June 21, 1966 R. W. SMITH 3,257,050

SHEATH KNIFE SCABBARD

Filed March 3, 1964

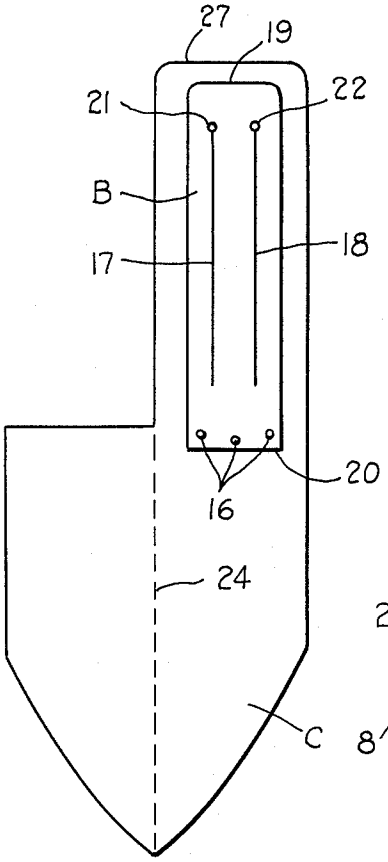



Fig. 1.

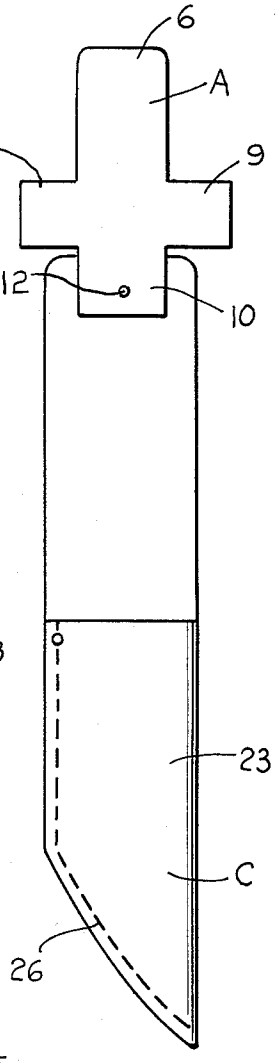



Fig. 2.

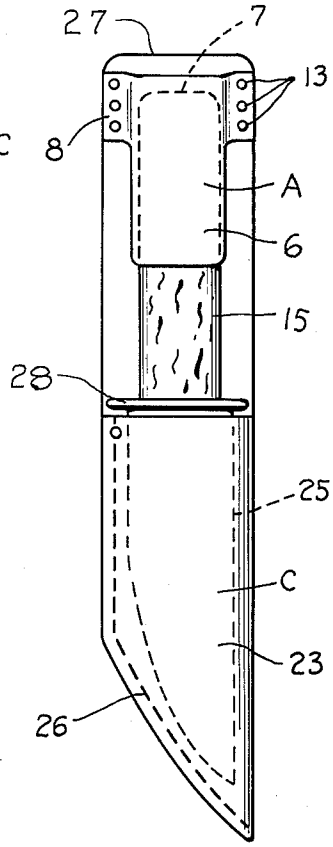



Fig. 3.

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# SHEATH KNIFE SCABBARD

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1 Claim. (Cl. 224—2)

The invention relates to a scabbard which may be manufactured for any type or size of hunting or camping sheath knife, such as a prong, snap, or hole. It has the advantage over prior knife sheaths of simplicity of structure since it is constructed of only three component parts: A main body, a belt-loop attachment, and a safety top.

The primary object of the invention is to prevent the loss or injury by a sheath knife when it is worn suspended from a belt.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a scabbard for carrying a knife which is convenient to wear and readily accessible.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawing forming a part thereof, wherein an example of the invention is shown and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a rear elevation of a knife scabbard constructed in accordance with the present invention in a partially completed condition,

FIGURE 2 is a front elevation of a knife scabbard constructed in accordance with the present invention in a partially completed condition, and

FIGURE 3 is a front elevation of a knife scabbard constructed in accordance with the present invention illustrating a knife with its blade inserted in and retainably secured therein.

