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Ford et al.

[11] **3,868,116**

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[54] **GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/186 C,** 273/187 R, 273/192

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 69/36**

[58] **Field of Search** 273/192, 187, 186, 191

[56] **References Cited**

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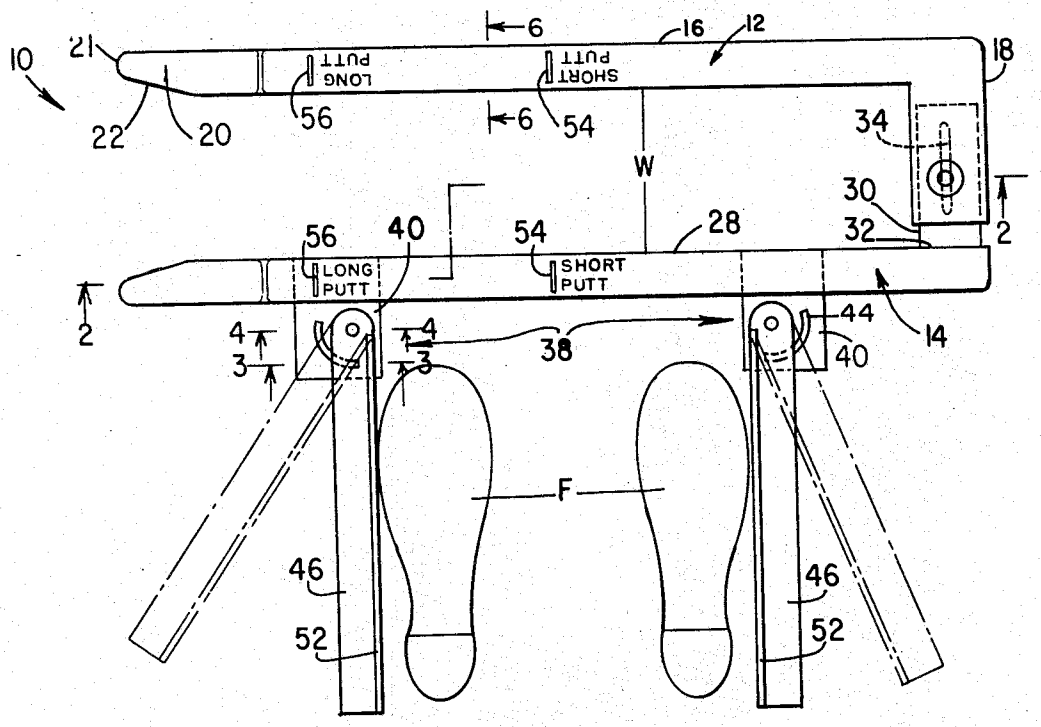
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Primary Examiner—George J. Marlo
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Max R. Kraus

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A golf practice device, particularly for training and practicing proper putting, said device comprising a pair of members each having a longitudinally extending guide portion and an inwardly turned end portion, with one of the end portions fitting over the other in a telescopic relationship, fasteners associated with said end portions for adjustably connecting said end portions to vary the width between said longitudinally extending guide portions, and feet or stance guide members which are detachably secured to either of said longitudinally extending guide members, said feet guide members including a plate and a strip pivotally secured thereto with said plate detachably secured to the underside of said longitudinal guide portion and with said strips being pivotally adjustable to various angular positions with respect to the longitudinal guide portions.

