March 24, 1942. W. A. PHILLIPS 2,277,453

BAIT CASTING PLUG

Filed July 25, 1941

Fig. 1.

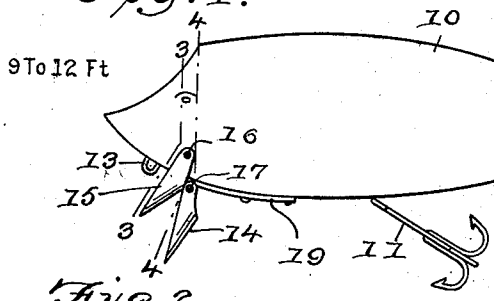


Fig. 10.

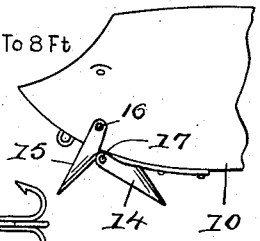


Fig. 2.

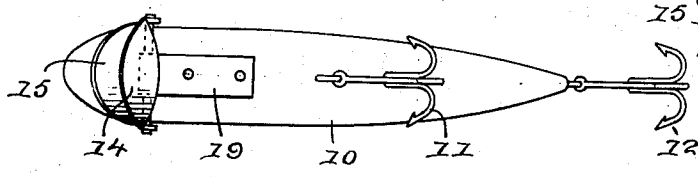


Fig. 3.

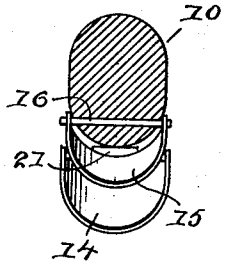


Fig. 4.

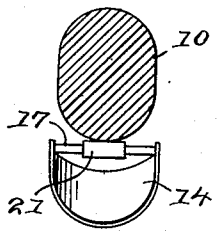


Fig. 5.

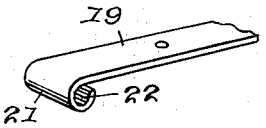


Fig. 6.

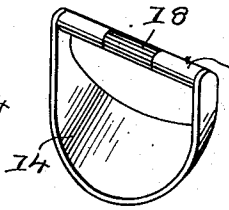


Fig. 8.

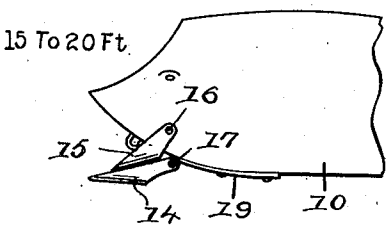


Fig. 9.

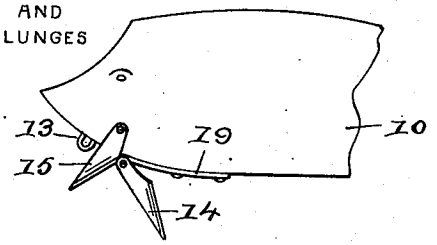
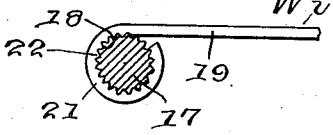


Fig. 7.



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BAIT CASTING PLUG

William Alton Phillips, Bessemer, Ala.

Application July 25, 1941, Serial No. 404,081

3 Claims. (Cl. 43—46)

This invention relates to a bait casting plug and has for an object to provide a plug which can be quickly adjusted without the use of tools, to run at any depth ranging from the surface to about twenty feet, so that the fishermen may find the depth at which the fish are striking simply by manipulating a single level finding spoon.

A further object is to provide a device of that character which will be formed of a few simple strong and durable parts, which will be inexpensive to manufacture, and will not easily get out of order.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, it being understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a bait casting plug constructed in accordance with the invention, showing the auxiliary spoon and the level finding spoon adjusted to maintain the plug at an intermediate depth of from nine to twelve feet.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of the plug shown in Figure 7.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the plug taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view of the plug taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of the pivot shaft bracket of the level finding spoon.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the level finding spoon.

Figure 7 is a detail side elevation, with parts broken away, of the level finding spoon.

Figure 8 is a detail side elevation of the plug with the spoon adjusted to maintain the plug at an extreme low depth of about fifteen to twenty feet.

Figure 9 is a detail side elevation of the plug with the spoon adjusted to cause the plug to breach the water then plunge every three or four feet on moderate retrieve.

