TACIT
ALWAYS ON COURSE

THE LEANING FLAGSTICK

A development of golf course equipment

THE LEANING FLAGSTICK - THE START OF TACIT GOLF

TACIT ARCHIVE 1 - 1979

Have you noticed flagsticks don't lean anymore?

In the early 1980's professional golfers were starting to play for ever increasing amounts of prize money. As a budding golfer and course equipment manufacturer, I observed that the flagstick was always leaning, therefore preventing the golf ball from entering the hole. The professional golfer would always walk up to the hole and centralise the flagstick if he was putting or chipping off the green.

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

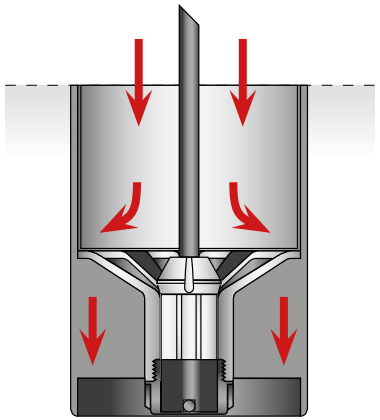
All golf greens from time to time have top dressing applied which mainly consists of sand, which is a very aggressive material once mixed with rain water or water from the sprinkler system. Add the rotational action of the flagstick derived from the flag and you have a combination similar to sandpaper. This wear affects the holecup and ferrule rapidly, regardless of the material used for either and hence this causes the flagstick to lean.

PROVIDING THE ANSWER

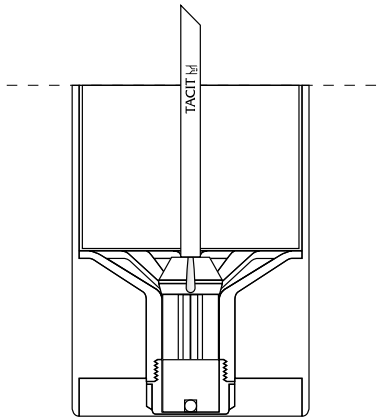
An all new ferrule and holecup was designed at Tacit Golf with anti-rotational splines fitted to the underneath of the ferrule that fitted snugly into the holecup, preventing the rotation and excessive wear.

TACIT'S SUCCESS

The first major successful invention to golf course equipment in over 100 years. Since being preferred for the 1985 Ryder Cup, the Tacit flagstick ferrule and holecup has grown in stature to become the No. 1 used on golf courses throughout the world and selected for major tournaments.



Top dressing and debris is shed through the holecup - not in the ferrule bore.



The unique profile prevents rotation, therefore reducing wear and stopping the flagsticks from blowing out.

No ingress of soil, rootzone or other substrate

TACIT'S SWIVEL TOP FLAGSTICK WITH QUICK RELEASE VELCRO FLAG

When I first started manufacturing golf course equipment around the late 1970's most flags were tied to the flagstick through a simple metal ring.

The first problem I noticed when playing golf in the wind the flag would soon wrap round the flagstick, reducing its visibility, therefore, making the pin position difficult to see. Another problem was brought to my attention by Mr. Derek Ganning - Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry Golf Course in Sutton Coldfield. As the Course became more popular with societies and Company Golf Days requesting their own logo flags to be attached to the flagsticks, changing the flags became very time consuming and Derek asked, "Could Tacit come up with something enabling the flag to be changed quickly".

DEVELOPING AN IDEA

A swivel that would spin on the flagstick with two slots to take the ties, but no it had to release quickly, yes, of course, Velcro. The Tacit swivel top flagstick was unique as it was the first flagstick to swivel and accept Tacit's quick release idea - The Velcro Clip-On Flag.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW STANDEASY BUNKER RAKE

When I started playing golf I soon realised the importance of a well raked bunker, unfortunately most of the bunkers visited contained a rake that was designed for ground maintenance or the garden, often lying in the wet grass or sand.

