US 20120083356A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Arnette

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2012/0083356 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Apr. 5, 2012**

(54) **METHOD OF PUTTING AND A PUTTER**

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(21) Appl. No.: **12/897,980**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 5, 2010**

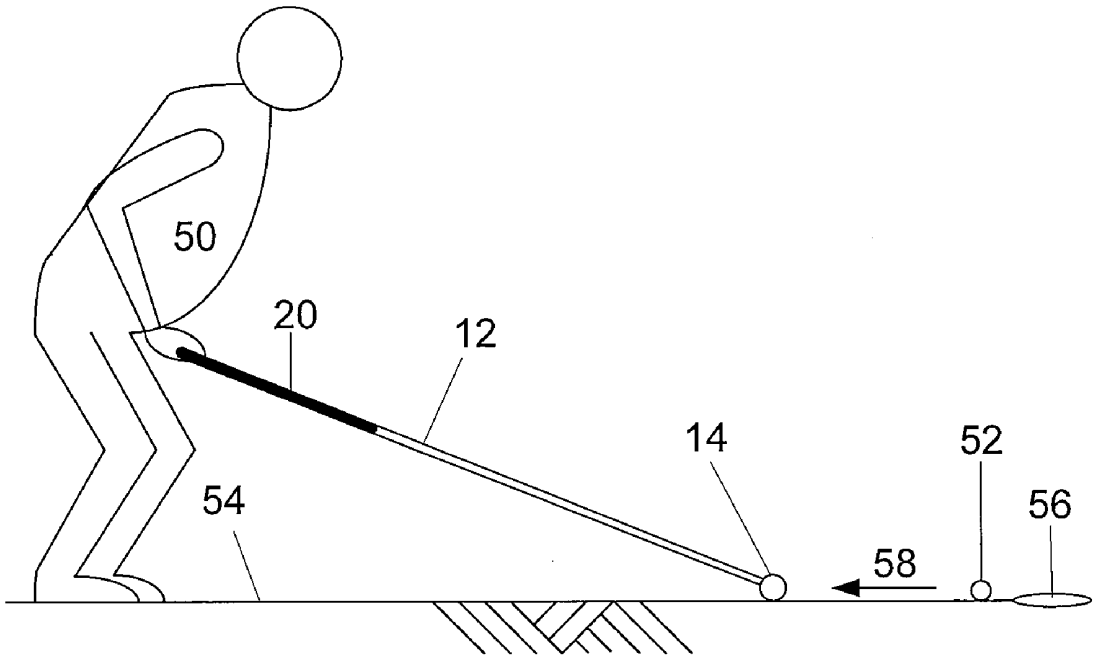
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A63B 53/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **473/313**; 473/409

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of putting a golf ball located on a putting green into a hole includes grasping a putter with at least one hand of a golfer and locating the putter at a first position such that the putter head is positioned proximate the golf ball and is at least four feet from the golfer. Furthermore, the method includes translating the putter head away from the golf ball to locate the putter at a second position, and orienting the shoulders of the golfer to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft in the second position. Additionally, the method includes translating the putter head towards the golf ball while the shoulders of the golfer face the hole, and instantaneously striking the golf ball with the putter head to cause the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate in a direction along a line of the putt towards the hole.



