The present invention relates to a carrier for fishing gear such as hooks, flies, leaders, etc., in the form of a hat band.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a device of this nature which is designed to carry a plurality of hooks of different specific sizes. It is a further object that the component parts of the carrier shall be made of stock materials, i.e., cloth, wire, etc., and that the design of the carrier shall be such as to permit economical manufacture on a small scale with the aid of conventional manually operated tools.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the removable hat band carrier mounted on a hat.

Figure 2 is an enlarged front elevation of a portion of the carrier shown in Figure 1, the strip of fabric being in part pulled away from the backing.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3--3 of Figure 2, showing a side elevation of one type of retainer used in the carrier.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4--4 of Figure 2, showing a side elevation of the other type of retainer used in the carrier, and

Figure 5 is an enlarged perspective of the retainer shown in Figure 3.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 shows the carrier mounted for use on a hat. The carrier, represented generally by 1, comprises a multiple layer fabric band 2, provided with a buckle 3 for joining the ends of the band, and retainers 4 and 5 mounted at intervals along the length of the band and held securely in position by the stitching 6.

While it is within the scope of my invention to employ a single strip of fabric to form the band 2 onto which the retainers 4 and 5 are secured by stitching, adhesive, or adhesive tape, the preferred construction is indicated in Figures 2 and 3.

The band 2 consists of a flexible backing layer or strip 7 and a flexible outer facing layer or strip 8. These strips are preferably of heavy fabric material. The retainers 4 and 5 are disposed between the two fabric strips or plies and are held firmly in position by the stitching 6 which unites the two fabric strips into a band. If desired, additional rows of stitching may be employed in the vicinity of the retainers 4 and 5, or the retainers may be first stitched in place on the backing strip 7 before the facing strip 8 is applied and stitched onto the backing strip.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the retainers are of two types which are disposed alternately at intervals along the band, being spaced apart preferably about 11/4 inches. The conformation of the retainers is such that the portion disposed between the strips 1 and 8 lies substantially in the plane formed by the adjacent faces of the strips.

Each retainer 4 is formed by shaping six bends (numbered 9 through 14 in the drawings), into a length of straight wire. The bend 9 forms an annulus or eye which serves to carry a fish hook. While this eye may be made in any practical size, I prefer to prepare the bend 9 as an eye having an opening of 1/8 inch. This will take hook sizes 1 to 12 in most style hooks. The bend 10 is formed directly below the bend 9 and is also made as an eye, but is preferably of an inside diameter greater than that of the eye 9. This serves to retain larger hooks and if the opening is 1/4 inch, the eye will take wet or dry fly hook sizes 12 to 20.

The eyes 9 and 10 are disposed in substantially the same vertical plane. The portion of the wire between the bends 10 and 13 lies in a single vertical plane which is perpendicular to the plane occupied by the eyes 9 and 10.

Bends 11 and 12 are approximately 90° each and form between them the offsetting portion 15. This construction removes any tendency which the retainer may have to twist in its position between the plies of fabric.

The bend 13 lies in a vertical plane parallel to the plane formed by the eyes 9 and 10 and provides the portion 16, hereinafter referred to as the loop. The loop 16 extends upwardly substantially parallel to and spaced apart from the portion 17, between the bends 12 and 13. The loop 16 terminates in a bend or tip 14 which is formed to facilitate insertion of the leader.

The retainers 5 are identical with the retainers 4 with the exception that the former have no bend 13, loop 16, or tip 14. Employment of the retainers 5 in alternation with retainers 4 doubles the number of eyes available for carrying hooks and flies, but as the number of loops 16 provided by the retainers 4 is sufficient for retaining a maximum number of leaders, it is not necessary to provide the retainers 5 with additional loops.

It has been determined that carriers produced with retainers having two standard eye sizes are practical for most purposes. While retainers may be formed with additional eyes in any combination of sizes and thus serve to carry a large number of hooks, the embodiment illustrated in the drawings is adapted especially for carrying flies and leaders. When both eyes of a retainer are used to carry flies, it is best to insert the hook of one fly from the left of the retainer and the hook of the second fly from the right of the retainer. The leaders may be engaged with one or more of the conveniently located loops.

