May 21, 1968 S. E. LUSBY 3,384,045

TROLLING DEVICE FOR HIGH POWERED MOTORBOATS

Filed Aug. 17, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

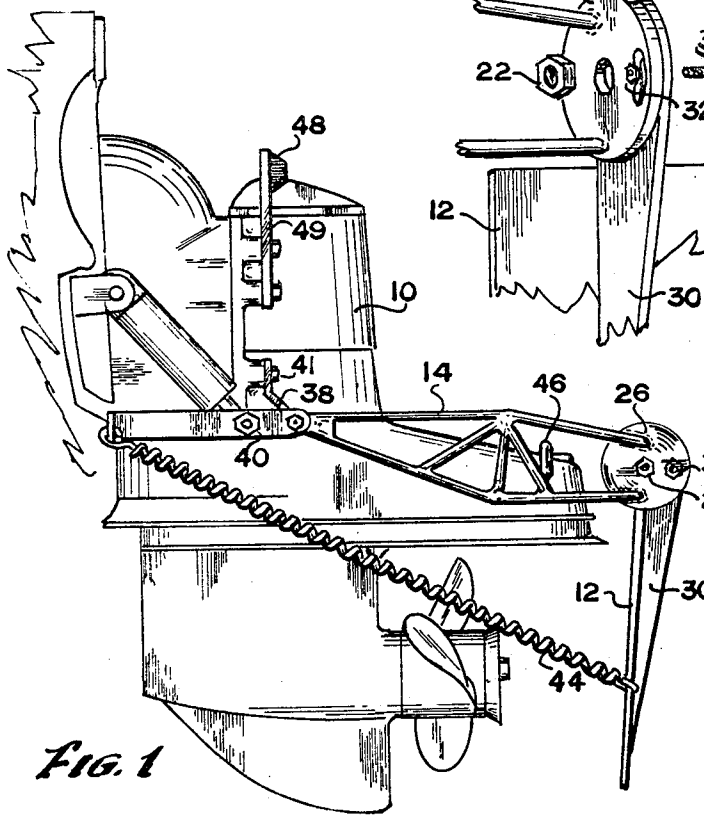


FIG. 1

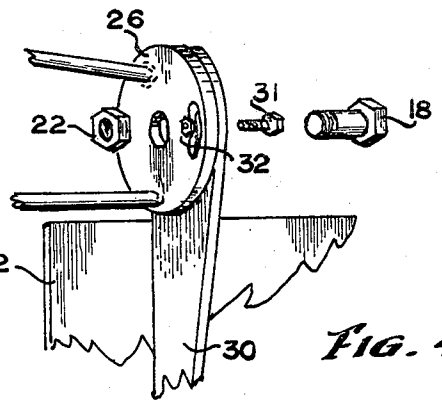


FIG. 4

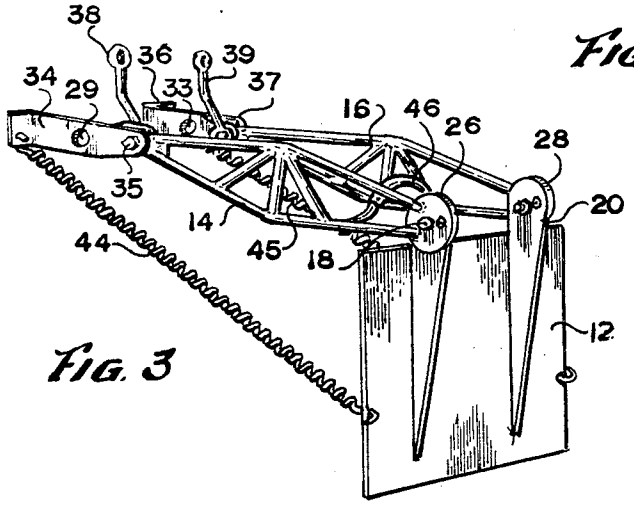


FIG. 3

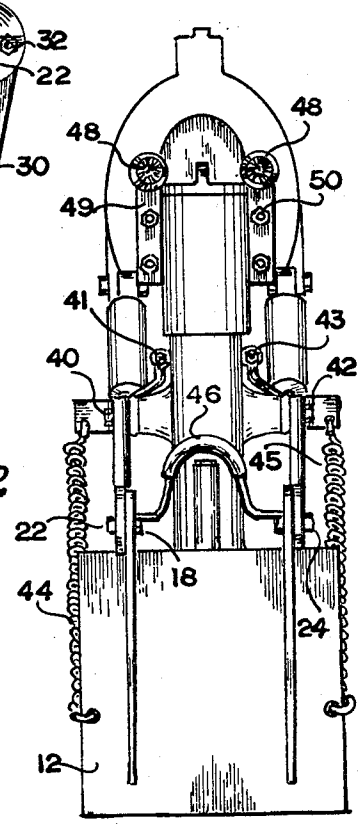


FIG. 2

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TROLLING DEVICE FOR HIGH POWERED MOTORBOATS

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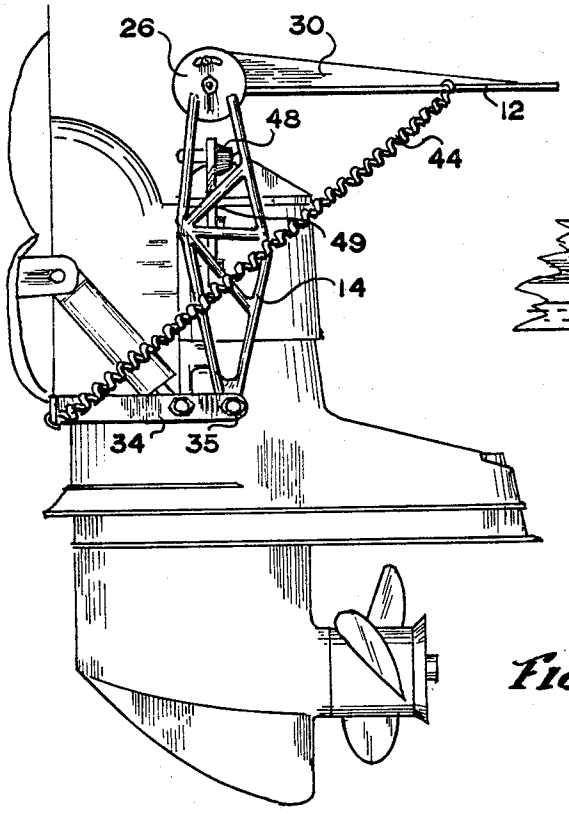


FIG. 5

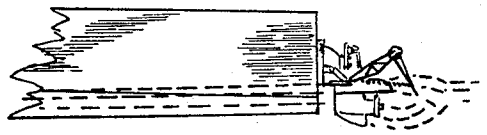


FIG. 7

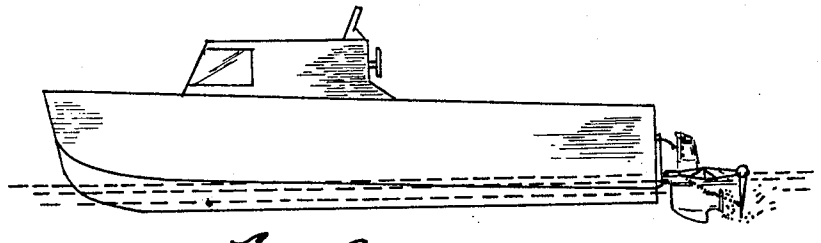


FIG. 6

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TROLLING DEVICE FOR HIGH POWERED MOTORBOATS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 114—145)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for trolling a high powered propulsive unit including a pivoted bracket trolling blade sustained above the water line or behind the propeller, and means for automatically raising the trolling blade above the water level when high boat speeds are suddenly required.

This invention relates to boat accessories and particularly to a trolling device for high powered motorboats.

One of the main objects of the device is to produce a trolling device which is semi-automatic in operation and can be easily installed on various types of motor arrangements such as outboard or the inboard motor and outboard lower unit combination.

Another object of the invention is to produce a trolling device which will automatically retract when the motor is accelerated in speed to a point in excess of the power required for trolling with the device in trolling position.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a device quickly attachable to existing boat motor installations to reduce propeller thrust to slow trolling speeds.

