Salomon S.A., of Metz-Tessy, 74370 Pringy, FRANCE, hereby apply for the grant of a standard patent for an invention entitled:

A Golf Bag with an Inside Tensioning Rod

which is described in the accompanying complete specification.

Details of basic application(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Applic. No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Application Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87.06181</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>30 April 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.08624</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>19 June 1987</td>
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</tbody>
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The address for service is:

Spruson & Ferguson
Patent Attorneys
Level 33 St Martins Tower
31 Market Street
Sydney New South Wales Australia

DATED this TWENTY EIGHTH day of APRIL 1988

Salomon S.A.

TO: THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

OUR REF: 51629
S&F CODE: 61186
Title of Invention
A Golf Bag with an Inside Tensioning Rod

I/We Georges Pierre Joseph Salomon
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

1. I am/We are the applicant(s) for the patent
(or, in the case of an application by a body corporate)

2. The basic application(s) as defined by Section 141 of the
Act was/were made

Basic Country(ies)
in France

Basic Applicant(s)
both by Salomon S.A.

Full name(s) and address(es) of
inventor(s)

3. I am/We are the actual inventor(s) of the invention referred
(or where a person other than the inventor is the applicant)

JACQUES QUELLAIS and FREDERIC CRETINON

Epagny, 74410 Saint Jorioz, France and
Residence "Le Suffrène", 74320 Sevrier, France
(respectively)

Set out how Applicant(s)
derive title from actual
inventor(s) e.g. The
Applicant(s) is/are the
assignee(s) of the
invention from the
inventor(s)

The said applicant is the assignee of the actual inventors

4. The basic application(s) referred to in paragraph 2 of this
Declaration was/were the first application(s) made in a Convention
country in respect of the invention(s) the subject of the application.

Declared at Metz-Tessy this 21st day of June 1988

G. SALOMON
Signature of Declant(s)
rod 8, which extends between the bottom 1 and the top-section 2. This tensioning rod 8 is of slightly shorter length than the length of the tubular wall 3, once the latter has been tensioned.

According to the invention, the tensioning rod 8 is supported by the upper surface of the bottom 1 by means of a compression spring 9, lodged in the inside of a bearing 11, which may be attached to the bottom 1 or moulded together with it. The bearing 11 may be cylindrical, as shown in
A GOLF BAG WITH AN INSIDE TENSIONING ROD

A63B 055/00

Claim

1. Golf bag comprising a bottom and an upper top-section connected together by a tubular wall in a supple material and which is fastened at both ends to the bottom and the top-section, the upper top-section being provided with openings for the clubs to be lodged in the bag to pass through, and an inside tensioning rod, extending lengthwise between the bottom and a crosspiece forming part of the upper top-section, characterised in that the lower end of the tensioning rod is supported by the bottom, by means of a compression spring, and its upper end is engaged in a hollow, formed in the upper surface of the crosspiece of the top-section, and to which an access ramp is laterally attached, the ramp being inclined from top to bottom in the direction of the hollow into which the rod is driven by the spring, compressed between the lower end of the rod and the bottom of the bag.

7. Golf bag according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the distance $a$ between the bottom of the hollow and the upper surface of the crosspiece is greater than the distance $b$ between the end of the groove which is further away from the hollow, and the said upper surface, and, at the point where the groove joins the hollow, the distance $c$ between the end of the groove and the upper surface is slightly greater than the said distance $a$, so that the hollow is just deep enough to hold the upper end of the rod.
Complete Specification for the invention entitled:

A Golf Bag with an Inside Tensioning Rod

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us.
TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention concerns a golf bag with an inside tensioning rod.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Known golf bags generally comprise a lower bottom and an upper top-section, favourably made of a moulded plastic material, to which are fastened respectively the upper and lower ends of a tubular wall in a supple material, a cloth for example, so as to constitute a tubular container, open in its upper part, in order to receive the various golf clubs. The upper top-section of the bag is provided with different openings for the clubs to go through, and it comprises a crosspiece against which rests the upper end of an inside, longitudinal tensioning rod whose lower end is attached to the bottom of the bag. Manufacturers of the golf bags can thus deliver the bag flat to retailers, which allows their volume to be reduced during transportation and pre-sale stockpiling. When selling the bag, the retailer shows the buyer the bag, placing the inside tensioning rod in position, which separates the top-section and the bottom of the bag, ensuring the satisfactory tensioning of the tubular wall of the bag.

