GOLF TEE HOLDER

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a golf tee holder and refers particularly, though not exclusively, to a golf tee holder for use at golf driving ranges.

Background to the Invention

A typical golf tee for driving ranges is a rubber tee having a thin, flexible, one-height, tubular or cylindrical body having a concave upper end for holding a golf ball and a flat, circular collar serving as a base at the lower end. Many golf driving ranges provide a rubber mat on which the golfer stands, there being a hole in the mat from which extends the tee and upon which the ball is set.

The golfer uses one height when hitting golf balls from the rubber tee unless he changes to another rubber tee of a different fixed height. This is awkward to do, and thus many golfers do not do it. Therefore, they do not adjust the height of the tee to suit their swing. Changing the tee is difficult because the tee has to be inserted from below the mat. Lifting the mat can be a daunting task, especially for older golfers, and particularly when the mat and floor are wet, and if the mat is very new and the hole is still tight.

The circumference of the concave end of the rubber tee is also wider than typical golf tees. The wider circumference results in more contact with the golf ball and this reduces the transfer of hitting power from the golf club to the golf ball. As such the experience on a golf course is not replicable at a driving range.

There is an optimum height above ground level for different clubs and different golfers. The predetermined height of conventional rubber tee cannot produce the same effect as typical golf tees used on the golf courses, where the latter is inserted into the ground in accordance with the golfers' preference.

It is also common these days that with new technologies the face of a golf club is becoming larger. To accommodate this extra size of club face, golf tees are longer. However, existing tee holders do not provide enough depth to securely hold a longer tee due to their limited depth as a consequence of the thickness of the driving range mat.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a first preferred aspect there is provided a golf tee holder for use with a mat having a hole therein. The golf tee holder comprises a main body portion for insertion into the hole, and a collar extending outwardly from the main body portion adjacent a top of the main body portion for locating immediately adjacent or on the mat when the main body portion is inserted in the hole.

The top may be concave, and the main body portion may be generally cylindrical with an outer surface comprising at least one a saw-tooth edge extending around the main body. The main body portion may have a central bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the central bore having a wall with a wave-form shape.

The collar may be annular and may extend radially outwardly from the main body portion.

The main body portion may have an outer surface for increased grip on the mat when inserted in the hole for resisting the golf tee holder from being ejected from the mat when an inserted golf tee is struck by a golf club; and may have a central bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the central bore having a wall for providing increased grip on a stem of a golf tee when the stem is inserted in the central bore. The central bore may allow lateral movement of the stem when the inserted golf tee is contacted by the golf club.

The collar may be for one or more of: resisting the golf tee holder from being ejected from the mat when the inserted golf tee is struck by the golf club; and assisting the removal of the golf tee holder from the hole. The collar may be of a resilient material to assist in retaining the golf tee holder in the hole when the inserted golf tee is struck by the golf club.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In order that the present invention may be fully understood and readily put into practical effect, there shall now be described by way of non-limitative example only preferred embodiments of the present invention, the description being with reference to the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view along the lines and in the direction of arrows 2-2 on Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the first embodiment inserted in a typical driving range mat; and

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view corresponding to Figure 3 with the golf tee loaded with a golf ball.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In the drawings the golf tee holder 8 has a main body 10 that is somewhat cylindrical with barbs or saw-tooth edges 22 on its outer surface below an annular collar 14 extending radially outwardly from the main body 10, and a concave top 12. The collar 14 is immediately below the concave top 12. Although the collar 14 is shown as being circular, it may be of any suitable shape such as, for example, square.

The saw-tooth edges 22 extend around the main body 10 and are able to engage with or grip the inner wall 30 of a hole 32 in a golf driving range mat 24 to resist the tee holder 8 from being ejected after the golf tee 30 is hit. Preferably there are at least two saw-tooth edges 22 to provide double the grip.

The golf tee holder 8 is inserted into hole 32 from above, and until the collar 14 is immediately adjacent or on the mat 24. The collar 14 provides assistance in increasing the resistance of the golf tee holder 8 from being ejected from the mat 24 as it provides a bending moment at its periphery that will resist the ejection force. The collar 14 is preferably of a resilient material such as, for example, rubber, so that it will tend to push the golf tee holder 8 back into the hole 8 when the golf tee 30 is hit by a golf club. The collar 14 also facilitates the relatively easy extraction of the golf tee holder 8 from the mat 24.

The body 10 has a longitudinally-extending central bore 16 in which the golf tee 30 is inserted. The concave top 12 extends the length of body 10 and thus central bore 16 to provide an additional or lengthened gripping surface for longer golf tees. The concave top 12 can also serve as golf tee to hold a golf ball 28 at a predetermined height above the mat 24.

The central bore 16 has a wall 20 that has a wave-like shape in cross-section to provide an improved grip for the tapered stem 34 of the golf tee 30. The portion 18 where the bore 16 is narrowest provides the maximum griping effect. Those parts of the bore 16 with the maximum diameter allow the stem 34 to move laterally or tilt without excessive bending to cushion the impact when the tee 30 is hit, and to assist in resisting the ejection of the tee 30 from the golf tee holder 8.

A user should experience as close as possible to the same feeling as when on a golf course

when inserting the tee 30 into the golf tee holder 8 at driving ranges. He can adjust the height of the tee 30 relative to the golf tee holder 8 according to his preference.

Most tees, plastic or wooden, can be used with the golf tee holder 8. Even if the stem 34 of tee 30 is broken below collar 14 leaving part of the stem 34 in bore 16, the remaining part in bore 16 can easily be extracted by holding the golf tee holder 8 in one hand and inserting the stem 34 of a replacement tee 30 into the bore 16 from the concave top 12 and using it to push the remaining portion out through the end of bore 16.

Whilst there has been described in the foregoing description preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the technology concerned that many variations or modifications in details of design or construction may be made without departing from the present invention.

The Claims:

1. A golf tee holder for use with a mat having a hole therein, the golf tee holder comprising:
a main body portion for insertion into the hole; and
a collar extending outwardly from the main body portion adjacent a top of the main body portion for locating immediately adjacent or on the mat when the main body portion is inserted in the hole.

2. A golf tee holder as claimed in claim 1, wherein the top is concave.

3. A golf tee holder as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the main body portion is generally cylindrical and has an outer surface comprising at least one a saw- tooth edge extending around the main body.

4. A golf tee holder as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the main body portion has a central bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the central bore having a wall with a wave-form shape.

5. A golf tee holder as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the collar is annular and extends radially outwardly from the main body portion.

6. A golf tee holder as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main body portion has an outer surface for increased grip on the mat when inserted in the hole for resisting the golf tee holder from being ejected from the mat when an inserted golf tee is struck by a golf club.

7. A golf tee holder as claimed in claim 1 or claim 6, wherein the main body portion has a central bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the central bore having a wall for providing increased grip on a stem of a golf tee when the stem is inserted in the central bore.

8. A golf tee holder as claimed in claim 7, wherein the central bore allows lateral movement of the stem when the inserted golf tee is contacted by the golf club.

9. A golf tee holder as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the collar is for resisting the golf tee holder from being ejected from the mat when the inserted golf tee is struck by the golf club.

10. A golf tee holder as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the collar is of a resilient material to assist in retaining the golf tee holder in the hole when the inserted golf tee is struck by the golf club.

11. A golf tee holder as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the collar is for assisting the removal of the golf tee holder from the hole.