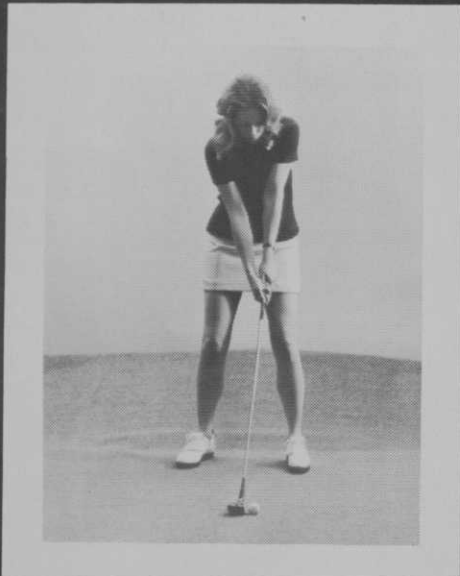


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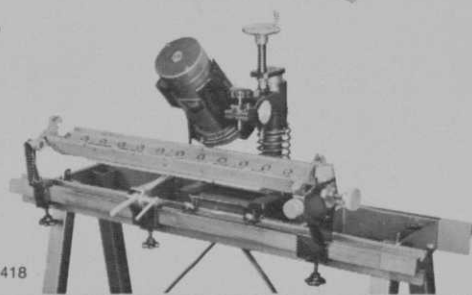
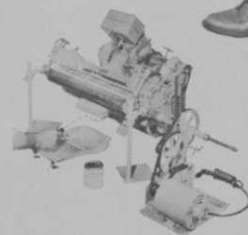
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## The old pro

### Wonders at architects' blindspot

Very few courses I've ever heard about or seen have the practice lesson tee, the practice green, the first tee, the pro shop, and the clubhouse coordinated in location.

That's the case of restricted collective usefulness whether the installations are at private, public, daily fee, or resort courses.

At resort courses, so I've noticed, the practice and lesson tees are too remote from the living quarters of the vacationers who have the time for practice and instruction they don't have at home. Usually these resort tees are not convenient to the pro shop, either.

I had hoped that when prominent playing professionals became collaborators with golf architectural specialists, the first tee, practice and lesson tees, the practice green, pro shop, and clubhouse might thoughtfully be arranged together for most usefulness to the players, the pro department, and the club management. This certainly has not been the case.

The dim record is that the first lesson and practice tees were located by Donald Ross about 1914. Ross designed about 500 U.S. golf courses. As a veteran professional, Ross saw that the demand for golf instruction had outgrown the playing lesson. The instruction areas alongside fairways near the pro shop weren't convenient, nor safe, so Ross devised the lesson and practice tee.

The practice putting green had been any tee near the first tee at the earlier Scotch courses. All that needed to be done was digging out a few holes in a soil that was mainly sand. The regulation 4¼ inch diameter hole was a comparatively recent development in golf history.

The practice sanded bunker and approach greens are the only noticeable improvements in the practice or "warm-up" area in modern golf.

The practice and instruction areas usually are architectural and maintenance afterthoughts. Not much attention or imagination is given to the lesson and practice area, so it often is the slums of a golf course. The place should be located for practice or private lessons, handy for refreshments, a drink or a sandwich — so the golfer who hasn't time for a round could get relaxation, exercise, practice and learning after work and stay at the club for dinner with his wife and children.

Practice balls would be supplied on an annual charge as they already are at some clubs. The whole place should follow the simple but colorful high-class note of the lesson tee which Tommy Armour made world famed at Boca Raton. There the striped lawn umbrella over the table and chairs added to the quality of the atmosphere.

Today, however, there is a curious and costly lack of imagination exhibited by the neglect of golf practice areas.