Taking my thoughts and ideas back to Tacit's workshop, I started to design the ideal rake with three major thoughts in mind:

- **It was to be designed especially for players.**
- **It had to be lightweight, because golfers usually held their sand iron in one hand and the rake in the other.**
- **The handle of the rake should be lifted above the wet grass in order to keep the golfers hand or glove dry.**

The rake head, after many trials needed special criteria in order for the golf ball to sit in the base of the sand bunker' correctly without plugging. 1 ⅛ inches between the teeth by 1 inch long, proved to be the optimum dimensions.

While playing in one particular four ball, my playing partner was not applying golfing etiquette by not raking the bunkers after his shot, on enquiring why, he replied: "If you had just purchased a new Cabretta golf glove would you pick up a wet or sandy rake shaft – NO"! Keeping the rake handle off the wet ground then became very important, particularly in the wet conditions of the UK and Ireland.

For the stand, I tried many designs, shapes and materials, for example, a thin round one just sank straight into the sand, one made from sponge just did not look right. Eventually the design that fitted all required criteria was the Tacit Standeasy Bunker Rake and it has been UK's most popular bunker rake for over 30 years.

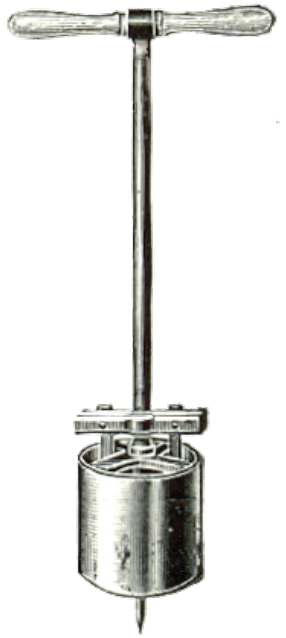
TACIT'S TWIN-HANDLED HOLE CUTTER WITH DEPTH GAUGE AND PRECISION BLADES

Cutting a golf hole to the exact dimensions was always a challenge for Greenkeepers who, at the time, were cutting golf holes on UK's push-up greens with an auger type hole cutter.

On my visits to Greenkeeper sheds I was requested by many Greenkeepers, after the success of the flagstick and ferrule, that would not lean or blow out, could I produce a hole cutter that would cut exactly a 4 ¼ inches diameter hole, but strong enough to cut through heavy clay subsoil to an exact depth, so that the sod could be replaced without too much difficulty. A tough challenge!

After liaising with greenkeepers through it's development stage (a big thank you to all those who helped) the Tacit twin-handled heavy duty precision hole cutter, with it's simple to use depth gauge, was produced.

Often copied by other manufacturers, it has never been rivalled. The original Tacit design (now a legend) is the same precision tool that Tacit developed over three decades ago.



Traditional auger-style hole cutter

THE PROBLEM OF CUTTING A PRECISION HOLE IN A RAISED OR PUSH-UP GREEN

In the early days of golf course construction and in order to keep the course open for play, it was important that the greens, in particular, drained freely.

Drainage was initially achieved by keeping the greens higher than the surrounding area by using the cheapest and closest material. This was sourced when constructing the bunkers and the sloping of the apron.

The greens becoming known as raised or push-up greens, but over the years drains and top dressing have been added. However, the underlying clay type material which was used in raising the height, of the mainly inland greens, is still a problem for today's Greenkeepers and Superintendants, when cutting a precision hole for the modern golfer.

This required the hole cutter blades to be of close tolerance, in order to cut an accurate 4 ¼ inches diameter golf hole in the top accumulated root zone, but strong enough to cut through the remaining heavy type clay material below.

