May 5, 1959

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2,884,823

SWIVEL SPRING SNAP OPENER

Filed Oct. 23, 1956

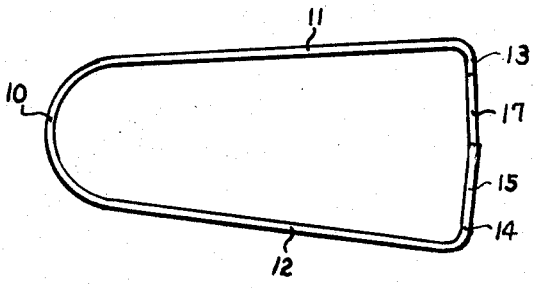


FIG. 1

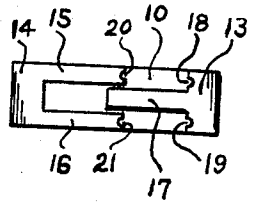


FIG. 3

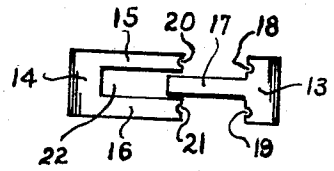


FIG. 4

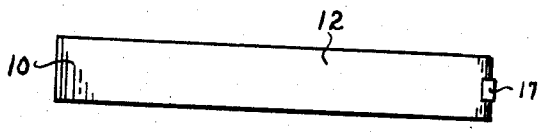


FIG. 2

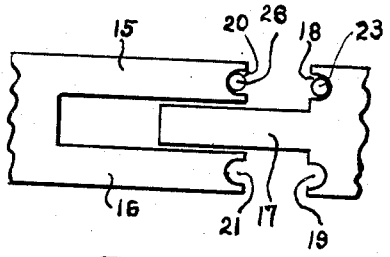


FIG. 6

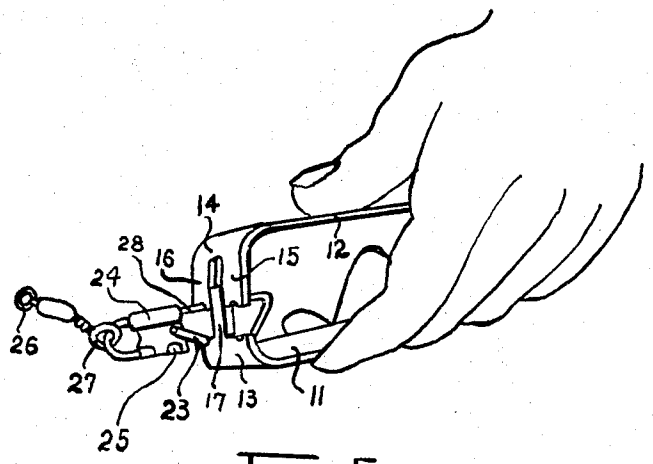


FIG. 5

INVENTOR.

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United States Patent Office 2,884,823 Patented May 5, 1959

2,884,823

SWIVEL SPRING SNAP OPENER

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Application October 23, 1956, Serial No. 617,860

1 Claim. (Cl. 81—3)

This invention relates to fishing tackle and accessories therefore, and particularly pertains to a swivel spring snap opener.

Swivel spring snaps are used to removably secure fish hooks, flies, spoons, lures and plugs to a fish line. The fishermen use their thumb nail and finger to open and close the spring snap. These swivel spring snaps are difficult to open and close by the present method and often the fisherman hurts his finger or splits or breaks his thumb nail while operating the spring snap. The danger of splitting or breaking the thumb nail is greatly increased when the fisherman's hands are wet. The task of operating the spring snap is still more difficult when the fisherman's hands are cold. Women and young anglers encounter even more difficulty in opening and closing the spring snaps than do men. Some fishermen resort to the use of pliers to open and close the spring snaps. This method is not satisfactory and is dangerous because of the presence of fish hooks.

When a swivel spring snap is opened or closed with my novel device the device engages the spring snap and the novel device is in turn held and operated by the hand of the angler. Since the angler's thumb nail does not engage the spring snap when my novel device is used the possibility of breaking or splitting the thumb nail is eliminated. Since the hand is used to operate my novel swivel snap opener more pressure can be applied than in the old method of using the thumb nail to open the spring snap consequently the spring snap can be opened with less effort by the operator. For this reason my novel swivel spring snap opener enables women and children anglers to open and close spring snaps readily. Since my novel swivel spring snap is easily and readily held by the fisherman's hand it enables the fisherman to readily operate the spring snap when his hands are wet or cold. My novel device is also a valuable aid in operating the spring snaps in subdued light.

The object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that is adapted to easily and readily open and close the spring snap of a swivel spring snap.

Another object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that eliminates the danger of breaking or splitting the fisherman's thumb nail while opening or closing spring snaps.

Another object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that eliminates the danger of a fisherman being hurt by a fish hook while opening or closing a spring snap.