It should be noted that the described arrangement of the retainers at particular intervals along the long axis of the band is not essential
to the practice of the invention. That is to say, it is intended that the spacing distance between retainers or the total number of retainers mounted on a particular band be varied to meet any purpose. In certain cases it may be desirable to employ only retainers of the type represented by 4 or to remove the eye containing ends of some of the retainers. It is also contemplated that the proportion of retainers of any one type with respect to the total number of retainers employed in a band may be varied, and in one useful embodiment of the invention all retainers adapted for carrying leaders are positioned in the band in such a way as to be at the rear when the band is mounted on a hat.

Using my design, an unskilled workman will be capable of producing a sturdy and practical carrier from inexpensive and readily available stock materials.

I claim:

1. A carrier for fishing gear comprising a flexible band composed of a facing strip and a backing strip and a plurality of wire retainers secured to said band, each of said retainers having a portion lying between said strips and extending entirely across the width of said band and secured to said band, each of said retainers having an additional portion projecting beyond one edge of said band adapted to carry fish hooks and part only of said retainers having in addition to said last named portion, a portion extending beyond the opposite edge of said band adapted to carry leaders.

2. A carrier for fishing gear in the form of a hat band comprising a backing strip and a facing strip secured to said backing strip, a plurality of retainers of a first type secured to said band, each consisting of a middle portion disposed between said strips, an end portion projecting above the upper edge of said band and having therein at least two eyes of different sizes and an opposite end portion projecting below the lower edge of said band and having therein a loop, and a plurality of retainers of a second type secured to said band, each consisting of a portion disposed between said strips and a portion projecting above the upper edge of said band and having therein at least two eyes of different sizes, the retainers of the first type being spaced apart at intervals along the length of said band alternately with the retainers of the second type, every retainer having its portion disposed between said strips formed with a plurality of bends and straight sections lying in a single plane.

3. A carrier as defined in claim 2 in which the eyes of each retainer lie in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the band at the point adjacent said eyes.

4. A hat band as defined in claim 2 in which each retainer loop lies in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the band at the point adjacent the loop.

5. A carrier for fishing gear in the form of a hat band comprising a backing strip, a facing strip secured to said backing strip, and a plurality of wire retainers secured to said band at intervals along the length of said band, each comprising a portion disposed between said strips, an end portion projecting above the upper edge of said band and having therein at least two eyes of different sizes and an opposite end portion projecting below the lower edge of said band, said portion disposed between said strips being formed with a plurality of bends and straight sections lying in a single plane.

6. A carrier for fishing gear in the form of a hat band comprising a backing strip, a facing strip secured to said backing strip, and a plurality of wire retainers secured to said band at intervals along the length of said band, each comprising a portion disposed between said strips and a portion projecting above the upper edge of said band and having therein at least two eyes of different sizes, said portion disposed between said strips being formed with a plurality of bends and straight sections lying in a single plane.

7. A device for carrying fishing gear comprising a hat band and at least one wire retainer mounted on said hat band, said retainer comprising an upstanding portion extending above the upper edge of said band, at least one eye in said upstanding portion, a depending portion laterally offset from said upstanding portion and extending below the lower edge of said band, a loop in said depending portion, and a portion connecting said upstanding portion with said depending portion.

8. A device as defined in claim 7 wherein said connecting portion has a plurality of bends and straight sections.

9. A carrier in the form of a hat band for fishing gear comprising a flexible strip and a plurality of wire retainers secured at intervals along said strip, each of said retainers having a portion extending across the width of said band and at least one eye for receiving a fishing hook and a portion projecting beyond the other edge of the strip provided with at least one eye for receiving a fishing leader.

10. A carrier in the form of a hat band for fishing gear comprising a flexible strip and a plurality of wire retainers secured at intervals along said strip, each of said retainers comprising a portion secured to said strip extending across the width thereof and having a plurality of bends and straight sections adapted to prevent rotation of the retainer with respect to the strip, at least one of said retainers having a portion projecting beyond one edge of the strip and including at least one eye adapted to receive a fish hook, and at least one of said retainers having a portion projecting beyond the other edge of the strip and including a loop adapted to receive a leader.

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