March 3, 1931. D. W. CORDER ET AL 1,794,883

SPORTSMAN'S BUOYANT SUIT

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Fig. 1.

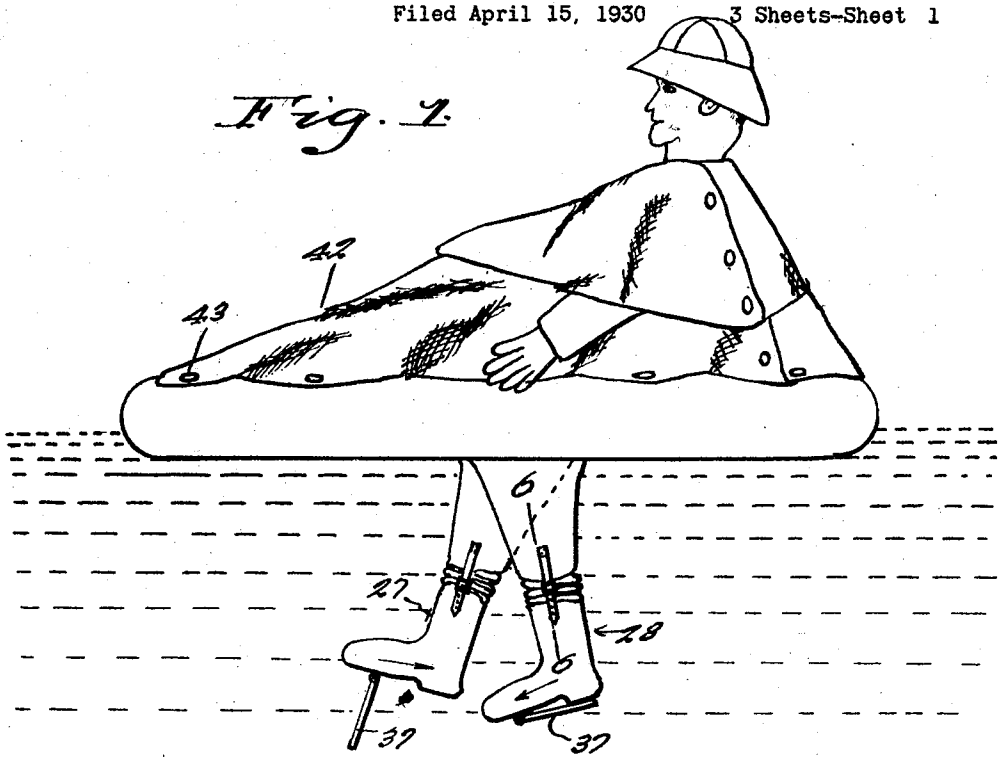


Fig. 8.

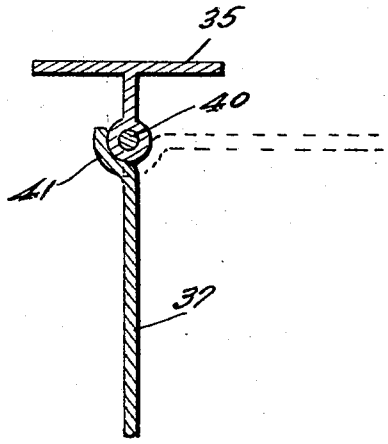
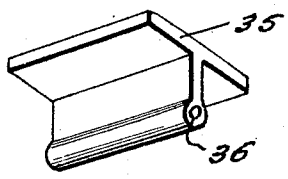


Fig. 9.



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SPORTSMAN'S BUOYANT SUIT

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Fig. 2.

