Feb. 11, 1930. E. A. MERLO 1,746,600

STATIONARY GOLF TEE

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Fig. 1.

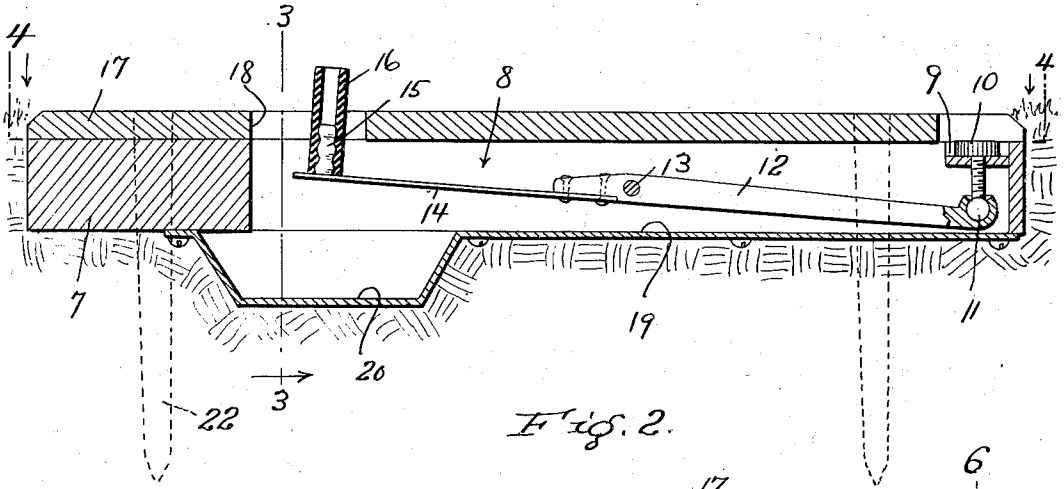


Fig. 2.

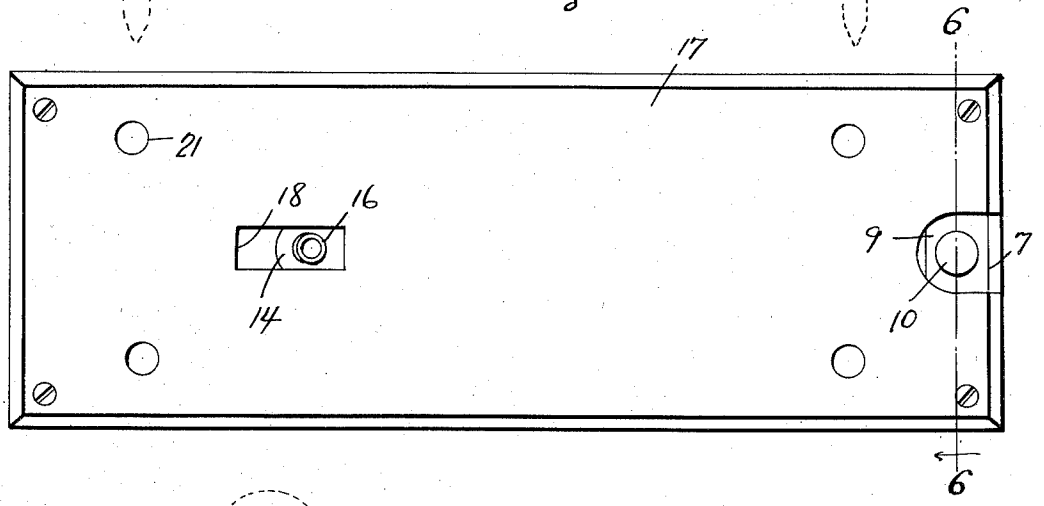
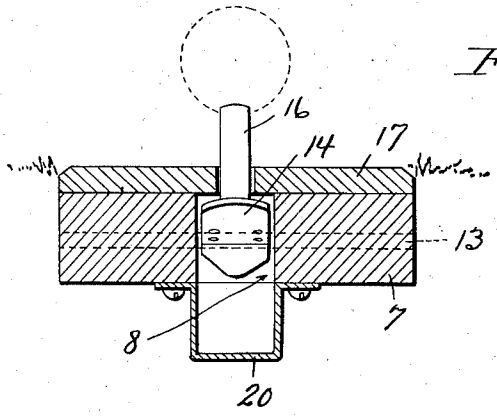


