

Golf Bag

Background and Field of the Invention

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This invention related to storage and transport bags for golf clubs.

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As golf is a globally accepted game with a variety of golf courses around the world, many golfers travel to different countries to play. In many cases, golfers prefer to transport their own clubs with them. Due to the requirements of air travel, it is desirable for travel golf bags to have the combined requirements of being lightweight as well as being sufficiently robust to protect the clubs from the rigors of airport and other baggage handling facilities.

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While there are a number of light weight options for carrying clubs, the most common of which is a cover over a conventional bag, these lightweight options do not provide adequate protection from the rough handling the clubs can expect to experience during travel. Another option such as carry boxes for golf clubs widely used and favoured by golf professionals, is not suitable for the average travelling social golfer mainly because these boxes are not suitable for use as a golf bag on the golf course once the golfer has arrived at their destination.

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Therefore, there is a need for a golf bag which primarily is of lightweight construction, robust and capable of being used on a golf course.

25 Summary of the Invention

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It is an object of the present invention to provide a golf bag which protects the clubs from damage during transport and preferably can be used as a conventional golf bag once the golfer has reached their destination.

Accordingly the invention provides a golf bag for the storage and transport of a plurality of golf clubs including an outer casing having a club head holding insert secured therein for locating individual clubs in said bag, the club head holding insert comprising a plurality of

apertures to allow passage of the shaft therethrough and a locating means to position clubs thereon, and a head cover unit cooperating with said club head insert to secure the clubs in position.

5 The locating means of the club holding insert is preferably profiled to retain the golf clubs in position. By providing a club head holding insert which cooperates with the club head and the head cover unit, the golf bag of the present invention is able to securely position and retain the golf clubs in position during transport.

10 The club head holding insert may be provided with a flanged edge region which cooperates with the head cover unit to locate the head cover in position on the head insert.

The club head holding insert preferably is a truncated prism shape having a cross-section substantially the same as the outer casing. While it is preferable for the cross-section of
15 the outer casing to be substantially circular, thus dictating that the head insert is substantially a truncated cylindrical or conical shape, the cross-section of the casing may be rectangular, square or other suitable geometric shape giving the head unit a corresponding cross-section.

20 The truncated surface of the club head insert preferably is provided with a raised section having at least one upper surface with at least one aperture to receive a golf club shaft and a locating means to position clubs therein.

The head cover unit may be provided with a cover insert which may be contoured to the
25 shape of the clubs within the holders to secure the clubs against the head insert within the locating means. The cover insert may be provided with complimentary contours or it may be formed of deformable material which is shaped to the contours of the clubs on the insert by positioning of the cover unit. This dual profiling prevents movement of the club head and hence clubs within the bag thereby reducing the risk of damage.

30 An external cover may be also provided to fit over the head insert and head cover and comprise a securement means to secure the cover to the outer casing. The external cover may have a handle which in combination with optional wheels at the base of the outer casing increase the transportability of the apparatus.

The outer casing may be provided with a shaft cavity or divider for each golf club, the cavity or divider communicating with a corresponding opening in the club holding insert.

- 5 The shaft cavity is preferably secured within the outer casing and may lock into a recess formed in the base of the outer casing.

- 10 The outer casing may further be provided with an accessory compartment suitable for carrying other equipment such as golf tees and balls etc and mountings for attaching a strap.

Further, features, objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiment and accompanying drawings.

15 Description of Preferred Embodiment

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention disassembled in line for assembly;

- 20 Figures 2(a) to (f) are respectively the top plan view, lower perspective, front elevation, side elevation, bottom plan view and top perspective view of an embodiment of club holding insert of the present invention shown in figure 1;

- 25 Figures 3(a) to (f) are respectively the top plan view, lower perspective, front elevation, side elevation, bottom plan view and top perspective view of an embodiment of club head cover unit of the present invention shown in figure 1; and

- 30 Figures 4(a) to (f) are respectively the top plan view, lower perspective, front elevation, side elevation, bottom plan view and top perspective view of an embodiment of external cover of the present invention shown in figure 1;

Referring to figure 1, a golf bag 1 in accordance with the invention is shown comprising an outer casing 2 constructed in two pieces 3,4, a club holding insert 5, a head cover unit 6

and an external cover 7. The outer casing 2 is preferably substantially cylindrical as shown with a cross sectional shape in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis but maybe in the shape of any right prism having a cross sectional shape of a regular shape such as a rectangle or square or an irregular shape. The club holding insert 5 is preferably a truncated prism shape having a cross sectional shape consistent with that of the outer casing 2 and is preferably substantially in the shape of a truncated cylinder or cone.

The club holding insert 5 has a plurality of apertures 8 to receive the shaft of golf clubs to be inserted into therein and locating means on the upper truncated surface 10 to position the clubs on the surface 10. The locating means may be a plurality of ridges 11 shaped to contact preferably the lower face of the club head or the lower half of the head. The guide ridges 11 are positioned to retain the club head in position on the club holding insert.

The upper truncated surface 10 may have a raised section 12 having apertures 13 and locating means 20 to position and secure clubs in position. The raised section 12 is intended to accommodate clubs having a greater length shaft so that the club head can rest on the raised surface. Generally the outer casing is sized so that the length of the shafts of the clubs can be housed within the outer casing and the heads of the clubs rests on either the outer annular surface 14 of the upper truncated surface or the raised surface 12. The raised central section 12 may also be split to provide a slightly lower platform 12A having an aperture 13A to provide for more clubs or irregular shaped clubs. In this way a variety of club lengths and club shapes as found in a normal set of golf clubs can be accommodated.

