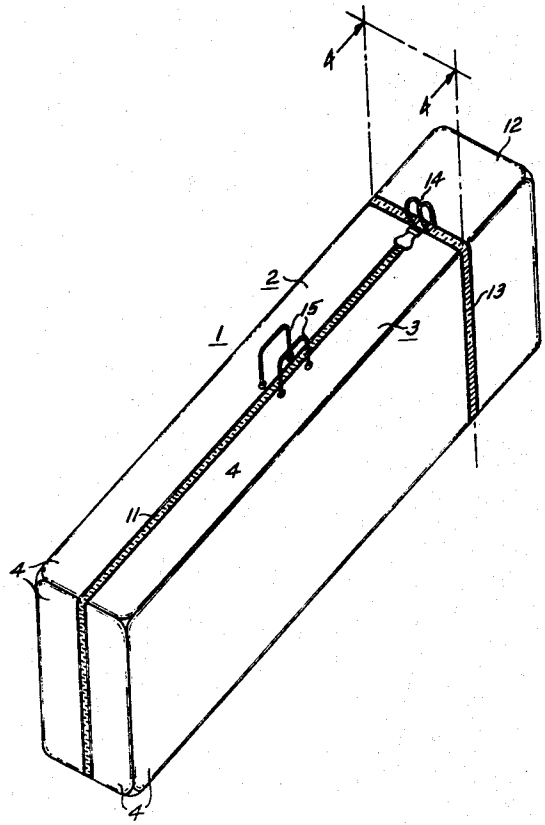
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ABSTRACT: A golf bag having a pair of similar substantially rigid club and equipment storage compartments. The compartments are reversible to adapt the bag for either traveling or play. The compartments are also separable from each other to provide a pair of lightweight "half-size" bags each complete with its own club and equipment storage areas.



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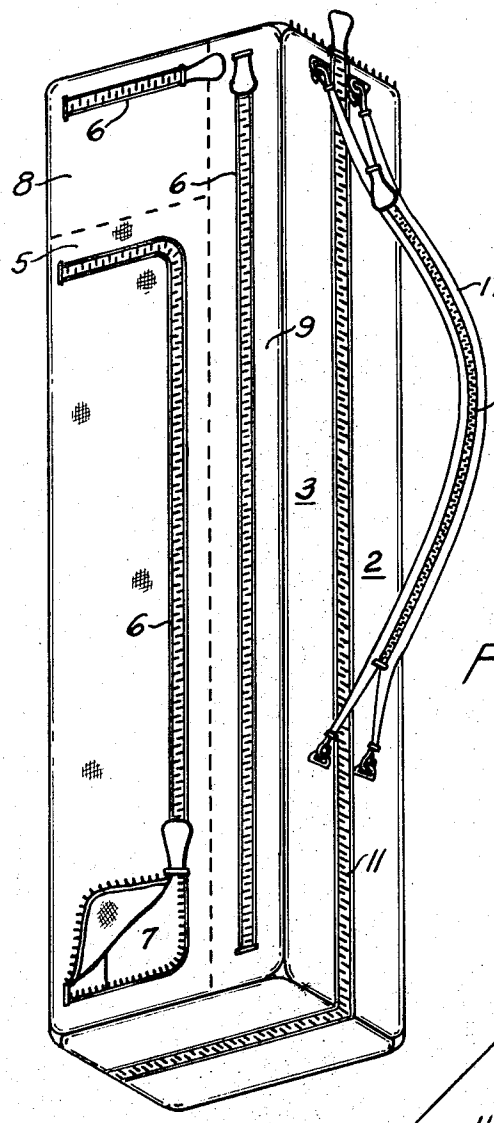