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

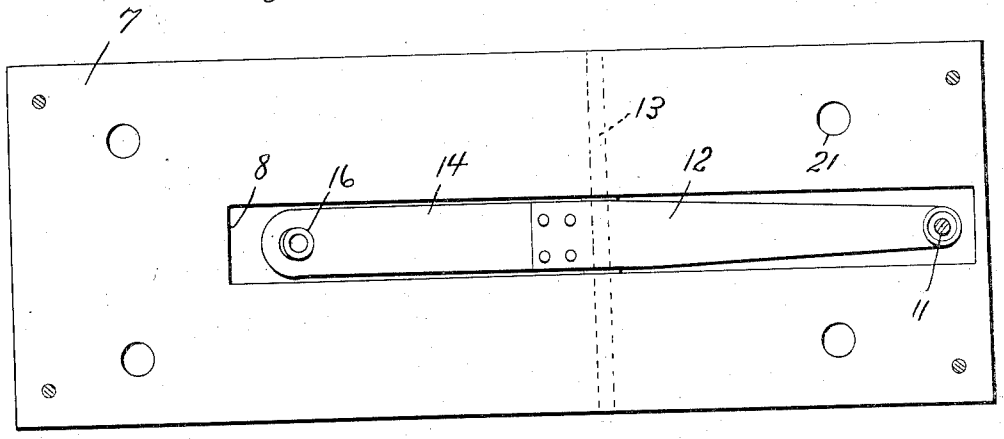
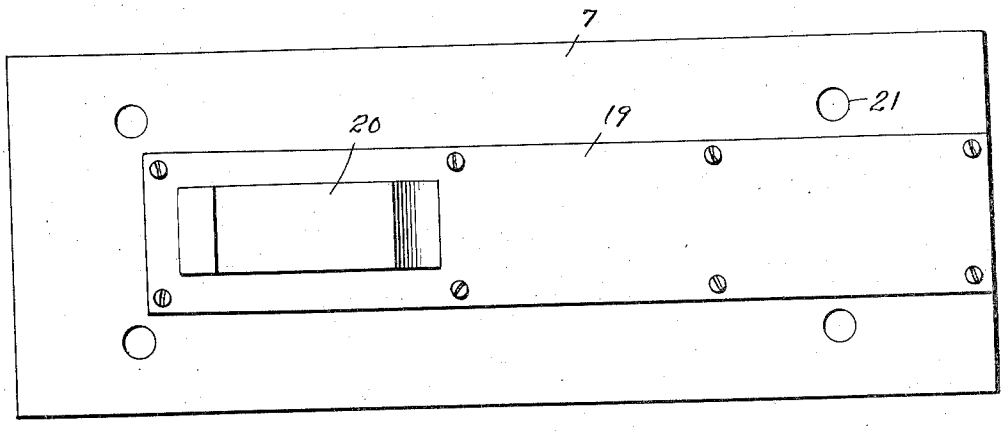


Fig. 5.



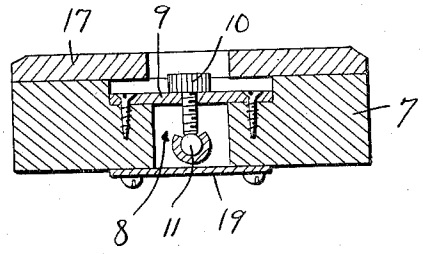


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EUGENE ANGELO MERLO, OF BANGOR, WISCONSIN

STATIONARY GOLF TEE

Application filed March 7, 1929. Serial No. 345,099.

This invention relates to an improved golf tee, and it has more particular reference to one which is stationary or permanent; that is rigidly embedded in the golf course at the entrance end of the fairway.