Another object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that readily enables women and children anglers to open and close spring snaps.

Another object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that aids in opening and closing spring snaps in subdued light.

Another object of my invention is to provide a swivel spring snap opener that is strong, durable and inexpensive.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination

and arrangements of parts, hereinafter fully described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part of the application, and in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts, and in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of my novel swivel spring snap opener.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of my novel swivel spring snap opener shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of my novel swivel spring snap opener.

Figure 4 is a partial side elevation of my novel swivel spring snap opener showing only the side of my novel device.

Figure 5 is a pictorial view of my novel swivel spring snap opener engaging a swivel spring snap while held in a hand.

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary view showing how my novel spring snap opener engages the spring snap member.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the numeral **10** indicates a loop of flat spring metal. This loop **10** carries arm members **11** and **12** which are slightly diverging with respect to each other. At the end of the arms **11** and **12** are portions bent toward each other, as indicated at **13** and **14**. The portions **13** and **14** are provided with inwardly extending flat finger portions **15**, **16** and **17**. The finger portions **15** and **16** are spaced and are integral with the inwardly bent portion **14**. The flat finger portion **17** is integral with the inwardly bent portion **13** and is adapted to slide between the finger portions **15** and **16** in order to keep the various portions in proper alignment. A pair of notches **18** and **19** are located in the inwardly bent portion **13** and a second pair of notches **20** and **21** are located in the fingers **15** and **16** as shown in Figures 3 and 4. These notches are so located that when the inwardly bent portion **13** is forced into engagement with the flat fingers **15** and **16** the notches **18** and **20** and also the notches **19** and **21** are in juxtaposition. Two pairs of notches are preferably provided so that either side of my novel swivel spring snap opener may be used to open a spring snap.

When my novel swivel spring snap is used it is held in a fisherman's hand as shown in Figure 5 and pressure is applied to force the arm members **11** and **12** toward each other. As the arm members **11** and **12** are moved toward each other the finger **17** moves in the guide slot **22** between the fingers **15** and **16**. One pair of notches is then made to engage the spring snap **23**. As the arm members **11** and **12** are moved still closer together the spring snap **23** of the swivel spring snap **24** is forced out of engagement with the spring snap catch **25** as shown in Figure 5. The device is then slightly twisted to force the spring snap **23** out of alignment with the spring snap catch **25**. The pressure on the arms **11** and **12** is then released allowing the spring snap **23** to spring open. When the spring snap **23** is open fish hooks or lures may be removed from or placed on the spring snap. My novel swivel spring snap opener is also adapted for closing the spring snap. When it is desired to close the spring snap the arm members **11** and **12** are forced toward each other so that one pair of notches engages the opposite sides of the spring snap **23**. Figure 6 shows one pair of notches in engagement with the spring snap member **23**. The arm members **11** and **12** are then forced further together causing the free end of the spring snap **23** to pass the spring snap catch **25**. When the spring snap reaches a position substantially as shown in Figure 5 the swivel spring snap opener is twisted slightly so that the free end of the spring snap **23** will engage the spring snap catch **25** when the pressure on the arms **11** and **12** is released. As the pressure on the arms **11** and **12** is released the spring action of the loop por-

tion **10** causes the arm members **11** and **12** to move apart. At the same time the spring snap **23** spreads thus allowing the free end of the spring snap **23** to engage the spring snap catch **25**. The spring snap is then closed and will then retain the fish hook or lure that has been placed on the spring snap.

From the above description of the operation of my novel swivel spring snap opener it will be noted that neither the thumb nail nor the finger of the fisherman engage the spring snap in opening or closing the swivel spring snap. Consequently, the possibility of breaking or splitting the thumb nail is eliminated with the use of my novel device. In the operation of my novel swivel spring snap opener the hand is used to supply pressure for opening and closing the spring snap. Greater pressure can be applied by means of the hand than with the thumb and finger hence the spring snap can be opened more by the use of my novel swivel spring snap opener. Hence, women and children anglers can readily open and close spring snaps with the use of my novel swivel spring snap opener. At the same time the danger of being injured by fish hooks is minimized. When it is cold it is much easier to grip my novel swivel spring snap opener and operate the spring snap than to use the thumb nail and finger.

While I have described one embodiment of my invention it is apparent that many modifications therein can be made in the combination, construction and arrangements of the parts by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

What I claim is:

A swivel spring snap opener of the type described comprising a flat resilient U-shaped member, an inwardly extending portion integral with each leg of said U-shaped member, a pair of spaced fingers extending inwardly from one of said inwardly extending portions, a single finger extending inwardly from the second of said inwardly extending portions and adapted to slide between said pair of spaced fingers, a notch located in the end of one of said pair of spaced fingers and a second notch located in said second inwardly extending portion, said notches adapted to engage the spring snap of a swivel spring snap for opening and closing said spring snap.

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