The drawing illustrates a scabbard constructed of a safety top A made of soft oil-tanned cowhide, a belt-loop attachment B made of firm oil-tanned cowhide, and a body C made of firm oil-tanned or bark-tanned cowhide.

The safety top A is attached to an upper portion of the body C of the scabbard. The safety top A is adapted to snap quickly and easily over the top of a knife carried in the scabbard to secure the knife in the scabbard. In order to remove the knife from the scabbard it is necessary to forcibly pull a tab portion **6** of the top upwardly. Since the tab portion **6** extends downwardly below the top **7** of the knife, accidental release of the knife is practically impossible.

The safety top A is constructed from a flat rectangular soft oil-tanned leather member having side integral tabs **8** and **9** and two end integral tabs **10** and **6**. Each tab extends outwardly from the leather member. The tab **10** is attached to the top of the scabbard by rivets **12** or by sewing. If rivets are used they should be solid rather than split or tubular. Tubular and split rivets tend to tear the leather. The top A is folded forwardly and the tabs **8** and **9** are attached to the sides adjacent the top of the scabbard by rivets **13** or by sewing. The tab **6** is left free to provide a gripping portion. When the tab **6** is raised an upward force is exerted on the top A raising same slightly so that a knife can be inserted into and removed from the scabbard.

It is noted that the tab **10** of the safety top is joined to the top of the scabbard one-half inch below the normal position of the top **7** of a knife handle **15** when such is



placed in the scabbard. The top A forms a flexible pocket which snaps over the knife top and it can be easily manipulated by tab **6**.

A belt-loop attachment B, made from a separate rectangular piece of leather as illustrated in FIGURE 1, is attached to the rear of the body C of the scabbard by rivets **16** about midway between the top and bottom of the scabbard. Two parallel slits **17** and **18** are cut lengthwise one-half inch from the end **19** and one inch from the end **20**. The top end of the slits **17** and **18** are terminated by round punched holes **21** and **22** not closer than one-half inch from the end **19**. The belt-loop attachment is joined to the back of the scabbard just below the open top of the sheath as illustrated in FIGURE 1. The belt-loop attachment B holds the scabbard securely to the belt of the wearer, yet it permits the scabbard to swing free from the belt. It prevents the discomfort and inconvenience which results from the rigidity of a scabbard through which the belt is threaded directly.

The body C of the scabbard includes a sheath **23** which is formed by folding a piece of leather about dotted line **24** to define a pocket for receiving a knife blade **25**. Stitching **26**, such as nylon or linen thread, is used to secure the folded pieces of leather together. If it is desired, the folded pieces of leather may be laced with buckskin.

The length of the top portion of the scabbard between its upper edge **7** and the open top of the sheath **23** must not vary more than one-fourth inch from the length of the handle between the hilt **28** and the top **29**. The length of the sheath **23** must not vary more than one-fourth inch from the length of the blade **25**.

It is essential that any variations from materials and method of construction hereinbefore described be minor and not in anyway violate the principles of the invention as set forth in the claim which follows.

What is claimed is:

A sheath for a knife having a blade portion and handle portion, said sheath comprising a main body having a pocket at the lower portion for receiving the blade of said knife, a belt-loop attachment secured to the rear side of said body below the opening of said pocket but with the free end of said attachment extending above the opening of said pocket, a knife handle restraining means comprising a substantially flat rectangular soft oil-tanned leather portion having two side and two end integral tabs, each tax extending outwardly from said rectangular portion, means securing one end tab to the upper portion of the main body whereby the remaining portions of the restraining means may be folded down over the secured tab, means to then secure the two side tabs to the upper portion of the main body so that the remaining end tab depends downwardly to snap over the handle of the knife.

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