June 8, 1965 R. T. PARMLEY 3,188,086

BODY-PIVOT GOLF PUTTER

Filed Oct. 18, 1961

FIG. 1.

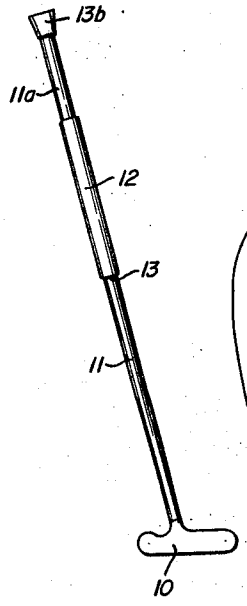



FIG. 2.

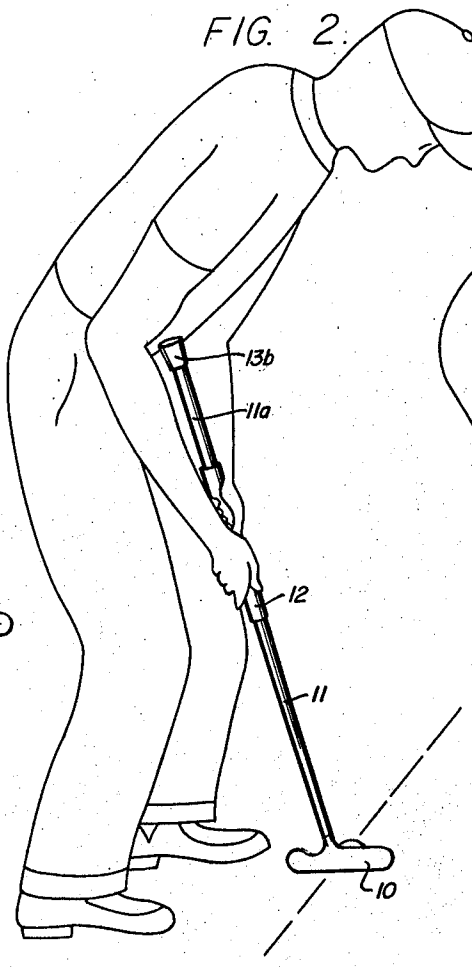



FIG. 7.

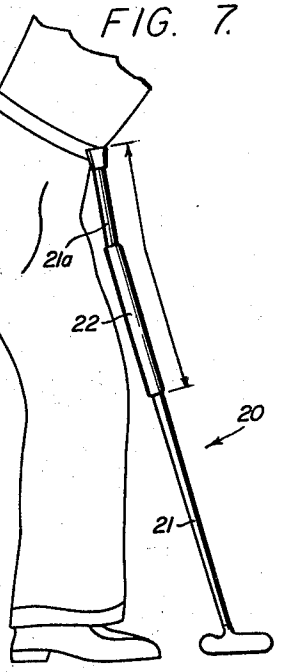



FIG. 3.

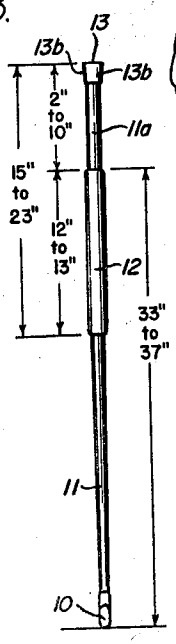



FIG. 4.

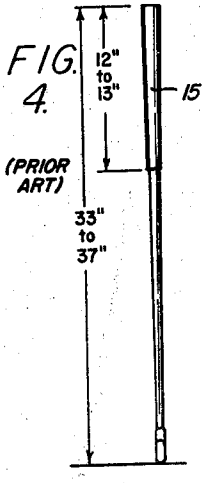



FIG. 5.

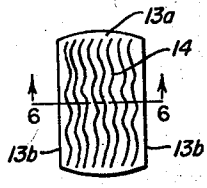
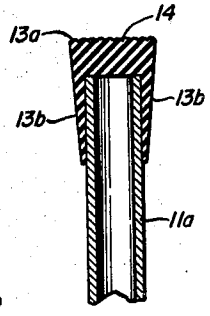



FIG. 6.




INVENTOR.
RICHARD T. PARMLEY

BY Mallinckrodt & Mallinckrodt
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,188,086 Patented June 8, 1965



3,188,086

# BODY-PIVOT GOLF PUTTER

Richard T. Parmley, 2711 Cowley Way, San Diego 10, Calif.