Yet another object of the invention is to use a trolling plate for reduction of propeller thrust with a safety factor of automatic retraction when maximum power is required.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device, which in its retracted position, does not interfere with the normal operation of the boat propulsion unit.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a very light weight trolling attachment which can be quickly attached to standard and existing motorboat propulsion units without requiring any modifications to said propulsion units.

By the installation of an automatic trolling plate of the aforementioned type described, boats which ordinarily, because of their power and design, would be classed as speed boats or skiboats could be used as fishing or slow trolling boats, thereby adding to the utility and versatility of expensive recreational boating equipment, but having the safety feature of instantly and automatically converting to its original underwater configuration, simply by increasing motor power above trolling speed.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon consideration of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment thereof, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, herewith, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side view of a typical installation of the device;

FIGURE 2 is a rear view of the installation in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the device;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 5 is a side view of the device in retracted position;

FIGURE 6 is a side elevational view of trolling plate in relation to boat water line; and

FIGURE 7 is a side view of the device raising to retraced position by force of propulsion unit.

Referring to the drawings, a standard propulsion unit **10** has attached thereto a trolling plate **12** in movable relation to propulsion unit **10** through pivoted control arms **14** and **16** which are adjustably connected to the trolling plate **12** by center bolts **18** and nuts **22** and **24** through a plate **26** and a plate **28** adjustably pivoted to plate **12** through reinforcing segment and adjustably locked by a bolt **31** and a nut **32**.

Control arms **14** and **16** are pivotally connected to mounting brackets **34** and **36** by means of bolts **35** and **37** which also retain vertical support mounts **38** and **39**. The complete assembly is mounted to the propulsion unit on existing bolts at **40** and **41** and **42** and **43**.

In trolling position, the plate **12** is held in the down position by springs **44** and **45** and resting on a rear area of the propulsion unit by padded spreader arch **46**.

Rubber bumpers **48** are fixedly attached to metal mounting brackets **49** and **50** and are mounted to existing bolts in propulsion unit at a height to contact spreader bar **46** when the trolling plate is in a retracted position. In retracted position, the angle of springs **44** and **45** is above the fulcrum point **38** which then holds the trolling plate assembly firmly against rubber bumpers **48** in contact with the arched spreader bar **46**.

In attaching the trolling plate assembly to a propulsion unit, holes **29** and **33** in mounting brackets **34** and **36** are attached to bolts **40** and **42** on the propulsion unit. To obtain vertical stability of mounting brackets **34** and **36** support mounts **38** and **39** attach to bolts **41** and **43** on the propulsion unit.

The operation of the device is relatively simple. When it is desired to use the trolling plate, it is manually depressed to the position shown in FIGURE 1. In this position, the thrust from the propeller is obstructed to the extent that very slow speeds are possible. When first installed, it is necessary to adjust the angle of the plate in relation to the thrust of the propeller. As it is used, when properly adjusted, the springs hold the plate in proper trolling position until it is desired to retract the trolling plate. To raise and retract the plate, the motor is accelerated causing increased thrust and turbulence, forcing the trolling plate to move upward and into the retracted position automatically.

While I have described in considerable detail what I believe to be the preferred form of my invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the shape and arrangement of the several parts without departing from the broad scope of my invention as defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A trolling device for a boat and high powered propulsive unit comprising:

a mounted bracket detachably and pivotally connected to the propulsive unit above the water line and movable to a substantially horizontal operative supported position on the power unit;

a trolling blade depending from the outer end of said bracket into a position behind the propeller when desired; and

spring means secured to the power unit rearwardly of the pivoted connection of the bracket and to the trolling blade whereby said bracket and blade may be manually moved to trolling position but automatical-

ly elevated to an inoperative position out of the water when high boat speed is suddenly required.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1 in which there is an adjustable connection between the bracket and said blade.

3. A device as set forth in claim 2 in which a member on said bracket contacts vertical or horizontal stop portions on the propulsion unit.

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ANDREW H. FARRELL, *Primary Examiner.*