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2,572,408

FOLDABLE GOLF BAG SUPPORT

Filed Oct. 24, 1949

2 SHEETS.—SHEET 1

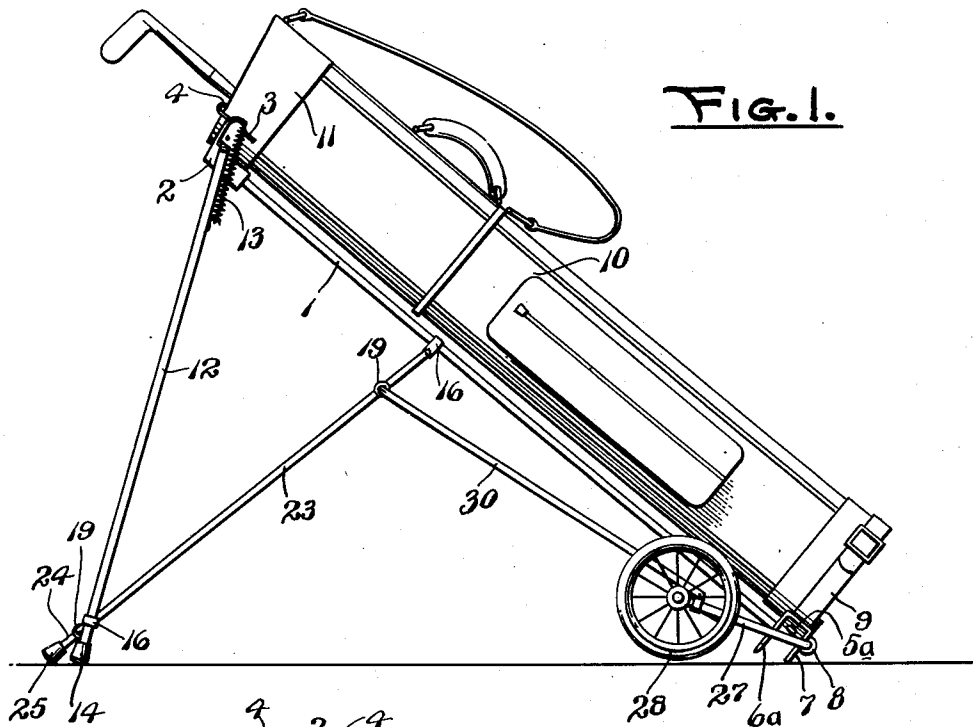


FIG. 1.

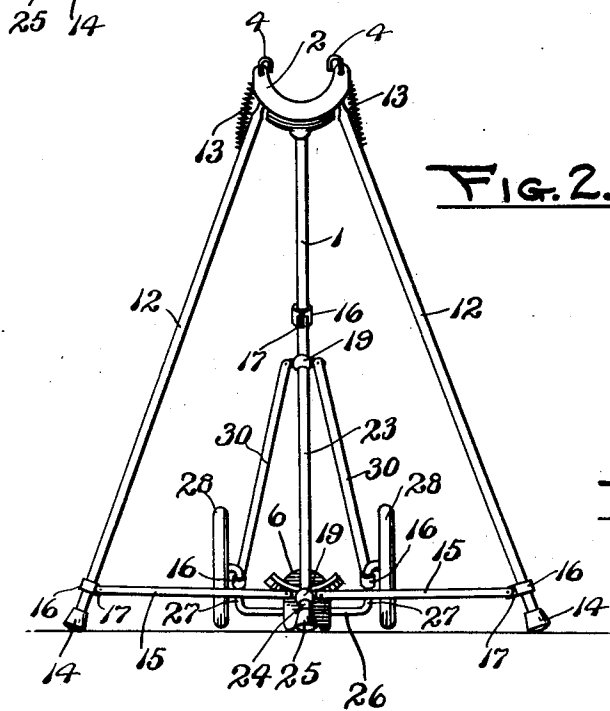


FIG. 2.

