

# The Leaning Flagstick



A development of golf course equipment from 1970 - 2016

## HAVE YOU NOTICED FLAGSTICKS DON'T LEAN ANYMORE ?

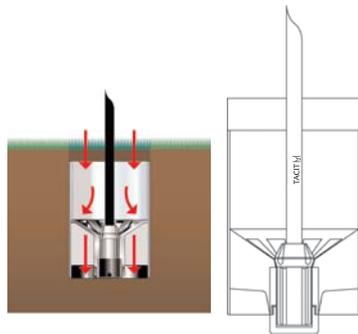
### TACIT FLAGSTICK



The Solution



The Problem



## THE LEANING FLAGSTICK THE START OF TACIT GOLF

In the early 1980s 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. The wear would affect the holecup and ferrule rapidly, regardless of the material used for either and hence this caused 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.

**THE FLAG**  
TACIT SWIVEL FLAGSTICK



**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 2 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."

## DEVELOPMENT OF TACIT'S STANDEASY BUNKER RAKE

### TACIT STANDEASY BUNKER RAKE



## DEVELOPMENT OF TACIT'S 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 Tacit Standeasy Bunker rake with 3 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. 1-1/8" between the teeth by 1" long, proved to be the optimum dimensions..

While playing in one particular 4 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 U.K. 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 that has been U.K.'s most popular bunker rake for over 30 years.

**THE ORIGINAL**  
**TACIT TWIN HANDLED HOLECUTTER**



**TACIT'S TWIN HANDLED  
HOLECUTTER 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 push up greens with an auger type holecutter and others.

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 holecutter that would cut exactly a 4-1/4" 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 its development stage (a big thank you) the Tacit twin handled heavy duty precision holecutter with its 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 3 decades ago.

**C.T (CLOSE TOLERANCE)  
TACIT HOLECUTTER BLADES**



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

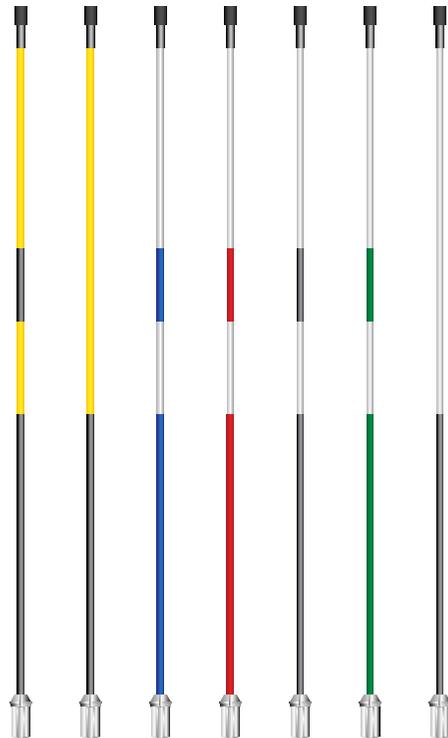
In the early days of golf course construction and in order to keep the course open for play it was important that the greens in particular drained freely.

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 of course over the years drains and top dressing have been added. However, the underlying clay type material which was used in the 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 holecutter blades to be of Close Tolerance to cut an accurate 4-1/4" diameter golf hole in the top accumulated root zone but strong enough to cut through the remaining heavy type clay material below.

**FROM PAINT TO VINYL**  
**TACIT VINYL COVERED FLAGSTICK**



## WHY VINYL HEAT SHRINK WAS APPLIED TO TACIT'S GOLF FLAGSTICK

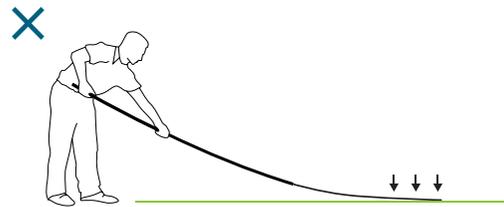
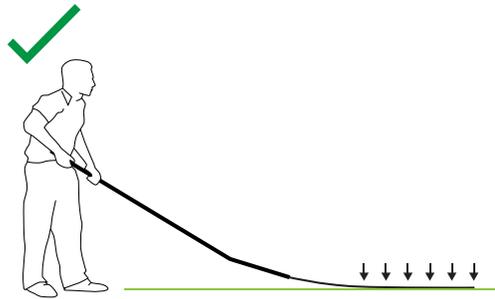
Visiting Greenkeepers multi purposes sheds in the late 1970's was very interesting.