The club head holding insert 5 is preferably received within the top section 9 of the outer casing and secured in position by any securement means such as screws, rivets or plastic welding through flanges 15 on the bottom of insert 5.

The golf clubs are secured in position on the club holding insert 5 by a head cover unit 6 which cooperates with the upper edges of the golf clubs on the outer annular surface 14 of truncated surface 10 or the raised section 12. The club head holding insert 5 may be provided with a flanged edge region 16 which cooperates with the head cover unit 6 to locate the cover unit 6 in position. The cover unit 6 may be provided with a cover insert which is profiled with complimentary contours or formed of deformable material such as

expandable polystyrene, neoprene, polyurethane or other such polymeric material which has resiliency and strength and elastically deforms to the shape of the clubs by positioning of the cover unit 6 on the club holding insert 5. In this way, the inserts conform to the slight variations in club head shape and can accommodate different brands of clubs.

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The combination of the complimentary profiling of the insert 5 and the cover unit 6 prevents movement of the clubs within the bag during transport and thereby limiting damage.

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The outer casing pieces are provided with a plurality of securement ports aligned to enable the outer casing pieces to be secured together by a suitable means such as a nut and bolt arrangement. Port covers may be provided to close the ports. These port covers are preferably shaped to conform with the contours of the outer casing and provide a uniform surface shape.

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Closing the bottom of the outer casing is a base which is formed integrally with the pieces of the outer casing. It is envisaged that the base could also be formed as a separate piece and fitted into the outer casing. It is envisaged that the base could also be formed as a separate piece and fitted into the outer casing pieces during assembly.

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The external cover 7 may be provided to fit over the head insert 5 and head cover 6. The outer casing 2 is preferably provided with lugs (not shown) which cooperate with latches, clasps or the like fasteners (not shown) provided on the external cover 7. Once the latches engage with the lugs, they can be tightened to secure the head unit to the outer casing. The external cover may have a handle 18 which can be separately attached or integrally formed which in combination with optional wheels (not shown) on the base of the outer casing facilitates ease of transport.

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The outer casing may also be provided with an outer pocket (not shown) or container adhered or secured to the outer casing by suitable straps and locating ribs or indents 19. The outer pocket or container may be openable to allow the storage of items such as golf balls and tees which are normally carried in a golf bag.

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The club holding inset 5 is preferably configured to have the clubs with the longer shafts such as the woods rest against the raised section 12 of the truncated upper surface. The clubs with medium length shafts such as the long irons may be received within recesses in the higher surfaces of the outer concentric surfaces of the truncated surface 10. The lower surfaces of the outer truncated cylinder 8 of the inset is preferably shaped to receive the clubs with the shortest shafts such as the wedges. As there is a gradual shortening of shaft lengths across the range of clubs from woods/metals, 2-9 iron, wedges and putter, this shortening of shaft length may be accommodated by the above described arrangement.

10 The outer casing and external sections head unit of the head unit and inner components of the lower unit are made from light weight structural polymeric material such as expandable polystyrene, which enable the whole bag to have a weight of less than 3 kg.

In a slightly heavier version of the embodiment of the invention not shown, the outer casing 2 may be provided with a shaft cavity or divider for each golf club, the cavity or divider communicating with a corresponding aperture 8,13 in the club holding insert 5. The shaft cavity is preferably secured within the outer casing 2 and may lock into a recess formed in the base of the outer casing.

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The Claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A golf bag for the storage and transport of a plurality of golf clubs including an outer casing having a club head holding insert secured therein for locating individual clubs in said bag, the club head holding insert comprising a plurality of apertures to allow passage of the shaft therethrough and a locating means to position clubs thereon, and a head cover unit cooperating with said club head insert to secure the clubs in position.
2. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein the club holding insert is profiled to retain golf clubs in position.
3. The golf bag of claim 1 or 2, wherein the head cover unit insert is profiled to compliment the shape of the club holding insert said head insert being secured against relative movement in said head unit.
4. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein the club holding insert is in the shape of a truncated prism having a cross sectional shape in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the outer casing which compliments the cross sectional area of the outer casing.
5. The golf bag of claim 1 wherein the outer casing is substantially cylindrical and the club holding insert is a truncated cylinder or cone.
6. The golf bag of claim 4, wherein the truncated surface of the club holding insert 5 is provided with a raised section having at least one aperture formed therein and integrally formed locating means to be able to position at least one clubs heads on said raised section, the shaft of said club passing through said aperture.
7. The golf bag of claim 6, wherein the raised section is concentrically positioned on said truncated surface.
8. The golf bag of claim 1, wherein the head cover unit is provided with a cover insert which is contoured to the shape of the club heads to be positioned on the truncated surface of the prism to secure the clubs against the head insert within the locating means.
9. The golf bag of claim 8 wherein the cover insert is formed with a profile complimentary to the shape of the club heads which are intended to be positioned on the truncated surface.



10. The golf bag of claim 8 wherein the cover insert is formed of deformable material which assumes a complimentary shape of the clubs to on the insert when the cover unit is secured against the club holding insert.
- 5 11. The golf bag of claim 1 further comprising an external cover to fit over the head insert and head cover, said external cover having a securement means to secure the external cover to the outer casing.
12. The golf bag of claim 11 wherein the external cover further comprises a handle and the outer casing is further provided with wheels at the base of the outer casing.
- 10 13. The golf bag substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.