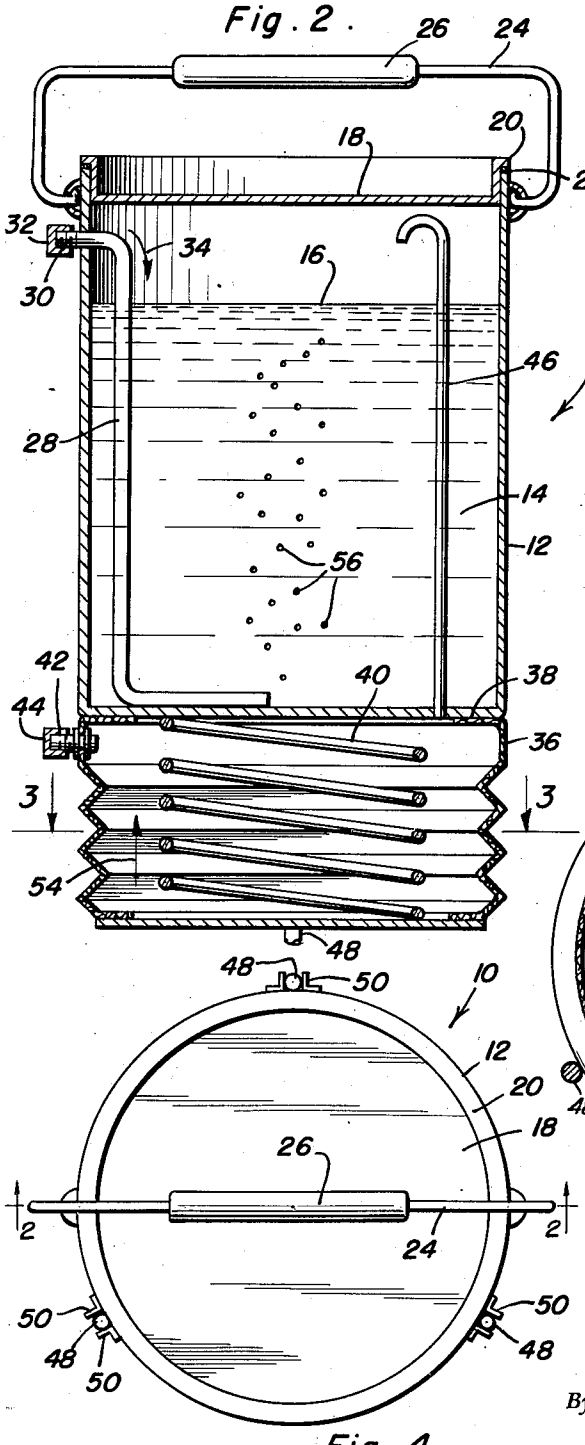
Oct. 9, 1951 N. C. JACKSON 2,570,684

MINNOW BUCKET

Filed Oct. 11, 1948

Fig. 2.



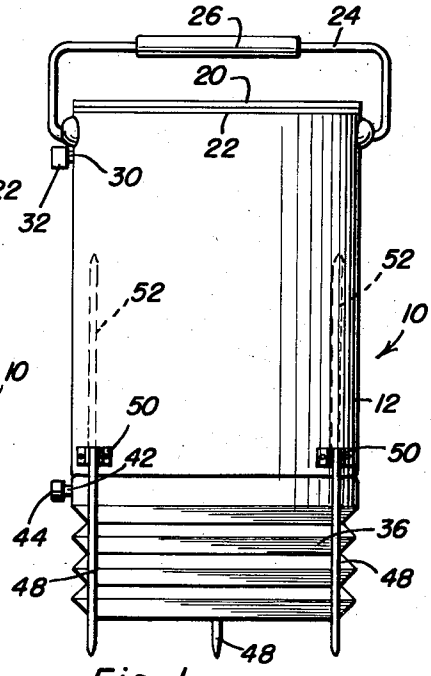


Fig. 1.