The tensioning devices of known golf bags are relatively complex and not easy to operate. One of them uses a tensioning rod supporting the crosspiece of the upper top-section, but it is threaded at the bottom and screwed into a nut formed on the bottom of the bag. It is thus necessary to turn the tensioning rod in the nut, in order to obtain the desired tension. This operation requires the use of a special tool and is relatively long and tedious. Moreover this tensioning device requires the use of a threaded rod and a nut and is thus relatively troublesome.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention aims to solve these problems by offering a device for the tensioning of a golf bag, particularly simple in conception and deployment.

To this effect, the golf bag comprises a bottom and an upper top-section, connected together by a tubular wall in a supple material and which is fastened at both ends to the bottom and the top-section, the upper top-section being provided with openings through which the clubs to be lodged in the bag pass, and an inside tensioning rod extending lengthwise between the bottom and a crosspiece forming part of the upper top-section, characterised in that the lower end of the tensioning rod is supported at the bottom, by means of a compression spring, and its upper end is engaged
in a hollow formed in the lower surface of the crosspiece of the
top-section and to which an inclined access ramp is laterally attached top
and bottom in the direction of the hollow, and onto which the upper end of
the rod may be slipped before being able to be engaged in the hollow into
which it is driven by the spring compressed between the lower end of the
rod and the bottom of the bag.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described
below as non-limiting examples, with reference to the appended drawings in
which:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal, vertical section view of a golf bag according
to the invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical section, on a larger scale, of the central part of
the upper flange of the bag.

Figure 3 is a vertical section along line III-III of Fig. 2.

Figure 4 is a vertical section along line IV-IV of Fig. 2.

Figure 5 is a vertical section, on a larger scale, of the central part of
the bottom of the bag.

Figure 6 is a perspective view, partially cut-away, of the golf bag.

Figure 7 is a lengthwise vertical section of a modified golf bag according
to the invention.

Figure 8 is a vertical, partial section view, on a larger scale of the
lower part of the bag as the tensioning rod is being installed.

Figure 9 is an exploded perspective view of the lower part of the
tensioning rod.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The golf bag according to the invention, which is shown completely
assembled in Fig. 1, comprises a lower bottom 1 and an upper top-section 2,
preferably made from moulded plastic material, and a tubular wall 3, in a
supple material, such as a cloth, fastened at both ends respectively to the
bottom 1 and the top-section 2. The bottom 1 is completely closed, whereas
the upper top-section 2 has openings 4 for the upper ends of the clubs
lodged in the bag to pass through. There may be, for example, four of
these openings, and they are delimited between the rim 2a of the
top-section and the three crosspieces in the form of an H, in other words,
two parallel crosspieces 5 and 6, and a median crosspiece 7 stretching
between them.

When the golf bag is assembled, as shown in Figs. 1 to 6, the tension
of its tubular wall 3 is ensured by means of an inside, vertical tensioning
rod 8, which extends between the bottom 1 and the top-section 2. This tensioning rod 8 is of slightly shorter length than the length of the tubular wall 3, once the latter has been tensioned.

