

CLASS C ASSISTANTS
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Tip for Your Ball Mark Repair Tool

I know I am not passing along any ground-breaking news, but all superintendents know the importance of having a consistent putting surface. One of the components of keeping a consistent putting surface is repairing ball marks on a daily basis, especially before mowing.

Here at St. Charles Country Club three of our five walking greens mowing routes walk out from the shop and back in again. The problem we were running into was that the operator was carrying a dew whip and ball mark repair tool, while trying to operate the machine safely and effectively. After a discussion with Superintendent Chuck Barber and our Mechanic Dave Schultze, a decision was made to attach the ball mark repair tool to the greensmower. However, during discussion Dave strongly urged me to find a way we could do this without drilling any holes anywhere on the mower.

After a few days of brainstorming I knew I wanted to use a 3/4" -1 1/8" metal tool holder (image 1), but attaching it to the handle was where I was running into the problem. After a trip to our local hardware store I found a 3/4" bottom

load clamping conduit hanger (image 2) and bolted the tool holder to the hanger together (image 3). I then bolted the two tool holders to our Toro 1000 and Toro Flex greensmower handles (image 4, above).

The end product turned out very well, but one problem I did run into was that when the ball repair tool was inserted into the holder with the engine running the repair tool would spin freely from the engine vibration. To combat this problem I found a vinyl covered tool holder from McMaster Carr products for approximately \$1.90/each. I found the bottom load hanger at our local Ace Hardware for roughly a \$1/each. So after about \$40.00 in materials and couple hours of time we have solved one problem here at STCCC. If anyone has questions I can be reached at travis.dykstra@gmail.com. **-OC**



Image 1

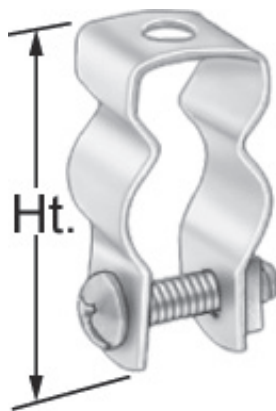


Image 2



Image 3