FIG. 2

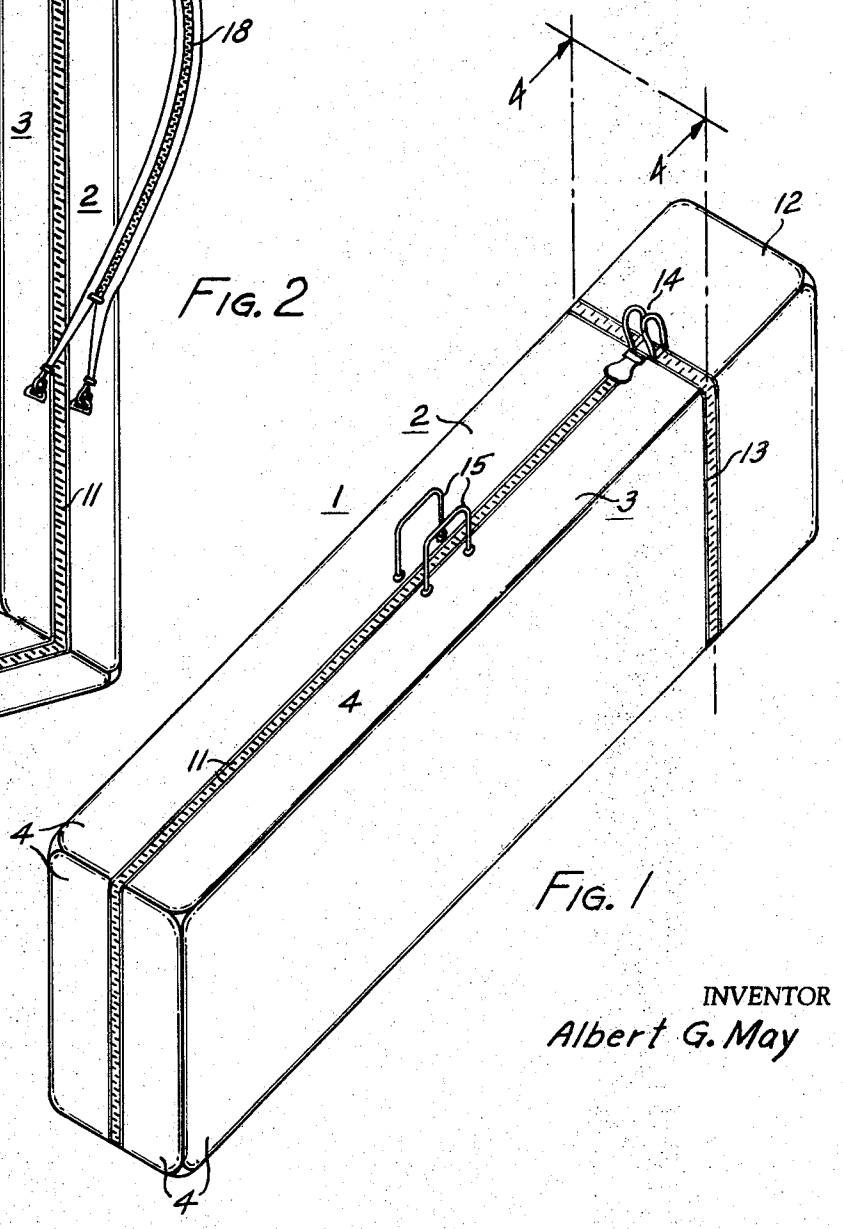


FIG. 1

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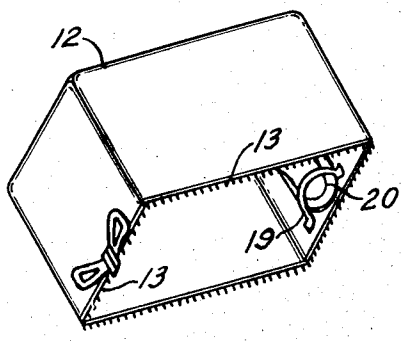


