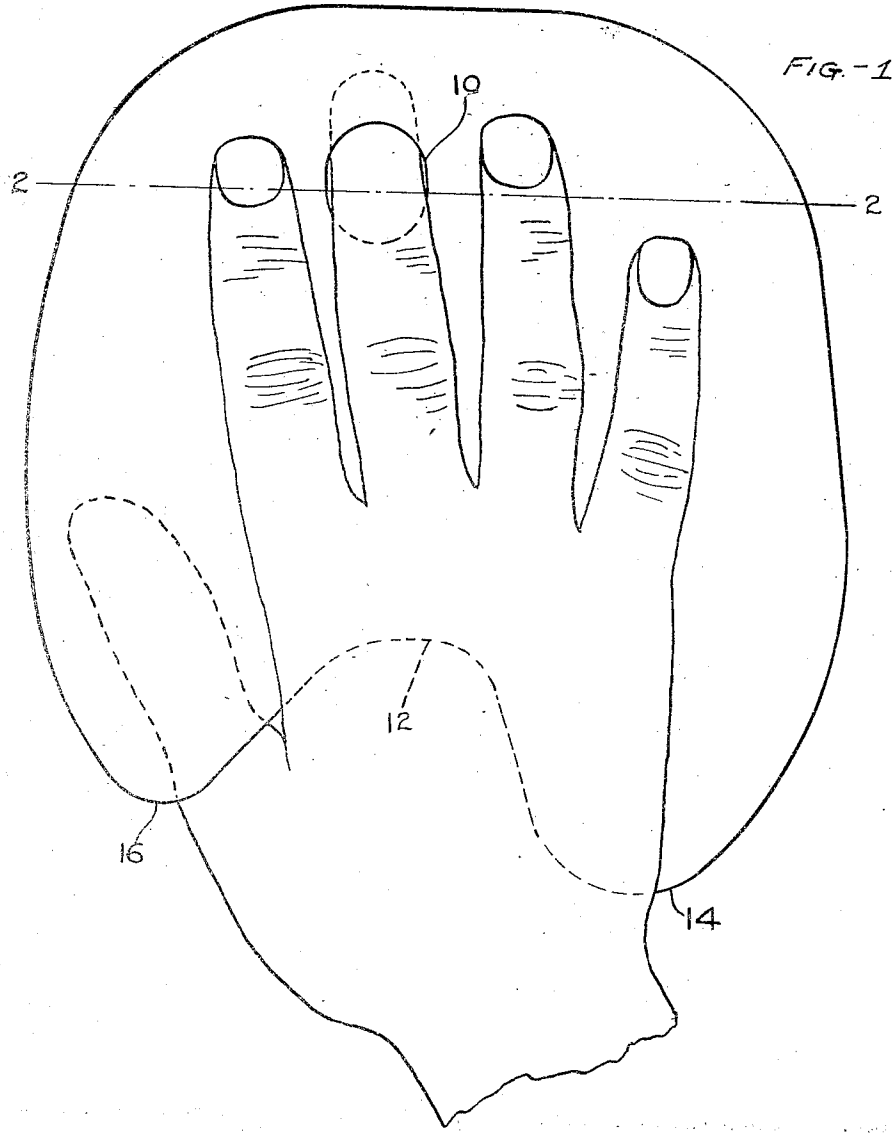
G. L. PARKER.

SWIMMING PADDLE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 27, 1921.

1,409,761. Patented Mar. 14, 1922.

FIG. 1



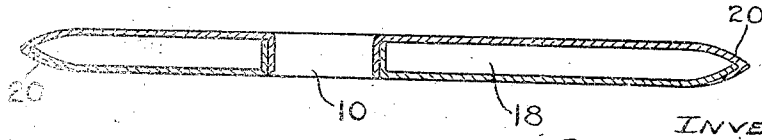


FIG. 2

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. PARKER, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

SWIMMING PADDLE.

1,409,761. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 14, 1922.

Application filed June 27, 1921. Serial No. 480,611.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. PARKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Swimming Paddles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to swimming paddles and an object is to provide a device which will act as an aid to swimmers so as to increase their speed in traveling through the water and will also enable beginners to remain upon the surface with greater ease. Another object is to provide a device of this character which may be easily applied to the hands and quickly released therefrom and which when released will float upon the water. Another object is to provide a paddle which may be retained in place upon the palm of the hand without cramping any of the members of the hand.

The full objects and advantages of my invention will appear in connection with the detailed description thereof and the novel features embodied in my inventive idea will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing which illustrates the application of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing the position of the right hand when the swimming paddle is held thereby. Fig. 2 is a view of the device in section at the position indicated on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the paddle is intended to rest upon the palm of the hand and the inside of the fingers with the middle finger inserted in a hole 10 which is located toward the outer end of the device and nearer one side than the other. The inner end is constructed re-entrant at 12 with the portion at 14 extending out further than the portion at 16 and the remainder of the outline of the device is curved. On account of this construction, the hand fits upon the device so as to be equally spaced from the sides thereof and the re-entrant portion accommodates the hand so that the thumb extends upon the opposite face of the paddle from that which is engaged by the fingers, so that the paddle is held firmly by the pressure of the thumb and all of the members of the hand are arranged in such position that no cramping action thereof is produced. It will be observed that the device is interchangeable for the right and left hands, it being necessary only to place one hand or the other in engagement with opposite faces of the paddle according to which hand is being fitted therewith. Therefore, one pattern serves for both hands and it is necessary to vary the pattern in size only to provide for different sizes of hands. The device may be made of wood or other suitable sheet material.

As shown in Fig. 2, the device may be made hollow so as to provide an air chamber 18, and in this form may be made from any suitable sheet material, but aluminum is considered preferable on account of its lightness and freedom from rust. The sheet material constituting the walls of the air chamber has the edges overlapped at 20 and brazed together so as to form a tight joint. The hole 10 is formed by overlapping the edges of the material at this place and brazing the same together. This serves to strengthen the walls of the blade and prevent them from being stressed out of proper position.

The operation and advantages of my invention will be understood from the foregoing description. The device is readily applied to either hand by placing one side or the other in contact with the palm of the hand according to whether it is the right or left hand. The middle finger is inserted in the hole in order to retain the outer end of the device in place and the device as a whole is retained in place by gripping the inner end between the palm of the hand and the thumb. Upon releasing the grip of the thumb, the hand is at once freed from the device so that the hands of the swimmer are free to grasp objects or persons who need assistance while in the water. The paddles on account of being light or provided with air chambers will float on the water and on account of their buoyancy will assist in keeping afloat persons provided therewith. In swimming the pressure comes upon the palm of the hand in a natural way without tendency to cramp any of the members of the hand. The edge of the paddle may be thinned down or made sloping, as shown, so that the return portion of the stroke may be made with ease. Suitable sheet material may be readily stamped out in proper shape to constitute the walls of the blade and the edges thereof may be secured together in well known manner.

I claim:

1. A swimming paddle comprising a blade

provided with a hole toward the outer end thereof whereby when the middle finger is inserted therein said blade will rest squarely upon the palm of the hand, said blade having a re-entrant portion at its other end so positioned that the thumb is adapted to engage the opposite surface of the blade from that engaged by the palm of the hand.

2. A swimming paddle comprising a blade having walls of sheet material enclosing an air chamber, said blade being provided with a finger hole which is constituted by overlapping edges of the walls whereby said blade is strengthened.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

GEORGE L. PARKER.