

ADJUSTABLE GOLF TEE SET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a golf tee for use in playing a golf game and
5 more particularly, to an adjustable golf tee set, which allows adjustment of the
elevation of the tee nail above the ground to fit different ball-striking needs and, which
uses a connecting cord to connect the support supporting the tee nail to a ground
anchor so that the tee nail will not be lost after each application.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 When playing the game of golf, many factors affect the performance.
Because every golf player has a different physical body size, arm span, method of grip
and golf club swinging posture and because the ground surface may be uneven, the
elevation of the golf tee must be properly adjusted so that the player can hit the center
of the golf ball accurately. If the golf tee is not set at a suitable elevation, the player
15 will be difficult to hit the right part of the golf ball accurately. However, when
fastening a golf tee to the ground, the player cannot accurately control the insertion
depth of the golf tee in the ground, and the elevation of the golf tee may be measured
roughly by feeling. In this case, the player may be unable to hit the right part of the
golf ball accurately, resulting in a low performance.

20 Further, after the player hit the ball, the golf tee may jump far away, and the
player or the caddy may have to spend a lot of time in finding the golf tee.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide a golf tee set that eliminates the aforesaid
drawbacks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in

view. It is the main object of the present invention to provide an adjustable golf tee set, which allows adjustment of the elevation of the tee nail in the ground to satisfy different ball-striking needs. It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable golf tee set, which supports the tee nail stably on the ground so that the user
5 can strike the golf ball on the tee nail accurately.

To achieve these and other objects of the present invention, the golf tee set comprises a tee nail and a support. The tee nail has a cup-like head for holding a golf ball and a pointed shank downwardly extending from the bottom side of the cup-like head for fastening to the ground. The support is for mounted around the pointed shank
10 of the tee nail at the bottom side of the cup-like head to support the teen nail stably on the ground. The support comprises a base block and a number of annular spacer blocks of different thicknesses. The base block and the annular spacer blocks each have a center through hole for the insertion of the pointed shank of the tee nail. By means of selectively attaching the annular spacer blocks to the pointed shank of the tee nail
15 above the base block, the nailing depth of the pointed shank of the tee nail in the ground is controlled, and therefore the elevation of the cup-like head of the tee nail above the ground is relatively controlled.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an oblique elevation of an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with
20 a first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the adjustable golf tee set in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a schematic drawing showing an application example of the first
25 embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is an exploded view of an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is an exploded view of an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

5 FIG. 7 is a cross sectional view in an enlarged scale of the base block of the support of the adjustable golf tee shown in FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is an exploded view of an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 Referring to FIGS. 1~3, an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention is shown comprised of a tee nail 1, a support 2 and a connecting cord 3.

The tee nail 1 comprises a pointed shank 13, a cup-like head 12, and a shoulder 11 axially connected between the pointed shank 13 and the cup-like head 12.

15 The cup-like head 12 has a top recess 121 smoothly curved inwards for holding a golf ball. By means of the pointed shank 13, the tee nail 1 can easily be fastened to the ground.

The support 2 comprises a base block 21 and a number of annular spacer members 23. The base block 21 and the annular spacer members 23 each have a center through hole 24 approximately equal to the outer diameter of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 but smaller than the outer diameter of the shoulder 11 of the tee nail 1. Therefore, the base block 21 or the base block 21 with one annular spacer member 23 or a number or all of the annular spacer members 23 can be sleeved onto the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 and stopped at the bottom side of the shoulder 11 to control
25 the nailing depth of the pointed shank 13 into the ground and to support the tee nail 1

in position. The base block **21** has a top bearing portion **22** upwardly extending from the top side around its center through hole **24** for supporting the annular spacer members **23**, and a plurality of wire holes **25** cut through the top and bottom sides around the top bearing portion **22** for the mounting of the connecting cord **3**.

5 The connecting cord **3** has one end fastened to one wire hole **25** of the base block **21** of the support **2**, and the other end fastened to one wire hole **25** of the base block **21** of the support **2** of another tee nail **1** (see FIG. 4).

 The pointed shank **13**, the base block **21** and the annular spacer members **23** can be made out of metal, wood, hard plastics or any of a variety of other hard
10 materials. The annular spacer members **23** have different heights for selective use. Subject to the number of the wooden club or iron club used, a user can selectively use the annular spacer members **23** with the base block **21** to support the tee nail **1** on the ground in the golf course at the desired height.