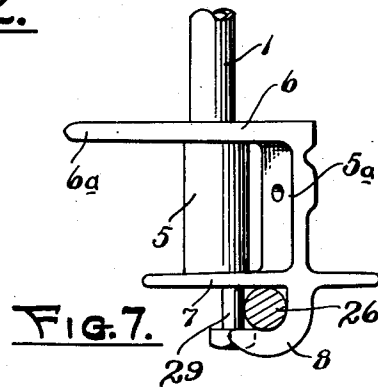


FIG. 7.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

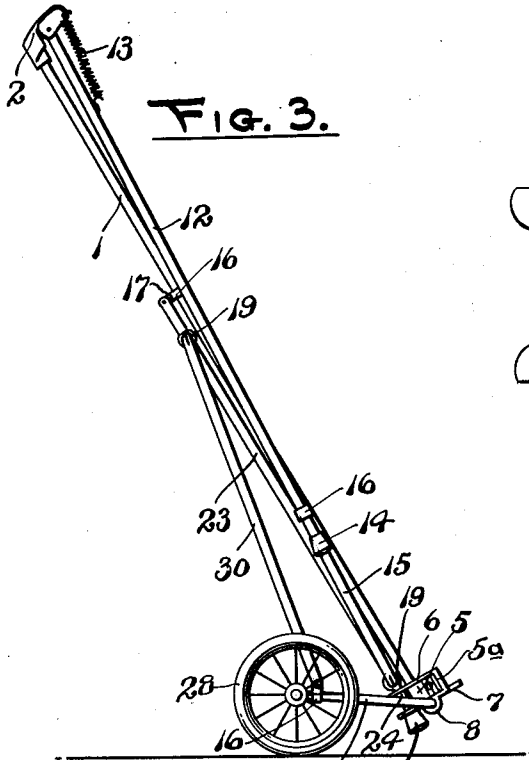


FIG. 3.

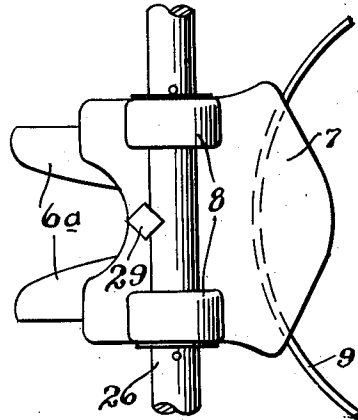


FIG. 4.

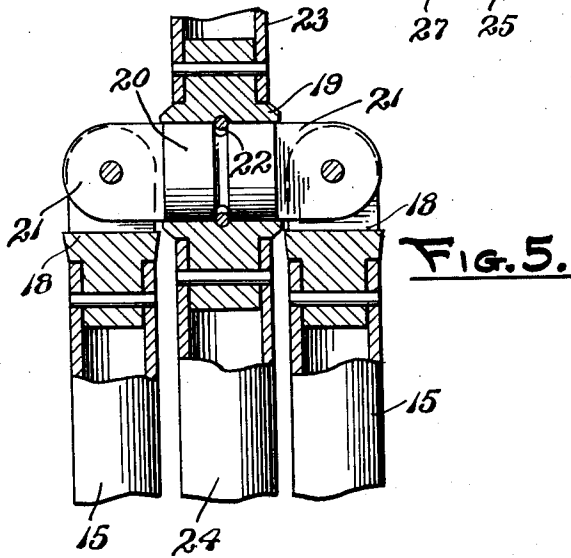


FIG. 5.

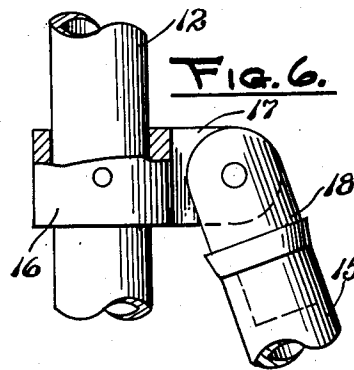


FIG. 6.

