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(54) **Golf practice and exercise mat**

(57) A golf practice and exercise mat having two striking contours (20,30) with different heights and contours of artificial grass which gives golfers practice and exercise by swinging a golf club through the contoured pile that applies resistance to the golf club as the club head travels through the pile, thus enhancing strength and improving muscle memory. One contour, for irons (20), has the grass pile of the carpet increasing in height

at a moderate, curved upward slope to an apex and then decreasing in height at a gradual, linear downward slope. The second contour, for woods (30), has the grass pile increasing in height at a gradual approximately linear slope until a transition point is reached at which the grass strand height increases in a single step change to a height at least two times greater than the height of the previous pile, and then decreasing in height in a linear downward slope.

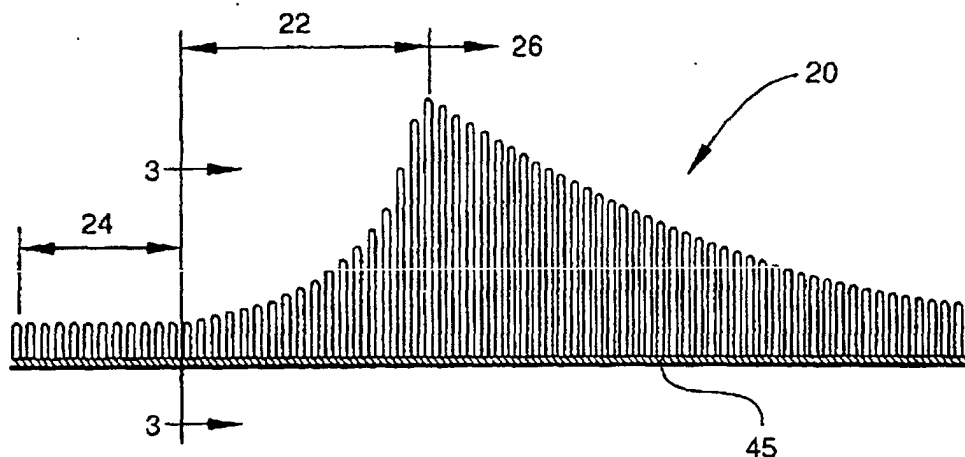


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 0667

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | DE 90 03 191 U (ZACHARIAS THOMAS) 26 July 1990 (1990-07-26) * page 1, paragraph 2 * * page 2, paragraph 2; figure 1 * ----- | 1 | A63B69/36 |
| A | US 5 354 064 A (TOIKKA ARI) 11 October 1994 (1994-10-11) * column 1, line 45 - column 2, line 64; figures 3,4 * ----- | 1 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| | | | A63B |
| -The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Munich | | Date of completion of the search 7 May 2004 | Examiner Lundblad, H |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-8



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 04 00 0667

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-8

PROBLEM : How to simulate the hitting of a ball without a ball

SOLUTION : An exercise mat having one contoured hitting surface with an upwardly sloping pile followed by a downwardly sloping pile

2. claims: 9-21

PROBLEM : How to simulate many different striking positions (i.e. rough, semi-rough, fairway) on one exercise mat.

SOLUTION : A mat with a plurality of striking areas with piles of varying heights.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 00 0667

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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07-05-2004

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| DE 9003191 | U | 26-07-1990 | DE 9003191 U1 | 26-07-1990 |
| US 5354064 | A | 11-10-1994 | NONE | |

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82