Dec. 19, 1933. W. P. PAGETT 1,940,321

AUTOMATIC GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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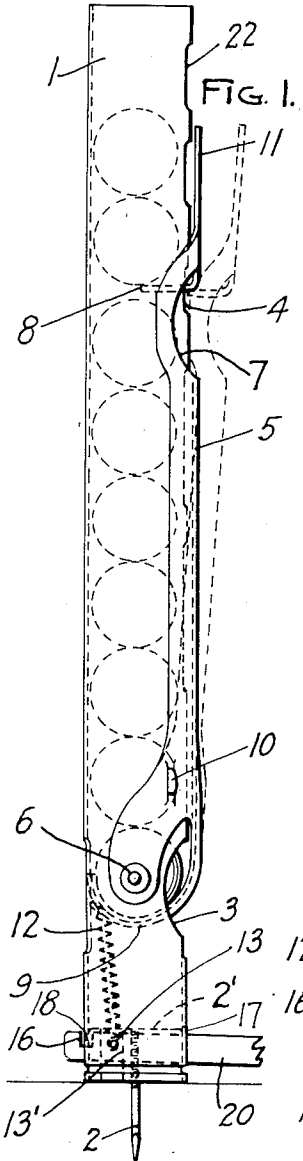

FIG. 1.

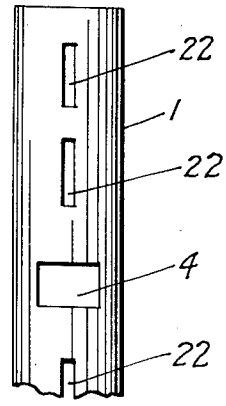

FIG. 5.

FIG. 2.

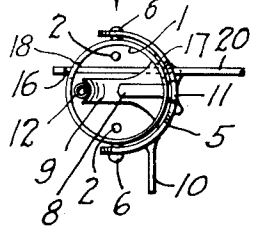

FIG. 3.

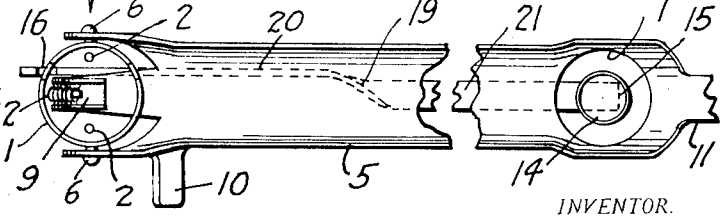

FIG. 4.

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AUTOMATIC GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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18 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

My invention pertains to golf ball teeing devices, and more especially to an automatic, gravity-operated golf ball teeing device.

The object of my invention is to provide an automatic golf ball teeing device which is simple in construction and low in cost.

A further object is to provide such a device in which the golf ball to be teed travels from the reservoir to the tee, or to the ground, by gravity.

A further object is to provide such a device in which the tee is normally stationary, and does not have to move in the teeing operation.

A further object is to provide such a device in which the tee may be quickly and easily removed, and which will then deposit each ball directly upon the ground and on the same spot, for shots in which a tee is not used.

A further object is to provide such a device which is light and portable, so that it may be easily carried by hand or in the club bag, to any spot desired for practice shots.

As is well known, practice is a major part of the game of golf.

Many of the best golfers will practice every day for several hours and actually play but once a week or even less.

Practice after a certain weariness is evident, is supposed to do more harm than good, and hence, anything which will permit more beneficial practice before this point of fatigue is reached is welcomed by the golf enthusiast.

The owners of the many practice golf lots throughout the country also welcome anything that will cause their customers to use more balls, that is, to make more practice shots, since the charged is figured per ball shot.

Bending over and teeing up the ball after each shot does not in the least improve or give practice to the golfer's stroke, but is in the end more tiresome than the actually beneficial practice of the stroke.

As an illustration, a golfer may perhaps hit 300 balls if he has some one else tee them up for him, and be no more weary than if he had hit 100 balls and teed them up himself.

So, the aim of all automatic teeing devices is to permit more beneficial practice without increase of fatigue.

To provide the maximum benefit, a teeing device should be portable so that a golfer may take it easily to any desired spot to practice under surroundings and conditions most helpful to the improvement of his game.

My automatic, gravity-operated golf teeing device is more fully described below and is illustrated in the drawing, in which;—

Figure 1 is a view showing a side elevation of the device as it stands ready to be operated.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but with the delivery trough depressed to the delivery position.

Figure 3 is a view looking down on Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a view looking down on Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a detail of a portion of the reservoir.

The reservoir 1 is provided with the support pins 2, screwed into the base 2' and which are to be pressed into the ground or turf to hold the reservoir upright.

The reservoir 2 is also provided with the delivery aperture 3 and the aperture 4 to be explained below.

