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Magnetic golf glove with ball marker

Abstract

A magnetic golf glove with a ball marker is provided. The glove includes at least three magnets. Two of the magnets form a magnetic closure that secures the glove to the user's hand and wrist. The third magnet forms at least part of the ball marker. The third magnet may be secured to the first magnet to secure the ball marker to the glove for easy access. The ball marker may be detached from the glove for use in marking a location of the user's golf ball. The ball marker may also be secured to any ferromagnetic surface of the glove or any other object.

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present invention relates generally to a golf glove with a magnetic closure and magnetic ball marker.

BACKGROUND

(2) Golf is a popular sport that requires a variety of equipment, including clubs, balls, tees, and gloves. Golf gloves, in particular, are an important piece of equipment for most golfers. Golf gloves may be worn on both hands but are typically worn at least on the player's non-dominant hand. Golf gloves serve multiple purposes. First, they provide a better grip on the golf club, reducing the chance of the club slipping out of the player's hand. Secondly, they help prevent blisters and calluses that can form due to repeated friction between the player's hand and the golf club. Lastly, gloves can offer warmth in colder weather conditions.

(3) Golf gloves are generally made of leather or synthetic materials and are designed to fit snugly around the golfer's hand. They typically feature an opening for the hand and enclosed pockets for the fingers and thumb. A closure system, often a strap with a fastening mechanism, is typically used to secure the glove around the golfer's wrist. This closure system is usually located on the back of the glove, adjacent to the opening. The fastening mechanism of the closure system can vary. One common type is the hook and loop fastener, also known by the brand name Velcro. This type of fastener is easy to use and allows for some degree of adjustability in the fit of the glove. However, it can wear out over time, reducing its effectiveness. Additionally, the hook and loop fastener can collect dirt and debris, which can further diminish its effectiveness in providing a secure closure.

(4) Another accessory often used by golfers is the ball marker. Ball markers are generally small, flat objects used to mark the position of a golfer's ball on the green when the ball is lifted. Ball markers can be made of various materials, including plastic and metal. Because ball markers are typically small and flat, they are easy to carry and use but also easy to misplace.

SUMMARY

(5) In one aspect, a golf glove is provided. The golf glove comprises a hand-receiving portion, a flap with a magnetic closure designed for enclosing the glove around the golfer's wrist, a magnetic ball marker that can be attached to and detached from the glove, and a ball marker holder configured to magnetically secure the ball marker to an outer surface of the ball marker holder, thereby securing the ball marker to the glove so that the golfer can readily access the ball marker anytime the golfer is wearing the glove. The hand-receiving portion comprises a plurality of finger pockets and has an opening to receive the golfer's hand therein. The hand-receiving portion also has a back side configured to cover the back of the golfer's hand when wearing the glove. A first magnet is secured to the flap, and a second magnet is secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion. The first and second magnets may be magnetically secured to each other to secure the flap to the back side of the hand-receiving portion, thereby securing the glove to the golfer's hand. The back side of the hand-receiving portion preferably has a slit extending from the opening in a direction toward the finger pockets. The flap is attached to the hand-receiving portion in a position generally adjacent the opening and preferably on a side of the slit opposite the attachment location of the second magnet to the back side.

(6) The ball marker holder may be attached to an outer side of the flap in a position adjacent the first magnet, which is also secured to the flap. The outer surface of the ball marker holder is thus disposed on the outer side of the flap. The magnetic ball marker is configured to be magnetically secured to the first magnet to magnetically secure the ball marker to the outer surface of the ball marker holder. The magnetic material of the ball marker helps to increase the attractive force of the magnetic enclosure when the first and second magnets are joined together with the addition of the

