M. MORAWIECKI.

RAT TRAP.

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1,048,995.

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Fig. 1.

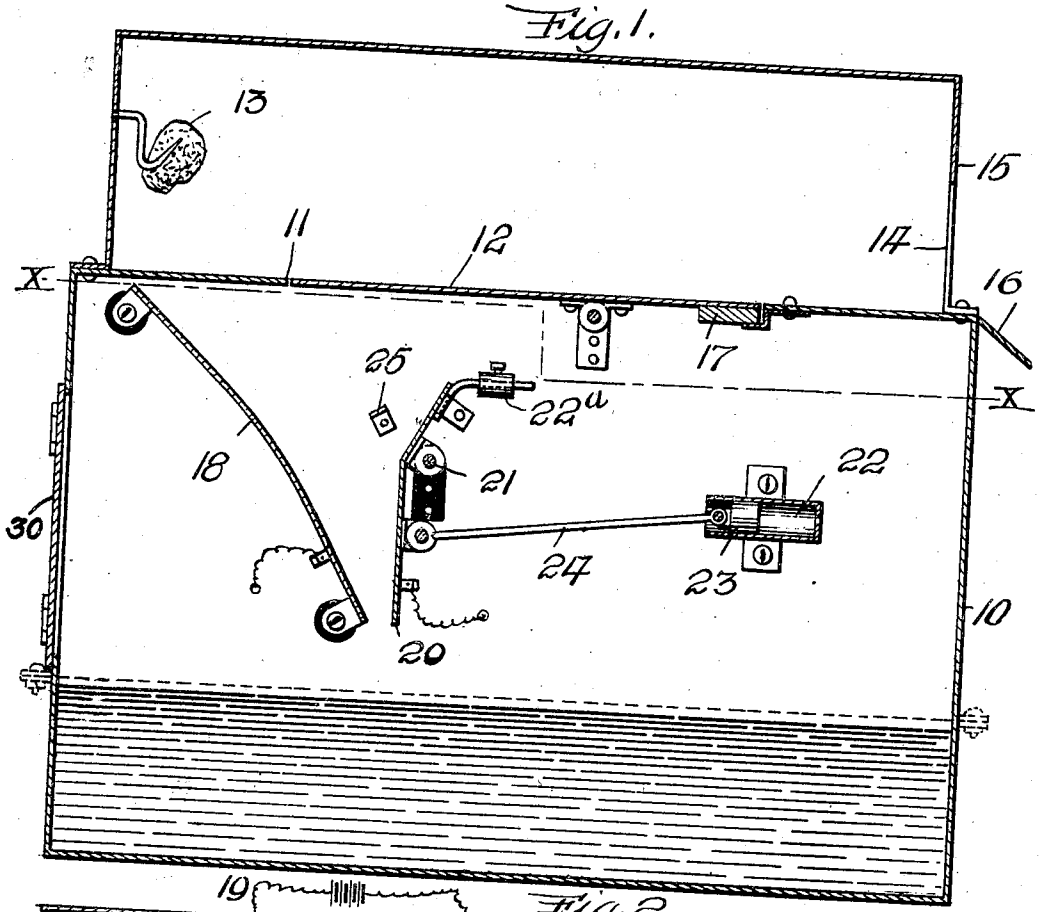
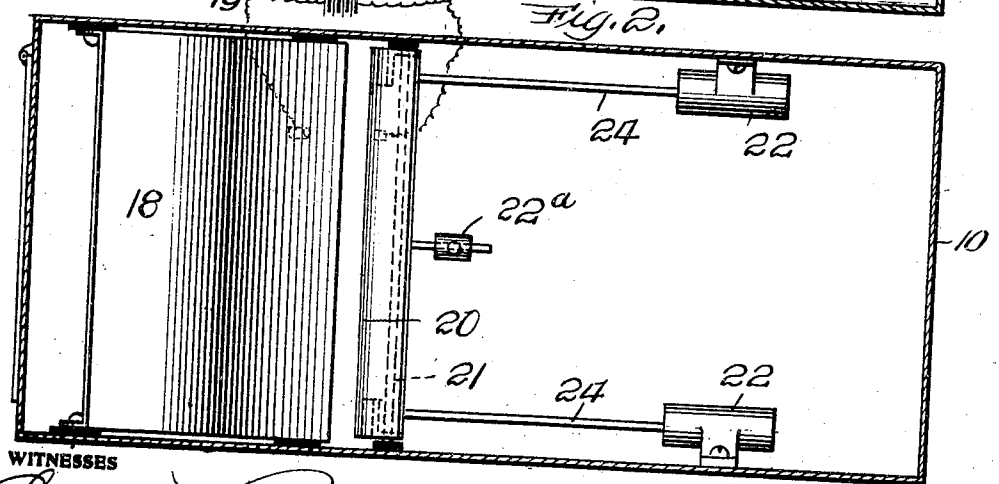


Fig. 2.



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RAT-TRAP.

1,048,995. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 31, 1912.

Application filed February 27, 1912. Serial No. 680,187.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAL MORAWIECKI, a subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residing at Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rat-Traps, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

My invention relates to improvements in rat traps and more particularly that type in which the rat or rodent is electrocuted.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a device of this type in which the rodent is deposited between two electrodes, one of which is movable with a retarding action in order that a surety will be had that the rodent will receive the entire current.