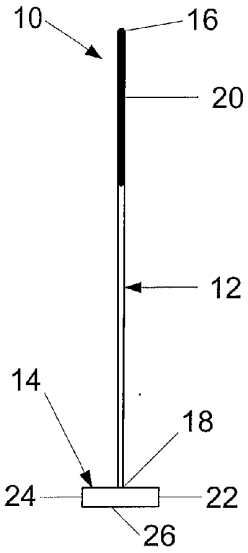


FIG. 1

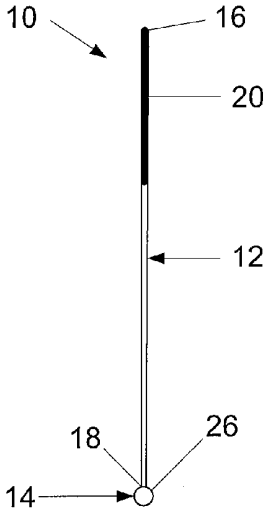


FIG. 2

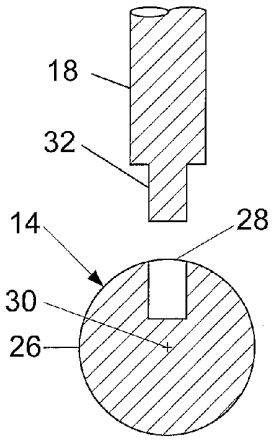


FIG. 3

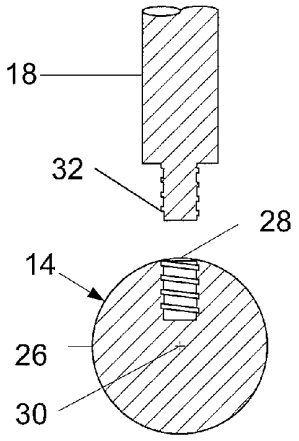


FIG. 4

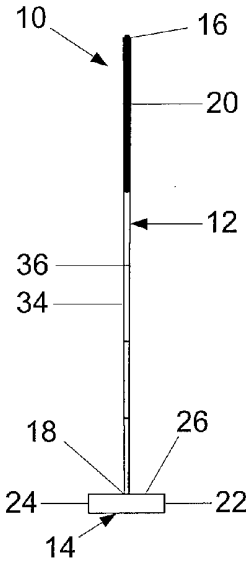


FIG. 5

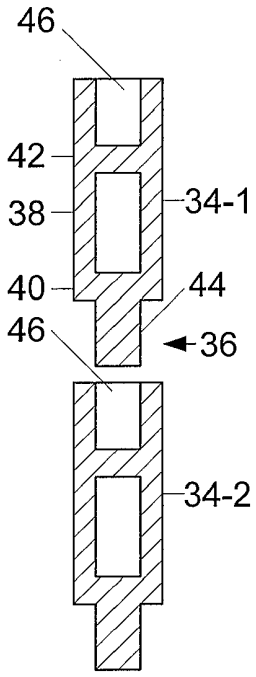


FIG. 6

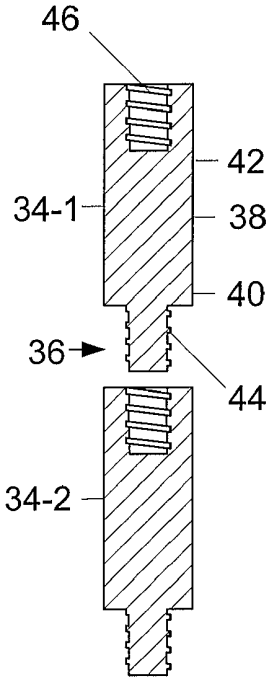


FIG. 7

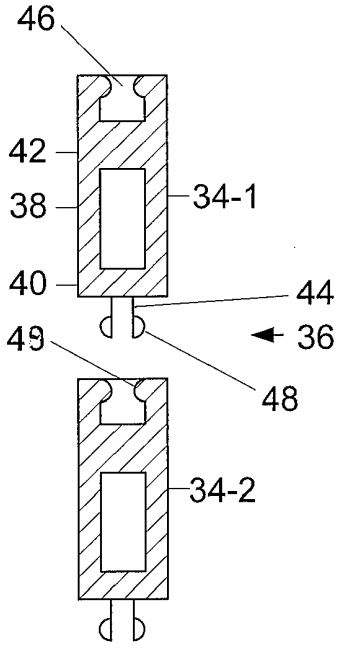


FIG. 8