magnetic ball marker magnetically joined to the first magnet. The magnetic material of the ball marker also allows the ball marker to be independently secured to any ferromagnetic material that is not part of the glove so that the ball marker may be secured either to the glove or to any other convenient metallic structure, such as a metal portion of a golf club or a golf cart.
(7) In a preferred embodiment, the ball marker holder comprises a retaining wall configured to at least partially surround the outer surface of the ball marker holder to which the ball marker is magnetically secured. Both the ball marker and the retaining wall preferably have a generally circular shape sized so that the ball marker fits within the retaining wall. The retaining wall may include a cutout portion to allow easy removal of the ball marker from the ball marker holder.
(8) It should be understood that the summary above is provided to introduce in simplified form a selection of concepts that are further described in the detailed description. It is not meant to identify key or essential features of the claimed subject matter, the scope of which is defined uniquely by the claims that follow the detailed description. Furthermore, the claimed subject matter is not limited to implementations that solve any disadvantages noted above or in any part of this disclosure.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
(1) These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:
(2) FIG. **1** shows a perspective view of a golf glove with a ball marker in accordance with the present disclosure.
(3) FIG. **2** shows a top perspective view of a golf glove with a ball marker in accordance with the present disclosure.
(4) FIG. **3** shows a top perspective view of a golf glove with a magnetic closure in an open configuration in accordance with the present disclosure.
(5) FIG. **4** shows a partial perspective view of a golf glove with a ball marker removed from the glove in accordance with the present disclosure.
(6) FIG. **5** shows a perspective view of a ball marker detached from a magnet ball marker holder in accordance with the present disclosure.
(7) FIG. **6** shows a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a golf glove with a ball marker in accordance with the present disclosure.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION
(8) In the Summary above and in this Detailed Description, and the claims below, and in the accompanying drawings, reference is made to particular features, including method steps, of the invention. It is to be understood that the disclosure of the invention in this specification includes all possible combinations of such particular features. For example, where a particular feature is disclosed in the context of a particular aspect or embodiment of the invention, or a particular claim, that feature can also be used, to the extent possible, in combination with/or in the context of other particular aspects of the embodiments of the invention, and in the invention generally.
(9) The term “comprises” and grammatical equivalents thereof are used herein to mean that other components, ingredients, steps, etc. are optionally present. For example, an article “comprising” components A, B, and C can contain only components A, B, and C, or can contain not only components A, B, and C, but also one or more other components.
(10) Where reference is made herein to a method comprising two or more defined steps, the defined steps can be carried out in any order or simultaneously (except where the context excludes that possibility), and the method can include one or more other steps which are carried out before

any of the defined steps, between two of the defined steps, or after all the defined steps (except where the context excludes that possibility).

(11) In one aspect, a golf glove **10** is provided. FIGS. **1-6** illustrate preferred embodiments of the glove **10** or components thereof. The golf glove **10** comprises at least three magnets and has a magnetic closure for securing the glove **10** to the user's hand and wrist. The first magnet **24** and second magnet **26** form part of the magnetic closure and can be magnetically joined together to secure the closure. The third magnet **28** forms at least part of a ball marker **30** that can be detached from the golf glove **10** and then used to mark the position of the golfer's ball on the green when the ball is lifted. The third magnet **28** can be magnetically secured to the first magnet **24** to secure the ball marker **30** to the glove **10**. When the first magnet **24** and the second magnet **26** are joined together to secure the closure, the third magnet **28** can be secured to the first magnet **24** to increase the attractive force of the magnetic enclosure. The third magnet **28** also allows the ball marker **30** to be independently secured to any ferromagnetic material that is not part of the glove **10**. This allows the ball marker **30** to be secured either to the glove **10** or to any other convenient metallic surface, such as a metal portion of a golf club or golf cart. FIGS. **1** and **2** show the magnetic closure in a closed configuration with the first magnet **24** joined to the second magnet **26** as the glove **10** would be worn by the user. FIG. **3** shows the magnetic closure in an open configuration for donning the glove **10** or removing the glove **10** from the user's hand.