The purpose of the invention is to do away with the carrying of small portable tees such as are often misplaced, broken or unhandy while playing. It is further a purpose to do away with sand boxes, such as are used to keep damp sand at the tee. As is well known these sand boxes are of considerable annoyance in that they must be filled with sand and the sand in them is usually kept moist. This necessitates the utilization of a pail of water handy at each tee. Sand is more or less of an annoyance to the golfer and it interferes with the grip of his club and he will sometimes thoughtlessly wipe his hands on his clothing.

The idea embodied in the improved construction is the provision of a tee which is permanently embedded in the fairway and which is constructed to permit convenient use and to allow it to well serve as a more efficient substitute for the usual portable type of tee.

One feature of the invention is that it includes a base plate embedded in the ground and having a wear plate on its top which is of a suitable durable material so as not to become disrupted under the action of impacts or blows from the golf club. Another feature embodied in the invention is the employment of a depressible or rectractible ball support which is desirable in that in the event that one stepped on it, it would simply telescope into the base without becoming injured.

A further feature is in having a golf tee or ball support adjustably mounted in order that it may be projected to the desired point above the surface of the base.

A further feature is in the adjusting means which is located on a plane below the surface of the wear plate to avoid breakage by protrusion into the path of the performance.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view through a golf tee structure constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same.

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section taken approximately upon the plane of the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a horizontal view taken approximately on the plane of the line 4—4 of Figure 1 with the top or wear plate removed.

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the complete structure.

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical section on the line 6—6 of Figure 2.

In carrying out the invention I provide a block like base 7 which may be an ordinary wooden block having a central portion cut out to provide an elongated recess. This forms a compartment or pocket for reception of the adjusting means for the tee. At one end is a cross plate 9 having an adjusting screw 10 threaded therethrough and the adjusting screw has universal and ball and socket connection at 11 with one end of a lever 12 fulcrumed adjacent one end as at 13. The last named end carries a spring arm 14 which is provided with an upstanding corrugated stem or shank 15 over which the rubber sleeve 16 is fitted. The sleeve provides the tee proper, and the ball is placed on this sleeve in an obvious manner. A cover and wear plate is designated by the character 17 and this comprises a slab of hard rubber and having an opening 18 through which the tee is projectable. There is also a bottom cover plate 19 at one end of which is a depressed portion 20 forming a dirt and sand collecting pocket. At 21 are holes for receiving the stakes 22 which serve to fasten the complete device in the ground, and obviously the device is arranged so that the wear plate is substantially flush with the surface of the fairway.

The structure is such that by adjusting the screw, the lever 12 and spring 14 may be operated as a unit about the fulcrum to project the tee 16 to the desired elevation.

However, the spring is such as to allow the tee to be depressed through the opening 18 and into the recess 8 and the pocket 20 to prevent breakage in case it is stepped on. In

fact, considerable flexibility is embodied in this arrangement to take care of glancing blows from the club and to avoid breakage from the hands of incompetent players.

It is thought by considering the description in connection with the drawings, the reader will obtain a clear understanding of the construction, features and advantages of the invention. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size, and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice if desired.

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

1. In a golf tee structure of the class described, a recessed base, a lever pivotally mounted in the recess in said base, adjusting means for the lever at one end of the lever, a spring carried by the opposite end of the lever, and a tee mounted on said spring.

2. In a structure of the class described, a recessed base, a cover plate for said base having a tee hole therein, a lever mounted in said recess, adjusting means for the lever, spring arm carried by the lever, and a tee mounted on the spring arm and adjustable through said tee hole.

3. In a golf tee structure of the class described, a base having a longitudinal slot formed therein and providing a recess, a bottom plate bridging said slot, a top plate also bridging said slot and formed with a tee hole at one end of the slot, a lever pivotally mounted in said recess between the bottom and top plates, adjusting means at one end of the lever, a spring arm carried by the opposite end of the lever, and upstanding flexible tee mounted on said spring arm and projectable upwardly through said tee hole.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EUGENE ANGELO MERLO.