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FOLDABLE GOLF BAG SUPPORT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 280—36)

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This invention relates to a golf bag support, to which a golf bag may be connected, and the bag containing clubs with the connected support carried or drawn from one place of play to another, and upon reaching a place where a ball is to be played, the support is quickly and easily and substantially instantly positioned to support the bag in which the clubs are carried at an incline to the vertical, with the open end of the bag, from which the clubs project, conveniently located so that a player may select the club which is to be used. After the ball is played, and the club returned to the bag, by merely grasping the handle of the bag and lifting it for carrying, the support automatically folds and collapses against the bag and remains in such position until the succeeding place of play is reached. The support is then unfolded at the new place of play, and again positioned to support the bag at an incline for ready access to any club therein which may be wanted.

Further, with my invention, the bag support may be supplied with wheels at one end, which wheels, upon the automatic folding of the support against the bag, will be lowered for engagement with the ground, and by grasping the golf bag it, with the clubs therein, may be drawn over the ground until another place is reached, and then by setting up the support to position the golf bag at the previously mentioned inclination, the wheels are lifted from the ground and the bag securely supported with the clubs accessible for selection therefrom, and will so remain until by lifting upon the handle of the golf bag the support collapses against a side of the bag and in longitudinal alignment therewith, with a simultaneous lowering of the wheels and lifting the lower end of the support from the ground.

It is an object and purpose of the present invention to provide a very practical, useful and serviceable golf bag support of light weight, but of ample strength, for ease in selecting a club to be used, and for readiness of carrying the clubs from one place of play to another, so that there may be a dispensing of caddie service if such service is available, and for facilitating the game where such service is unavailable.

An understanding of the invention may be had from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is an elevation showing the support in use, and with the golf bag located in inclined position, the carrying wheels for the bag, when the support is folded and not in use, being elevated above the ground.

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Fig. 2 is a front end elevation, the bag being removed.

Fig. 3 is an elevation from the same side as in Fig. 1, the bag being removed and the support folded.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary enlarged elevation of the lower end of the support.

Fig. 5 is a transverse generally vertical section of one of the joint structures used for connecting various foldable rods or bars of the supports in permanent relation to each other.

Fig. 6 is a similar fragmentary elevation of partial section illustrating another of the pivotal joints used and,

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Fig. 4 with the wheel carrying axle shown in vertical section.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in the different figures of the drawings.

In the structure disclosed, a tubular rod 1 of light weight and small diameter, at its upper end has a fixture 2 permanently secured thereto which, as best shown in Fig. 2, is of a generally semi-circular outline. At opposite sides of this fixture rods 3 are mounted to turn about their longitudinal axes, each at its upper end portion above the fixture 2 terminating in a reverse, generally V-shaped, hook 4. The rods 3 may be turned to different angular positions and are also longitudinally movable and adjustable for a purpose hereinafter appearing.

At the lower end of the rod 1, a ground engaging fixture is permanently secured to the lower end of the rod 1, it having a permanent connection with a sleeve 5 to receive it (Fig. 7) which, together with two spaced struts 5a paralleling the sleeve 5, are cast integral with upper and lower plates 6 and 7 which are located in planes at right angles to the axis of the rod 1. The upper plate 6 at the inner side of the rod 1 is divided to make spaced fingers 6a, and the corresponding edge of the lower plate 7 may be provided with a concave recess as shown in Fig. 4. From the lower side of the plate 7 and integral therewith spaced hooks 8 extend downwardly. The struts 5a are so positioned and formed that a strap will pass between them and sleeve 5. This strap, having a buckle on one end, will encircle the golf bag 10 and when drawn tight will cause the edges on the struts 5a to take a firm grip on the golf bag so as to keep it from slipping and turning. By adjustment of the rods 3, the hooks 4 may connect with the upper edges of the upper end band or collar 11 as shown in Fig. 1. The rod 1 is thus disposed parallel to and closely adjacent

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a side of the elongated golf bag 10, which at its lower end may be releasably held in place by a strap 9.