Other and further objects are to provide a construction which is simple and efficient in operation, durable in construction and which can be manufactured at a relatively low cost.

To these and other ends, the nature of which will be readily understood as the invention is hereinafter disclosed, my invention consists in the improved construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which similar reference characters indicate similar parts in each of the views,—Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of one form of my device. Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line X—X of Fig. 1.

The preferred embodiment of my invention is shown in the drawings in which—

10 designates a casing which may be formed in any suitable manner and in any suitable number of parts, the lower portion being adapted to contain water and the top being provided with an opening 11 normally closed by a tiltable platform 12 located in advance of a bait-holder 13, said platform being mounted in the path of movement of a rodent from the entrance provided by an opening 14 in a top casing 15; if desired, a suitable runway 16 may be employed to enable the rodent to enter the trap. The particular form of platform 12 is as may be desired, the purpose being to provide a platform which will form a trap-door for the rodent, the form shown in the drawing having a weight 17 adapted to return the parts to normal position.

Below the opening 11, is located the electrocuting construction which consists of a stationary plate or electrode of suitable configuration and forming one of the terminals of the electrocuting circuit, represented diagrammatically at 19 and the movable electrode 20 pivotally mounted as at 21, in such manner as to have its lower end in proximity to but out of contact with the lower end of the electrode 18, this being the normal position and provided by suitable means such as a weight 22^a, which may be adjustable if desired.

Connected to the movable electrode is a suitable retarding device, one form of which is illustrated in the drawings as being similar to a dash-pot construction 22, the piston indicated at 23 being connected to the electrode by a suitable connection 24, the purpose of this construction being to retard the movement of the movable electrode in a direction to separate the lower ends of the two electrodes.

25 designates a stop to limit the tilting movement of the platform 12.

In operation, a rodent entering the casing 15, through the opening 14 and attempting to reach the bait carried by the holder 13 will pass on to the trap door 12 and be precipitated between the electrodes 18 and 20, both of which are normally charged, and thus bridge the gap therebetween. As the lower ends of the terminals are of less distance apart than the size of a rodent, it will be readily understood that the weight of a rodent will tend to separate these electrodes by moving the movable electrode away from the stationary electrode, this movement, however, being resisted by the retarding mechanism so as to insure the retention of the rodent between the electrodes a sufficient length of time to insure electrocution. As will be obvious, its weight will finally permit the rodent to pass beyond the electrodes and be deposited in the water therebelow, the release of the rodent permitting the weight 22^a to act to return the movable electrode to its normal position.

The dash-pot structure may be formed to

provide for any desired time length of operation, by, for instance, simply increasing the opening which provides for the escape of air. Obviously, one or more retarding structures may be provided, the drawings illustrating two for this purpose.

Among the advantages of this particular construction is the fact that in each instance the electrocuting terminals will separate a distance sufficient to permit of the release of the rodent therefrom, but such release can only take place after the rodent has been subjected to the action of the electrocuting circuit for a predetermined length of time; by means of this control, a surety can be had that the electrocution will be complete, but that the contact will not be such as to provide for a singeing of the rodent.

The showing of the casing 10 is simply an exemplification. If desired, the casing may be in two parts joined together above the level of the water as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, thus permitting the upper portion of the trap to be removed for the purpose of permitting access to the interior for the removal of the rodents. Or, if desired, a door 30 may be provided to permit such access, or both types may be employed as desired.

As will be obvious, the electrocuting circuit may be provided in any suitable manner as from an ordinary light circuit which may, if desired be amplified in any suitable manner as by a step-up device commonly used for the purpose of amplifying the circuit.

While I have herein shown and described a preferred form of my invention, it will be readily understood that variations and changes therein may be made to meet the exigencies of use, and I desire it to be understood that I reserve the right to make any and all such changes, and modifications therein as may be required or desired, in so far as the same may fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the accompanying claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is:

1. In an electric trap, a tilting platform, a pair of electrodes below the normal plane of said platform, one of said electrodes being fixed and inclined to the vertical, the opposite electrode comprising a member pivotally mounted intermediate its ends and having a face extending angularly to the face of the fixed electrode, the free opposing ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and forming a mouth, means carried by the pivoted electrode for normally retaining it with its mouth portion in its position of closest approach to the fixed electrode, and retarding mechanism independent of said retaining mechanism and also connected to said pivoted member to control and provide a uniform rate of speed to the opening movement of the mouth portion of said member.

2. In an electric trap, a tilting platform, a pair of electrodes below the normal plane of said platform, one of said electrodes being fixed and inclined to the vertical, the opposite electrode comprising a member pivotally mounted intermediate its ends and having a face extending angularly to the face of the fixed electrode, the free opposing ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and forming a mouth, means carried by the pivoted electrode for normally retaining it with its mouth portion in its position of closest approach to the fixed electrode, and retarding mechanism independent of said retaining mechanism and also connected to said pivoted member to control and provide a uniform rate of speed to the opening movement of the mouth portion of said member, said retarding mechanism including a dash-pot structure.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MICHAL MORAWIECKI.

Witnesses:
MAX H. SROLOVITZ,
CHRISTINA T. HOOD.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."