(12) As best seen in FIG. **1**, the golf glove **10** comprises a hand-receiving portion **12** having an opening **16** configured to receive a hand of a user. The hand-receiving portion **12** further comprises a plurality of finger pockets **14** for each of the use's fingers, one of which is preferably a thumb pocket **14**A. The finger pockets **14** are preferably completely enclosed so that each pocket **14** entirely covers each of the user's fingers, though the pockets **14** may optionally have open fingertip sections. The hand-receiving portion **12** and/or finger pockets **14** preferably also include small holes or mesh-covered areas to allow some air flow between the interior and exterior of the glove **10**. The hand-receiving portion **12** also has a back side **18** configured to cover a back of the hand of the user when the user has donned the glove **10** by placing his or her hand and fingers into the hand-receiving portion **12** and finger pockets **14**.

(13) The golf glove **10** further comprises a flap **20** attached to the hand-receiving portion **12** in a position generally adjacent the opening **16**, as shown in FIG. **2**. The flap **20** and back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion generally form the structure of the magnetic closure, which is designed for enclosing at least portions of the glove **10** around the user's hand and/or wrist. The first magnet **24** is secured to the flap **20**, and the second magnet **26** is secured to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12**, as best seen in FIG. **3**. The first magnet **24** and the second magnet **26** are configured to magnetically secure the flap **20** to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** to secure the glove **10** to the user's hand. In a preferred embodiment, the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** has a slit **22** extending from the opening **16** in a direction toward the finger pockets **14**, as best seen in FIG. **3**. The flap **20** is preferably secured to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** on a side of the slit **22** opposite the second magnet **26**.

(14) The golf glove **10** further comprises a ball marker **30** comprising a third magnet **28**. The ball marker **30** can be magnetically secured to and detached from the glove **10**. FIGS. **1** and **2** show the ball marker **30** magnetically secured to the glove **10**, and FIG. **4** shows the ball marker **30** detached from the glove **10**. The golf glove **10** further comprises a ball marker holder **32** attached to the flap **20** in a position adjacent the first magnet **24**. The ball marker holder **32** has an outer surface **34** disposed on an outer side **44** of the flap **20** when the flap **20** is secured to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12**, as shown in FIG. **4**. The first magnet **24** and the third magnet **28** are configured to magnetically secure the ball marker **30** to the outer surface **34** of the ball marker holder **32**.

(15) FIG. **5** shows a detailed view of the ball marker **30** and the ball marker holder **32** detached from the glove **10** with the ball marker **30** removed from the holder **32** to illustrate components of

the ball marker **30** and holder **32**. The ball marker **30** preferably comprises a thin planar disc having a circular shape suitable for use marking a golf ball on a golf course green. The third magnet **28** may be embedded within or otherwise attached to the ball marker **30** to allow magnetic attachment of the ball marker **30** to any ferromagnetic surface, or the entirety of the ball marker **30** may optionally be formed with a ferromagnetic material. In one preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. **4**, one side of the ball marker **30** that directly contacts the outer surface **34** of the holder **32** has a generally plain surface without decorative features. The plain surface may optionally be textured. In another preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIGS. **1** and **5**, an opposite side of the ball marker **30** that faces outwardly when the ball marker **30** is secured to the holder **32** has a decorative surface depicting a logo or other ornamental design.

(16) In a preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. **5**, the ball marker holder **32** comprises a retaining wall **36** configured to at least partially surround the outer surface of the ball marker holder **32** to which the ball marker **30** is magnetically secured. The retaining wall **36** preferably has a generally circular shape that generally corresponds to the circular shape of the ball marker **30** so that the ball marker **30** fits within the retaining wall **36** with minimal space between the ball marker **30** and the retaining wall **36**, as best seen in FIG. **2**.

