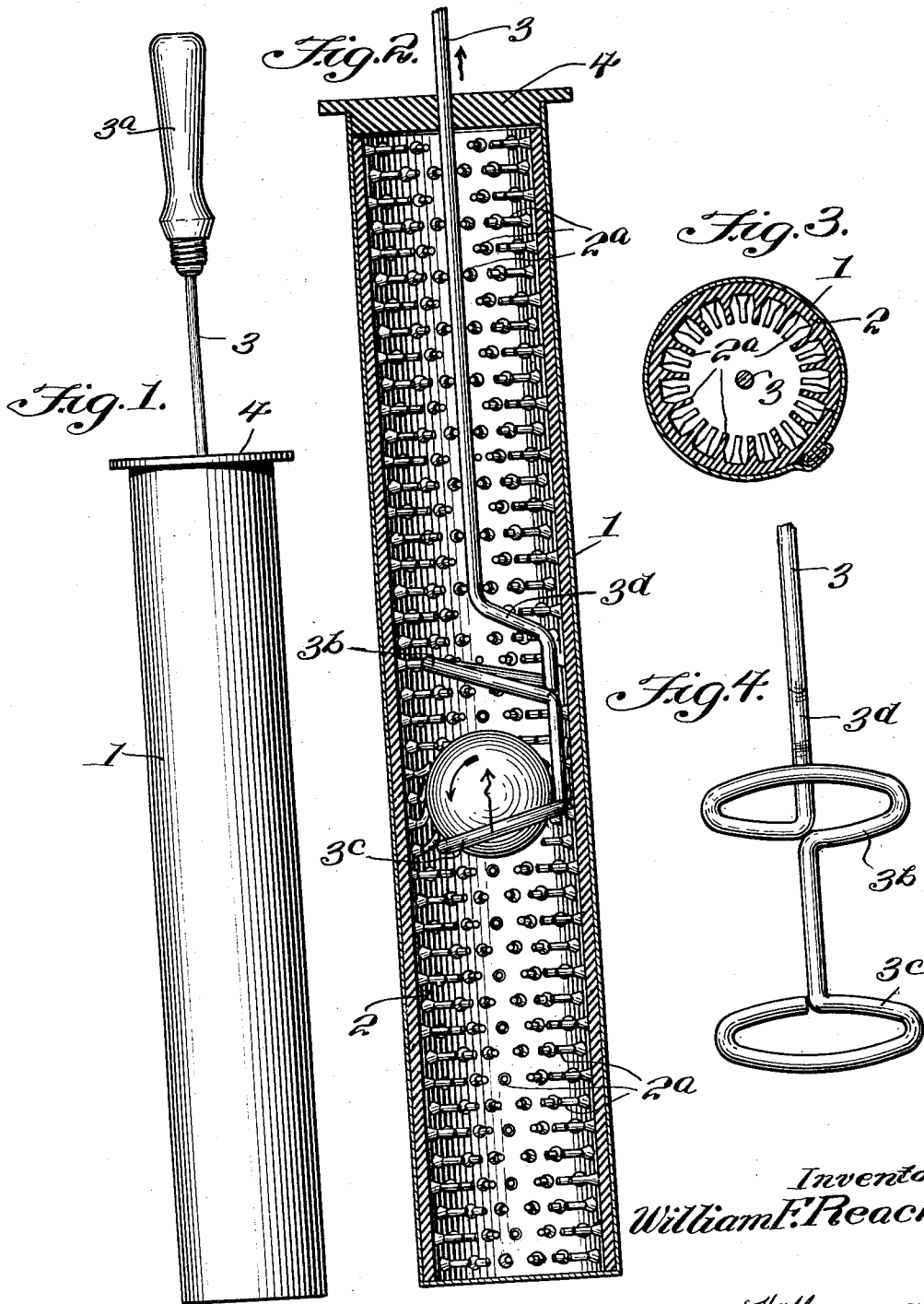


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GOLF BALL WASHER  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## GOLF-BALL WASHER

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The present invention relates to improvement in golf ball washing devices and aims to provide an exceedingly simple, economical and durable form of apparatus which will be readily portable, and which can be easily operated to effectively cleanse soiled balls.

