Oct. 9, 1951 O. T. BIRDLEBOUGH 2,570,911

BOAT TOP

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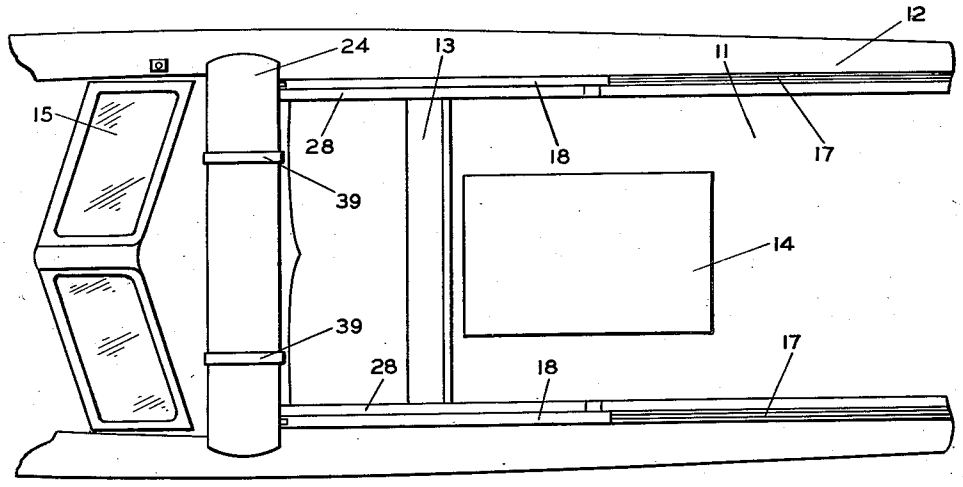