According to the invention, the tensioning rod 8 is supported by the upper surface of the bottom 1 by means of a compression spring 9, lodged in the inside of a bearing 11, which may be attached to the bottom 1 or moulded together with it. The bearing 11 may be cylindrical, as shown in Fig. 5, or else tapered inside and out, the spring 9 being in that case engaged inside by distortion. In the non-limiting embodiment shown in the diagram, the bearing 11 is provided, on its lower end, with an outside strap 12, which is pierced by rivets 13, ensuring that the bearing 11 is fastened to the bottom 1. The lower end part of the tensioning rod 8 is engaged and held inside the bearing 11 by any appropriate means. For example, it might have an annular collar 14, supporting the spring 9 and whose diameter is greater than that of a hole 15, through which the rod 8 passes on the horizontal, upper surface 16 of the bearing 11.

The upper extremity of the rod 8 is engaged and held by a hollow 17 formed in the lower surface of the median crosspiece 7 of the upper top-section 2. This hollow 17 is attached to an inclined access ramp 18, which is formed in the lower surface of the crosspiece 7. In fact the access ramp 18 is constituted by a groove delimited by two lateral rims 19, projecting downwards. In other words, the distance a between the bottom of the hollow 17 and the upper surface 7a of the crosspiece 7, is greater than the distance b between the lefthand end of the groove 18, that is the end further away from the hollow 17, and the upper surface 7a. At the righthand end of the groove 18 where it is attached to the hollow 17, the distance c between the righthand end and the upper surface 7a, is slightly greater than the distance a, so that the hollow 17 is just deep enough to hold the upper end of the rod 8.

The golf bag according to the invention is thus very easily assembled. It suffices in effect to engage the upper end of the tensioning rod 8 in the groove or ramp 18, as indicated by the broken line in Fig. 2, in the part of the latter nearest its left end, that is in the area of reduced thickness b of the crosspiece 7. This can easily be done since the cloth 3 is not yet tensioned. Next, the upper end of the tensioning rod 8 is slipped towards the right onto the inclined ramp 18, which has the effect of gradually pushing the crosspiece 7 and consequently the upper top-section 2 towards the top, until the upper end of the rod 8, having gone past the right end of the ramp 18, where there is maximum thickness c,
escapes from the ramp 18 and can then be pushed into the hollow 17 with the aid of the lower compression spring 9. Thus an elastic catching of the upper end of the rod 7 in the hollow 17 is obtained, so that the upper top-section 2 and the bottom 1 are spread apart from each other by the force created by the compression spring 9. This ensures the desired tension for the cloth 3.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The embodiment of Figs. 7 to 9 concerns improvements to the golf bag of Figs. 1 to 6, and more particularly, to the mode of mounting the compression spring ensuring the stress of the tensioning rod, with the aim of facilitating the mounting of the rod and the assembling of the bag.

To this effect, the compression spring is tightly inserted into the lower end of the tensioning rod, and it is freely engaged in a receptacle formed on the inside surface of the bottom of the bag.

The arrangement of Figs 7 to 9 makes it possible to have a receptacle of minimum height for the compression spring on the bottom of the bag, which means a lower, thinner, bag bottom. This reduction in size leads to an aesthetic improvement in the bag, a reduction in the bag's weight and simplification of its manufacture.

The golf bag of this embodiment of the invention is shown assembled in Fig. 7, and comprises a lower bottom 21 and an upper top-section 22, made with favourable results from a moulded plastic material, and a tubular wall 23, in a supple material such as a cloth, fastened at its two ends respectively to the bottom 21 and the upper top-section 22. When the golf bag is assembled, as shown in Fig. 7, the tension of the tubular wall 23 is ensured by means of an internal, vertical tensioning rod 24, extending between the bottom 21 and the top-section 22. The tensioning rod 24 is supported on the upper surface of the bottom 21 by means of a compression spring 25, and its upper end is engaged and held in a hollow 26, formed in the lower surface of a crosspiece 27 of the upper top-section. The hollow 26 is attached to an inclined access ramp 28 formed in the lower surface of the crosspiece 27.