Two other tubular rods 12, shorter in length than rod 1, are pivotally connected each at one end to the upper fixture 2 at opposite sides of the rod 1, and are in a generally symmetrical relation thereto. Coiled extension springs 13 are used, one connected to each rod 12 a distance below the upper pivoted end thereof, the opposite ends of the springs being connected with the fixture 2. The springs 13, when free to do so, will tend to move the two rods 12 toward each other and in a position substantially parallel with the rod 1. The pivotal connection of the upper ends of the rods 12 to the fixture 2 is a loose connection and one which permits a divergence of the rods 12 downwardly away from each other and a pivotal movement about the axes of their pivotal connections to the fixture 2 for outward pivotal or swinging movement of the rods 12 at their lower portions away from the lower end rod 1, and the golf bag connecting fixture at the lower end of such rod 1. Each of the rods 12 at its lower free end, preferably, is equipped with a ground engaging foot 14 of rubber or equivalent material.

Two rods 15 are pivotally connected at one end of each of them to each of the rods 12 toward the lower ends of the latter rods, but a short distance above such lower ends. In practice the pivotal connection, as shown in Fig. 6, is by means of a sleeve 16 through which a rod 12 passes, with a pin passing through the sleeve and rod 12 for permanence of connection, and from the sleeve 16 a tongue 17 extends inwardly. The adjacent end of the associated rod 15 has a plug member 18 which may be partially entered into the adjacent end of the rod 15, its projecting portion being divided by a slot into which the tongue 17 is received, a pivot passing through said plug member 18 and the tongue 17 as shown.

The two rods 15 at their opposite ends extend or converge toward each other, each at such opposite end being similarly equipped with a plug member 18 likewise slotted to divide the projecting portion thereof. Such two plug members 18 come to opposite sides of a member 19 which has a horizontal cylindrical opening therethrough, and through which a short cylindrical rod or plug 20 is passed, having projecting ends milled or otherwise machined to make oppositely extending tongues 21 which are pivotally connected to the members 18. The cylindrical body 20 of this connection is exteriorly grooved between its ends, and the opening through the member 19 is similarly interiorly grooved so that in the assembly, a split spring ring 22 may be seated in the groove of the member 20 and contracted so that the assembly may be carried out, the ring 22 extending when it reaches the interior groove in the member 19, locking the parts against separation.

The member 19 has two oppositely extending reduced cylindrical plug portions which enter the ends of rods 23 and 24 located in alignment. Such tubular rods 23 and 24 are permanently pinned to the member 19 (Fig. 5). The rod 23 extends in an upward direction and at its upper end is connected by means of a sleeve 16 and tongue 17 fixed to the rod 1 by a pivotal connection identical with that shown in Fig. 6, the upper end of the rod 23 being equipped with divided plug member 18. Thus the upper end of the rod 23 has a pivotal connection to the rod 1 at the point between the ends of the rod 1, though nearer its upper end than its lower end.

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The rod 24 is of short length. It is in alignment with the rod 23 and at its free end is equipped with a foot 25 identical with the rubber foot 14 at the lower end of each rod 12.

The structure thus described is complete as a golf bag support without the attachment of the wheels which have been referred to. In the folded position of the support (Fig. 3) the rod 23, with its short aligned extension 24, is parallel to the rod 1, with such short extension 24 between the fingers 6a, and with the foot member 25 entering the concave recess in the edge of the plate 7. The outer end of the foot member 24 projects beyond the lower side of the lower plate 7. The action of the spring 13, through the connected rods 12 and 15, is to hold such rods 1 and 23 in collapsed parallel position, the rods 15 extending upwardly and diverging slightly outwardly toward their upper ends, while the rods 12 lie generally aligned and at opposite sides and spaced equal distances from the rod 1. In such position the golf bag support is closely adjacent one side of the golf bag and substantially parallel thereto. The handle of the golf bag will be at the opposite side of the bag from such support and the bag with the attached support may be readily carried by the handle.