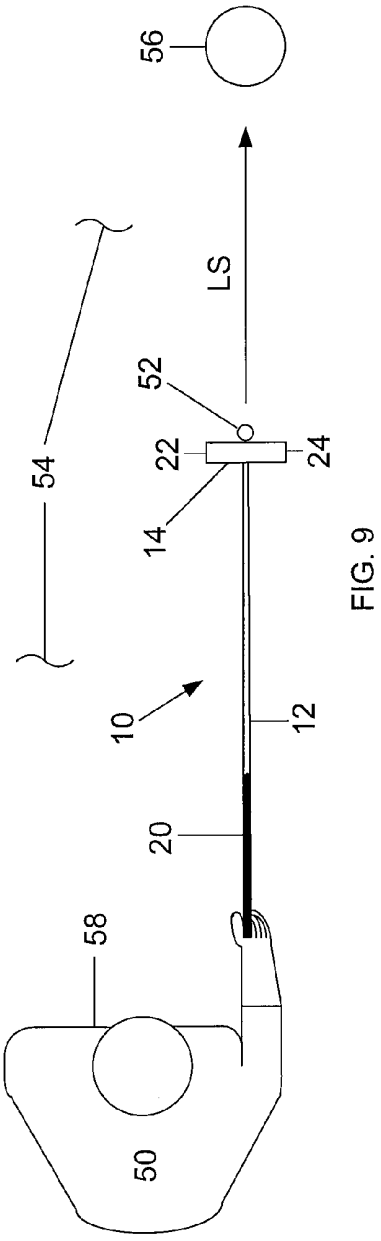


FIG. 9

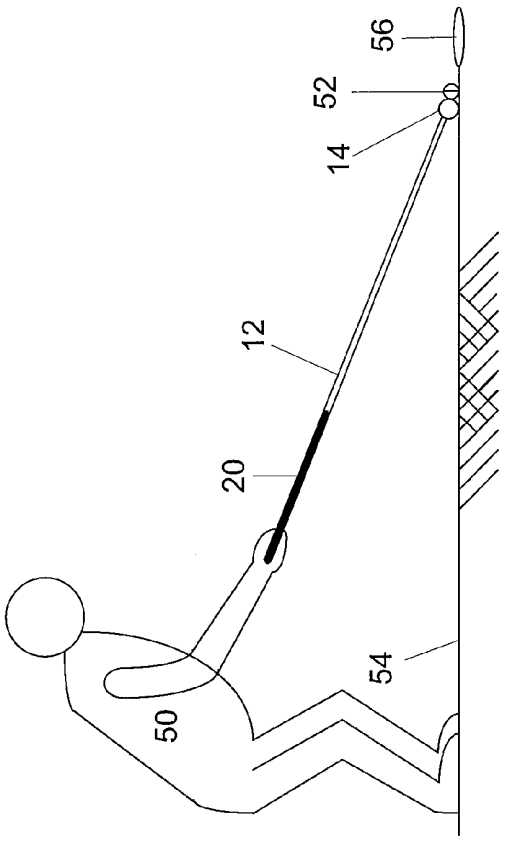


FIG. 10

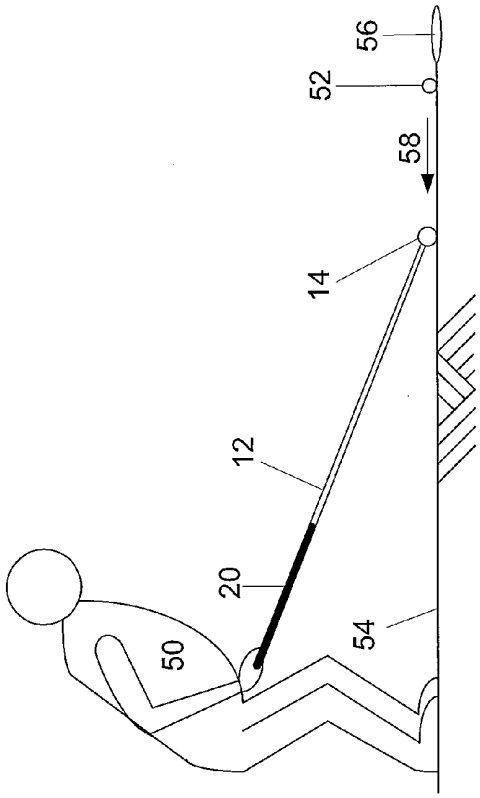


FIG. 11

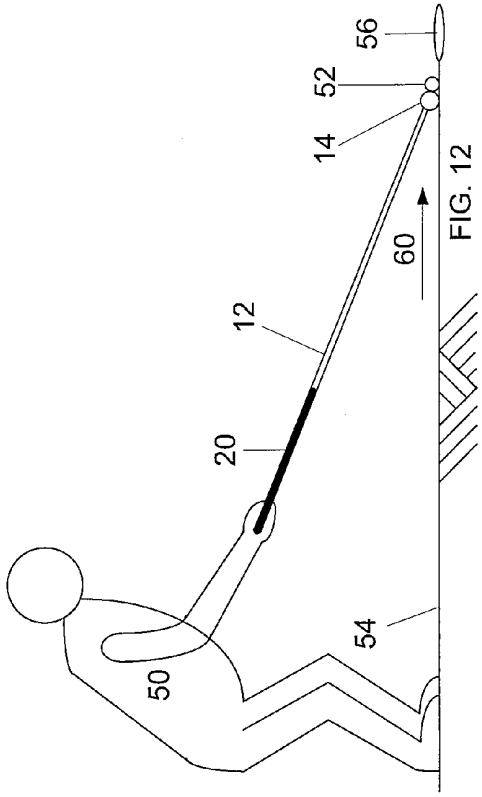


FIG. 12

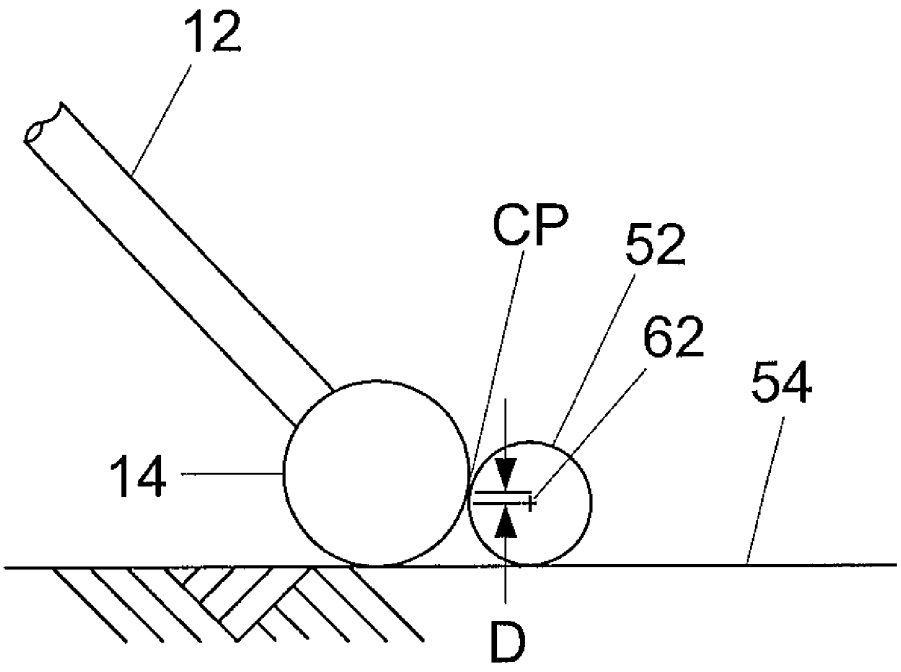


FIG. 13

METHOD OF PUTTING AND A PUTTER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to golfing, and more particularly, to a method of putting a golf ball to improve putting and a putter.