 Referring to FIGS. 1~3 again, because the center through hole **24** of the base
15 block **21** and each of the annular spacer members **23** is approximately equal to the outer diameter of the pointed shank **13** of the tee nail **1** but smaller than the outer diameter of the shoulder **11** of the tee nail **1**, the pointed shank **13** of the tee nail **1** can be forced through the annular spacer members **23** and the base block **21**. After insertion of the pointed shank **13** of the tee nail **11** through the annular spacer members
20 **23** and the base block **21**, the annular spacer members **23** and the base block **21** are firmly secured to the pointed shank **13** by means of friction resistance, and stopped at the bottom side of the shoulder **11**. Further, after insertion of the connecting cord **3** through one wire hole **25** of the base block **21**, each end of the connecting cord **3** is tied up to form or fixedly mounted with an endpiece **31** that is greater than the
25 diameter of the wire holes **25**, and therefore the connecting cord **3** is kept coupled to

the base block 21.

FIG. 4 shows an application example of the first embodiment of the present invention. When in use, the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 is inserted through the annular spacer members 23 and the base block 21 and then fastened to the ground to have the annular spacer members 23 and the base block 21 be stopped between the shoulder 11 of the tee nail 1 and the ground. Thus, the support 2 supports the tee nail 1 firmly in place on the ground, and then the connecting cord 3 is fastened to a ground anchor. According to this application example, the ground anchor is one same tee nail 1. Thus, the user can put the golf ball in the top recess 121 of the cup-like head 12 and then hit the ball with a golf club. By means of the support member 2, the tee nail 1 is positively positioned in the ground to support the golf ball at the desired elevation for striking, and the user can solidly hit the right part of the golf ball to strike the golf ball long and straight. After the user hit the golf ball, the tee nail 1 with the support 2 may jump away from the ground in direction reversed to the striking direction, however the connecting cord 3 still secures the adjustable golf tee set to the ground anchor, and the user can quickly pick up the adjustable golf tee set for a repeat use.

FIG. 5 shows a golf tee set in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is substantially similar to the aforesaid first embodiment with the exception that the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 has a plurality of longitudinal locating ribs 131 spaced around the periphery; the base block 21 and the annular spacer members 23 each have a plurality of longitudinal locating grooves 241 equiangularly arranged on the respective inside wall around the respective center through hole 24 for receiving the longitudinal locating ribs 131 of the pointed shank 13 to prohibit rotation of the tee nail 1 relative to the support 2. Alternatively, the longitudinal locating ribs 131 can be formed in the center through hole 24 of the base

block 21 and each of the annular spacer members 23 of the support 2, and the longitudinal locating grooves 241 can be formed on the periphery of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1.

FIGS. 6 and 7 show a golf tee set in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention and its application example. Similar to the aforesaid first embodiment of the present invention, this third embodiment is comprised of a tee nail 1, a support 2 and a connecting cord 3. The tee nail 1 is substantially similar to that of the aforesaid first embodiment with the exception that the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 of this third embodiment has two rows of locating grooves 132 arranged on the periphery at two sides at different elevations. According to this embodiment, the locating grooves 132 are rounded grooves. The support 2 in accordance with this third embodiment comprises a base block 21, two spring members 213 and two retaining pins 211. The base block 21 has a center through hole 24 corresponding to the outer diameter of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1, a top bearing portion 22 upwardly extending from the top side around the center through hole 24 for stopping against the bottom side of the shoulder 11 of the tee nail 1, and a plurality of wire holes 25 cut through the top and bottom sides around the top bearing portion 22 for the mounting of the connecting cord 3. The retaining pins 211 are movably mounted (in a respective hole) in the base block 21 and partially extending out of the base block 21 at two opposite sides, each having a rounded locating tip 212, which is movable with the respective retaining pin 211 in and out of the center through hole 24. The two spring members 213 are mounted in the base block 21 at two sides to support the retaining pins 211 in such a position that the rounded locating tips 212 of the retaining pins 211 protrude into the center through hole 24 of the base block 21. When in use, the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 is inserted through the center through hole 24 of the base

block 21 to force the rounded locating tips 212 of the retaining pins 211 backwards against the respective spring members 213. When two locating grooves 132 of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 are in horizontal alignment with the rounded locating tips 212 of the retaining pins 211 respectively, the spring members 213 immediately
5 force the rounded locating tips 212 of the retaining pins 211 forwards into engagement with the two locating grooves 132 of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1, securing the base block 21 to the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 at the desired elevation. When the user presses the retaining pins 211 against the spring members 213, the rounded locating tips 212 of the retaining pins 211 are disengaged from the
10 corresponding locating grooves 132 of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1, allowing adjustment of the elevation of the base block 21 relative to the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 or removal of the base block 21 from the tee nail 1. Further, elevational marks or signs may be marked on the periphery of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1 corresponding to the locating grooves 132 for recognition of different elevations.