When a destination is reached the golf bag with the support may be placed vertically, the foot 25 engaging the ground and providing a fulcrum. Then by pulling on the handle, the support is unfolded to incline the bag to the position shown in Fig. 1. The lower end of rod 1 and the fixture at its lower end which are securely connected with the golf bag, are swung away from such foot member 25 with a simultaneous outward diverging movement of the lower portions of rods 12 away from each other, and with a movement of the rods 15 toward aligned horizontal position until the foot members 24 reach the ground and the golf bag attaching fixture at the lower end of the rod 1 also reaches the ground. This positions the golf bag as in Fig. 1, on a generally easel like support, with the bag above a triangular base the corner points of which are the foot members 14 and the lower fixture on rod 1 which firmly engage the ground and support the golf bag and maintain it at the inclined position. In such position the clubs in the bag are freely accessible for selection of any one of them which is wanted.

On lifting the bag by grasping the handle and lifting upwardly, the support automatically folds into parallel relation with the bag. The springs 13 swing the rods 12 until the lines of force of the springs are substantially coincident with a line drawn from the foot member 25 to the pivotal connection of the upper end of the rod 23 with the rod 1, but the momentum of the movement of the moving rods 12, 15 and 23 carry such rods over what would otherwise be a dead center position, and beyond such dead center, to move the short extension 24 and the foot member 25 thereon to enter the space between the fingers 6a, with the foot member 25 pressing against the recessed edge of the plate 7.

Carrying wheels may be supplied to the support, though as previously stated the support is useful, practical and complete for service without such wheels. An axle is provided in the form of a bent rod having a middle portion 26, from each end of which a section 27 is bent substantially at right angles, each section terminating in an outwardly extended part on which a wheel 28 is rotatively mounted. Such axle is releas-

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ably secured at the lower side of the lower plate 7, being inserted in the open hooks 8 (Fig. 7), and held in place by a screw 23 which is threaded upwardly into the sleeve or post 5 to hold the axle securely in position, though permitting it to turn about its longitudinal axis.

Two connecting rods 30 of the same tubular stock as the other rods are connected one to each of the sections 27 at one end, using the same sleeve 16, tongue 17 and divided plug member 18 for such connections as shown in Fig. 6. The rods 30 extend to the rod 23, converging toward each other, and are connected by the same pivotal and joint connection shown in Fig. 5. The rod 23 may be divided and the member 19 secured in place in its length with the cylindrical plug member 20 and the tongues 21 extending to opposite sides thereof passing through the member 19, to which tongues the other ends of the rods 30 are pivotally connected.

Such structure when the support is collapsed and folded (Fig. 3), rocks axle 28 to bring the wheels 28 into contact with the ground and with a lifting of the remaining parts of the support. In such condition, and with the golf bag containing the clubs attached to the support, it may be pulled over the ground, riding on the wheels 28. When the support is unfolded, as in Fig. 1, the lower edge of the plate 7 engages the ground and the wheels are lifted slightly away from the ground, whereby the three point support is provided, in addition to the other contact with the ground of the foot member 25 between the two foot members 14. The support unfolded and in its operative position is stable so that a selected club may be withdrawn from the golf bag and afterwards be replaced, without danger of movement or collapsing of the support until such folding collapse is wanted.

The structure described is of ample strength, though light in weight. The tubular rods which form the greater portion of the weight of metal used need not be over one-quarter or three-eighths of an inch in exterior diameter.

With the present invention, the bag is kept off the ground, also all of the clubs, none of them coming in contact with the ground or with wet grass. It may be used either on the level or on a hill. When it is not supporting the bag at an incline, it is out of the way. The clubs are taken out of and replaced in the bag without stooping. Physical exertion is reduced. The cost is relatively low, the weight scarcely more than the weight of one club. It saves the bag against deterioration and maintains the bag and clubs clean to the benefit of the clothing of the golfer.

The invention is defined in the appended claims and is to be considered comprehensive of all forms of structure coming within their scope.