10 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



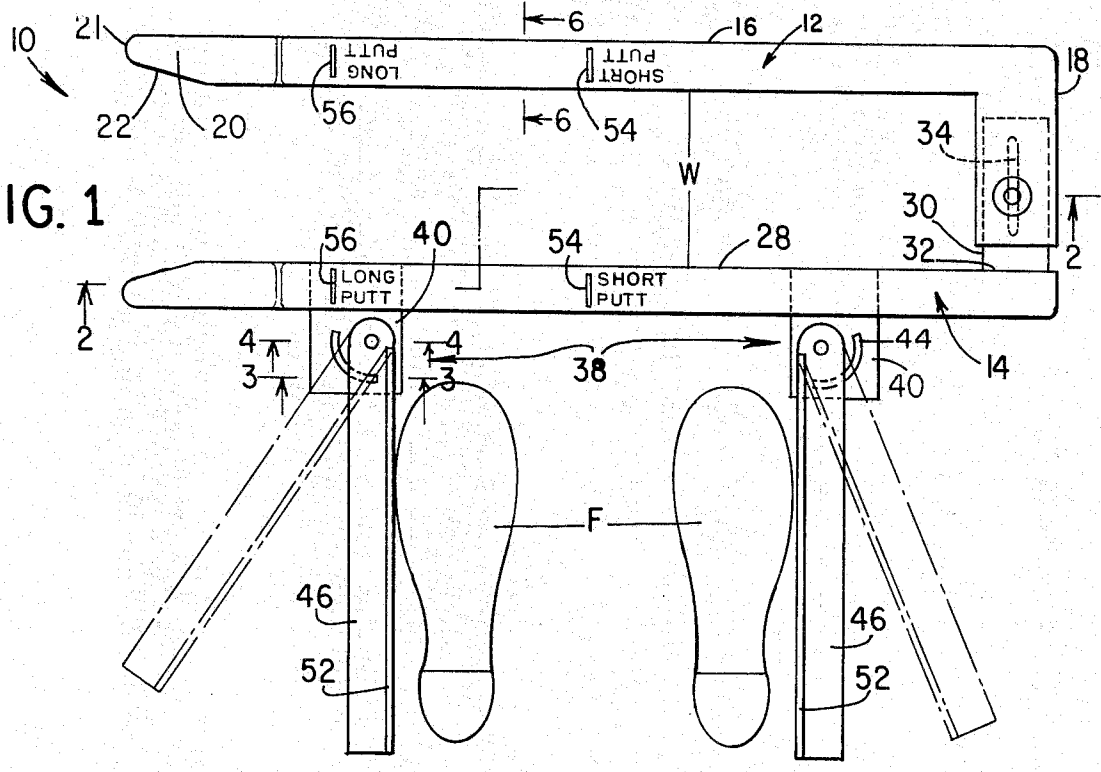


FIG. 1

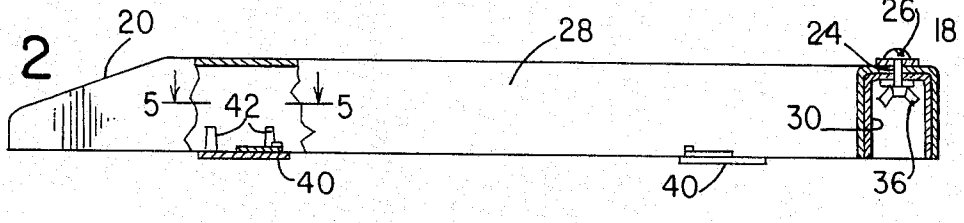


FIG. 2

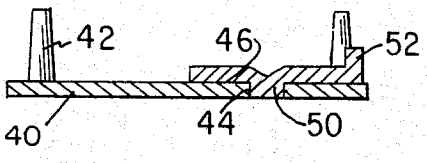


FIG. 3

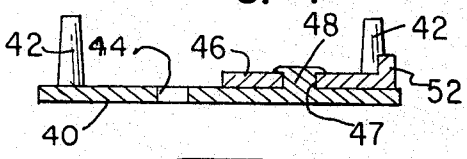


FIG. 4

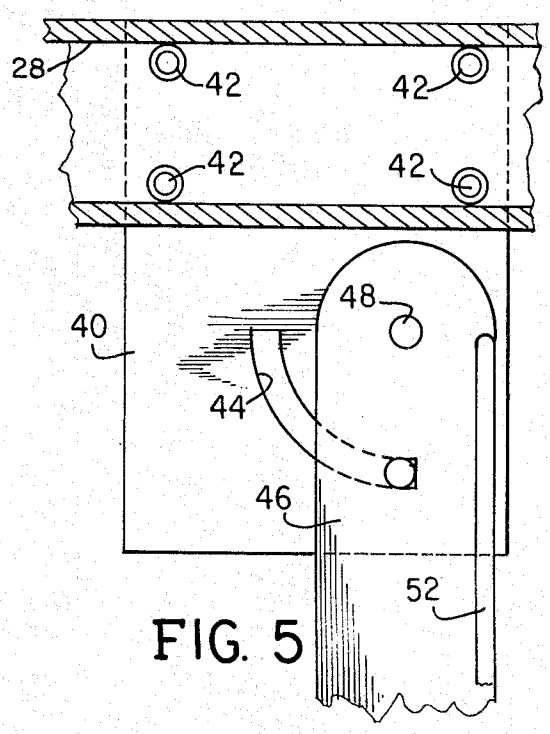


FIG. 5

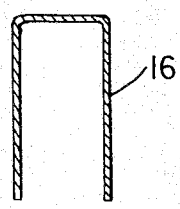


FIG. 6

GOLF PRACTICE DEVICE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a golf practice device particularly for training and practicing proper putting, wherein the putting stroke of the golfer is controlled so that he can train himself to swing in a straight putting line, said device having means for properly locating the golfer's feet or stance while practicing putting strokes.

Another object of this invention is to provide a golf practice device which is adapted for either right or left hand swinging and which has indications for indicating the distance for a short putt as well as a long putt and which is very economical and inexpensive to produce.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of the golf practice device of this invention.

FIG. 2 is a view partly in section taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 5—5 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 1.

The golf practice device of this invention is generally indicated at **10** and includes a pair of members designated at **12** and **14** which are of generally similar configuration. The member **12** has a longitudinal guide portion or guide member indicated at **16** with an inwardly and transversely extending end connecting portion generally indicated at **18**, the end connecting portion being at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the longitudinal guide portion or guide member **16**. The members **12** and **14** are each integrally molded of a plastic material and are formed so that the longitudinal portion as well as the transversely extending end portion are of inverted U-shaped configuration, as best seen in FIG. **6**, with the bottom being open.

The forward end of the longitudinal guide portion **16** has a downwardly inclined front end **20** and terminates in a front closed end wall **21**, with the inside front wall inclined as at **22**. The top wall of the transversely extending portion **18** has an opening **24** for receiving a threaded bolt **26** which rests on a washer. The threaded bolt **26** is adapted to extend through a slot in the end wall of the other member **14**.