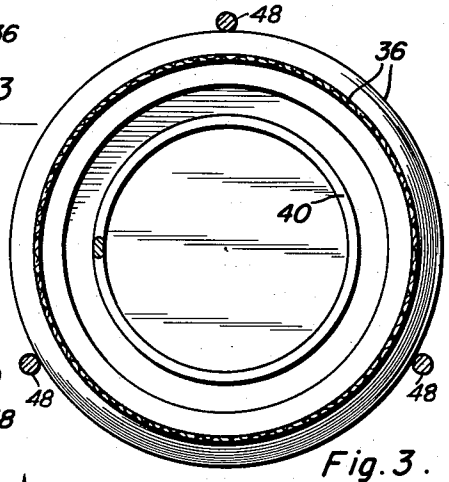


Fig. 3.

Inventor

Nolan C. Jackson

By Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jackson

Attorneys

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MINNOW BUCKET

Nolan C. Jackson, Coalgate, Okla.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 43—57)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in minnow buckets, and the principal object of the invention is to facilitate aerating of the water in the bucket, so as to preserve the minnows therein in proper live condition over extended periods of time.

This object is achieved by the provision of a minnow bucket wherein air from the atmosphere is drawn through the water contained in the bucket, so that the water becomes aerated thereby in a novel manner.

An important feature of the invention resides in the provision of means for drawing air through the water in the bucket, this means eliminating the use of pumps, suction lines connected to automobile manifolds, or the like, such as were conventionally employed to perform the same function. In fact, the aerating means employed in the invention embodies a conventional bellows which is operatively connected to the minnow bucket in such manner as to decrease the air pressure above the water therein and thereby draw in air from the atmosphere through the water, for the purpose of aerating same.

Some of the advantages of the invention reside in its simplicity of construction, convenience of operation, and in its adaptability to economical manufacture.

With the above more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention consists essentially of the arrangement and construction of parts as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken on the plane 2—2 of Figure 4;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view, taken substantially in the plane of the line 3—3 in Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the invention.

Like characters of reference are employed to designate like parts in the specification and throughout the several views.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the invention consists of a minnow bucket designated generally by the reference character 10, the same embodying in its construction a receptacle 12 which is adapted to be partially filled with water as indicated at 14, to a level substantially as shown at 16.

The upper end of the receptacle 12 is equipped with a removable cover 18, this being provided

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with an outturned flange 20 and with a gasket 22, for obvious reasons, that is, for the purpose of rendering the positioning of the cover 18 on the receptacle substantially airtight.

Moreover, the upper end portion of the receptacle 12 may be provided with a swingable bail 24 equipped with a carrying handle 26, substantially as shown.

An air inlet duct or tube 28 extends upwardly from below the water level 16 in the receptacle 12 and is angulated at the upper end thereof to project outwardly from the receptacle into communication with the atmosphere as indicated at 30. A loose fitting cap or closure 32 may be provided on the outer end portion 30 of the duct 28, so that the rate of flow of air from the atmosphere into the tube as indicated at 34 may be controlled, as desired.

Provided exteriorly at the bottom of the receptacle 12 is a collapsible and expansible air chamber assuming the form of a substantially circular bellows 36, this being secured to the bottom of the receptacle as at 38 and containing a compression spring 40 which normally urges the bellows to its expanded position, as will be clearly understood.

The bellows 36 is equipped with an exhaust port or nozzle 42, the latter, in turn, being provided with a loose-fitting cap 44, similar to the aforementioned cap 32.

A suitable suction line 46 connects the bellows 36 with the upper portion of the receptacle 12 above the water line 16, and finally, it should be explained that the entire bucket is provided with a plurality of collapsible legs 48 which are hingedly connected to the receptacle 12 by suitable brackets 50 and are swingable from their extended positions shown in Figure 1 to their retracted positions indicated by the phantom lines 52 in the same figure.