I claim:

1. In a structure as described, an elongated bar, a fixture of generally semi-circular arch-shape secured at the upper end of the bar, means mounted on said fixture adapted to connect with the upper open end of a golf bag, a second fixture at the lower end of the bar secured thereto, means connected with said second fixture for releasably securing a golf bag at its lower end, two supporting bars movably connected at their upper ends to said first fixture at a spaced distance from each other, one at each side of the first mentioned bar, and adapted for outward and inward pivotal movement away from and toward said first mentioned bar and for outward

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swinging movement with respect to each other, two additional bars between the lower end portions of said supporting bars, each pivotally connected at its outer end to a supporting bar, a further additional bar pivotally connected at one end to the first mentioned bar between the ends thereof, a short member to opposite ends of which the other ends of said additional bars are pivotally connected said further additional bar adjacent its free end having a bearing through which said short member passes and within which said short member has a limited turning movement about its longitudinal axis, and a coiled tension spring connected at one end to each of the supporting bars and at the other end to said upper fixture adjacent the ends of said fixture, said springs normally acting to fold the supporting bar, additional bars and further additional bar into positions generally parallel to the first bar.

2. A structure as defined in claim 1, said fixture at the lower end of the first bar having two spaced plate portions located at right angles to the axis of said first bar, integral connections between said plates, the uppermost of said plates at its inner edge being divided to provide two spaced fingers between which the lower end portion of said last mentioned further additional bar is adapted to seat when in folded position, and said lower plate having a projecting ledge portion against which the lower end of a golf bag is adapted to rest.

3. A structure as defined in claim 1, and a horizontal axle mounted for rocking movement on said second fixture, said axle at each end portion having an off-set extension located at an angle to the intermediate portion of the axle, wheels mounted on said off-set extensions to turn about an axis parallel to said intermediate portion of the axle, and two link bars pivotally connected at one end to said further additional bar, and having a pivotal connection at their opposite ends one to each angularly off-set portion of the axle.

4. In a structure as described, an elongated bar, means at opposite ends of the bar adapted for the connection of a golf bag thereto at opposite ends of the bag, to locate said bar parallel to and at a side of the bag, two supporting bars each pivotally connected at its upper end to the uppermost of said bag connecting means, whereby said supporting bars may be folded to lie one at each side of the first bar and generally alongside thereof, or moved outwardly to bear at their lower ends upon the ground and support the first bar and a golf bag attached thereto at an inclined position, two additional bars pivotally connected at their outer ends, one to each of said supporting bars adjacent the lower end thereof, a further additional bar pivotally connected at one end with the first mentioned bar between the ends thereof, a member between the other ends of said additional bars to opposite ends of which said additional bars are pivotally connected, said member having a pivotal connection between its ends with said additional bar adjacent the end thereof opposite the end pivotally connected to the first mentioned bar.

5. A structure as defined in claim 4, and two tension springs connected each at one end to said uppermost golf bag connecting means, and at opposite ends one to each of said supporting bars, said springs being strained upon unfolding said bars to support the golf bag in inclined position, the force of said springs thereupon

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tending to swing the supporting bars and all additional bars into folded position generally parallel with the first bar.

6. In an apparatus as described, an elongated bar, golf bag connecting means secured at each end of the bar for securing the bar alongside of and parallel to a golf bag, two foldable supports pivotally connected at their upper ends to the upper golf bag connecting means, adapted to be moved to lie alongside said bar or to be swung outwardly away therefrom, interposed means connected with said supports near their lower ends and to said bar between its ends for automatically swinging said two supports away from each other at their free ends as they are swung outwardly from said bar, said supports diverging downwardly and outwardly from the upper end of the bar to thereby provide a three point support for a golf bag secured to said bar, with said bar and bag located in inclined position, and a horizontal axle mounted for rocking movement on and extending transversely of the lower golf bag connecting means, having end portions off-

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set at an angle to the body of the axle, wheels rotatable mounted on said offset portions, and link connections between said offset portions of the axle and said interposed means between the supports and said bar for lifting the wheels from the ground, when the bar and golf bag secured there- to are supported in inclined position, and lowering said wheels to the ground when said foldable supports and the interposed means therebetween and said bar are in folded position.

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