

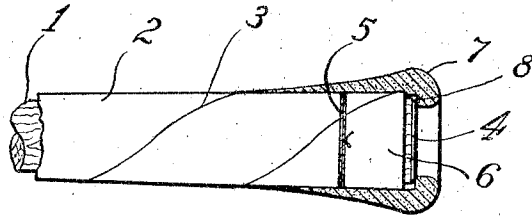
Mar. 3, 1925.

1,528,190

J. D. HOWE

GOLF CLUB

Filed July 14, 1923



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GOLF CLUB.

Application filed July 14, 1923. Serial No. 651,872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN D. HOWE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Upland, in the county of San Bernardino and State of California, have invented a new and useful Golf Club, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to golf clubs. The handle of a golf club is usually formed on the inner end of the shaft of the club by means of a helically wrapped leather band, the edges of the successive coils fitting nicely together so as to avoid forming any ridges or shoulders in the handle. The presence of such a shoulder must be avoided as it would interfere with the gripping of the club for properly executing a swing, and would produce blisters. Near the end of the shaft the leather is secured by means of a wrapping of cord or thread. It is impossible to place the cord wrapping at the extreme end of the leather, and hence there is a short piece of the leather at the end that projects beyond the cord.

After using a club, the golfer often throws his club violently into his bag; in doing so the handle end is of course within the bag.

When the club is thrown into the bag in this way, the end of the handle rubs along the inside of the bag and frequently results in stripping the end of the leather beyond the cord wrapping. Then the cord wrapping will become displaced or broken and it will be necessary to repair the handle.

The general objects of this invention are to provide a club which will have a construction which will overcome these objections, and in which the end of the leather will be kept intact, by means which will operate without detracting from the essentially smooth surface of the handle; also to accomplish this without interfering with the firm gripping and nice control of the club which is necessary in the skillful execution of a stroke.

The invention consists in the novel features and combination of parts to be described hereinafter, all of which contribute to produce an efficient golf club.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in the following specification.

while the broad scope of the invention is pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing the figure is a side elevation of the handle portion of a golf club showing the wrapped leather and showing the protecting cap in section.

The club may have the usual wooden shaft 1 with a handle of leather 2 wrapped helically about the shaft, the edges 3 of the coils abutting so that a smooth surface is formed for the "grip" or grasped portion of the handle. Near the end face 4 of the shaft the leather is secured by the usual wrapped cord 5.

This wrapped cord is usually about a half inch from the end face 4 of the club.

When the club is thrown with force into the golf bag the end of the handle rubs along the inner side of the wall of the bag as suggested above, and frequently the end 6 of the leather beyond the cord 5 becomes loose and eventually the cord becomes loose or broken.

In order to overcome this difficulty I provide a tip for the "grip" of the club, which is in the form of an elongated cap preferably formed of resilient material, that is to say, elastic material such as soft rubber. At its inner end the wall of this cap is relatively thin, the side face of the tip being concave to fit the edge of the palm of one's hand. The inner diameter or bore of the cap is sufficiently small to cause a slight circumferential stretching and tension in the wall. This increases the hold of the cap and also results in producing such a thin edge at the inner end of the cap that the "grip" of the club is devoid of any ridge or shoulder at this point, and the outer face of the cap at this point merges imperceptibly into the outer face of the handle leather. This cap envelops and resiliently clasps the end of the handle, extending over the end of the leather and over the cord 5 protecting the same from being stripped by contact with the wall of the bag. The elasticity of the sleeve enables it to fit over and tightly grasp the end of a tapered handle. At the butt end 7 the wall of the cap is of increased thickness, in fact, the thickness is considerable at this point.

If desired the middle portion of the disc

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of the butt end may be removed, but leaving an annular shoulder 8 which engages over the end of the club. This facilitates the stretching of the cap to fit it over the end of the handle, adapts it to fit handles of different sizes, and the absence of the central portion of the disc may assist somewhat in keeping the cap in place because a lateral pressure cannot be transmitted diametrically across the butt in a manner which would tend to thrust the wall of the sleeve portion of the cap away from the side of the handle. However, I do not limit myself to this particular form for the butt end of the cap.

15 Where the cap is applied to a small handle it may tend to rotate on the handle, and in order to prevent any tendency of the cap to do this when held by the golfer in executing a stroke, I prefer to attach it to the handle

20 by cement or simply by means of shellac which is smeared on the butt of the handle before applying the cap to it.

The cap also operates to protect the bottom of the golf bag. Many of these bags are cheaply made and the bottoms are sometimes quickly worn out or knocked out. The inner end portion of the cap is of substantially uniform thickness.

The thickened wall at the butt end of the cap operates to give good pressure of the cap against the hand and this helps to prevent the club from twisting in the hand when the ball is struck out near the tip of an "iron" or on the toe of a wooden club.

35 It is understood that the embodiment of the invention described herein is only one of the many embodiments this invention may

take and I do not wish to be limited in the practice of my invention nor in my claims to the particular embodiment set forth. 40

What I claim is:

1. A golf club having a tapered handle with a tip in the form of a cap of resilient material enveloping and resiliently clasping its end, said cap having a relatively thin edge at its inner end whereby the gripped portion of the handle is devoid of a shoulder, and having a concave side face with an enlarged butt end. 45

2. A golf club having a tapered handle with a tip in the form of a cap of resilient material enveloping and resiliently clasping the end of the handle and cemented thereto, said cap having a relatively thin edge at its inner end whereby the gripped portion of the handle is devoid of a shoulder, and having a concave outer face with a relatively thick wall at its butt end. 50

3. A cap for a golf club shaft having an elongated thin tip portion adapted to encircle and resiliently clasp the sides of the shaft, said tip portion being of a substantially uniform thickness for a substantial distance toward the butt end of the cap, the butt end of the cap being increased in thickness and presenting a concave outer surface located on the shaft at a point extremely near the end thereof, the entire cap being constructed of soft rubber to resiliently clasp the shaft and to provide at the butt end thereof a cushion grip. 55

Signed at Los Angeles, California, this 5th day of July, 1923. 70

JOHN D. HOWE.