FIG. 4

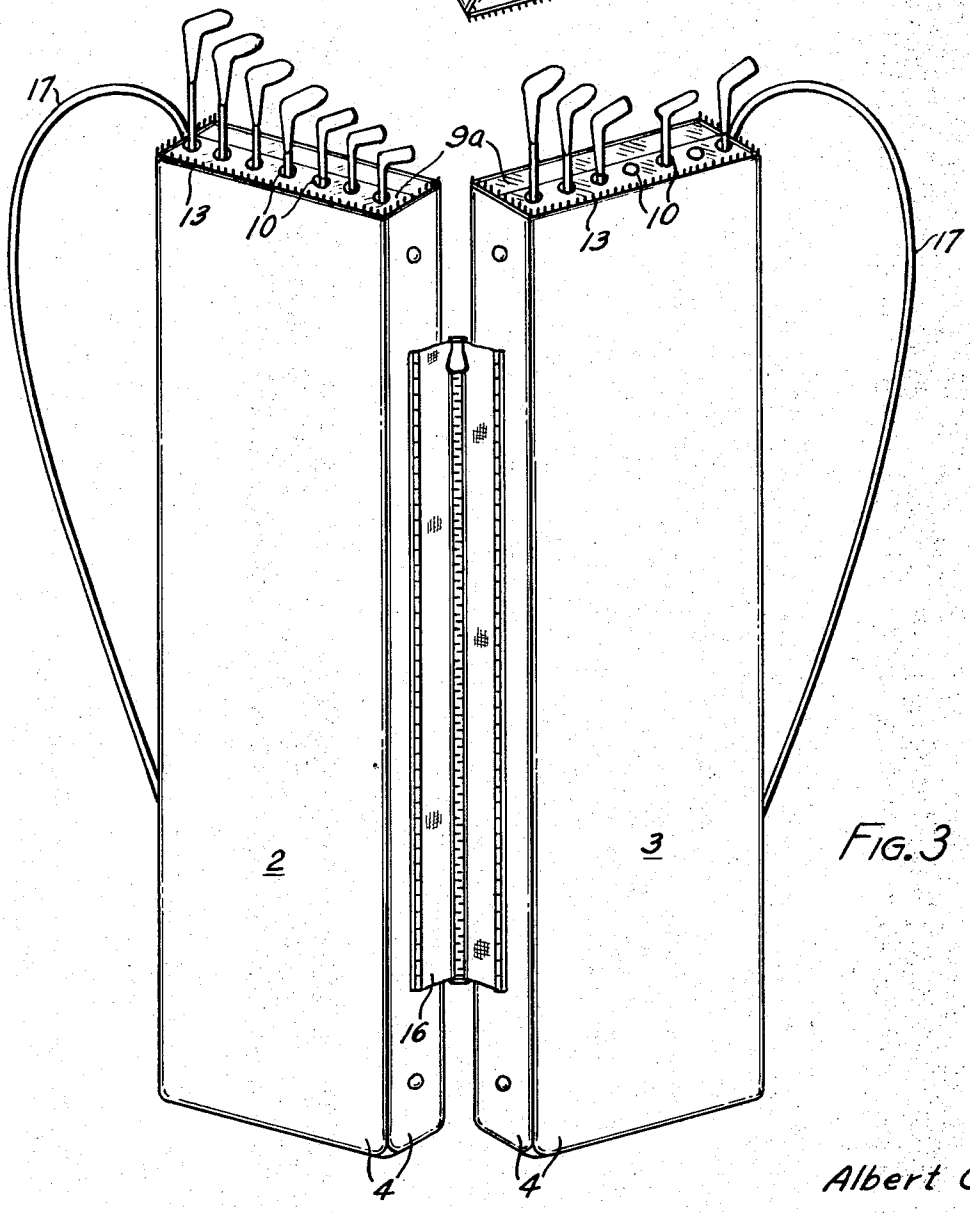


FIG. 3

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GOLF BAG

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to golf bags.

The usual golf bag is a simple fabric or leather bag with carrying strap, closed at the bottom and open at the top from which the heads of the clubs protrude. The usual golf bag does not provide much in the way of protection to the clubs, especially when the clubs are being transported to and from the golf course. At such times, especially when traveling by commercial conveyances such as airplanes, the clubs and bag itself are often damaged.

The ordinary fabric or leather golf bag is bulky, heavy and wasteful of space. Since many golfers like to take their clubs with them while traveling, the weight and bulk of the conventional golf bag is a handicap.

In addition, the usual fabric or leather golf bag is often damaged or wears prematurely when used with the golf carts in common use at many golf courses.

Finally, there are often occasions when a player would like to use a partial set of clubs and a corresponding lightweight bag or occasions when the player may wish to share his full set of clubs with another player.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a golf bag offering complete protection to a set of golf clubs both on and off the golf course.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a compact, lightweight luggage type golf bag especially suited for traveling.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a golf bag suitable for use on golf carts.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a golf bag adaptable for use with less than a full set of clubs or use by more than one player.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings and claims.

It has been discovered that the foregoing objects can be obtained by a golf bag comprised of a pair of substantially rigid box-like compartments each closed at one end and partially open at the other end which are joined along one edge of each compartment by a separable hinged element.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a golf bag of this invention in a closed position for transporting a set of golf clubs to and from a golf course.

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of a golf bag of this invention in an open playing position for carrying a set of golf clubs while on a golf course.

FIG. 3 is an isometric view of a golf bag of this invention in a partially opened position to reveal certain details.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along lines 4–4 in FIG. 1 showing the removable club head hood.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the FIGS., golf bag 1 is comprised of a pair of substantially identical rectangular box-like compartments 2 and 3 each closed at the bottom and partially open at the top. The walls 4 of the compartments 2 and 3 are made of a substantially rigid but lightweight material such as molded plastic, fiberglass, aluminum or the like. The corners of the box-like compartments 2 and 3 are preferably rounded.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, one face 5 of each compartment is formed of a flexible material such as leather or fabric and is provided with a series of closable openings which can be opened with slide fasteners 6 to expose pockets 7, 8 and 9 built within a portion of the compartments 2 and 3. The pockets may be of any shape or size desired. For the purpose of illustration, pocket 7 is a long narrow pocket suitable for containing an umbrella or the like, while pockets 8 and 9 are more suitable for items of clothing or golfing equipment such as balls, tees, etc.