Figure 10 is a detail side elevation of the plug with the spoons adjusted to maintain the plug at a shallow depth of about three to eight feet.

Referring now to the drawing in which like characters of reference designate similar parts in the various views, 10 designates the plug body the same being shaped to simulate a minnow and having a gang hook 11 at about the center of the bottom surface and a gang hook 12 at the rear end. The front lower surface of the body is equipped with a fishing line securing eye 13.

For controlling the depth at which the plug will run when being retrieved after a cast a level finding spoon 14 is pivoted to the lower portion of the plug body near the front end of the body, and an auxiliary spoon 15 is located in advance of the level finding spoon and is pivoted to the body at a point above the pivot of the level finding spoon. Each spoon is U shape in cross section, see Figure 3.

The pivot shaft 16 of the auxiliary spoon 15 passes through the body 10 and through the rear ends of the sides of the spoon. The pivot shaft 17 of the level finding spoon 14 is corrugated intermediate the ends as shown at 18 in Figure 6. The pivot shaft bracket 19, see Figure 5, is in the nature of an elongated plate secured to the body by brads 20, or other connections, and terminating at the front end in a cylindrical socket 21 which is provided with internal corrugations 22 to provide sufficient frictional contact with the corrugated portion 18 of the pivot shaft 17 to hold the level finding spoon 14 in various angular adjusted positions with relation to the body 10, see Figures 2, 8, 9 and 10. The auxiliary spoon 15 moves freely on its pivot shaft 16.

For shallow depth run of the plug, see Figure 10, the auxiliary spoon 15 abuts the pivot shaft 17 of the depth finding spoon, and inclines downwardly and forwardly from the body at an angle of about 45 degrees. The depth finding spoon 14 extends rearwardly from the pivot shaft along the body, in contact with the body 10 and extends downwardly at an angle of about 30 degrees to the body. In this position the depth finding spoon elevates the rear end of the plug and aids the auxiliary spoon 15 to keep the nose of the plug down so that the plug runs at a depth of from three to eight feet and rises gradually during retrieving.

For intermediate depth run of the plug, see Figure 1, the auxiliary spoon 15 is in the same position as for shallow depth run, but the depth finding spoon 14 is adjusted to extend forwardly from the pivot shaft 17 along the body, and to extend downwardly at an angle of about 60 degrees to the body. In this position of the spoons the plug runs at a depth of from nine to twelve

feet and rises gradually as retrieve nears the end.

For extreme depth run of the plug, see Figure 8, the level finding spoon 14 is adjusted to extend forwardly from the pivot shaft 17 along the body, and to extend downwardly at an angle of about 30 degrees to the body. The auxiliary spoon fits flush inside the depth finding spoon. This position of the spoons increases water resistance to the maximum and causes the plug to dive deep and level out in a wiggling run fifteen to twenty feet deep according to the speed of the retrieve.

To cause the plug to breach the surface and then plunge as shown in Figure 9, the auxiliary spoon 15 is in the same position as for a shallow depth run, as above described. The depth finding spoon 14 is adjusted to extend rearwardly from the pivot shaft 17, and to extend downwardly at an angle of about 60 degrees to the body. In this position the level finding spoon spills the water downwardly and forces the plug to the surface. The auxiliary spoon 15 then counteracts the level finding spoon as the plug breaches the surface and causes the plug to dive. On moderate retrieve this breaching and diving occurs every three or four feet.

From the above description it is thought that the construction and operation of the invention will be fully understood without further explanation.

What is claimed is:

1. A plug comprising, a body, a fish hook on the body, a pair of superposed spoons of U shape cross section pivoted to the front end of the body, and means for adjusting the lower spoon to extend in various angular positions relatively to the upper spoon and to the body for controlling the plug to run at a predetermined depth or to breach and dive.

2. The structure as of claim 1 and in which said means comprises an internally corrugated cylinder secured to the body, and an externally corrugated pivot shaft in the cylinder fixed to the lower spoon and having sufficient frictional contact with the cylinder to hold the lower spoon in its various angular positions.

3. A plug comprising, a body, a fish hook on the body, an upper auxiliary spoon pivoted to the front end of the body, a lower depth finding spoon pivoted to the front end of the body, the upper spoon moving freely on its pivot, the pivot of the lower spoon being frictionally controlled to permit the lower spoon being swung forwardly to coincide with the upper spoon or being swung rearwardly to extend along the body or to be swung to various angular positions between the extremes just named.

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