TWIN-HANDLED HOLE CUTTER

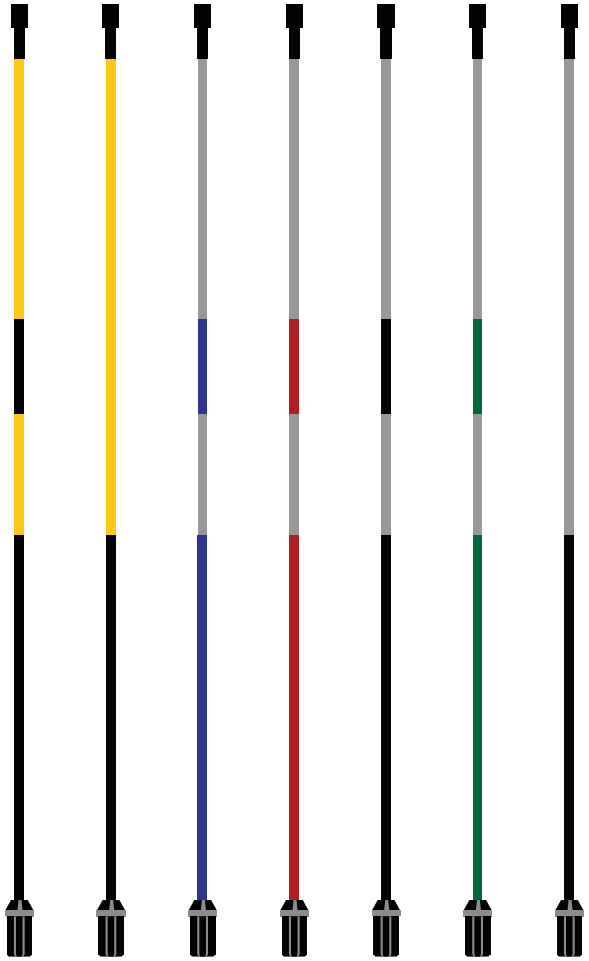
WHY VINYL HEATSHRINK WAS APPLIED TO TACIT'S GOLF FLAGSTICK

Visiting Greenkeepers multi-purposes sheds in the late 1970's was very interesting.

In the summer they seemed quite empty but in the winter full with staff busy servicing and repairing mowers and tractors etc.

One of the menial but important tasks often given to assistants in the winter months, was to repaint the flagsticks in their usual black and white livery. However on inspection the damage to the flagstick was often quite severe, caused by the golf balls hitting the flagstick, but mainly by golfers, who having placed the flagstick on the green behind them, would step backwards onto the flagstick with their steel spiked golf shoes - inflicting serious damage. Attempts to overcome this by applying black tape failed.

Attending an engineering exhibition I came across a demonstration of underground electrical cables being covered by tough heat shrink vinyl. That moment became the end of the painted flagstick - the vinyl covered flagstick was born. This was another successful first for Tacit and the process is now common on most flagsticks throughout the golfing world.

