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WATER SKI

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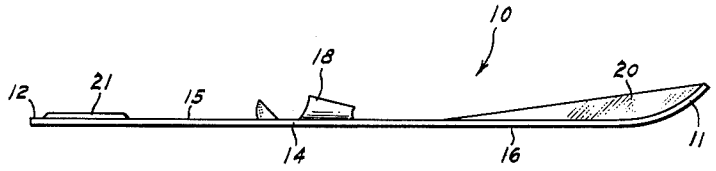


Fig. 1

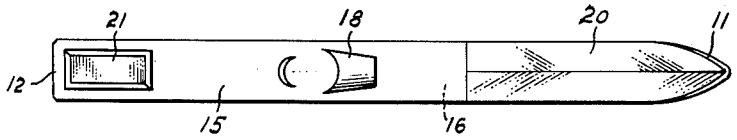


Fig. 2

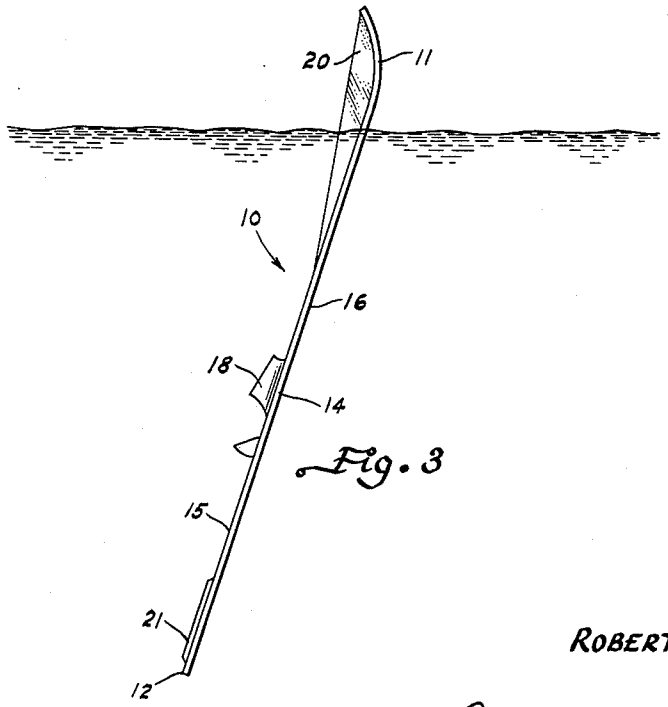


Fig. 3

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WATER SKI

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This invention relates generally to sports equipment and more particularly to water skis.

In recent years, the popularity of water skiing has been steadily increasing. However, among the problems presented by water skis presently available is that they are relatively difficult to put on in the water and hard to find if the skier falls.

Conventional water skis are made of a buoyant material such as a wood, rubber, fibre-glass or the like. The buoyancy of a ski is such that when dropped in the water, the ski will float flat on top of the water. When a skier starts skiing, and if two skits are used, he must first put the skis on by pushing them underwater and placing his feet in the foot harnesses. This is often difficult to do, and if the skier lets a ski go after it is submerged it will immediately rise to the surface of the water. Further, if one ski is on and submerged and the other ski is off and floating, it requires some maneuvering to get the second ski in position to insert a foot in the harness. When a single ski is used, putting the ski on in the water is less of a problem than when two skis are used. Nevertheless, it is difficult to get the ski in proper submerged position to put on.

Moreover, when a skier falls, it often happens that he finds himself considerably removed from his ski or skis. Since a conventional ski floats flat on top of the water, a skier who has fallen in the water sometimes finds it difficult to locate a ski, particularly from his low vantage point.

One object of this invention is to provide a water ski which is easy to put on in the water.

Another object of this invention is to provide a water ski which the skier can find easily after a fall.

Another object of this invention is to provide a water ski so constructed that when the ski is floating in the water it assumes a position relative to the surface of the water which enables the skier to don the ski quickly and easily.

A further object of this invention is to provide a water ski which projects well above the surface of the water when not in use.

A still further object of this invention is to provide means whereby water skis available heretofore can be modified simply and inexpensively to accomplish the foregoing objects.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent hereinafter from the specification and from the recital in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of a water ski constructed according to one embodiment of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is a view showing the ski floating in water and illustrating the self-inclining position which the ski assumes.

Referring now to the drawing by numerals of reference, and first to FIGS. 1 and 2, **10** denotes a water ski which comprises an elongate member having a forward, upturned, pointed end **11**, a relatively flat, squared off rearward end **12** and a middle portion **14**. The member has a top side **15** and the underside **16**. The ski may be made of wood, rubber, plastic or any other desired material.

