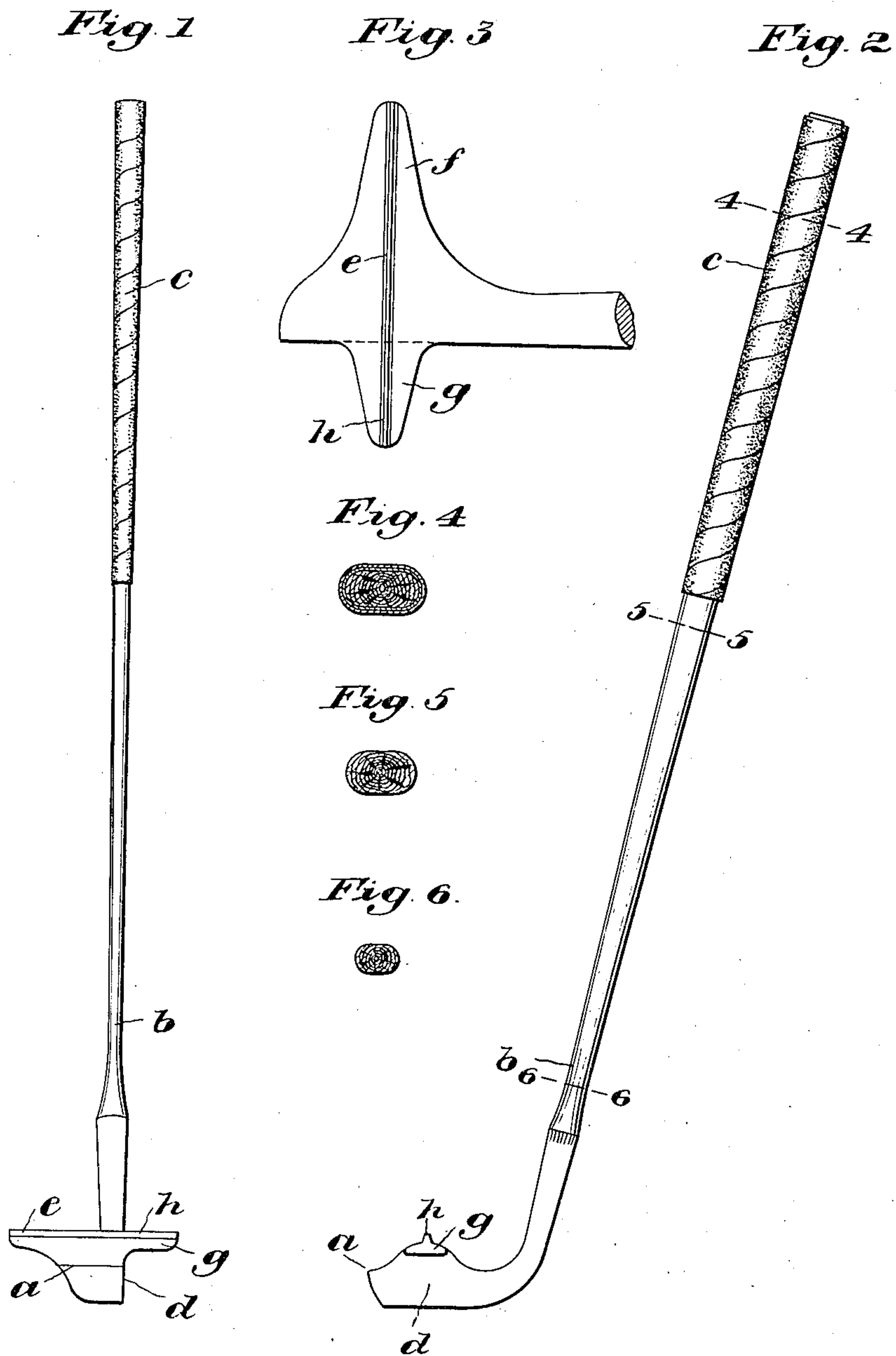


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PATENTED NOV. 27, 1906.

F. C. BLANCHARD.
GOLF CLUB.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 2, 1905.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK C. BLANCHARD, OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

GOLF-CLUB.

No. 837,030.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 27, 1906.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK C. BLANCHARD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Fort Wayne, in the county of Allen and State of Indiana, have invented an Improvement in Golf-Clubs, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

My invention relates to golf-clubs, and more particularly to means for increasing the efficiency and accuracy of the play which can be made thereby.

My invention will be best understood by reference to the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying illustration of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a golf-club embodying one form of my invention and looking toward the front or nose of the head. Fig. 2 is a similar view, in front elevation, looking toward the striking-face of the head. Fig. 3 is a detail of the head in plan and on an enlarged scale; and Figs. 4, 5, and 6 are sections, on an enlarged scale, taken, respectively, on the lines 4 4, 5 5, and 6 6 in Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, I have there illustrated one form of my invention by the embodiment thereof in a "putter," which, as is well known to those skilled in the game of golf, is a club employed upon the putting-green to direct the ball into the hole. The stroke with the putter has to be delivered with great delicacy and accuracy in order to roll the ball in the proper direction, and I have here shown means for assisting the player, when preparing for and delivering the blow, to bring the head into alinement with the ball and the hole, so that an accurate stroke is likely to result.