Filed Oct. 18, 1961, Ser. No. 145,793
9 Claims. (Cl. 273—81.3)

This invention relates to golf clubs and particularly to putters. It involves a new concept of putting and structure for carrying out such concept.

Conventional putters require golfers to swing without support other than that afforded by the shoulders. Great skill is required to achieve the desired objective of sinking the ball in the cup.

It was a principal object of this invention to significantly reduce the difficulty of putting accurately, without eliminating skill as a factor in the game.

Another object was to accomplish the foregoing without any radical departure from conventional club configuration, so as to gain prompt acceptance by golfers generally and arouse no official disapproval.

These objects have been attained by providing for pivoting the upper end of the club against the abdomen of the golfer during the swing. From a structural standpoint, this involves making the shaft of the club for any given golfer longer than it would be if such club were of conventional size, while leaving the hand grip in its usual place relative to the ball-striking head of the club.

Conventional golf putters, including those custom built, range in length from 33 to 37 inches, depending upon the sex and height of the golfer. The shortest clubs are ordinarily provided for women. Even extraordinarily tall men and women seldom use a putter longer than 36 inches. The hand grips of conventional putters extend down the shaft of the club from the upper end of the club a distance ranging from about 12 to 13 inches, depending upon the overall length of the club. Ordinarily, the hands of a golfer will extend over only about 8 inches of grip length.

In contrast, clubs confroming to this invention will extend upwardly from at least 15 to about 23 inches from the lower end of the hand grip, which is conventionally located with respect to the club head, and the total length of the club will range upwardly from a length almost, at least, as great as that of any conventional putter, depending upon the golfer's height. In this way, the upper end of the club will be adapted to rest firmly against the golfer's abdomen and to pivot thereagainst during the stroke. For this purpose, a frictional pivot member is advantageously provided at the upper end of the shaft.

Various special forms of golf putter clubs have been proposed heretofore, for example those shown in Taylor U.S. Patent No. 792,631 and Schmidt U.S. Patent No. 2,843,384. These, however, differ radically from the conventional club and do not offer the functional advantages of this invention. Both are forward-swing clubs, in contrast to conventional lateral-swing clubs.

Specific embodiments representing what are presently regarded as the best modes of carrying out the invention in actual practice are illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 represents a side elevation of one preferred form of the putter;

FIG. 2, a perspective view of a golfer about to execute a putt with the club of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3, a front elevation of the putter, with ranges of significant dimensions appended;

FIG. 4, a similar view of a conventional putter for purposes of comparison;



FIG. 5, a top plan view of the upper end of the club, the view being taken with respect to FIG. 3 but drawn to a larger scale;

FIG. 6, a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 6—6 of FIG. 5; and

FIG. 7, a side elevation of a golfer about to execute a putt with a club constituting a somewhat different embodiment of the invention, the golfer being shown only fragmentarily and no attempt being made to accurately show the exact pivotal relationship of the club with the golfer, an arrow being appended to indicate how the upper portion of the shaft is bent out of line with the lower portion.

Referring to the drawings:

The golf putter shown in FIGS. 1–6 is of lateral-swing type and includes a putter head **10**, which may be of any suitable side-hitting formation, a single shaft **11** extending upwardly therefrom in what is essentially conventional manner, a hand grip **12**, and a frictional pivot member **13**. Not conventional is the fact that the shaft is of such extended length as to, together with member **13**, each the abdomen of a golfer using the club, although the hand grip **12** remains in the location usual for the club with shaft not extended. As illustrated, such hand grip is of conventional length, but the total length of the club is considerably longer than is conventional. In no instance is the total length of the club less than almost that of a conventional golf putter club.

By comparing the club of the invention, as shown in FIG. 3, with a conventional golf putter club for the same golfer, as shown in FIG. 4, the significance of the dimensional differences and the new relationship of the component parts becomes apparent. Thus, the upper end portion **11***a* of the shaft, together with the frictional member **13**, of the club of FIG. 3 extends from at least two to about ten inches above the upper termination of the hand grip **15** of the conventional golf putter club of FIG. 4, and, whether left unwrapped, as shown, or wrapped by an upward continuation of the hand grip **12**, the upper termination of the club is adapted to seat against and pivot on the abdomen of the golfer during play, see FIG. 2.