In the summer they seemed quite empty but in the winter full with staff busy servicing and repairing, mowers, 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, but 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, when sighting the line of their put 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, another successful first for Tacit. This process is now common on most flagsticks throughout the golfing world.

**DEW REMOVAL**  
**TACIT LOW PRESSURE SWITCH**



## DEW REMOVAL

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 that the switch in its design should remove 100% of the dew enabling all the greens 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 when switching 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..

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**TACIT HOLECUTTING BOARD**



Old style wooden holecutting board

**TACIT'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN IMPROVED HOLECUTTING BOARD.**

**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 which when used on wet greens then hung up in a damp greenkeeping shed it soon became warped, concave and convex, Ivan soon found that using the board concave down prevented the hole from being crowned which was good said Ivan, but it got better. Two little jumps on the board made sure the green surrounding 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



**SHOLE IMPACT HOLECUTTER**

## SHOLE IMPACT HOLECUTTER

Turning the clock back to the 1980s the request from UK greenkeepers to Tacit was to produce a tough but accurate holecutter to cut mostly push up greens. This resulted in the first twin handled holecutter (see Tacit Archive No 4).

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

Greenkeepers requested changes to the old lever type action, which 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.

### Providing the answer

In developing the Tacit Shole Impact Holecutter 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. The tacit development team also found that the depth gauge was placed exactly where the most impact occurred at the top of the holecutter blade. The remedy now seems obvious; place the depth gauge on the holecutting board. Tacit patented holecutting rings are then attached to the holecutting board where they can be added or taken away to give you the 100% accuracy required when cutting the golf hole.

**TACIT PATENTED DEPTH GAUGE  
FOR SHOLE IMPACT HOLECUTTER**  
TACIT DEPTH GAUGE



## TACIT PATENTED DEPTH GAUGE FOR SHOLE' IMPACT HOLECUTTER

### The Problem

As the National Authority on Golf Course Equipment many queries and ideas are 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 holecutter 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 (LONG)  
HOLECUP LIFTER**  
TACIT TWIN HANDLED LIFTER



## TACIT TWIN HANDLED (LONG) HOLECUP LIFTER

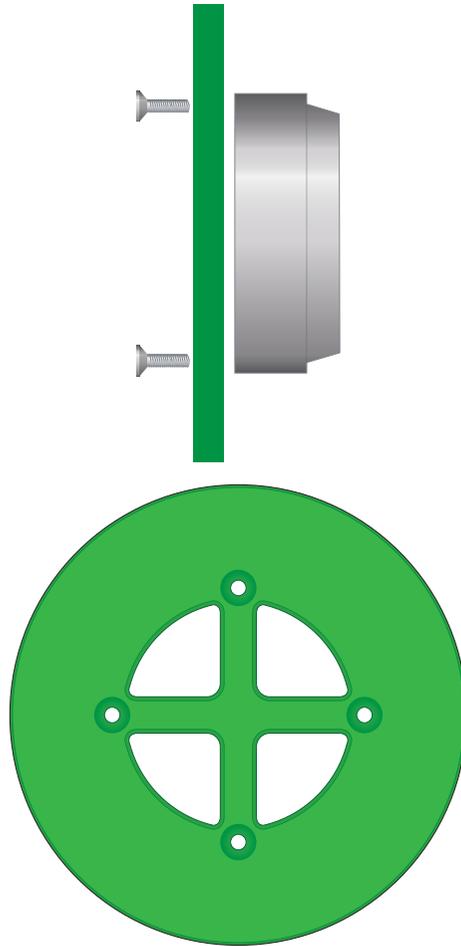
### The Problem

On some type of greens lifting the holecup for repositioning particularly when the golf greens are wet, 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 an 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, therefor 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.

**DIAMETER MUST NOT EXCEED  
4-1/4 INCHES**  
**TACIT PRECISION HOLECUP SETTER**



## TACIT PRECISION HOLECUP SETTER

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN APPLICATION 46583

### HOLE DEFINITION

The "hole" must be 4-1/4 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 4-1/4 inches (108mm)

### The Answer

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

## CONTINUING TO LEARN

An insight for Greenkeepers into the original and successful designs of Tacit Golf Course products.

**The complete archive can be found on our website for download at;**

**[www.tacitgolf.co.uk/Archive-Brochure](http://www.tacitgolf.co.uk/Archive-Brochure)**

**or scan the following qr code to take you directly to the archive.**



**TACIT** 

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