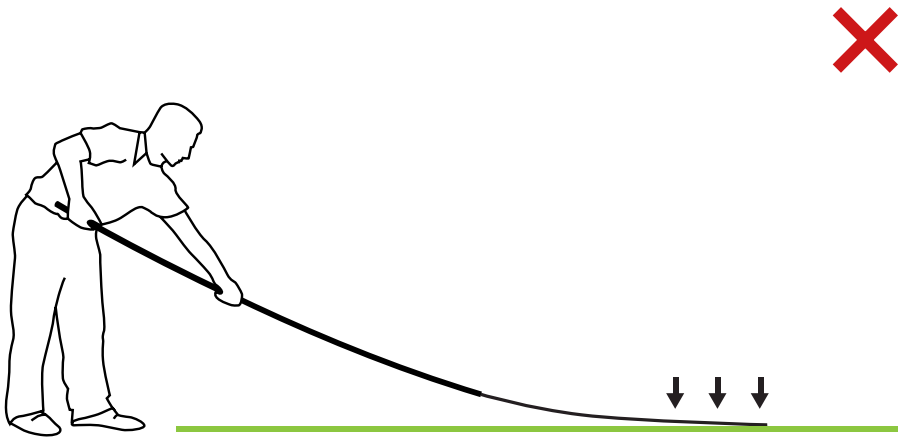


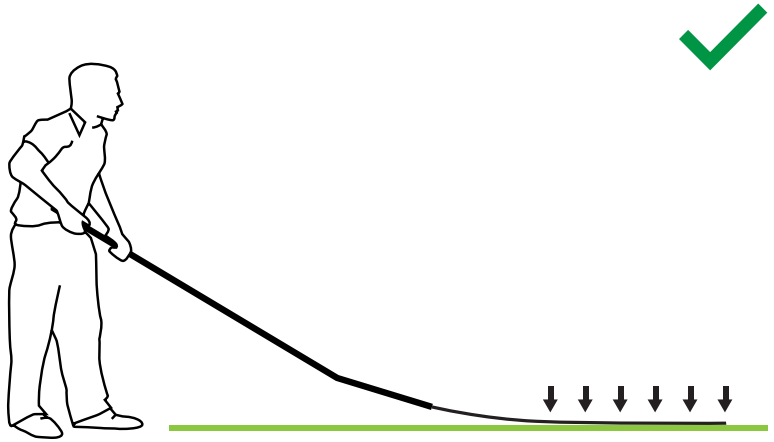
REMOVING DEW WITH TACIT'S LOW PRESSURE SWITCH

Removing dew from a golf green has always been an essential part of greenkeeping.

Researching the reasons why disease spreads through water droplets it became clear, if possible, the switch in its design should remove 100% of the dew. This enables all the green surface to dry out quickly, thereby reducing the use of chemicals for the treatment of fusarium, etc.

The Tacit designed Low Pressure Switch is the only switch that allows 50% more of the tip to lay on the green, without any extra downward pressure, removing all of the dew quickly and effectively. With its unique self cleaning bush, the advance design of the low pressure switch has become an essential piece of equipment for greenkeepers.





TACIT'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN IMPROVED HOLECUTTING BOARD

A true story...

In researching improvements for a holecutting board I visited a top Greenkeeper for his expert opinion, to save his blushes I will refer to him as Ivan, because he had a little gem of a story to tell...

At that time Ivan used a plywood holecutting board, however when used on wet greens, then hung up in a damp greenkeeping shed, it soon became warped, concave and convex. Ivan found that using the board concave down prevented the hole from being crowned which was good, but it got better. Two little jumps on the board made sure the surrounding green sloped gently towards the hole, ensuring when putting the ball dropped into the hole from any direction. The condition of the green then became less of a worry as golfers would always comment when passing Ivan "your greens are the best in the country".

Using modern techniques and non absorbent material the Tacit Holecutting Board with its optional patented holecutting depth rings is now the norm in the modern greenkeeper shed.

I apologise to all golfers for the improvement on the holecutting board.

Richard
Tacit Golf

Old style wooden holecutting board

THE TACIT SHOLÉ IMPACT HOLE CUTTER

The most accurate hole cutter is born.

Turning the clock back to the 1980's the request from UK greenkeepers to Tacit was to produce a tough, but accurate hole cutter to cut mostly push-up greens. This resulted in the first twin-handled hole cutter (see Tacit Archive 4).

As Tacit expanded, the request for modern greenkeeping equipment came not only from the UK, but also from superintendents in the USA and Australia, with many requests for a more accurate single-shell impact action hole cutter. It was especially required for the USGA type sand greens, as existing single-shell hole cutters had several niggling problems.

Greenkeepers requested changes to the old lever type action. These often caused the core to be pulled from the vertical position; preventing the sod from being extracted properly. Problems with the inconsistent shell diameter also existed and required congruity. The impact action of cutting the hole also needed addressing as the depth gauge would frequently move.

In developing the Tacit Sholé Impact Hole Cutter, the lever type action was replaced with a smooth action, Archimedes type lifting gear. A higher quality steel with a more accurate process ensured consistency for manufacturing the blade.

TACIT PATENTED DEPTH GAUGE FOR SHOLÉ IMPACT HOLE CUTTER

THE PROBLEM

As the National Authority on Golf Course Equipment, Tacit had many queries and ideas discussed with superintendents and greenkeepers.