[0002] Putting may be one of the more difficult and important aspects of golf to master and constitutes a substantial portion of golf scores. Thus, golfers generally understand that putting is a skill that should be mastered in order to reduce golf scores and become overall better golfers. It is known that golfers should invest substantial time in putting practice to become good putters and golfers. However, most golfers simply do not have substantial amounts of time to invest in putting practice. Moreover, most golfers derive satisfaction from striking the golf ball because that is generally the most fascinating aspect of golf for them. Thus, most golfers are not interested in putting practice. Although most golfers are constrained by time or are not interested in putting practice, it is generally known that most golfers desire to improve their putting.

[0003] In many competitive games an object is thrown towards a target such that the body of the thrower is oriented to face the target when releasing the object. Moreover, in such games the object is released by the thrower at a point in front of his body. Such games include, but are not limited to, baseball, darts, horseshoes, pitching pennies and softball. For example, in baseball the pitcher faces home plate and releases the ball at a point in front of his body when throwing the baseball towards the catcher. Facing the target and releasing the object at a point in front of the body while throwing the object may facilitate hitting the target because the thrower is able to concentrate on throwing the object in the direction of the target. In golf, putting involves gently swinging the head of a putter across a golfer's body, from one side to another, to gently hit a golf ball in the direction of the hole located in the green. However, golfers generally do not face the hole and generally do not concentrate on gently hitting the golf ball into the hole while putting. Instead, golfers face the golf ball and concentrate on making contact with the golf ball while putting.

[0004] Some golfers have been known to develop nervous tension known as the yips while putting. Such golfers are generally not able to develop into good putters because the nervous tension negatively affects accurate putting. This nervous condition may be evidence that conventional styles of putting are not natural, or at a minimum are flawed. To counter the nervous tension, such golfers have been known to adopt many different putting styles. However, the different putting styles have not been known to offset the negative effects caused by nervous tension and also seem to be flawed due at least to the position of the golf ball.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0005] In one aspect, a method of putting a golf ball located on a putting green into a hole located in the putting green is provided. The method includes grasping a putter with at least one hand of a golfer. The putter includes a putter shaft, a putter head, and a putter grip. The putter shaft includes a first end and a second end. The putter head is securely connected to the second end of the putter shaft and is substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft. The putter is grasped at the first end of the putter shaft. Moreover, the method includes locating the putter at a first position such that the putter head is positioned proximate the golf ball and is about four or five feet from the golfer, and the golf ball is located on the putting green away from the hole. Furthermore, the method includes executing a backstroke by translating the putter head away from the golf ball to locate the putter at a second position, and orienting the shoulders of the golfer to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft in the second position. The putter head is translated a distance away from the golf ball that is determined by the force estimated to be required for hitting the ball over the length of the putt. Additionally, the method includes translating the putter head towards the golf ball along a line of the putt while the shoulders of the golfer face the hole, and instantaneously striking the golf ball with the putter head to cause the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate in a direction along a line of the putt towards the hole.

[0006] In another aspect, a putter for putting a golf ball located on a putting green into a hole located in the putting green is provided. The putter includes a shaft including a plurality of shaft segments that are usable to adjust a length of the shaft. The shaft has a first shaft end and a second shaft end. Moreover, the putter includes a cylindrical head having a circular cross section, a first head end, a second head end, an outer surface, and a radial hole extending from the outer surface of the head to a center of the head. The radial hole is positioned intermediate the first head end and the second head end, and the shaft second end is inserted into the radial hole to securely connect the shaft second end to the head and to position the head substantially perpendicular to the shaft. The diameter of the putter head is determined such that a center of the putter head is configured to strike a golf ball at a distance above a center of the golf ball to cause the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate to the hole.

[0007] While putting, a golfer grasps the first shaft end such that the putter is located at a first position and the head is positioned proximate the golf ball about four or five feet from the golfer. The head is translated away from the golf ball to locate the putter at a second position, and the shoulders of the golfer are oriented to be substantially perpendicular to the shaft. The putter head is translated a distance away from the golf ball that is determined by the force estimated to be required for hitting the ball over the length of the putt. Moreover, the head is translated from the second position towards the golf ball while the shoulders of the golfer face the hole, to instantaneously strike the golf ball to cause the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate in a direction along a line of the putt towards the hole.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. **1** is a front view of an exemplary golf putter;

[0009] FIG. **2** is a side view of the exemplary golf putter shown in FIG. **1**;

[0010] FIG. **3** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an exemplary connection between a putter shaft and a putter head;