(17) In a preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. **5**, the retaining wall **36** also has a cutout portion **38** configured to allow removal of the ball marker **30** from the ball marker holder **32**. The cutout portion **38** is generally a discontinuation in the retaining wall **36** that allows a user to apply a small amount of force or leverage to the ball marker **30** with the user's fingers at the cutout portion **38** to manually separate the ball marker **30** from the first magnet **24** holding the ball marker **30** in place. In a preferred embodiment, the ball marker holder **32** comprises a peripheral portion **40** surrounding the retaining wall **36** on a periphery of the holder **32** outside of the area of the outer surface **34** that contacts the ball marker **30**. To attach the ball marker holder **32** to the flap **20** of the glove **10**, as best seen in FIG. **4**, the peripheral portion **40** may be covered with textile material on the outer side **44** of the flap **20** of the glove **10**, and the textile material may then be sewn onto the peripheral portion **40** to produce stitching **42** extending around the exterior of the retaining wall **36**. As shown in FIG. **3**, stitching **42** may also be used on the inner side **45** of the flap **20** to attach a bottom side of the ball marker holder **32** to the flap **20** to secure the holder **32** in a generally fixed position relative to the flap **20**. As used herein, a “textile” or “textile material” may refer to any natural or synthetic material that is pliable and thus generally suitable for use in manufacturing a glove or other article of clothing and may include woven or non-woven fabrics or other fiber-based materials or other similarly pliable materials such as leather.

(18) In a preferred embodiment, the cutout portion **38** of the retaining wall **36** is disposed on a side of the ball marker holder **32** opposite the thumb pocket **14**A, as best seen in FIG. **4**. This allows the user to easily use his or her opposite hand to remove the ball marker **30** from the holder **32**. FIGS. **1-4** illustrate a glove **10** for a user's left hand. Thus, the user may use his or her right hand to reach across the outer side **44** of the glove **10** to an opposing side of the holder **32** and lift the ball marker **30** from the holder **32** at the cutout portion **38**.

(19) In a preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. **5**, the outer surface **34** of the holder **32** may be defined by a generally flat piece of material having an edge that is slightly raised above an upper surface of the peripheral portion **40**. This raised edge may allow the user to more easily lift the ball marker **30** from the holder **32** at the cutout portion **38** of the retaining wall **36**. In a preferred embodiment, the first magnet **24** may be disposed under the piece of material forming the outer surface **34**. In this embodiment, the first magnet **24** may be sandwiched between the piece of material forming the outer surface **34** and textile material forming the inner side **45** of the flap **20**, as generally indicated by the dashed lines shown in FIGS. **3** and **5**. The first magnet **24** may be secured to an inner or bottom side of the material forming the outer surface **34** to hold the first magnet **24** in a fixed position relative to the holder **32**. Alternatively, the first magnet **24** may be embedded within or otherwise attached to the material forming the outer surface **34**, or the entirety

of the material forming the outer surface **34** may optionally be formed with a ferromagnetic material to function as the first magnet **24**.

(20) The second magnet **26** is preferably disposed within a cavity or pocket **46** formed within the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12**, as best seen in FIG. **3**. The pocket **46** may be formed by two layers of textile material attached by stitching **42**. The second magnet **26** may be stitched or otherwise attached to one or both of the two layers forming the pocket **46** to retain the second magnet **26** in a generally fixed position within the pocket **46**. In a preferred embodiment, the second magnet **26** is attached to both layers forming the pocket **46** to bind the two layers together. Each of the two layers is preferably made of leather. Similarly, the first magnet **24** and/or at least portions of the ball marker holder **32** may be disposed within a pocket formed within the flap **20**. The pocket within the flap **20** may be defined by the textile material forming the outer side **44** and the inner side **45** of the flap **20**. The material forming both layers is preferably leather. The first magnet **24** and/or at least portions of the ball marker holder **32** may also be stitched or otherwise attached to both layers forming the pocket in the flap **20** to bind the two layers together. By attaching each of the first magnet **24** and the second magnet **26** to two opposing layers formed by pockets within the flap **20** and within the back side **18** of the glove **10**, respectively, to retain both magnets **24** and **26** in a generally fixed position, the positioning of the magnets **24** and **26** helps of facilitate automatic alignment of the flap **20** during each use, thereby ensuring a consistent and precise fit of the glove **10** to the user's hand and wrist area.

