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W. H. MATTHAI

1,617,075

DECOY

Filed Oct. 4, 1926

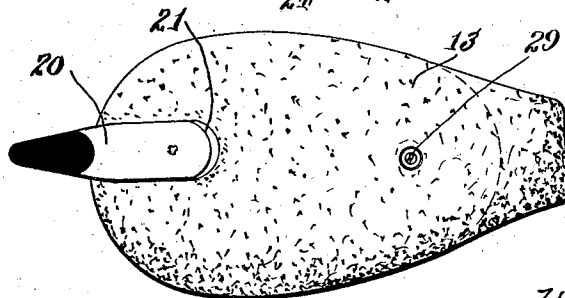
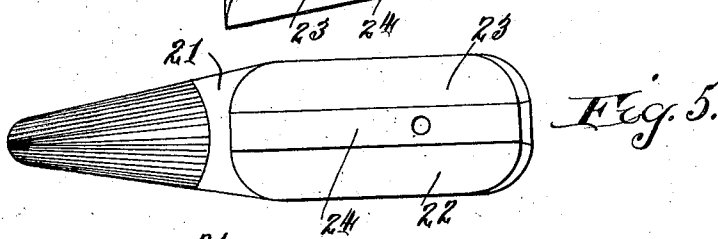
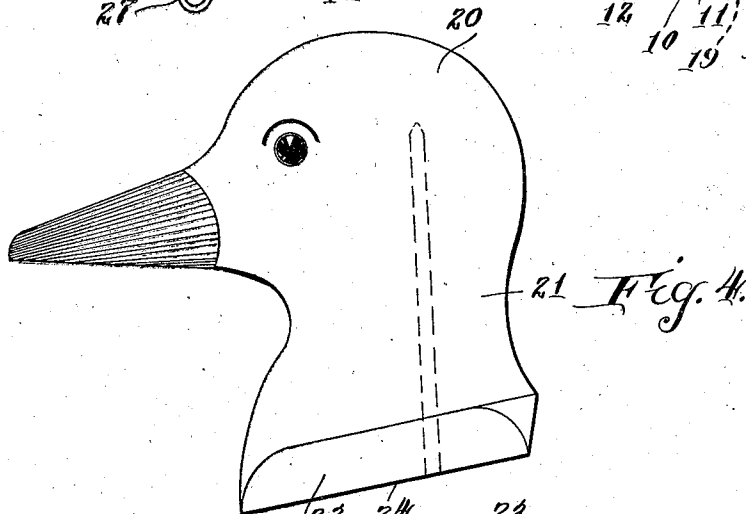
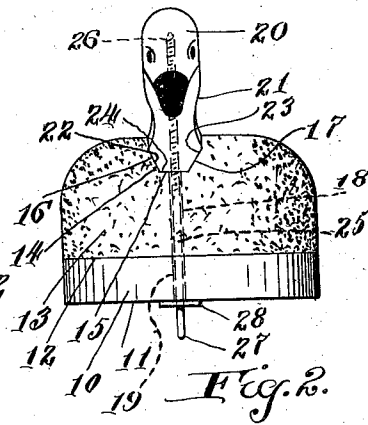
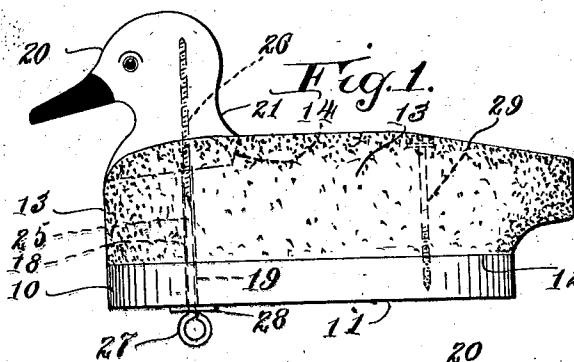


Fig. 3.

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DECOY.

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This invention relates to improvements in decoys and has for its object to provide an improved construction of decoy for the use of sportsmen in shooting wild ducks.

5 Other objects of the invention are to provide a decoy that will be of the size of a live duck; that will be self-righting when thrown into the water; that will be much lighter than the conventional wooden decoy and in which the head will be reinforced in such way that when grasped, as is the custom in handling decoys, it will not readily break off, and which, in case the head is mutilated by shot or otherwise damaged, it may readily be removed and a new head substituted.

With these and other objects in view, the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein,—

20 Fig. 1 shows the improved decoy in side elevation.

Fig. 2 illustrates the same in front view.

Fig. 3 shows the decoy in top or plan view.

25 Fig. 4 illustrates the detached head in side elevation, and

Fig. 5 shows the head in inverted or bottom view.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 10 designates a comparatively thick and heavy wooden base block of a somewhat oval or elliptical shape and having a flat bottom 11, and in this instance a flat upper or top surface at 12.