[0011] FIG. **4** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an alternative exemplary connection between the putter shaft and the putter head;

[0012] FIG. **5** is a front view of an alternative exemplary golf putter;

[0013] FIG. **6** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of exemplary shaft segments positioned to form a joint;

[0014] FIG. **7** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of alternative exemplary shaft segments positioned to form a joint;

[0015] FIG. **8** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of additional alternative exemplary shaft segments positioned to form a joint;

[0016] FIG. **9** is a top view of a golfer illustrating an exemplary method of putting;

[0017] FIG. **10** is a side view of the golfer illustrating the exemplary method of putting;

[0018] FIG. **11** is another side view of the golfer illustrating the exemplary method of putting;

[0019] FIG. **12** is yet another side view of the golfer illustrating the exemplary method of putting; and

[0020] FIG. **13** is an enlarged side view of the putter head striking the golf ball at a contact point.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0021] FIG. **1** is a front view of an exemplary golf putter **10**. Specifically, the putter **10** includes a putter shaft **12** and a putter head **14**. In the exemplary embodiment, the putter shaft **12** includes a first end **16** and a second end **18**. Moreover, the putter shaft **12** is formed of a rigid material such as solid graphite, circular in cross-section, and forty-eight inches in length. However, in other embodiments the putter shaft may be hollow and may be made from any material such as, but not limited to, steel. The putter shaft **12** also includes a gripping region **20** at the first end **16** that extends for about a foot from the first end **16** towards the second end **18**. The gripping region **20** is for ensuring that golfers are able to securely grasp the putter shaft **12**. The putter head **14** is a cylinder including a first head end **22**, a second head end **24**, and an outer surface **26**.

[0022] FIG. **2** is a side view of the golf putter **10** showing a side view of the putter head **14**. In the exemplary embodiment the putter head **14** includes a circular cross-section, is steel, and has a distance of four and one quarter inches between the first head end **22** and the second head end **24**. It should be understood that the distance between the first head end **22** and the second head end **24** corresponds to the diameter of a hole located in a golfing green. However, in other embodiments the distance between the first head end **22** and the second head end **24** may be any distance that facilitates putting as described herein.

[0023] The outer surface **26** of the putter head **14** is smooth and may be polished or buffed to facilitate reducing friction that may develop with grass while putting. The diameter of the putter head **14** is two inches. Because the putter shaft **12** is forty-eight inches long and the putter head diameter is two inches, the overall length of the putter **10** is fifty inches. In other embodiments the diameter of the putter head **14** may be any dimension that facilitates putting as described herein. Although the putter head **14** has a circular cross section in the exemplary embodiment, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments the putter head **14** may have any cross section that facilitates putting a golf ball as described herein such as, but not limited to, an elliptical cross section. Moreover, although the putter head **14** is steel in the exemplary embodiment, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments the head **14** may be made from any material such as, but not limited to, graphite, wood, a composite of graphite and wood, a composite of steel and wood, and a composite of steel and graphite.

[0024] FIG. **3** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an exemplary connection between the second end **18** of the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14**. In the exemplary embodiment the putter head **14** includes a radial hole **28** positioned intermediate the first head end **22** and the second head end **24**. It should be understood that the radial hole **28** extends radially from the outer surface **26** toward a center **30** of the putter head **14**, and that the radial hole **28** has a circular cross section. The second end **18** includes a connecting member **32** extending longitudinally along and away from the shaft **12** in a direction from the first end **16** towards the second end **18**. The connecting member **32** has a circular cross section and a diameter corresponding to the diameter of the radial hole **28**. The connecting member **32** is inserted into the radial hole **28** and is secured therein by an adhesive to thus securely connect the putter shaft **12** to the putter head **14**. The adhesive may be any adhesive that facilitates securely connecting the connecting member **32** to the radial hole **28** including, but not limited to, an epoxy resin. It should be understood that upon inserting the connecting member **32** into the radial hole **28**, the putter head **14** is positioned to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft **12**. The diameters of the connecting member **32** and of the radial hole **28** may be any size that facilitates ensuring a secure connection between the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14**.

[0025] Although the radial hole **28** extends radially from the outer surface **26** toward the center **30** of the putter head **14** in the exemplary embodiment, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments the radial hole **28** may be configured to extend any distance into the putter head **14** including, but not limited to, diametrically through the head **14**.

[0026] The components shown in FIG. **4** are similar to the components shown in FIG. **3**, as described in more detail below. As such, components illustrated in FIG. **4** that are identical to components illustrated in FIG. **3**, are identified using the same reference numerals used in FIG. **3**.

[0027] FIG. **4** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an alternative exemplary connection between the second end **18** of the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14**. This alternative exemplary connection between the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14** is similar to that shown in FIG. **3**. However, the connecting member **32** and the radial hole **28** are threaded such that the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14** may be securely connected together without an adhesive. The putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14** are connected together by rotating the putter shaft **12** while inserting the connecting member **32** into the radial hole **28**. As a result of rotating the putter shaft **12**, the threads of the connecting member **32** engage the threads of the radial hole **28** such that the putter shaft **12** and the putter head **14** are securely connected together. In other embodiments the putter head **14** may be rotated such that the threads of the radial hole **28** engage the threads of the connecting member **32**, or both the putter head **14** and the putter shaft **12** may be rotated to engage the threads of the connecting member **32** with the threads of the radial hole **28** to securely connect the putter shaft **12** to the putter head **14**. As a result of securely connecting the putter head **14** to the putter shaft **12**, the putter head **14** is positioned to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft **12**.