(21) In an alternative embodiment, as shown in FIG. **6**, the second magnet **26** may comprise a plurality of individual magnets **26**A each secured to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12**. The plurality of individual magnets **26**A are disposed in a position in which the individual magnets **26**A are aligned in a generally lateral direction across the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** and extending from the slit **22** toward a lateral edge **48** of the glove **10**. As used herein, a “lateral direction” refers to a direction extending across the back of a user's hand in a direction generally perpendicular to the user's forearm when the user's hand is held out straight. By providing multiple individual magnets **26**A, the first magnet **24** may be magnetically joined to any one of the individual magnets **26**A to more tightly or more loosely secure the glove **10** to the user's hand, depending on the size of the user's hand and/or the user's preference. Each of the individual magnets **26**A may be stitched or otherwise attached to one or both of the two layers forming the pocket **46** to retain each of the individual magnets **26**A in a generally fixed position within the pocket **46**. In an alternative embodiment, the plurality of magnets **26**A may comprise a single elongated magnet extending in a lateral direction within the pocket **46** so that the location of securing the closure may be changed to adjust the fit of the glove **10** around the user's hand and/or wrist.

(22) In another aspect, a method of using a golf glove **10** is provided. To don the glove **10**, the user first inserts his or her hand into the opening **16** of the hand-receiving portion **12** so that user's fingers are disposed within each of the plurality of finger pockets **14**, **14**A and the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** is covering the back of the user's hand. The user then magnetically secures the flap **20** to the back side **18** of the hand-receiving portion **12** to secure the glove **10** to the user's hand by magnetically securing the first magnet **24** to the second magnet **26**. The user then magnetically secures the ball marker **30** to the outer surface **34** of the ball marker holder **32** by magnetically securing the third magnet **28** to the first magnet **24**. In a preferred embodiment, magnetically securing the ball marker **30** to the outer surface **34** of the ball marker holder **32** comprises placing the ball marker **30** against the outer surface **34** of the ball marker holder **32** in a position in which the retaining wall **36** at least partially surrounds the ball marker **30**. When needed, the user may then remove the ball marker **30** from the ball marker holder **32** by lifting the ball marker **30** away from the outer surface **34** of the ball marker holder **32** through the cutout portion **38** of the retaining wall **36**.

(23) The magnetic material of the ball marker **30** helps to increase the attractive force of the

magnetic enclosure when the first magnet **24** and second magnet **26** are joined together with the addition of the third magnet **28** of the ball marker **30** magnetically joined to the first magnet **24**. The third magnet **28** of the ball marker **30** also allows the ball marker **30** to be independently secured to any ferromagnetic material that is not part of the glove **10** so that the ball marker **30** may be secured to any ferromagnetic material, including the first magnet **24** that is attached to the glove **10**.

(24) It will be appreciated that the configurations and methods shown and described herein are illustrative only, and that these specific examples are not to be considered in a limiting sense, because numerous variations are possible. The subject matter of the present disclosure includes all novel and non-obvious combinations and sub-combinations of the various systems and configurations, and other features, functions, and/or properties disclosed herein. It is understood that versions of the invention may come in different forms and embodiments. Additionally, it is understood that one of skill in the art would appreciate these various forms and embodiments as falling within the scope of the invention as disclosed herein.

Claims

1. A glove comprising: a hand-receiving portion comprising a plurality of finger pockets and having an opening configured to receive a hand of a user, wherein the hand-receiving portion has a back side configured to cover a back of the hand of the user; a flap attached to the hand-receiving portion in a position generally adjacent the opening; a first magnet embedded within the flap and a second magnet embedded within the back side of the hand-receiving portion, wherein the first magnet and the second magnet are configured to magnetically secure the flap to the back side of the hand-receiving portion to secure the glove to the hand of the user; a ball marker holder attached to an outer side of the flap, wherein the ball marker holder is positioned above the first magnet on the outer side of the flap, wherein the ball marker holder has an outer surface disposed on the outer side of the flap, wherein textile material of said outer side of said flap is disposed between said first magnet and said outer surface; and a ball marker comprising a third magnet, wherein the first magnet and the third magnet are configured to magnetically secure the ball marker to the outer surface of the ball marker holder.