The delivery trough 5 is hinged to the reservoir 1, at the points 6, and is provided with the delivery hole 7, the ball stop 8, the spring anchor 9, the treadle 10, and the handle 11.

The delivery trough spring 12 is attached to the anchor 9 of the trough 5, and to the catch 13 of the reservoir base 2', and tends to hold the trough 5 normally in the dotted line position shown in Figure 1. In the construction shown the catch 13 is formed of a pin carried by the base 2' and passing through the hole 13' in the base 2'.

When the device is to be carried in the club bag, the pins 2 are unscrewed so they will not harm the bag, and the trough 5 is pressed close to the reservoir 1 as shown in full lines in Figures 1 and 3.

The golf balls to be used are first placed in the reservoir 1, with the trough 5 swung on its hinges far enough to withdraw the stop 8 from the reservoir 1 so as to let the balls pass down the reservoir.

The tee 14 is properly attached to the tee spring 15, which tee spring is provided with the mounting slot 16.

The reservoir 1 is provided with the two mounting slots 17 and 18 which are joined by a slot through the base 2'.

The tee spring 15 is inserted through the mounting slot 17 and on through the base 2' to the slot 18 where the upper wall of the slot 18 is received in the mounting slot 16 of the tee spring 15. Thus the tee is quickly and positively mounted in exactly the right position. The tee spring 15 is twisted as at 19 to provide both a vertical portion 20 and a horizontal portion 21, with the resulting flexibility in two directions.

When the tee is not desired, and the ball is to drop directly upon the ground, the tee end of the spring 15 is slightly raised so that the slot 16 no longer engages the wall of the reservoir 1, and the spring 15 may then be withdrawn from the reservoir.

When the tee is to be operated, the handle 11 may be depressed by the golf club, without the golfer moving his feet if he so desires, the trough 5 first being placed in the dotted line position shown in Figure 1; or he may with one foot depress the treadle 10.

In either case the delivery trough assumes the position shown in Figures 2 and 4, the lowermost ball in the reservoir 1 passes out the delivery hole 3 and runs down along the delivery trough 5 till it strikes the stop 8, and falls through the delivery hole 7, upon the tee 14.

When the trough 5 is thus moved downward upon its hinges 6, the spring 12 is elongated and the anchor 9 passes in below the ball next above the lowermost, and prevents it from passing downward, thus supporting the entire column of balls in the reservoir 1.

When the trough is returned to the normal position shown by dotted lines in Figure 1, by the spring 12, the entire column of balls moves downward the thickness of a ball, since the anchor 9 in the normal position is no longer directly below the balls, and the device is ready for the delivery of the next ball.

The slot 22 in the reservoir 1, permits the golfer at any time to see the number of balls still in the reservoir.

When it is desired to move to a new practice location the reservoir is merely pulled up out of the ground or turf and carried to the new location where it is again pushed into place and practice resumed.

It will now be seen that all my desired objects have been attained; the construction is simple and the device is low in cost; the golf ball is moved from the reservoir to the tee, or to the ground, entirely by gravity; the tee does not have to move in the teeing operation and hence is provided with no mechanism for its movement; the tee may be quickly and easily removed or installed; and the entire device is so small in bulk and light in weight that it is easily portable; and should the golfer swing too low and strike the tee, its spring mounting prevents injury and returns the tee to its former position ready to receive the next ball.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent, is as follows;—

1. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir having a delivery aperture, a delivery trough hingedly attached to the reservoir and adapted to receive the lowermost ball through the said aperture and provided with a delivery hole and having a normal and a delivery position, an anchor adapted to move under and support the ball next above the lowermost ball in the reservoir as the trough is moved from the normal to the delivery position attached to said trough, and a spring attached to the anchor and to the reservoir adapted to hold the trough in the normal position.

2. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir adapted to carry a column of golf balls and provided with ground piercing support means and a delivery aperture, a delivery trough hingedly supported on the reservoir and having a normal and a delivery position and provided with a delivery hole and adapted to receive by gravity through the delivery aperture the lowermost of said column of golf balls and deliver same by gravity through said delivery hole and having a curved anchor extending beyond its support on the reservoir, and a spring attached to the anchor and to the reservoir to hold the trough in its normal position.

3. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir adapted to carry a column of golf balls and provided with ground piercing support means and a delivery aperture, a delivery trough hingedly supported on the reservoir and having a normal and a delivery position and provided with a delivery hole and adapted to receive by gravity through the delivery aperture the lowermost of said column of golf balls and deliver same by gravity through said delivery hole and having a curved anchor extending beyond its support on the reservoir, a spring attached to the anchor and to the reservoir adapted to hold the trough in its normal position, and a tee removably attached to the reservoir and positioned directly under the delivery hole of the trough when it is in the delivery position.

4. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir arranged to discharge golf balls through the action of gravity alone, and means having a normal and a delivery position carried by the reservoir adapted to carry and deliver one ball at a time continuously by gravity from the reservoir to a predetermined final position when moved from the normal to the delivery position.

5. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir arranged to discharge golf balls through the action of gravity alone, a tee above the ground level attached to the reservoir, and means having a normal and a delivery position adapted to carry and deliver one ball at a time exclusively by gravity from the reservoir to the tee when moved from the normal to the delivery position.

6. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir arranged to discharge golf balls through the action of gravity alone provided with delivery means having a normal and a delivery position and adapted to carry and deliver one ball at a time from the reservoir to a final position exclusively by gravity when the delivery means is moved from the normal to the delivery position.

7. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir adapted to hold above the ground level a supply of golf balls one above the other to be discharged by gravity alone provided with delivery means having a normal and a delivery position and adapted to carry and deliver from the reservoir to the ground level the lowermost ball in the reservoir exclusively by gravity when the delivery means is moved from the normal to the delivery position.

8. In a gravity-operated golf ball teeing device, the combination of a reservoir from which the supply of balls is discharged by gravity alone, a tee having a normal position from which the ball is to be struck, resilient means mounting the tee directly on the reservoir, and movable means to carry and deliver one golf ball at a time exclusively by gravity from the reservoir to the tee in its normal position.

9. In a gravity-operated golf ball teeing device, the combination of a reservoir above the ground level adapted to discharge balls by gravity alone, ground piercing means attached to the reservoir and by which the position of the reservoir may be maintained, and movable means to carry and

deliver from the reservoir to the ground level one ball at a time by gravity alone.

10. In a gravity-operated golf ball teeing device, the combination of a reservoir above the ground level and from which balls are discharged by gravity alone, ground piercing means attached to the reservoir and by which the position of the reservoir may be maintained, a tee above the ground level, means resiliently mounting the tee directly on the reservoir, and movable means to carry and deliver from the reservoir to the tee one ball at a time by gravity alone.

11. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls to be delivered therefrom above the level of the ground by gravity alone, movable delivery means carried by the reservoir having a closed and a delivery position and adapted to carry and deliver from the reservoir one ball by gravity alone at each operation of the delivery means from the closed to the delivery position, and means to hold the delivery means normally in the closed position.

12. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls to be delivered therefrom above the level of the ground by gravity alone, movable delivery means adapted to carry and deliver the lowermost ball from the reservoir to the ground level and having a closed position and a delivery position and provided with a closed position stop to prevent egress of the first ball from the reservoir when the delivery means is in the closed position, and provided with a delivery position stop to prevent egress of the second ball from the reservoir when the delivery means is in the delivery position, and means to hold the delivery means normally in the closed position.

13. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls to be delivered therefrom above the level of the ground by gravity alone, a tee attached to the reservoir and above the level of the ground, and movable delivery means carried by the reservoir to carry and deliver one ball at a time by gravity to the tee at each operation of the delivery means from the closed to the delivery position.

14. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls to be delivered therefrom above the level of the ground by gravity only, a tee carried directly by the reservoir and above the level of the ground, movable delivery means to carry and deliver a ball from the reservoir to a tee carried by the reservoir and having a closed and a delivery position and provided with a closed position stop to prevent delivery of the balls when the delivery means is in the closed position by contact with the first ball, and provided with a delivery position stop to prevent delivery of the balls following the first ball when the delivery means is in the delivery position, and means to maintain the delivery means normally in the closed position.

15. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls having ingress means at the top and egress means at the bottom thereof and adapted to discharge said supply of balls at said egress means by gravity alone, a tee attached directly to the reservoir and above the level of the ground, and movable delivery means carried by the reservoir to carry and deliver from the reservoir to the tee one ball at a time by gravity only from said egress means.

16. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls having ingress means at the top and egress means at the bottom thereof and adapted to discharge said supply of golf balls at said egress means by gravity alone, a tee carried by the reservoir and above the level of the ground, and a normally upright, spring-held movable delivery member pivotally mounted on the reservoir to deliver from the reservoir to the tee one ball at a time by gravity only from said egress means.

17. In a golf ball teeing device, the combination of a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls and constructed and arranged to discharge said balls thru the action of gravity alone and delivery means hinged to the reservoir and movable from a ball receiving position to a ball delivery position to carry and deliver one golf ball at a time continuously by gravity from the reservoir to a predetermined final position spaced from the reservoir.

18. In a golf ball teeing device, a reservoir to hold a supply of golf balls having ingress means at the top and egress means at the bottom thereof adapted to discharge said supply of balls through gravity alone, and delivery means hinged to the reservoir and carried by the reservoir and movable on said hinge to carry and deliver from said reservoir above the level of the ground one ball at a time by gravity alone from said egress means.

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