The golf-club illustrated has the head *a* formed of any suitable material, to which is attached in any desired manner the handle *b*. The latter may be of any shape or construction, but for the particular purpose shown is slightly inclined, as in Fig. 2, and provided with a grasping portion *c*, having a non-circular, herein oval or flattened, cross-section, (shown in Fig. 4,) so that the player when standing with the ball in front of him can hold the club without danger of its turning and swing the striking-face *d* of the head

against the ball with a gentle tap. As is usual in putters, the striking-face *d* is vertical when the club is held to make the stroke, so that the ball tends to roll along the green when the stroke is properly delivered.

Upon the head I have provided alining means which may be formed, imprinted, or placed thereon in any suitable manner and in any suitable location, but which herein is in the form of a raised elongated ridge *e* on the top of the head, extending transversely the same and over the tongue *f*, formed at the back thereof. This ridge is preferably perpendicular to the plane of the striking-face and substantially over the striking center thereof, or such portion as is intended to strike the ball on delivery of the stroke, so that as the player places and swings the club he may sight along the ridge and guide the club to cause the striking-face of the latter to strike the ball with the ridge, the ball, and the hole all in alinement. If this be done, he may be assured that the alinement of the stroke will be accurate.

If desired, the sighting-mark may be wholly at the rear of the striking-face; but in the illustrated embodiment of my invention I have provided the tongue *g*, overhanging the striking-face and carrying an extension *h* of the ridge, which in delivering the stroke extends out and over the ball, thus giving further assistance to the player in making a properly-alined stroke.

It is obvious that if a stroke be delivered which is normal to the striking-face the ball will move parallel with the alining means, and if struck a normal blow directly under the latter it must move in the direction indicated thereby.

The non-circular grasping portion of the handle not only gives the player that delicate manual control over the stroke which is necessary adequately to respond to the sight which the player takes along the alining-mark, and thereby fully to develop the possibilities of the alining device, but the provision of the long cross-sectional dimension of the handle parallel with the striking-face of the head when the club is in position not only effectually prevents the club from turning or twisting from the selected position, but itself acts as a guiding-sight to supplement the effect of the alining device upon the head.

It will be observed that the turning axis of the handle lies in a plane which intersects the head, leaving the weight of the latter so dis-

tributed on either side of that plane as to cause little or no tendency for rotation in either direction. In other words, the head is not overweighted on either side, so that the usual loose hold may be indulged in without danger of the striking-face becoming slightly twisted during the stroke.

Other means than the specific means described may be employed for indicating the proper alinement of the head, so that the ball when struck will follow the path intended. The invention, moreover, may be applied to clubs of a construction and shape other than that shown, and it is obvious that extensive modifications may be made in the form, arrangement of parts, and the details herein disclosed, which latter are submitted for the sole purpose of illustrating but one embodiment of my invention.

I claim—

1. A golf-club having a striking-blade provided with a striking-face and alining means carried by said blade, a handle secured to and projecting upward from said blade, said handle having a grasping portion of an elongated cross-section, the long cross-sectional dimension of said handle grasping portion lying substantially parallel with the striking-face of said blade, the weight of said blade being distributed on either side of the plane of the turning axis of said handle thereby preventing material tendency to rotate the head about the handle axis.

2. A golf-club having a head provided with an alining means for assisting a player when preparing for and delivering the blow to aline the head in the desired direction and a handle provided with a non-circular grasping portion.

3. A golf-club having a head provided with a striking-face and alining means formed with said head, a handle secured to and projecting upward from one end of said head, said handle having a grasping portion of an elongated cross-section, the long cross-sectional

dimension of said handle grasping portion lying substantially parallel with the striking-face of said head.

4. A golf-club having a head provided with a striking-face, a handle secured to and projecting upward from one end of said head, said handle having a grasping portion of an elongated cross-section, the long cross-sectional dimension of said handle grasping portion lying substantially parallel with the striking-face of said head, and alining means associated with the head for assisting the player in delivering the blow in the desired direction.

5. A golf-club having a striking-blade provided with a striking-face, a handle secured thereto, a tongue extending from said blade, and an alining device upon said tongue and at right angles to and above the striking-face, the weight of said blade and tongue being distributed on either side of the plane of the turning axis of said handle, thereby preventing material tendency to rotate the head about the handle-axis.

6. A golf-club having a striking-blade provided with a striking-face and alining means formed with said blade, a handle secured to and projecting upward from one end of said blade, said handle having a grasping portion of an elongated cross-section, the long cross-sectional dimension of said handle grasping portion lying substantially parallel with the striking-face of said blade, the weight of said blade being distributed on either side of the plane of the turning axis of said handle thereby preventing material tendency to rotate the blade about the handle-axis.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK C. BLANCHARD

Witnesses:

ROBERT MÜLLER,
EDWIN F. DALMAN.