[0028] The components shown in FIG. **5** are similar to the components shown in FIG. **1**, as described in more detail below. As such, components illustrated in FIG. **5** that are identical to components illustrated in FIG. **1**, are identified using the same reference numerals used in FIG. **1**.

[0029] FIG. **5** is a front view of an alternative exemplary golf putter **10** that includes an adjustable length putter shaft **12**. This alternative exemplary golf putter **10** is similar to that shown in FIG. **1**. However, the putter shaft **12** includes a

plurality of shaft segments **34** each adapted to be removably connectable to other shaft segments **34**, such that the length of the putter shaft **12** may be easily and quickly adjusted. Specifically, each of the shaft segments **34** is removeably connected to another shaft segment **34** at a shaft joint **36**. Thus, golfers may merely add or subtract a desired number of segments **34** when the golfer decides that changing the shaft length may facilitate improved putting. Each segment **34** is twelve inches long such that four segments **34** are required to yield a putter shaft length of forty-eight inches. However, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments the segments **34** may be any desired length such that any number of segments **34** may be used to adjust the putter shaft **12** to any desired length. For example, the segments **34** may be six inches long such that a golfer may adjust the length of the shaft **12** from forty-eight inches to forty-two inches by removing one of the segments **34**. It should be appreciated that in other embodiments each of the segments **34** included in the putter shaft **12** may have a different length.

[0030] FIG. **6** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of two exemplary segments **34** positioned to form an exemplary shaft joint **36** included in the putter shaft **12**. A first segment is designated **34-1** and a second segment is designated **34-2**. Each of the segments **34-1** and **34-2** includes a body **38**, a first segment end **40** and a second segment end **42**. The first segment end **40** includes a fastening member **44** extending longitudinally along and away from the body **38** in a direction from the second segment end **42** towards the first segment end **40**. The fastening member **44** has a circular cross section. The second segment end **42** includes a cavity **46** having a circular cross section that is designed to receive the fastening member **44**. It should be understood that the diameter of the cavity **46** corresponds to the diameter of the fastening member **44**. The two segments **34-1** and **34-2** are removably connected together to form the joint **36** by inserting the fastening member **44** of segment **34-1** into the cavity **46** of segment **34-2** and securing the fastening member **44** in the cavity **46** with a friction fit. In this exemplary embodiment, the segments **34-1** and **34-2** are hollow. However, in other embodiments the segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be solid.

[0031] The components shown in FIG. **7** are similar to the components shown in FIG. **6**, as described in more detail below. As such, components illustrated in FIG. **7** that are identical to components illustrated in FIG. **6**, are identified using the same reference numerals used in FIG. **6**.

[0032] FIG. **7** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of two alternative exemplary segments **34-1** and **34-2** positioned to form an alternative exemplary shaft joint **36**. The alternative exemplary segments **34-1** and **34-2** are similar to those shown in FIG. **6**. However, the fastening member **44** and the cavity **46** are threaded such that the segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be removably connected together. Specifically, the two segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be removably connected together to form the joint **36** by turning the segment **34-1** while inserting the fastening member **44** into the cavity **46**. As a result of turning the segment **34-1**, the threads of the fastening member **44** engage the threads of the cavity **46** such that the segments **34-1** and **34-2** are removably connected together. In other embodiments the segment **34-2** may be rotated to engage the threads of the cavity **46** with the threads of the fastening member **44**, or both segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be rotated to engage the threads of the cavity **46** with the threads of the fastening member **44**. In this alternative embodiment, the segments **34-1** and **34-2** are solid. However, in other embodiments the segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be hollow.

[0033] The components shown in FIG. **8** are similar to the components shown in FIG. **6**, as described in more detail below. As such, components illustrated in FIG. **8** that are identical to components illustrated in FIG. **6**, are identified using the same reference numerals used in FIG. **6**.

[0034] FIG. **8** is an enlarged cross-sectional view of two additional alternative exemplary segments **34-1** and **34-2** positioned to form an alternative exemplary shaft joint **36**. The alternative exemplary segments **34-1** and **34-2** are similar to those shown in FIG. **6**. However, the fastening member **44** includes two legs that each have protrusions **48** positioned at a terminal end thereof. Moreover, the cavity **46** also includes protrusions **49**. The protrusions **48**, **49** have a semicircular cross section. The two segments **34-1** and **34-2** may be removably connected together to form the joint **36** by pushing the protrusions **48** of the first segment fastening member **44** over the protrusions **49** of the second segment cavity **46**, such that the protrusions **48** of the first segment fastening member **44** are positioned closer to the first segment end **40** of the second segment **34-2** than the protrusions **49** of the second segment cavity **46**. The protrusions **48** of the first segment fastening member **44** also contact an inner surface of the second segment cavity **46**. As a result, the protrusions **48** of the first segment fastening member **44** engage the protrusions **49** of the second segment cavity **46** such that the segments **34-1** and **34-2** are removably connected together. The protrusions **48**, **49** are made from the same material as the segments **34-1** and **34-2**. Although the exemplary embodiments described herein use a friction fit, threads, and protrusions to removably connect segments **34** together at the joints **36**, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments any type of fastening device may be used that removably connects the segments **34**.

