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Foreign Patent Documents

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Claims

I claim:

1. A seat attachment for a caddy cart or the like of the type having a pair of spaced-apart wheels, an inclined frame member supported by said wheels and having a portion rearward of said wheels engageable with the ground when the cart is stationary and a portion forward of said wheels engageable by the user to pull the cart forward, which comprises,
 - (a) a mounting member extending laterally outward from said frame member in a location behind the axis of said wheels when said cart is in a resting position,
 - (b) a generally vertically disposed support member carried at the outer end of said mounting member and movable vertically with respect to said frame member,
 - (c) resilient means normally urging said support member upwardly whereby its lower end is positioned slightly above the surface upon which said cart is resting,
 - (d) a seat pad supported by said vertical support member,
 - (e) said vertically disposed support member being movable relative to said cart and into supported contact with said surface when the weight of a person is supported on said seat pad,
 - (f) said mounting means including means for retracting said vertical support member to a position close to and generally in alignment with said frame member.
 - (g) said mounting means comprising means accommodating controlled displacement of said guide member toward said frame member and controlled rotational re-orientation of said guide member into general alignment with said frame member to enable retraction of said vertical support member.
2. A seat attachment for a caddy cart or the like of the type having a pair of spaced-apart wheels, an inclined frame member supported by said wheels and having a portion rearward of said wheels engageable with the ground when the cart is stationary and a portion forward of said wheels engageable by the user to pull the cart forward, which comprises,
 - (a) mounting means for securing said attachment to said frame member,
 - (b) said mounting means including means extending laterally from said frame member.
 - (c) a guide member carried by said mounting means and spaced laterally of said frame member,
 - (d) a generally vertical support member slidably received in said guide member for limited movement in a generally vertical direction,
 - (e) spring means for urging said vertical support member upwardly to a predetermined limit upper position,

right angles to the axis of the caddy cart's spine 12. The arrangement is such that, when the outer mounting rod section 86 is pivoted to its upward limit position, shown in broken lines in FIG. 6, the outer mounting rod section is generally parallel to the spine member 12. When the outer rod section 86 is in its extended position, shown in full lines in FIG. 6, it is disposed generally horizontally to the ground and generally at right angles to the axis of the caddy cart spine 12.

Pivotaly mounted on the outer end of the outer mounting rod 86, by means of a pivot pin 90, is a mounting bracket 91. The bracket 91 is in turn rigidly secured to a guide sleeve 45 slideably carrying a tubular support member 46. The guide sleeve 45, tubular support 46, and the mechanisms related thereto, are all as described with respect to the embodiment of FIGS. 1-5 and need not be redescribed here. When the mechanism of FIGS. 6 and 7 is in its erected or operative position, as shown in FIG. 6, the tubular support 46 is supported in a vertical orientation, with the seat available for use when the caddy cart is at rest.

The mechanism of FIG. 6 is secured in its extended or operative position by means of a locking pin 92, carried by the mounting bracket 91 and urged by a spring 93 into a bore 94 formed in the outer mounting rod section 86.

When mechanism of FIGS. 6 and 7 is unfolded and brought into its erected configuration shown in FIG. 6, pivoting action takes place at both of the pivot pins 87 and 90. The outer mounting rod section 86 pivots from an upright position to a horizontal position, extending outwardly from the caddy cart spine. The bracket 91, carrying the sleeve 45, tubular support 46 and the related seat mechanism, pivots clockwise about the axis of the pin 90 to a limit position in which a stop pin 96, fixed in the bracket 91, abuts against the lower surface of the outer mounting rod section 86. When this occurs, the tubular support 46 is substantially at right angles to the mounting rod and is substantially vertically disposed with respect to the ground. This is generally similar to the configuration shown in the illustration of FIG. 1. In this erected configuration, the locking pin 92 enters the bore 94 and locks the bracket 91 with respect to the outer mounting rod 86.

In order to fold up the mechanism of FIGS. 6-7, the locking pin 92 is released and the parts are folded in the opposite direction about the respective pivot pins 87, 90. In the fully folded-up configuration, the outer mounting rod section 86 extends upwardly, generally parallel to the spine 12, and the sleeve 45 and tubular support 46 lie close to, and extend generally parallel to, the mounting rod section 86 as indicated by the broken line showing of the sleeve 45 and tubular support 46 in FIG. 7 of the drawing.

It is to be noted in FIG. 6 that the axes of the respective pivot pins 87 and 90 are rotationally offset about 45.degree.. Accordingly, when the sleeve 45 and tubular support 46 are folded in against the folded mounting rod, the tubular support lies partly below the mounting rod.

In any of its various forms, the apparatus of the invention provides a particularly advantageous device for incorporation with a conventional foldable caddy cart apparatus, providing an always-available seat for resting the golfer. The attachment device of the invention is designed to have a high degree of universality, enabling it to be utilized in conjunction with a wide variety of commercially available foldable caddy carts.

One significant aspect of the apparatus of the invention is the provision of arrangements for substantially isolating the caddy cart from the direct forces resulting from the weight of a seated player. The weight of the user is transferred directly by the tubular support 46 to the ground, and the structure of the caddy cart is isolated from all but minor stresses. Thus, the caddy cart does not have to be especially redesigned to withstand severe loads.

The apparatus of the invention is uniquely designed to be foldable closely against the caddy cart and bag, in the folded-up configuration of the cart. Thus, the seat attachment does not have to be removed from the caddy cart in order to configure it for storage or transportation.

When in normal use, the seat attachment is available instantly. All that is required of the user is to sit down on the seat pad in order to rest, and to stand up and leave when he or she is ready.

By locating the vertically retractable tubular support behind the axis of the caddy cart wheels, the extent of vertical reciprocation of the tubular support may be kept relatively small. This is because, when the cart is gripped for pulling, it is tipped forward at least to some degree. This serves to both raise the lower end of the retracted tubular support and also to cause it to point somewhat rearwardly. In this position and orientation, it is unlikely to engage even rough ground during normal movements of the caddy cart.

Notwithstanding its many advantageous features, the device of the invention can be manufactured and marketed at an acceptable cost level. Its construction is such that it can be marketed either as an after-market accessory, or as an integral part of the original equipment.

It should be understood, of course, that the specific forms of the invention herein illustrated and described are intended to be representative only, as certain changes may be made therein without departing from the clear teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, reference should be made to the following appended claims in determining the full scope of the invention.

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