The other member **14** also has a longitudinal guide portion or guide member **28** and an inwardly and transversely extending end connecting portion **30** at substantially right angles to the longitudinal axis of the longitudinal guide portion or guide member **28**. The inwardly turned end portion **30** is of a slightly smaller dimension, as best seen in FIGS. **1** and **2**, so that it telescopically fits within the end portion **18** and is provided with a shoulder **32** extending along the top and the rear edge. The inwardly turned end **30** has a longitudinal slot **34** therein which receives the bolt **26** and a wing nut **36'** and a washer is secured to the end of said bolt to engage the underside of the end portion **30** to adjustably lock and secure the end portions **18** and **30** together so that the width or distance W between the longitudinal guide portions **16** and **28** can be adjusted and varied. By tightening the wing nut **36** on the bolt **26** the two longitudinal guide members **16** and **28** are maintained in a parallel relation and in a spaced position to provide the proper spacing, dependent upon the size of the putter head to be used. This unit can therefore be adjusted to accommodate varying putter heads.

For the golfer to properly place his feet in the correct spaced relation, a pair of feet guide or stance guide members generally indicated at **38** is provided. Since both of said feet guide members **38** are identical only one will be described. They may be made preferably of plastic. The foot guide member comprises a plate member **40** having four upwardly extending spaced posts or studs **42**, said posts or studs being of generally truncated cone-shaped design and so constructed that the plate member **40** may be positioned adjacent the bottom of either of the longitudinal guide members **16** or **18** so that the posts or studs **42** are inserted inside the open bottom, with said spaced posts or studs frictionally engaging the inside of the side walls of said longitudinal guide members **16** and **28** so as to retain said foot guide members **38** in said longitudinal guide members **16** and **28**, but same may be removed and detached from said longitudinal guide members by manually moving same outwardly away therefrom.