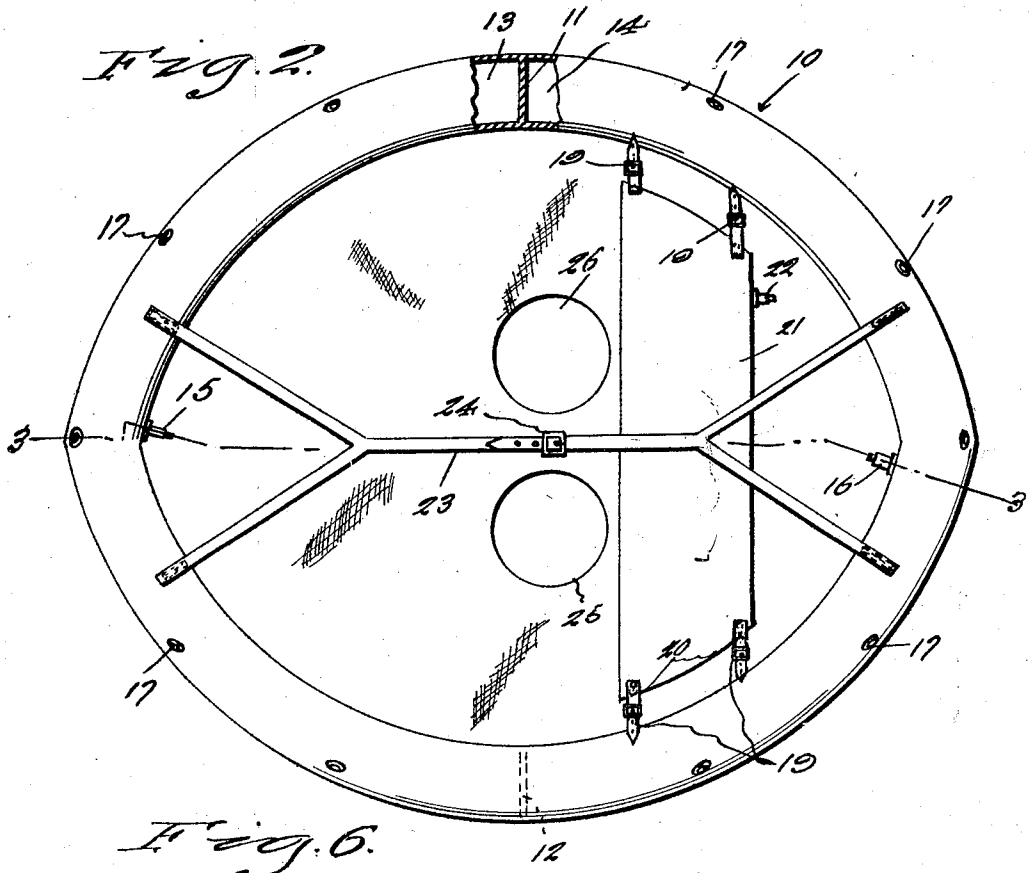


Fig. 6.

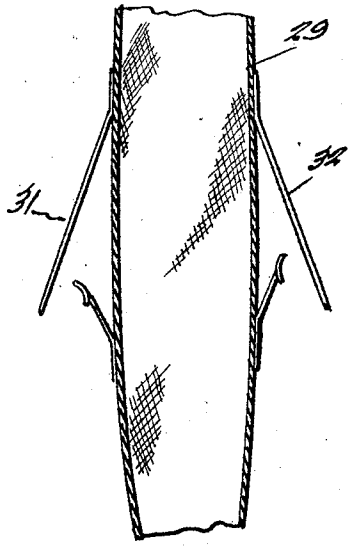
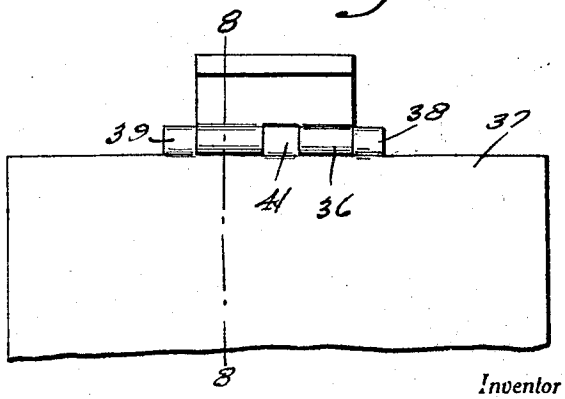


Fig. 7



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SPORTSMAN'S BUOYANT SUIT

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Fig. 3.