[0035] Because the segments **34** are removably connectable, golfers may dismantle the putter **10** into the plurality of segments **34** and the putter head **14** to facilitate transporting the putter on vehicles such as, but not limited to, airplanes and automobiles. For example, when a golfer visiting Scotland from the United States desires to bring the putter **10** to Scotland for golfing, the golfer merely dismantles the putter **10** and includes the segments **34** and head **14** in luggage which is transported in an airplane.

[0036] FIG. **9** is a top view of a golfer **50** illustrating an exemplary method of putting a golf ball **52** with the putter **10** on a putting green **54** into a hole **56** located in the putter green **54**. The golfer **50** begins putting with the putter **10** by grasping the putter **10** at the gripping region **20** and locating the putter **10** at a first position such that the putter head **14** is positioned proximate the golf ball **52** and is about four or five feet from the golfer. While positioning the putter, the golfer **50** adopts a position that offers an unobstructed view of the ball **52** and the hole **56** that facilitates establishing a line of sight LS with the hole **56**. In the exemplary embodiment the golfer **50** grasps the gripping region **20** with one hand. However, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments golfers **50** may use both hands to grasp the gripping region **20**.

[0037] In the exemplary method, the golfer **50** faces the hole **56** and aims the shaft **12** along the line of sight LS between the golf ball **52** and the hole **56**. Because the golfer is facing the hole **56** while aiming the shaft **12** and locating the putter **10** in the first position, the front **58** of the golfer is positioned to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft

12. Consequently, the shoulders and hips of the golfer are also positioned to be substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft 12. In contrast to conventional putting techniques that require the putter head to be within about six inches of the golfer, in the exemplary method described herein the putter head 14 is positioned about four or five feet from the golfer when putting to facilitate providing improved putting.

[0038] The components shown in FIGS. 10, 11, and 12 are similar to the components shown in FIG. 9, as described in more detail below. As such, components illustrated in FIGS. 10, 11 and 12 that are identical to features illustrated in FIG. 9, are identified using the same reference numerals used in FIG. 9.

[0039] FIG. 10 is a side view of the golfer 50 illustrating the exemplary method of putting the golf ball 52 where the golfer 50 is grasping the gripping region 20 and the putter 10 is located in the first position.

[0040] FIG. 11 is another side view of the golfer 50 illustrating the exemplary method of putting the golf ball 52 where the putter is located in a second position. Specifically, after locating the putter 10 in the first position, the golfer 50 continues putting by executing a backstroke by translating the putter head 14 on the surface of the green 54 away from the golf ball 52 to locate the putter 10 at the second position. The direction of translation is indicated by an arrow 58. The putter head is translated a distance away from the golf ball that is determined by the force estimated to be required for hitting the ball over the length of the putt. It should be understood that while locating the putter 10 at the second position, the shoulders and hips of the golfer are positioned to be oriented substantially perpendicular to the putter shaft 12. After locating the putter 10 in the second position, the golfer 50 continues putting by verifying his shoulders and hips are oriented substantially perpendicular to the putter 10 in the second position.

[0041] FIG. 12 is yet another side view of the golfer 50 illustrating the exemplary method of putting the golf ball 52. Specifically, after locating the putter 10 in the second position, the golfer continues putting by causing the putter 10 to move towards the golf ball 52 and thus translating the putter head towards the golf ball 52 as indicated by an arrow 60. It should be understood that while the golfer is translating the putter head 14 towards the hole 56, the shoulders of the golfer face the hole. The golfer continues translating the putter head 14 towards the golf ball 52 and instantaneously strikes the golf ball with the putter head 14 to cause the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate in a direction towards the hole 56. By thus instantaneously striking the golf ball 52, the putter head 14 imparts a force to the golf ball 52 that causes the golf ball 52 to develop a top spin and translate towards the hole 56 along the line of sight LS. It should be understood that the outer surface 26 of the putter head 14 contacts the golf ball 52 at a distance above a center of the golf ball 52. The line of sight LS corresponds to the line of the putt.

[0042] FIG. 13 is an enlarged side view of the putter head 14 striking the golf ball 52 at a contact point CP. It should be understood that the contact point CP is located a distance D above a center 62 of the golf ball 52. By virtue of striking the golf ball 52 at the contact point CP, the putter head 14 imparts a force to the golf ball 52 that presses the golf ball 52 into the green and imparts a top spin to the golf ball 52. In the exemplary method the distance D may be any distance that facilitates imparting a force to the golf ball 52 that presses the golf ball 52 into the green and causes the golf ball 52 to develop a top spin and translate to the hole 56.