Frictional pivot member **13** serves to maintain a stable pivot for the club against the abdomen of the golfer during a swing. In the illustrated embodiment, this member **13** is an elongate cap of flexible and resilient cushioning material, such as sponge rubber, tightly affixed to the upper end of shaft **11**, as by means of an adhesive, with its elongate dimension extending substantially parallel with the club head. Accordingly, there will be a cushioning as well as a pivot action of the upper end of the club against the body of the golfer during execution of a stroke. Other frictional materials may, of course, be employed for the pivot member and such member may be attached to the upper end of the shaft of the club in various ways.

In order to provide a satisfactory bearing surface for the pivot member **13**, it is preferred that its top **13***a* be flat, and in order to guide the strokes along proper paths rather than to cause deviation, it is advantageous that its lateral sides **13***b* be flat and intersect the flat top **13***a* at respective acute angles and along lateral edges that are mutually parallel and substantially in alignment with the putter head. Even when the pivot member is made of some excellent frictional material, such as sponge rubber, it is preferred to provide an anti-slip, tread-like design **14** on the flat top, as indicated in FIG. 5.

The club is held and swung in essentially conventional manner, due regard being given, however, to the pivot bearing of the upper end of the club against the abdomen of the golfer. Thus, while grip and swing are customary,

attention is paid to pivoting the club against the abdomen, see FIG. 2, to both steady and guide the stroke.

A somewhat different embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIG. 7, wherein the golf putter club **20** is similar to the club of the foregoing figures in every respect except for the fact that the extended length, upper end portion **21***a* of the shaft **21** is canted forwardly at a slight angle to the handle grip **22** and to the lower portion of the shaft, instead of being a rectilinear continuation thereof.

Whereas there are here specifically illustrated and described certain preferred constructions which are presently regarded as the best modes of carrying out the invention, it should be understood that various changes may be made without departing from the inventive concepts particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed herebelow.

I claim:

**1.** A lateral-swing golf putter club, comprising a putter head of side-hitting type; a single club shaft extending upwardly from securement to said head; a handle grip on said shaft; and an additional, elongate, shaft extension extending beyond the uppermost portion of the handle grip sufficiently to place the upper end of the club shaft against the abdomen of the player during the execution of a putting stroke.

**2.** A lateral-swing golf putter club, comprising a putter head of side-hitting type; a single club shaft extending upwardly from securement to said head; a handle grip on said shaft; an additional, elongate, shaft extension extending beyond the uppermost portion of the handle grip sufficiently to place the upper end of the club shaft against the abdomen of the player during the execution of the putting stroke; and a frictional pivot member at the upper end of said shaft extension.

**3.** A lateral-swing golf putter club, comprising a putter head of side-hitting type; a single club shaft extending upwardly from securement to said head; a handle grip on said shaft; an additional, elongate, shaft extension sufficient to place the upper end of the club shaft against the abdomen of the player during the execution of a putting stroke; and a frictional pivot member at the upper end of said shaft extension, said pivot member being elongate longitudinally of the club head, with its upper lateral edges mutually parallel and substantially in alignment with the putter head, and having a substantially flat top and substantially flat sides laterally thereof as stroke-guiding means.



**4.** The golf putter club of claim **3**, wherein the flat sides of the pivot member intersect the flat top thereof at acute angles, respectively.

**5.** The golf putter club of claim **2**, wherein the pivot member is of a flexible and resilient cushioning material.

**6.** The golf putter club of claim **5**, wherein the material is sponge rubber.

**7.** The golf putter club of claim **5**, wherein the top of the pivot member has an anti-slip, tread-like design formed therein.

**8.** The golf putter club of claim **1**, wherein the shaft extension is a rectilinear continuation of the club shaft.

**9.** The golf putter club of claim **1**, wherein the putter head extends in one direction farther than in the opposite direction and the shaft extension is canted in the said one direction at such an angle to the club shaft as is significant in the holding of the club for play with the upper end against the abdomen.


**References Cited by the Examiner**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1,574,915 | 3/26 | Marston | 273—168 X |
| 1,912,728 | 6/33 | Roe | 45—137 |
| 2,107,983 | 2/38 | Hamilton | 273—81.2 |
| 2,772,090 | 11/56 | Brandon | 273—81 |

FOREIGN PATENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 388,596 | 3/33 | Great Britain. |



DELBERT B. LOWE, *Primary Examiner.*

LEONARD W. VARNER, JR., *Examiner.*