The invention includes the novel device hereinafter described, the nature and scope of the invention being pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device.  
 Fig. 2 is a central vertical section.  
 Fig. 3 is a horizontal section through the container and brush, and

Fig. 4 is a detailed perspective view of the lower portion of the ball actuator.

Referring by reference characters to this drawing, the numeral 1 designates a cylindrical receptacle preferably of sheet metal of non-corrosive nature such as galvanized iron or sheet metal having a rust resisting coating, said receptacle having a closed bottom and open top and being adapted to receive and retain water for washing purposes.

Within this container I place a cylindrical brush which I prefer to make in the form of a rubber tube or sleeve 2 having its inner surface provided with rubber bristles or flexible projections 2<sup>a</sup> which extend radially inward for a suitable distance, the interior diameter of the tube being slightly in excess of the diameter of a golf ball and the distance between the ends of fingers on opposite sides of the tube being less than said diameter whereby they will be deflected by a ball when forced into the tube and exert a rubbing action thereon.

This tube is formed of such a size that it may be readily slipped into the container and it will be held therein by frictional engagement of the rubber with the container wall, no holding means being required.

For inserting the ball into the container and reciprocating it therein in contact with the bristles or rubber fingers, I provide an operating rod 3 having a suitable handle 3<sup>a</sup> at its upper end, and a pair of spaced ball

engaging rings 3<sup>b</sup> and 3<sup>c</sup> at its lower end. In operating the device, the ball is seated on the lower ring which is inserted within the rubber tube and as the rings are forced downward therein, the upper ring carries the ball down and subjects it to the rubbing action of the fingers which, due to the water within the tube, effectually cleanses the surface with which the fingers contact.

It is necessary that the ball be rotated as it is moved up and down within the tube in order to bring all parts of its surface into contact with the fingers or projections, and to accomplish this in a simple and economical manner, I locate the lower and upper ball engaging rings in oppositely inclined planes as shown.

The result of this is that at each reciprocating movement of the handle the ball will be given a partial rotation without having been removed from the tubular cleaner, and the reciprocation can be continued until the ball is thoroughly cleaned.

I prefer to make the rod and rings of a single piece of wire having a portion deflected laterally as indicated at 3<sup>d</sup>, below which the wire is bent laterally to form the upper ring 3<sup>b</sup> from which it extends downwardly and is again bent laterally to form the lower ring 3<sup>c</sup>.

4 designates a cover having a central opening through which the operating rod passes for preventing splashing out of the water. The cover being held down by one hand, also serves as a stop to limit the upward movement of the ball carrying part.

By carrying the cover on the rod between the handle and ball rings, accidental loss of the cover is prevented.

The tube may be formed by providing a rectangular rubber mat of proper dimensions having projections on one face and bending this into tube form with the edges abutting and slipping it into the container or receptacle.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A device for cleaning golf balls comprising a receptacle, cylindrically arranged brushing means therein, and means for re-

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reciprocating a ball therein comprising a rod having a pair of rings adjacent its lower end, said rings being spaced apart and inclined in opposite directions relative to a plane normal to said rod.

7 2. A ball washing device comprising a container, a cylindrical tube of rubber therein having inwardly extending resilient projections, and means for reciprocating a ball  
10 within said tube.

3. A rubbing element for ball washing devices comprising a cylindrical rubber tube having integral flexible rubber projections distributed over the inner surface thereof.

15 4. A device for cleaning golf balls comprising cylindrical brushing means, and means for reciprocating the ball within said cylindrical brushing means comprising a rod having a pair of rings adjacent its lower  
20 end, said rings having an internal diameter less than the diameter of the ball and being spaced apart a distance exceeding the diameter of the ball.

5. A device for cleaning golf balls comprising cylindrical brush means, and means  
25 for reciprocating a ball therein comprising a rod having an offset lower portion, and a pair of spaced apart rings carried by said offset portion and having an internal diameter less than the diameter of the ball.

30 6. A device for cleaning golf balls comprising cylindrical brush means, and means for reciprocating a ball therein comprising a rod having an offset lower portion, and a  
35 pair of spaced apart rings carried by said offset portion and having an internal diameter less than the diameter of the ball, said rings being inclined in opposite directions relative to a plane normal to the said rod.

40 In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.  
WILLIAM F. REACH.

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