For releasably holding ski **10** on a foot of the skier, a harness **18** is provided. Such harness is conventional and comprises a toe and heel cup made of rubber or the like

so that if the skier falls while skiing the ski will readily drop from his foot.

The forward end **11** of the ski carries a highly buoyant element **20** which extends from the front point of the ski to a point just in front of the foot harness **18**. Element **20** may be a balsa wood filler, a buoyant plastic material such as that sold under the tradename "Styrofoam," or some other suitable material. The element **20** may also be a hollow air filled compartment.

Rear end **12** of the ski has a weight **21**, of lead or the like, which renders the rear end of the ski non-buoyant and causes it to sink when the ski is placed in the water. The overall weight distribution of the ski is such that the ski assumes the self-inclining position shown in FIG. 3 when floating free in the water. The rear end **12** is submerged and the forward end **11** floats with its point projecting upwardly and high out of the water. The upward incline of the ski places the foot harness **18** in just the right position relative to the surface of the water, denoted S, so that a skier can quickly and easily put the ski on.

Further, the normal position of the ski as caused by element **20** and weight **21** is ideal for an easy skiing start. There is little danger of nosing over at the beginning of a skiing run.

When the boat towing the skier starts up, the forward movement of the ski and the counteraction of the underside **16** with the water causes the ski to assume a normal skiing relation to the surface S. If the skier falls or intentionally drops the tow rope to stop skiing, he has no problem locating his ski or skis because of the way they will stick up when floating free. Preferably, element **20** and forward end **11** are brightly painted to contrast with the water so that the ski is easily spotted.

Element **20** and weight **21** are intended to be added to skis presently available. For new production, the weight variation as recited above can be built right into the skis by making the forward ends light and highly buoyant and the rear ends dense and non-buoyant whereby the skis will extend as shown in FIG. 3 when placed in the water.

While this invention has been described according to a specific embodiment thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modification, and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which the invention pertains, and as fall within the scope of the invention or the limits of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A self-inclining water ski comprising an elongate member having a forward end and a rear end, a foot harness connected to said member between said ends, said forward end being buoyant and said rear end being non-buoyant and of such weight that when the ski is placed in the water the rear end sinks below the water surface to incline the ski at a substantial angle relative to the surface of the water, a substantial portion of the ski being submerged.

2. A self-inclining water ski comprising an elongate member having a forward end and a rear end, a foot harness connected to said member between said ends, means on said forward end giving such end substantial buoyancy, and weight means on said rear end to sink such end when the ski is placed in the water, said weight means being such relative to the buoyant forward end that the ski floats with the rear end and said foot harness submerged and assumes an inclined position at a substantial angle relative to the surface of the water.

3. A self-inclining water ski comprising an elongate

member having a forward end and a rear end, a foot harness connected to said member between said ends, a material of substantial buoyancy forming part, at least, of said forward end, a denser, non-buoyant material forming part at least of said rear end whereby when said ski is placed in the water said rear end and said foot harness sinks below the water surface and said front end floats and the ski assumes an inclined position at a substantial angle relative to the water surface, the buoyancy of said forward end being such that a substantial portion thereof projects above the surface of the water when the ski is floating free.

4. A self-inclining water ski comprising an elongate member having a forward end and a rear end, a foot harness connected to said member between said ends, a material of substantial buoyancy forming part, at least, of said forward end, a denser, non-buoyant material forming part at least of said rear end whereby when said ski is placed in the water said rear end and said foot harness sinks below the water surface and said front end floats and the ski assumes an inclined position at a substantial angle relative to the water surface, the buoyancy of said forward end being such that a substantial portion thereof projects above the surface of the water when the ski is floating free, and means applied to said forward end whereby the ski will be easily noticed when floating in the water.

5. A self-inclining water ski comprising an elongate member having an upturned forward end, a generally flat rear end, a middle portion, a topside and an underside, a foot harness connected to said topside and on said middle

portion, an element of substantial buoyancy connected to said forward end on said topside and extending from the upturned portion of the forward end to adjacent said middle portion, and a weight applied to said rear end to sink such end and said foot harness below the water surface when the ski is placed in the water and left to float free, the relative buoyancy of said forward end and the weight of said rear end being such that the ski assumes an inclined position at a substantial angle relative to the surface of the water.

6. A self-inclining water ski as recited in claim 1 and wherein said buoyant forward end comprises a hollow air filled compartment.

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