FIG. 1

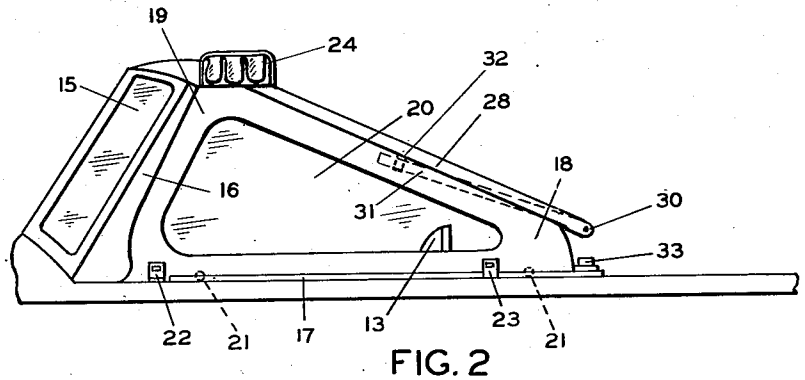


FIG. 2

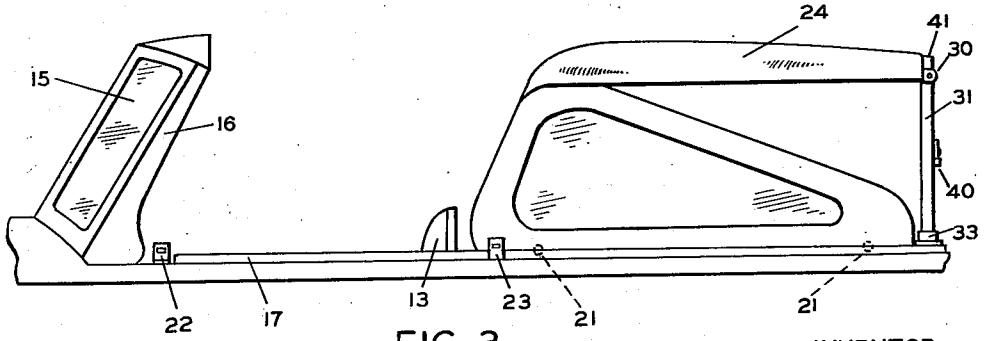


FIG. 3

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FIG. 4

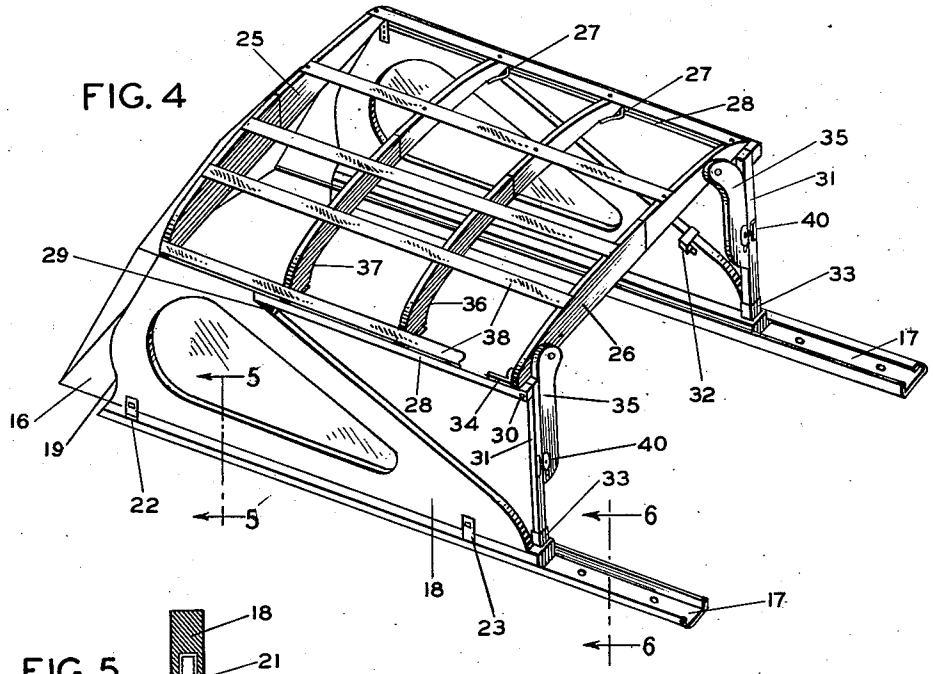


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

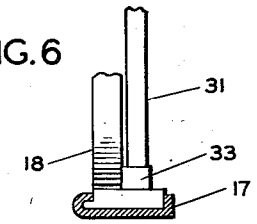
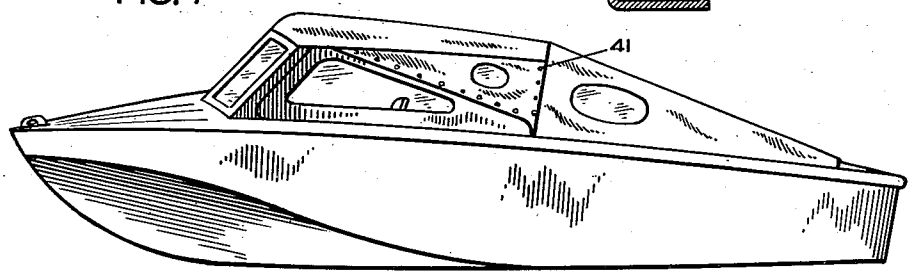


FIG. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,570,911

BOAT TOP

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Application April 1, 1947, Serial No. 738,531

2 Claims. (Cl. 9—1)

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This invention relates to a boat top, and more particularly to a sliding top and cover particularly adapted to the use of small boats such as motor launches or the like.

A primary object of this invention is the provision of an improved boat top characterized by means whereby the same may be positioned in a plurality of positions, and serve additionally as a side spray shield, as for instance in rough weather.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of such a device which may be readily adjusted to a plurality of positions affording side spray shields, when desired, or side spray shields and a top, the sides and top both being adjustable to a plurality of positions.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of such device which is sturdy and durable of construction, reliable and efficient in operation, and which may be readily manufactured, assembled and installed with a minimum of effort, difficulty and expense.

Still other objects will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out as a description of the invention proceeds, and shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein there is disclosed a preferred form of this inventive concept.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top, fragmentary, plan view of one form of device embodying features of the instant invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, side elevational view of a boat showing the device in one position of adjustment, the side spray shields being positioned forwardly, and the canopy or top folded forward;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, but showing an alternative position of adjustment wherein the spray shields are moved rearwardly away from the wind shields and the canopy is extended;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing my new boat top with the canopy ribs in extended position, but with the cloth cut away to show the structural details;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary cross-section taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary cross-section taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing my new boat top in forward position with back curtains attached.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Referring now to the drawings, there is generally indicated at 10 a fragment of a boat, of any desired configuration, such, for example, as a small motor launch, or the like. Boat 10 is provided with a cockpit 11, and the conventional gunwales 12. In the illustrated embodiment shown there is a front seat 13 disclosed as well as a motor 14 of any conventional type. The boat is provided with a windshield 15, which may also be of conventional design and which inclines rearwardly as best shown at 16 in Figs. 2 and 3.

