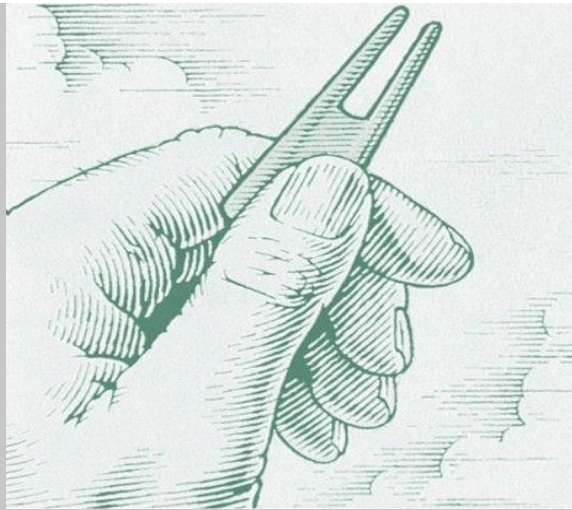


How to Repair Ball Marks According to Brent Kelley – Sports Journalist (2015)

Ball marks- also called pitch marks - are the little depressions, or craters, sometimes made when a golf ball descends from the sky and impacts the putting surface.

A ball mark can cause the grass in the depression to die, leaving not just a scar but also a pit in the putting surface that can knock putts offline. Repairing a ball mark restores a smooth surface and helps keep the grass healthy.

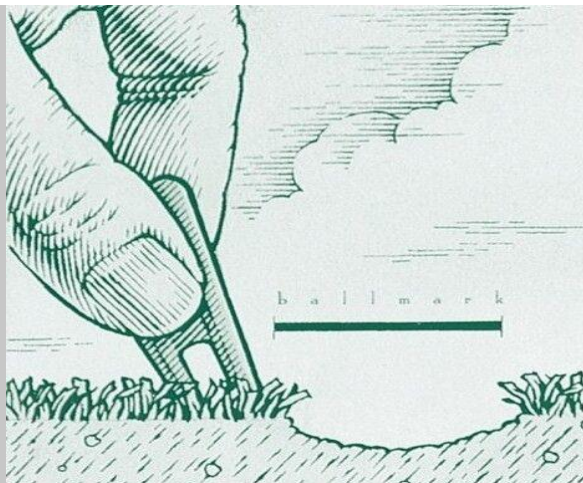
Ball Mark Repair Tool



Courtesy [Golf Course Superintendents Association of America](#)

The ball mark repair tool is the right tool for the job of repairing ball marks. The tool should be familiar to every golfer; it's a simple tool, just two prongs on the end of a piece of metal or hard plastic.

Insert the Ball Mark Repair Tool



The first step in repairing ball marks is to take your ball mark repair tool and insert the prongs into the turf at the edge of the depression. Note: Do NOT insert the prongs into the depression itself, but at the rim of the depression.

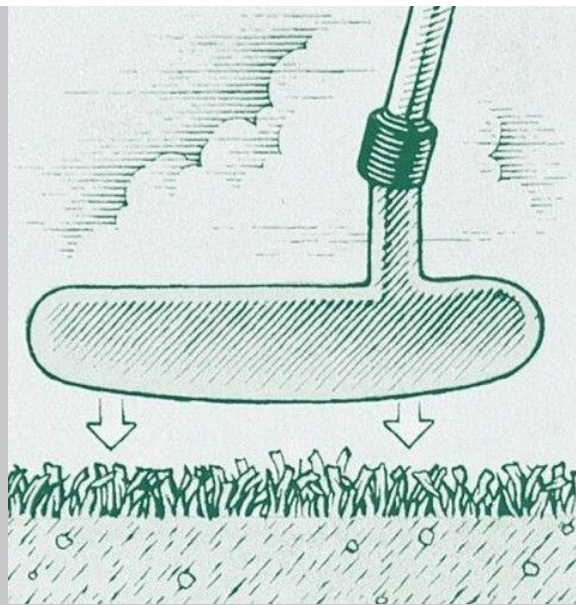
Push Edges of the Ball Mark Toward the Center

The next step is to push the edge of the ball mark toward the center, using your ball mark repair tool in a "gentle twisting motion," in the words of the GCSAA.

This is the step where golfers who incorrectly "repair" ball marks usually mess up. Many golfers believe the way to "fix" a ball mark is to insert the tool at an angle, so the prongs are beneath the center of the crater, and then to use the tool as a lever to push the bottom of the ball mark back up even with the surface. *Do not do this!* Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

Just use your ball mark repair tool to work around the rim of the crater, so to speak, pushing the grass at the edge toward the center of the depression. One way to envision this is to picture reaching down with your thumb and forefinger on opposite sides of the ball mark and "pinching" those sides together.

Smooth Over and Admire Your Work



Once you've worked around the rim of the ball mark with your repair tool, pushing the grass toward the center, there's only one thing left to do: Gently tamp down the repaired ball mark with your putter or foot to smooth the putting surface.

In the next few weeks the greens will be aerated. During this time they will be more susceptible to the damage caused by a golf ball landing on them. The purpose of aeration is to ensure healthy and smooth greens to play on. It is your responsibility to fix your ball mark and others that you may notice. This will ensure that we will have greens that are true to putt on and make out golfing more enjoyable.