Each plate **40** is provided with an arcuate-shaped slot **44**. A rectangular-shaped strip generally indicated at **46** has an opening **47** (FIG. **4**) whereby it is secured to the upstanding pin **48** of the plate and is shaped to form a head to pivotally support the strip for pivotal movement within the limits of the arcuate slot **44**. The strip has an integrally formed downwardly extending pin **50** (FIG. **3**) on the underside thereof which rides within the arcuate-shaped slot **44**. The longitudinal inner edge of the strip **46** is provided with an upstanding lip or flange **52** against which the shoes abut. When the feet fuide or stance members **38** are positioned and detachably secured to either of the longitudinally extending guide members **16** or **28** they are positioned in spaced relation to each other, as best seen in FIG. **1**. If the golfer desires to have his feet F held in a generally straight line perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal axis of the side members **16** or **28** then the feet guide members are positioned substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the members, as shown in full lines in FIG. **1**. However, if it is desired that the feet be further spread apart or angularly inclined then the strips **46** are pivoted outwardly, as indicated by dotted lines in FIG. **1**, to the desired position so that the golfer will know where to position his feet in reference to the feet guide members. The feet guide members may be positioned on either side and secured to either of the longitudinal guide members **16** or **28**, depending upon whether the golfer swings to the right or to the left side.

The longitudinal guide members **16** and **28** have indicia on the top thereof. A transverse line **54** with the designation "short putt" is placed on the top of each said member and another transverse line **56** with the designation "long putt" is positioned forwardly thereof. Thus, the golfer can practice swinging the putter between the end connecting walls **18** and **30** and the indicated transverse line **54** for a short putt, or between the end connecting walls and the transverse line **56** forwardly thereof for a longer putt. Thus this invention

permits a golfer to practice his putting and indicates the distance to swing for a short putt and for a long putt.

To practice putting with this device the golfer positions his feet at the proper stance and then pivotally moves the strips **46** to the desired angular positions so that such position can be maintained while practicing. The golf ball, not shown, is positioned between the spaced longitudinal guide members **16** and **28** and the golfer positions the head of the putter between the guide members **16** and **28** and practices putting. By maintaining the putter head between the guide members **16** and **28** the golfer is thus able to direct his putting swing in a straight line and thus control his putting in the proper direction. The device is therefore adjustable for different sizes of putter heads and is adjustable for feet guidance and the same device can be used for right-hand or left-hand golfers. This device which is a single simple unit eliminates the necessity of a substantial inventory for different sizes of golf club heads and right-hand or left-hand golfers.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf practice device comprising a pair of members, each of said members having a longitudinally extending guide portion and a continuing inwardly turned end portion substantially at right angles to the longitudinal guide portion and at the rear end of said longitudinal guide portion, said guide portion and continuing end portion being of a generally inverted U-shaped configuration in cross-section with the bottom portion open and with one end portion of a smaller dimension than the other end portion so that the smaller dimensioned end portion telescopes into the other end portion, and means including fastening elements connected to said end portions for adjustably connecting said end portions so that said longitudinal guide portions are parallel to each other and are adjustably spaced to accommodate golf club heads of varying sizes.

2. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **1** in which feet guide members have upwardly extending means which are inserted into the bottom open portion of the longitudinally extending guide portions for engagement therewith to detachably secure said feet guide members thereto, with said feet guide members extending laterally and outwardly of said longitudinal guide portions.

3. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **2** in which there is a pair of feet guide members and each of said members has a guide strip which is pivotally mounted to permit angular positioning of same.

4. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **3** in which each foot guide member includes a plate with upstanding posts, which posts are positioned inside the longitudinal guide portions through the bottom open portion to frictionally retain the foot guide member with respect to said longitudinal guide portion.

5. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **4** in which the foot guide strip is pivotally secured to the plate and in which the plate and foot guide strip has means for limiting the angular positioning of said foot guide strip.

6. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **5** in which the plate has an arcuate slot which is engaged by a projection or pin on said strip for limiting the pivotal movement of said strip.

7. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **2** in which said feet guide members may be selectively secured to either of said longitudinally extending guide portions so that a golfer may practice either a right-hand or left-hand swing.

8. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **1** in which each of said members has designations indicating a short putt and a long putt.

9. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **1** in which each of the pair of members is integrally molded or formed of a plastic material.

10. A golf practice device as set forth in claim **9** in which the forward end of the longitudinal guide portion has a downwardly inclined front end and terminates in a front closed end wall.

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