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Extending rearwardly along the gunwales from the windshield to a suitable position therebehind is a channel-shaped track 17, the cross-sectional shape thereof being best disclosed in Fig. 6. Track 17 is adapted for the sliding accommodation of side members 18, each of which is generally triangular in configuration, the forward and rear edges of which slope upwards towards the top where they converge, and the forward edge 19 of which is adapted to closely engage the inclined rear surface of the windshield 16. Each side member is provided with a transparent pane 20 to permit visibility therethrough. The side shields are also provided with rollers 21 mounted within the lower edges thereof and adapted to ride along the tracks 17 in such manner that the side shields may be readily slid from a position adjacent the windshield 15 to a point at the extreme rear of the track as shown in Fig. 5, for example. Latch means 22 are provided for securing the side shields in a forward position and similar latch means 23 may be provided for retaining the same at any other desired position.

From the foregoing it will now be obvious that the side shields 18 may be adjusted from the position shown in Fig. 2 to any position along the tracks 17, as for example, the position shown in Fig. 3, or alternatively enclose the motor, at the same time allowing free ventilation of the front seat.

A top canopy 24 is also provided and may be comprised of any desired material, as for example, glass wool or the like. The canopy 24 is attached at its forward end to a supporting rib member 25 extending from the apex of one side member to the apex of the other. The rear end of the canopy is attached to another rib member 26 having at each extremity metal guides 27 adapted to slidably grip the side rods 28. These side rods extend rearwardly from the apices of the side members 18, being secured thereto at one end by pivot means 29, and have their other extremities secured by pivot means 30 to vertical rods 31. These vertical rods 31 are adapted, when the cover is open, as in the position shown in Fig,

2, to be folded forward along the inside of the side members 18 and held in place by suitable clips 32, as shown in Fig. 2.

However, when it is desired to raise the canopy to the position shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the rods 31 are adapted to be positioned in cup-shaped sockets 33 attached to the rear of the side members 18, thus supporting the side rods 28 in normally horizontal position. With the rods in such position the canopy or cover 24 may be unfolded by sliding the rib member 26 rearwardly along the side rods 28 until it reaches a point immediately forward of the vertical rods 31, at which point it is retained against forward movement by angle brackets 34. Braces 35, pivotally attached near the ends of the rib member 26 are then swung down parallel to the vertical rods 31 and fastened thereto by means of latches 40.

It will be noted that additional supporting ribs 36 and 37, slidable along the horizontal rods 28, may be provided to support the top canopy 24, and all of the ribs may be connected by strips of webbing 38, as shown in Fig. 4. If desired, the suporting ribs may be so constructed in two parts that one section may be adjustably telescoped within the other to fit a cockpit of any given width. When the canopy is not in use, the ribs 26, 36, and 37 may be slid forward along the side rods 28 until they reach the forward rib 25, and the canopy folded over them into a compact package held in place by straps 39, as shown in Fig. 1.

Snaps 41 may be positioned along the upper edges of the side members 18, the rear of the top canopy 24, and the gunwales and rear of the cockpit, in order that additional curtains may be snapped in place to completely enclose the cockpit, as shown in Fig. 7.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there is herein provided an improved cover or canopy for boats, including side members, which accomplishes all the objects of this invention and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

I claim:

1. In combination with a boat including an open cockpit and an inclined windshield, trackways along the sides of said cockpit, side members including transparent portions, slidable in said trackways, said side members being of generally triangular configuration with the forward leg thereof closely abutting the ends of said windshield in forward position, and the rear leg thereof tapering to substantially the level of the boat deck, a cover extending over said side members, and means supporting the rear extremity of said cover above the rear extremities of said side pieces.

2. In combination with a boat including an open cockpit and an inclined windshield, trackways along the sides of said cockpit, side members including transparent portions, slidable in said trackways, said side members being of generally triangular configuration with the forward leg thereof closely abutting the ends of said windshield in forward position, and the rear leg thereof tapering to substantially the level of the boat deck, a cover extending over said side members, means supporting the rear extremity of said cover beyond the rear extremities of said side pieces, said last mentioned means including vertical rods removably positioned in sockets attached to the rear extremities of said side members, and side rods each pivotally connected at one extremity to one of said vertical rods, and at its other extremity to the apex of one of said side members.

OTIS T. BIRDLEBOUGH.

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