[0043] Although the golfer executes one backstroke before translating the putter head to strike the golf ball 52 in the exemplary method, it should be understood that in other methods the golfer may repeatedly execute the backstroke and translate the putter head 14 towards the golf ball 52 without actually striking the golf ball 52, prior to translating the head 14 and striking the golf ball 52.

[0044] It should be understood that in other embodiments the putter 10 may be used in a conventional style of putting. Specifically, the putter 10 may be used to putt golf balls by gently swinging the head 14 across the golfer's body, such that either the first head end 22 or second head end 24 hits the golf ball in the direction of the hole. Because the putter 10 may be used in such a conventional style of putting, the putter 10 itself as well as a method of using the putter 10, comply with the rules of golf established by the United States Golf Association.

[0045] In each embodiment, the above described putter and method of putting a golf ball facilitate improving putting by reducing the number of putts required to navigate a golf ball on a green into a hole. More specifically, while facing the hole a golfer causes a putter head to be translated towards a golf ball to instantaneously strike the golf ball at a contact point. By thus striking the golf ball, the putter head imparts a force to the golf ball that presses the golf ball into the green and causes the golf ball to develop a top spin and translate towards the hole. As a result, the number of puts required to navigate the golf ball into the hole is facilitated to be reduced and golfers have more time to work on other areas of their golf games that they may enjoy more than putting. Moreover, by virtue of facing the hole while putting golfers are able to better concentrate on putting the golf ball into the hole. Furthermore, the negative effects of nervous tension on putting are facilitated to be reduced. Accordingly, golfer performance and competitiveness are both facilitated to be enhanced.

[0046] Because golf scoring emphasizes putting, the above described putter and method of putting facilitates quickly achieving better scores based on more effective putting by allowing golfers to putt better without hours of practice.

[0047] While the invention has been described in terms of various specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A putter for striking a golf ball, comprising

(a) a longitudinal shaft having a first end and a second end; and

(b) a cylindrical head connected with said second end of said shaft, said head containing a radial opening in an outer surface thereof intermediate the ends of said head, said opening receiving said second end of said shaft, said head having a diameter greater than the diameter of the golf ball, whereby when said head intermediate portion strikes the ball, a top spin is imparted on the ball and the ball is propelled toward a target.

2. A putter as defined in claim 1, wherein said shaft second end includes a projection having a diameter corresponding with the diameter of said opening in said head.

3. A putter as defined in claim 2, wherein said projection is connected within said opening via a friction fit.

4. A putter as defined in claim 2, wherein said projection is connected within said opening via an adhesive.

5. A putter as defined in claim **2**, wherein said projection has an outer threaded surface and said opening has a threaded inner surface, whereby said head is removably connected with said shaft.

6. A putter as defined in claim **2**, wherein said shaft comprises a plurality of shaft segments.

7. A putter as defined in claim **6**, wherein said segments are removably connected in an end to end configuration, whereby the length of said shaft can be altered by adding and removing segments.

8. A putter as defined in claim **7**, wherein each segment includes a first end containing a cavity and a second end including a fastening member, said cavity and said fastening member being arranged along an axis of said segment, said cavity of one of said segments receiving a fastening member of an adjacent segment to connect said adjacent segments.

9. A putter as defined in claim **8**, wherein said fastening member and said cavity are connected via a friction fit.

10. A putter as defined in claim **8**, wherein said fastening member has a threaded outer surface and said cavity has a threaded inner surface.

11. A putter as defined in claim **8**, wherein said cavity includes annular protrusions adjacent to said first end and said fastening member comprises resilient protrusions, whereby when said fastening member protrusions of a first segment are inserted into said cavity of an adjacent segment, said fastening member protrusions are deflected inwardly around said cavity protrusions and then outwardly to engage a side wall of said cavity beyond said annular protrusions to connect said first and adjacent segments.

12. A putter as defined in claim **8**, wherein said segments are hollow.

13. A method for putting a golf ball by a golfer with a putter, comprising the steps of

(a) grasping one end of a shaft of the putter;

(b) aligning the golfer's body so that the golfer's shoulders face a target with a golf ball between the target and the putter, the shoulders being generally perpendicular to the putter shaft;

(c) positioning a head of the putter adjacent the golf ball;

(d) translating the movement of the putter away from the golf ball along a line extended from a target line between the golf ball and the target; and

(e) translating the movement of the putter toward the golf ball along said extended line and into said target line to strike the golf ball and propel it along the target line.

14. A method as defined in claim **13**, where said translating movement of the putter away from the golf ball is determined in accordance with the distance between the golf ball and the target.

15. A method as defined in claim **13**, wherein said golf ball is struck with an intermediate portion of said head.

16. A method as defined in claim **15**, wherein said head has a cylindrical configuration and a diameter greater than the diameter of the golf ball, whereby a top spin is imparted on the golf ball when it is struck by the head.

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