When the invention is placed in use, the cap 44 is removed from the exhaust port 42 and the bellows 36 is collapsed by being pressed relative to the container in the direction of the arrow 54, which action will exhaust the air from the bellows 36 through the port 42, as will be clearly apparent. Of course, it should be understood that while this action takes place, the receptacle 12 is filled with water to the level 16, so that the air from the bellows is exhausted through the port 42 rather than being driven into the receptacle 12 through the suction line 46.

In any event, after the bellows is collapsed, the cap 44 is reapplied to the port 42 so as to effectively seal the same, and upon removal of the

cover 18, minnows may be placed in the receptacle. In order to retain the bellows in its collapsed condition, the legs 48 may be collapsed relative to the receptacle, into the dotted line position shown in Figure 1, so that the weight of the receptacle and the water therein will compress the bellows between the bottom of the receptacle and the supporting surface below the bellows. The cover 18 should then, of course, be replaced, and the legs 48 moved into their extended positions, whereupon by loosening or completely removing the cover 32 from the end portion 30 of the air inlet duct 28, air from the atmosphere will be permitted to be drawn as indicated by the arrow 34 through the duct 28 into the receptacle 12, since the bellows 36, expanding by the resiliency of the spring 40, will withdraw air from the top portion of the receptacle 12 through the suction line 46 and, as a result, the air from the atmosphere drawn through the duct 28 will "bubble" through the water 14 in the receptacle 12, thus aerating the water as indicated at 56 and preserving the minnows in the receptacle in a live condition for a considerable period of time.

Needless to say, the duration of "effectiveness" of the invention is governed by the rate of expansion of the bellows 36 and by the attendant rate of flow of the air from the atmosphere into the water through the duct 28, this, in turn, being effectively controlled by the adjustment of the cap 32, as will be clearly apparent.

The aforementioned legs 48 are adapted at their lower ends for insertion in the ground so as to retain the entire bucket in upright position, and it is to be noted that these legs, when erected or extended, extend substantially below the expanded bellows 36, so that expansion of the bellows is facilitated. Obviously, when the legs are in their extended position, they will also serve to guide the bellows during the expansion thereof.

It is believed that the advantages and use of the invention will be clearly apparent from the foregoing disclosure and accordingly, further description thereof at this point is deemed unnecessary.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A minnow bucket comprising a casing having a liquid level, a detachable cover for said casing, said casing having a lower wall, a bellows attached to and supported by said lower wall, a suction conduit positioned within said casing and extending through said lower wall and communicating with the interior of said bellows, said suction conduit having an upper portion terminating below said cover and above the liquid level, an air inlet conduit projecting through said casing above the liquid level and extending downwardly in said casing below the liquid level, and legs normally depending from the sides of said casing for supporting said casing and for guiding said bellows as the latter expands, said legs being movable out of supporting position whereby the weight of said bucket will contract said bellows.

2. A minnow bucket comprising a casing having a liquid level, a detachable cover for said casing, said casing having a lower wall, a bellows attached to and supported by said lower wall, a suction conduit positioned within said casing and extending through said lower wall and communicating with the interior of said bellows, said suction conduit having an upper portion terminating below said cover and above the liquid level, an air inlet conduit projecting through said casing above the liquid level and extending downwardly in said casing below the liquid level, means depending from the sides of said casing for supporting said casing and for guiding said bellows as the latter expands, and means for controlling the flow of air through said inlet conduit.

3. A minnow bucket comprising a casing having a liquid level, a detachable cover for said casing, said casing having a lower wall, a bellows attached to and supported by said lower wall, a suction conduit positioned within said casing and extending through said lower wall and communicating with the interior of said bellows, said suction conduit having an upper portion terminating below said cover and above the liquid level, an air inlet conduit projecting through said casing above the liquid level and extending downwardly in said casing below the liquid level, means depending from the sides of said casing for supporting said casing and for guiding said bellows as the latter expands, and an exhaust valve on said bellows to selectively communicate said bellows with the atmosphere.

NOLAN C. JACKSON.

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