While attending a trade show, a discussion centred around the need to improve the depth gauge, as the gauges either broke or moved on impact causing irregular depth.

THE ANSWER

The Tacit development team found that the depth gauges were placed exactly where the most impact occurred - at the top of the hole cutter blade – not a good idea. The remedy now seems obvious; place the depth gauge on the holecutting board. The Tacit patented interlocking rings are attached to the holecutting board, where they can be added or taken away to give you the 100% accuracy you require when cutting the golf hole.

TACIT TWIN HANDLED HOLECUP LIFTER

THE PROBLEM

On some types of greens, lifting the holecup for repositioning is tough and back breaking. This is particularly true when the greens are wet, as the suction between the holecup and surrounding soil makes removing the holecup difficult. Following the Tacit commitment for producing high quality greenkeeping equipment, we have responded to greenkeepers requests for a additional holecup lifter that would make lifting tight holecups easier.

THE ANSWER

The ability to lift the holecup without bending, but flexing the knees and using the abdominal muscles, therefore reducing the pressure on the back, governed the height of the gripping legs, in developing the new Tacit Holecup Lifter.

Combining this with advance manufacturing skills enabled Tacit to depart from the welded grips to producing a super smooth grip, that would not damage the inside of the holecup.

TACIT PRECISION HOLECUP SETTER

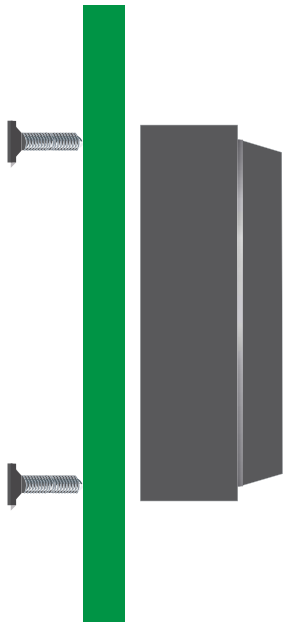
HOLE DEFINITION

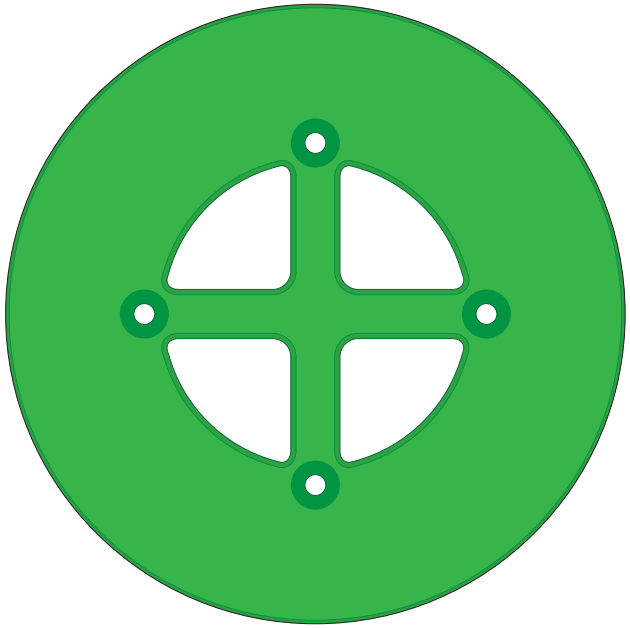
The “hole” must be 4 ¼ inches (108mm) in diameter and at least 4 inches (101.6mm) deep.

If a lining (holecup) is used, it must be sunk at least 1 inch (25.4mm) below the putting green surface, unless the nature of the soil makes it impracticable to do so; its outer diameter must not exceed 4 ¼ inches (108mm)

THE ANSWER

New technology with precise machining have allowed Tacit to produce the most accurate diameter holecup setter. The outer diameter of the new setter being precisely 4 ¼ inches. With faster greens the majority of holecups are now set 1 7⁄64 inches or 28mm, below the putting green surface.





International design application 46583

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