15 FIGS. 8 shows an adjustable golf tee set in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention. According to this fourth embodiment, the tee nail 1 has a plurality of locating grooves 132 arranged on the periphery of the pointed shank 13 at two opposite sides at different elevations. The locating grooves 132 are elongated grooves extending in horizontal direction. Further, the pointed shank 13 is a
20 rectangular shank. The support 2 according to this fourth embodiment comprises a base block 21, a U-clamp 214 mounted in the base block 21. The base block 21 has a center through hole 24 for the passing of the pointed shank 13 of the tee nail 1, a top bearing portion 22 upwardly extending from the top side around the center through hole 24, and a plurality of wire holes 25 cut through the top and bottom sides around
25 the top bearing portion 22 for the mounting of the connecting cord 3. The U-clamp 214

is a U-shaped spring member affixed to the inside of the base block **21**, having two clamping spring arms **215** tangentially extending through the center through hole **24** of the base block **21**. When in use, the pointed shank **13** of the tee nail **1** is inserted through the center through hole **24** of the base block **21** to force the two clamping
5 spring arms **215** outwards, and then the tee nail **1** is rotated through an angle to let the two clamping spring arms **215** engage two of the locating grooves **132** of the tee nail **1**, securing the base block **21** firmly to the pointed shank **13** of the tee nail **1** at the desired elevation.

As stated above, the invention provides an adjustable golf tee set, which has
10 the features and benefits as follows:

1. The user can selectively use the annular spacer blocks **23** with the base block **21** to support the tee nail **1** stably on the ground and to control the nailing depth of the tee nail **1** in the ground subject to different ball-striking needs.

2. The design of the longitudinal locating ribs **131** and the longitudinal
15 locating grooves **241** assure positive engagement between the support **2** and the tee nail **1**, enabling the support **2** to reinforce the strength of the tee nail **1** and to support the tee nail **1** firmly in place to hold the golf ball for striking.

Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be
20 made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adjustable golf tee set comprising:

a tee nail, the tee nail having a cup-like head for holding a golf ball and a pointed shank downwardly extending from a bottom side of the cup-like head for
5 fastening to the ground; and

a support for mounted around the pointed shank of the tee nail at a bottom side of the cup-like head to support the teen nail on the ground, the support comprising a base block and at least one annular spacer block, the base block and the at least one annular spacer block each having a center through hole for the insertion of the pointed
10 shank of the tee nail.

2. The adjustable golf tee set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pointed shank of the tee nail comprises a plurality of longitudinal locating ribs arranged around the periphery, and the base block and the at least one annular spacer block each have a plurality of longitudinal locating grooves disposed in the respective center through
15 hole for receiving the longitudinal locating ribs of the pointed shank to prohibit rotation of the tee nail relative to the support; the pointed shank of the tee nail comprises a plurality of longitudinal locating grooves arranged around the periphery, and the base and the at least one spacer block each have a plurality of longitudinal locating tips disposed in the respective center through hole for engaging the
20 longitudinal locating grooves of the pointed shank to prohibit rotation of the tee nail relative to the support; the base block has a bearing portion upwardly extending from a top side around the center through hole thereof for supporting the at least one annular spacer block.

3. The adjustable golf tee set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one
25 annular spacer block includes a plurality of annular spacer blocks having different

thickness for selectively fastening to the pointed shank of the tee nail to support the cup-like head of the tee nail above the base block.

4. The adjustable golf tee set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tee nail has a plurality of locating grooves arranged on the periphery of the pointed shank at different elevations; the support comprises at least one retaining pin mounted in the base block and partially extending out of the base block and movable in and out of the center through hole of the base block for selectively engaging the locating grooves of the tee nail to lock the base block to the pointed shank of the tee nail at a selected elevation, and spring means mounted in the base block and adapted to force the at least one retaining pin into engagement with the locating grooves of the tee nail.

5. The adjustable golf tee set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tee nail has a plurality of locating grooves arranged on the periphery of the pointed shank at different elevations; the support comprises a U-clamp fixedly mounted in the base block, said U-clamp having two clamping spring arms for selectively engaging the locating grooves to secure the base block to the pointed shank of the tee nail at a selected elevation.