35 On the flat base block I mount the body 13, of the decoy.

This body 13 is formed of a lighter material than the base block, such as cork, and in actual practice I have found it quite satisfactory to make use of ground cork which is suitably shaped and molded or pressed together with or without a binder,—there frequently being sufficient resin in the cork to serve as a binder when the cork is heated and shaped to hold the same together.

40 Not only does the cork produce a body that is light in weight but I find in practice that it will not splinter and split like wood or be damaged as metal will be when struck by shot.

The cork body may readily be painted in imitation of the duck and is not subject to mutilation or scars as is wood or metal.

55 When forming or shaping the cork body 13, I provide a longitudinal groove or recess 14, in the top thereof at the front.

In this instance the longitudinal groove or recess 14 has a flat bottom 15, and oppositely-inclined side walls 16 and 17 flaring as they extend upwardly from the flat bottom 15, as can be seen in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

In practice I have found that certain advantages, presently to be explained, are gained by locating the longitudinal groove or recess 14 slightly to one side of the longitudinal center of the body 13 as may be seen in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawing.

From the base 15 of the groove 14, to the bottom surface of the cork body 13, I provide a vertical passage 18 and in the wood base 10 I provide another vertical passage 19 which registers with the passage 18 in the body, both for a purpose to be explained.

The head 20 and neck 21 of the decoy may be formed of any desired material but in practice I employ wood for this purpose, and the base of the neck is provided with opposite beveled sides 22 and 23 and a flat bottom 24 so as to conform in shape to the shape of the longitudinal groove or recess 14 in the body.

By thus forming an irregularly-shaped body recess or groove and a correspondingly-shaped neck-base the two may be brought together and the neck and head prevented from twisting or turning from its fixed position with respect to the body and a single fastening may be utilized to hold the neck and head to the body, as will now be explained.

A long pin 25, having a screw-threaded upper end 26, may be and preferably is passed freely up through the passage 19 in the wood base and then freely up through the passage 18 in the cork body 13 and the upper threaded end 25 of this pin screws into the base of the neck 21, and extends well up into the head 20 as shown in broken lines in Fig. 1 of the drawing, and as it screws into the neck this pin draws the head and neck down into the body-groove 14, and holds them firmly in that groove so it cannot turn.

105 The lower end of this pin 25, is provided with an eye 27 which seats against a washer 28 through which the pin passes as it enters the wooden base block 10 and the washer therefore is seated against the bottom of this base block.

At the rear of the body 13, I provide a

bolt or screw 29 which extends into both the wooden base 10 and the cork body 13 so as to securely hold the two together at the rear end of the decoy.

5 The eye 27 on the lower end of pin or screw 25, serves for the engagement of an anchor line by which the decoy may be anchored in position.

10 In handling decoys it is common practice to lift the same by the head and as heretofore constructed the heads frequently break off causing a considerable loss. By means of the present invention the heads are reinforced by the single retaining screw and are
15 much less liable to damage during handling.

When a head is damaged by shot as frequently occurs, the entire decoy is not a loss, because the head may be readily removed and a new one substituted.

20 Shot entering the body does no material damage and can hardly be located.

Because of the heavier base and the lighter body together with the slight off-setting of the head and neck with respect to the longitudinal center of the body, the decoy will
25 turn upright no matter how it is thrown or placed in the water.

If turned over by waves or strong wind or by contact with a boat, the decoy will
30 immediately right itself because of the aforesaid base and body construction.

Having described my invention, I claim,—

35 1. In a floating decoy the combination with a decoy body of a light weight material, of a heavier base having a flat bottom said base being of a material that will float in water, a neck and head separate from the

body but engaging the body by a projection on one entering a recess in the other to prevent rotation of one element with respect to the other and a fastening for drawing the neck and body together to hold the same with the said projection and recess engaged.

2. In a floating decoy the combination with a base having a flat bottom of a decoy
45 body seated on the base and provided at its upper side and one end with a longitudinal groove, a head and neck, the latter having a bottom shaped to seat in the longitudinal groove of the body whereby to be held
50 against turning on the body and a fastening extending up through the base and body and out through the longitudinal groove into the neck to draw the neck down in said groove.

3. In a floating decoy the combination
55 with a flat wooden thick base of substantially an elliptical shape of a cork decoy body on said base, a neck and head on top of the cork body at one end thereof and a fastening
60 extending up through the thick wooden base and through the cork body and screwing into the neck to secure both the body and neck to the base.

4. In a floating decoy the combination
65 with a flat thick wooden base, of a cork decoy body on said base, a neck and head on the cork body at one end thereof and located slightly to one side of a vertical longitudinal center of the body and a fastening
70 extending from the body into the neck to hold the latter in place on the body.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM HOWARD MATTHAI.