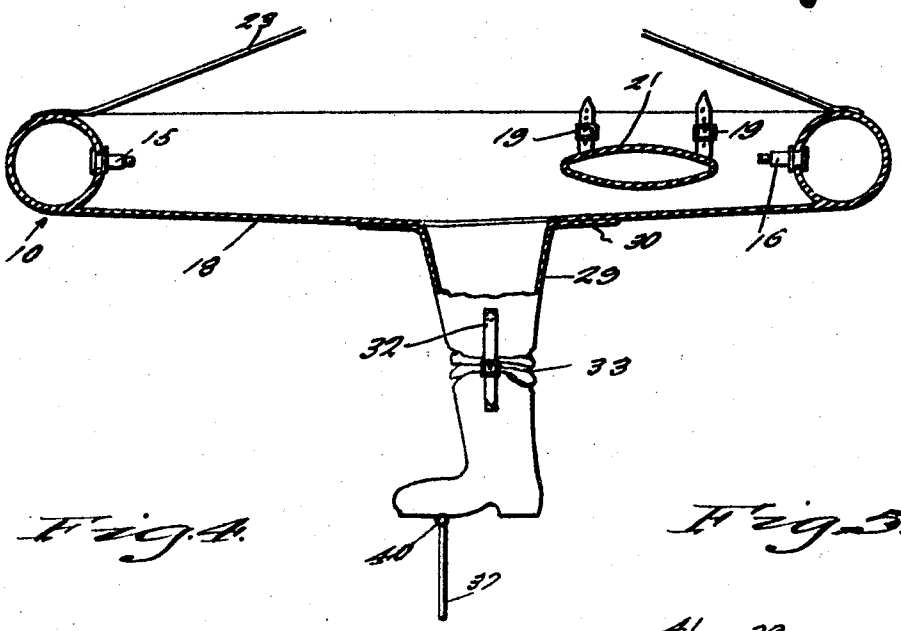


Fig. 4.

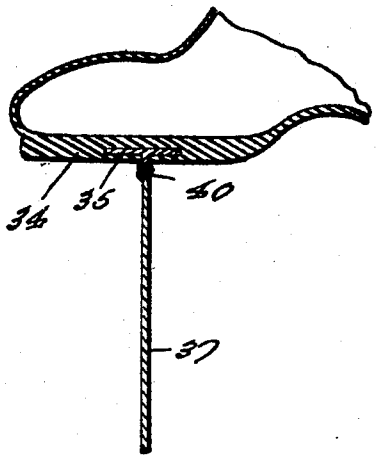
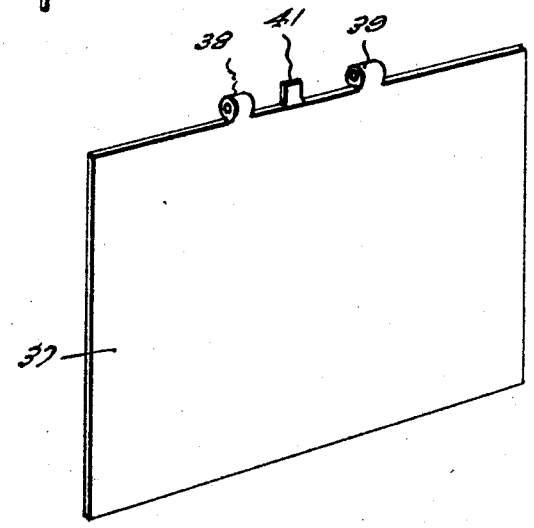


Fig. 5.



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Patented Mar. 3, 1931 1,794,883

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DAVE W. CORDER AND CLARKE H. LAWRENCE, OF CODY, WYOMING

SPORTSMAN'S BUOYANT SUIT

Application filed April 15, 1930. Serial No. 444,476.

This invention relates to buoyant suits, and an object of the invention is to provide a suit for sportmen which will support the sportsman on the surface of the water and also provide propelling means for moving one person through the water.

Further objects of the invention are to provide a device of the character referred to that is strong, compact and durable, thoroughly reliable for its intended purpose, one that is collapsible and easily stored in the minimum of space, and is thoroughly reliable in its operation and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists of a novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein is disclosed an embodiment of the invention, but it is to be understood that changes, variations and modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts throughout the several views:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device shown supported on the water.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view, partly broken away and having the cover removed,

Fig. 3 is a vertical detailed section taken substanially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through the foot portion of the boot,

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the propelling fins,

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary vertical section through the leg of the boot,

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side elevation of the fin and anchor hinge therefor,

Fig. 8 is a vertical section taken substantially on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7, and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the anchor for the hinge.

In the drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown the preferred embodiment of our invention, 10 indicates generally a buoyant flexible rim formed of rubber which is substantially oval in configuration and tubular in cross section. This end is substantially oval it is pointed at the front and back thereof along the major diameter, as will be clearly understood by referring to the drawings.

The rim end is divided by internal partition walls 11, 12, located across the minor diameter of the rim and these partition walls divide the rim into two compartments 13, 14 which are inflatable by the valves 15, 16 about the top surface of the tube are disposed spaced fasteners 17 which may be of any conventional type.

A bottom wall 18 is formed of flexible water-proof material sufficiently strong to withstand the weight of the human body. The bottom wall 18 is vulcanized or otherwise joined about its perimeter to the lower wall of the tubular rim 10.