As best shown in FIG. 3, box-like compartments 2 and 3 are provided with a preformed insert element 9*a* having a series of individual cylindrical club retaining openings or recesses 10 formed therein. The insert element 9*a* occupies approximately half of the depth of each compartment 2 and 3 leaving the rest of the space in each compartment available for clothing and equipment storage in pockets 7, 8 and 9.

The golf bag 1 of this invention is shown in FIG. 1 in a closed position suitable for transporting a full allowable set of golf clubs and all the required clothing and auxiliary equipment to and from the golf course and on trips. The bag 1 in this closed position shown in FIG. 1 resembles regular travel luggage and preferably would be made in colors and shapes similar to that of existing lines of travel luggage. In the closed position illustrated in FIG. 1 the box-like compartments 2 and 3 are placed with the pocket containing faces 5 opposing each other and are joined together along the abutting edges by a continuous slide fastener 11 or the like.

A substantially rigid hood member 12 is attached to the open ends of compartments 2 and 3 by another slide fastener 13 or other suitable fastening means. A locking device 14 may be used to retain slide fasteners 11 and 13 in a closed position and prevent unauthorized opening of golf bag 1. Compartments 2 and 3 are each provided with a carrying handle 15 to permit easy carrying of bag 1 while in the closed traveling position shown in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 1, the golf clubs and all the accessories are not only totally enclosed but are also fully protected by the strong rigid walls 4 of the compartments 2 and 3 and hood 12.

At the golf course when ready for play, slide fasteners 11 and 13 are unlocked and opened thereby permitting hood 12 to be removed and box-like compartments 2 and 3 to be opened up about hinged element 16 as shown in FIG. 3 and reversed to the positions shown in FIG. 2. Slide fastener 11 is then refastened to hold the compartments 2 and 3 in this reversed open position. While in this position the faces 5 containing the opening to pockets 7, 8 and 9 are exposed permitting easy access to the clothing and equipment stored therein. The clubs, positioned in their individual recesses 10 are readily available for play. A separable carrying strap 17 is attached to the bag for ease in carrying the bag.

The rigid rectangular shape of the bag 1 makes it especially suitable for use with manual or powered golf carts. The shape and rigidity of the bag will permit easier attachment to the cart without fear of damage to the bag or its contents.

Hinge element 16 is separable or otherwise detachable from compartments 2 and 3 to permit the compartments 2 and 3 to be completely separated from each other whenever slide fastener 11 is open, such as shown in FIG. 3. Compartments 2 and 3 thus can each be made available as an entirely lightweight "half-size" bag each having its own club and equipment carrying areas. Carrying strap 17 is separable by a slide fastener 18 into two halves with each half serving as the carrying strap for one of the compartments 2 or 3.

With the bag of this invention a player desiring to, can use less than the full allowable set of clubs without using a heavy bulky bag. Similarly the bag of this invention permits a player to divide his clubs and bag with another player if desired.

The substantially rigid hood 12 shown in FIG. 4 not only serves to protect the club heads when the bag 1 is in the closed position but, because of its rigidity, can serve as a carrier for golf shoes and contains a tree 19 to retain the pair of golf shoes 20.

With the bag of this invention the majority of the space within the bag is usable storage space. The bag is streamlined, compact and lightweight and entirely versatile.

I claim:

1. A golf bag comprising a pair of substantially rigid box-like compartments each closed at one end and partially open at the other end and joined along one edge of each compartment by

a separable hinged element, one face of each compartment being provided with closable apertures exposing pockets within said box-like compartments.

2. A golf bag comprising a pair of substantially rigid box-like compartments each closed at one end and partially open at the other end and joined along one edge of each compartment by a separable hinged element, the opposed edges of said compartments being joined by a continuous slide fastener.

3. A golf bag comprising a pair of substantially rigid box-like compartments each closed at one end and partially open at the other end and joined along one edge of each compartment by a separable hinged element, each of said compartments being provided with a flexible carrying strap the opposite edges of which are connected by a slide fastener.

4. A golf bag comprising a pair of substantially rigid box-like compartments each closed at one end and partially open at the other end and joined along one edge of each compartment by a separable hinged element, the partially open ends of said compartments being covered by a substantially rigid hood, said hood having means to retain a pair of shoes within said hood.