According to this embodiment, the compression spring 25 is inserted tightly into the lower end of the tensioning rod 24 and freely engaged in a receptacle 29 projecting from the inside surface of the bottom 21. This receptacle 29 can be favourably moulded with the bottom 21, as represented in the diagram, or else it may be attached to the bottom. The receptacle 29 has the form of a well in which the lower part of the spring 25 is
engaged. The upper part of the spring 25 may be tightly inserted directly into the lower end, for this purpose, of the rod 24 or, preferably, into an intermediate socket 31, which caps the lower end of the rod 24 with a cylindrical, peripheral skirt 31a, of the same diameter, extending upwards. The socket 31 also comprises a tail 31b, of a smaller diameter, extending downwards and into which the compression spring 25 is tightly inserted. The tail 31b preferably has a tapered form, converging at the bottom, to ensure correct insertion of the spring 25 into the tail 31b. The spring is also held at the top by the external annular projection 31c, formed at the juncture of the upper skirt 31a and the lower tail 31b.

As Fig. 8 shows, the receptacle 29 receiving the spring 25 is not very high, not as high as the peripheral skirt 21a of the bottom 21. The bottom 21 may thus have a very reduced height as a whole, which improves the aesthetic character of the bag and makes it lighter.
CLAIMS
The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. Golf bag comprising a bottom and an upper top-section connected together by a tubular wall in a supple material and which is fastened at both ends to the bottom and the top-section, the upper top-section being provided with openings for the clubs to be lodged in the bag to pass through, and an inside tensioning rod, extending lengthwise between the bottom and a crosspiece forming part of the upper top-section, characterised in that the lower end of the tensioning rod is supported by the bottom, by means of a compression spring, and its upper end is engaged in a hollow, formed in the upper surface of the crosspiece of the top-section, and to which an access ramp is laterally attached, the ramp being inclined from top to bottom in the direction of the hollow into which the rod is driven by the spring, compressed between the lower end of the rod and the bottom of the bag.

2. Golf bag according to Claim 1, characterised in that the compression spring is lodged inside a bearing which may be attached to the bottom or moulded along with it.

3. Golf bag according to Claim 2, characterised in that the bearing is cylindrical.

4. Golf bag according to Claim 1, characterised in that the bearing is tapered inside and outside, the spring thus being engaged in the inside by distortion.

5. Golf bag according to any one of Claims 2 to 4, characterised in that the lower end part of the tensioning rod is engaged and held inside the bearing by means of an annular collar, which supports the spring and whose diameter is greater than that of a hole through which the rod passes in the upper horizontal surface of the bearing.

6. Golf bag according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the access ramp is constituted by a groove delimited by two lateral rims, projecting downwards.

7. Golf bag according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the distance $a$ between the bottom of the hollow and the upper surface of the crosspiece is greater than the distance $b$ between the end of the groove which is further away from the hollow, and the said upper surface, and, at the point where the groove joins the hollow, the distance $c$ between the end of the groove and the upper surface is slightly greater than the said distance $a$, so that the hollow is just deep enough to hold the upper end of the rod.
8. Golf bag according to Claim 1 characterised in that the compression spring is tightly inserted into the lower end of the tensioning rod and freely engaged in a receptacle, formed on the inside surface of the bottom of the bag.

9. Golf bag according to Claim 8, characterised in that the upper part of the spring is tightly inserted directly into the lower end, for this purpose, of the rod.

10. Golf bag according to Claim 8 or Claim 9, characterised in that the upper part of the spring is tightly inserted into an intermediate socket, capping the lower end part of the rod with a cylindrical, peripheral skirt, of the same diameter, extending upwards, and which also comprises a tail, of a smaller diameter, extending downwards and into which is inserted the compression spring.

11. Golf bag according to Claim 10, characterised in that the tail has a tapering form, converging at the bottom.

12. A golf bag substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated by Figs. 1 to 6 or Figs. 7 to 9 of the accompanying drawings.

DATED this ELEVENTH day of MARCH 1988
Salomon S.A.

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant
SPRUSON & FERGUSON