Pairs of buckles 19 are secured to the inner periphery of the rim rearwardly of the major diameter to which are connected the straps 20 on the opposite ends of the hollow inflatable seat 21 that is disposed across the rim.

This hollow seat 21 is inflatable thru the valve 22 and is formed of air-proof and water-proof fabric. Disposed across the major portion or diameter of the rim 10 is the shoulder strap 23 adjustable and detachable intermediate its ends by means of the buckle 24. This strap is adapted to fit over the shoulders of the person while the body is resting in the suit.

The bottom wall 18 of the suit is formed with a pair of openings 25, 26, one to each side of the major diameter and slightly to the rear of the minor diameter.

A pair of rubber boots indicated generally at 27, 28 have the upper ends of the legs 29 thereof formed with a lateral flange 30 that is vulcanized to the bottom wall 18 about the openings 25, 26. Thus there is formed a water-tight joint between the pair of boots and the bottom wall 18.

Intermediate the ends of the leg portions 29 a pair of boots are adjustable longitudinally by pairs of straps 31, 32, on the sides of each boot. When it is desired to adjust the boots longitudinally, the straps are taken

up forming cleats 33, in the legs of the boots.

In the soles 34 of each boot, are vulcanized aluminum anchor plates 35, one for each boot, and depending from each anchor plate is a sleeve disposed transversely of the sole and below the surface thereof. This anchor plate is preferably formed of aluminum so as to be light and yet non-corrosive.

The sleeve is indicated at 36. To the depending sleeves 36, of each boot, there is rockably mounted a rectangular plate fin 37 formed of aluminum so as to be light and non-corrosive. From the center of the upper edge there projects a pair of sleeves 38, 39, which are spaced to overlap the ends of the sleeves 36.

The fins are secured to the sleeves on the sole of each boot fin 40 that provide a hinge for the fins. The fins 37 are substantially wider than the soles of the boots, and provide propelling means for the suit.

Intermediate the sleeves 38, 39, on each fin 37, is an upstanding, forwardly outset lug 41 that prevents each fin from rocking forwardly further than a vertical position because it bears against the sleeve 36 depending from the soles of the boots when it rotates to the vertical position. However, the lug 41 does not prevent the fins from rotating rearwardly on its axis.

A hood 42 is so formed to fit over the shoulders of the person when the person is seated in the seat. This hood 42 is formed of waterproof flexible cloth and around the bottom periphery thereof is formed with snap fasteners 43 which engage with the snap fasteners 17 of the upper face of the rim 10.

The hood permits the neck of the person to extend clear thereof.

In the application of the invention, the body of the person rests on the seat 21 with the legs disposed in the boot to make the legs of the boot comfortable on the person, the straps 31, 32 on each boot, will adjust the leg portions to the proper length.

The shoulder strap 23 is then reached over one shoulder and the hood is attached to the rim 10.

The suit will then support the person in an upright position on the water as is clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Now to propel the person forwardly, all that is necessary to be done, is to manipulate the legs slightly like in walking. As the legs move rearwardly, the fins are extended to a vertical position as shown in the right leg in Fig. 1 of the drawings, and these fins act as paddles to propel the body forwardly.

When the leg is moved forwardly, the fins will fold against the heel as is clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, thereby reducing resistance of the water to the movement of the leg forwardly through the water.

Furthermore, by having the fins foldable, as is shown in the left leg in Fig. 1 of the drawings, in event the feet reach the bottom, the person may walk on the bottom without any material discomfort because the fins will fold against the heels.

The present embodiment of the invention has been disclosed in considerable detail merely for the purpose of exemplification since in actual practice it attains the features of advantage enumerated as desirable in the statement of the invention and the above description.

It is to be understood that by describing in detail herein any particular form, structure, or arrangement, it is not intended to limit the invention beyond the terms of the several claims, or the requirements of the prior art.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new is:—

1. A device of the class described comprising an inflatable rim, a flexible bottom wall extending across the rim, a pair of boots depending from the bottom wall, propelling fins depending from the sole of the boots, an inflatable seat forming member detachably connected to the rim and extending across a part of the same, a hood covering the body of the user detachably connected with the rim and having an opening therein for receiving the neck of the user.

2. A device of the class described comprising an inflatable rim, a flexible bottom wall extending across the rim, a pair of boots depending from the bottom wall, propelling fins depending from the soles of the boots, metal members inserted in the soles of the boots to which the fins are hinged, means for limiting the forward movement of the fins to prevent the fins from moving forwarly beyond a position perpendicular to the boots.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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CLARKE H. LAWRENCE.