2. The glove of claim 1, wherein the ball marker comprises a thin planar disc.

3. The glove of claim 1, wherein the ball marker holder comprises a retaining wall configured to at least partially surround the outer surface of the ball marker holder.

4. The glove of claim 3, wherein the retaining wall has a generally circular shape.

5. The glove of claim 3, wherein the retaining wall has a cutout portion configured to allow removal of the ball marker from the ball marker holder.

6. The glove of claim 5, wherein the cutout portion of the retaining wall is disposed on a side of the ball marker holder opposite a thumb pocket.

7. The glove of claim 1, wherein the back side of the hand-receiving portion has a slit extending from the opening in a direction toward the finger pockets, wherein the flap is secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion on a side of the slit opposite the second magnet.

8. The glove of claim 7, wherein the second magnet comprises a plurality of individual magnets each secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion, wherein the plurality of individual magnets are disposed in a position in which the individual magnets are aligned in a generally lateral direction across the back side of the hand-receiving portion and extending from the slit toward a lateral edge of the glove.

9. A method of using a glove comprising the steps of: providing a glove comprising: a hand-receiving portion comprising a plurality of finger pockets and having an opening configured to receive a hand of a user, wherein the hand-receiving portion has a back side configured to cover a back of the hand of the user, a flap attached to the hand-receiving portion in a position generally

adjacent the opening, a first magnet embedded within the flap and a second magnet embedded within the back side of the hand-receiving portion, wherein the first magnet and the second magnet are configured to magnetically secure the flap to the back side of the hand-receiving portion to secure the glove to the hand of the user, a ball marker holder attached to an outer side of the flap, wherein the ball marker holder is positioned above the first magnet on the outer side of the flap, wherein the ball marker holder has an outer surface disposed on the outer side of the flap, wherein textile material of said outer side of said flap is disposed between said first magnet and said outer surface; and a ball marker comprising a third magnet, wherein the first magnet and the third magnet are configured to magnetically secure the ball marker to the outer surface of the ball marker holder; inserting a hand of a user into the opening so that fingers of the user are disposed within each of the plurality of finger pockets and the back side of the hand-receiving portion is covering the back of the hand of the user; magnetically securing the flap to the back side of the hand-receiving portion to secure the glove to the hand of the user by magnetically securing the first magnet to the second magnet; and magnetically securing the ball marker to the outer surface of the ball marker holder by magnetically securing the third magnet to the first magnet.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the ball marker comprises a thin planar disc.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the ball marker holder comprises a retaining wall configured to at least partially surround the outer surface of the ball marker holder, wherein the step of magnetically securing the ball marker to the outer surface of the ball marker holder comprises placing the ball marker against the outer surface of the ball marker holder in a position in which the retaining wall at least partially surrounds the ball marker.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the retaining wall has a generally circular shape.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the retaining wall has a cutout portion configured to allow removal of the ball marker from the ball marker holder, wherein the method further comprises the step of removing the ball marker from the ball marker holder by the user lifting the ball marker away from the outer surface of the ball marker holder through the cutout portion.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the cutout portion of the retaining wall is disposed on a side of the ball marker holder opposite a thumb pocket.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the back side of the hand-receiving portion has a slit extending from the opening in a direction toward the finger pockets, wherein the flap is secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion on a side of the slit opposite the second magnet.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the second magnet comprises a plurality of individual magnets each secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion, wherein the plurality of individual magnets are disposed in a position in which the individual magnets are aligned in a generally lateral direction across the back side of the hand-receiving portion and extending from the slit toward a lateral edge of the glove, wherein the step of magnetically securing the flap to the back side of the hand-receiving portion to secure the glove to the hand of the user comprises magnetically securing the first magnet to any one of the individual magnets each secured to the back side of the hand-receiving portion.