May 9, 1961 J. M. BOWERS ET AL 2,983,243

BOAT ANCHOR

Filed Oct. 10, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

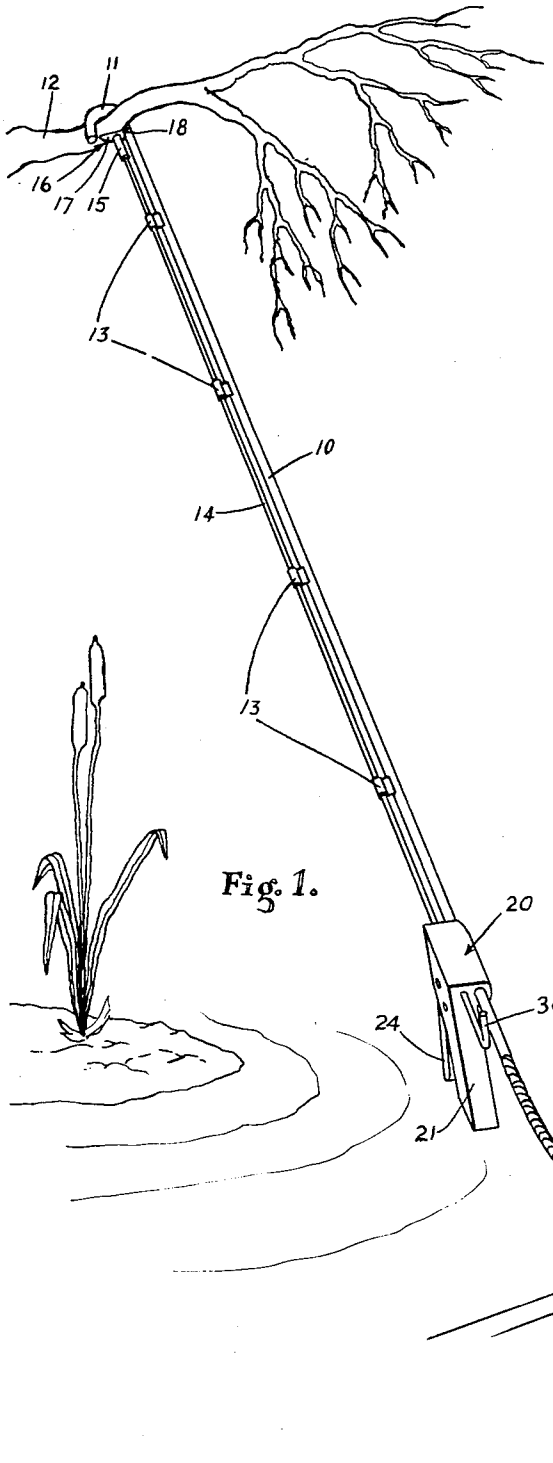


Fig. 1.

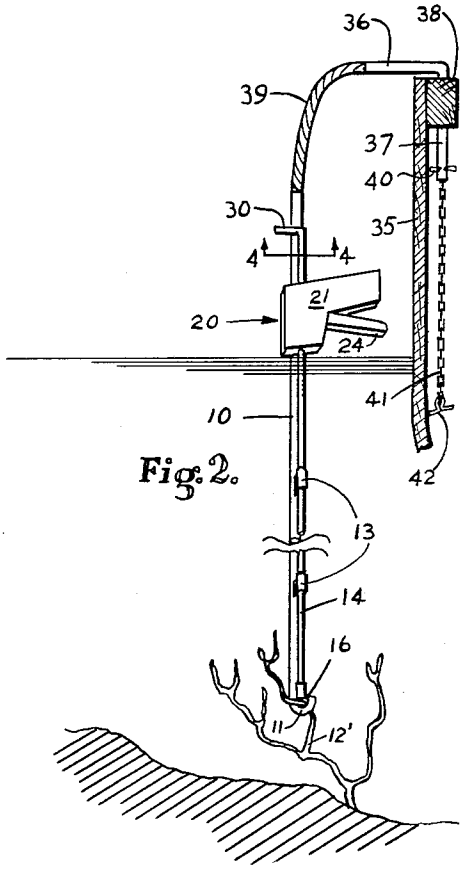


Fig. 2.

INVENTORS
JOHN M. BOWERS
JAMES F. LOGUE, JR.

BY Harrington A. Lackey
ATTORNEY

May 9, 1961 J. M. BOWERS ET AL 2,983,243

BOAT ANCHOR

Filed Oct. 10, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

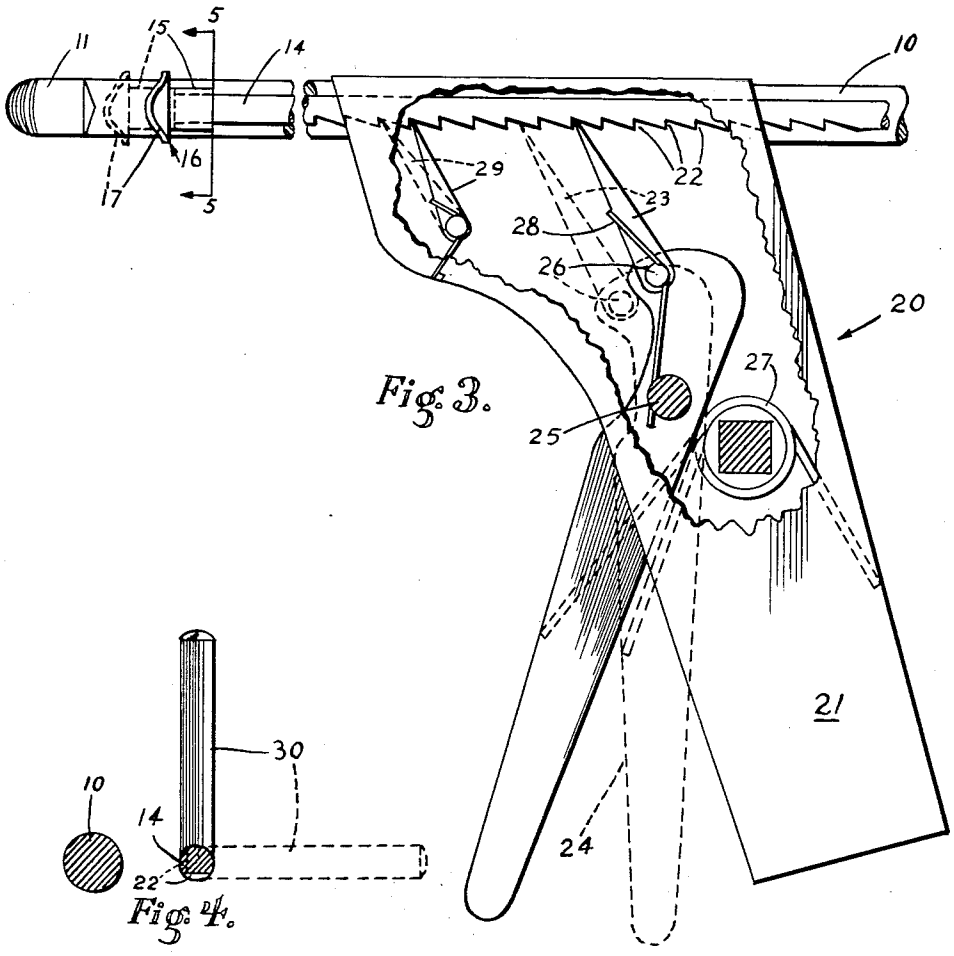


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

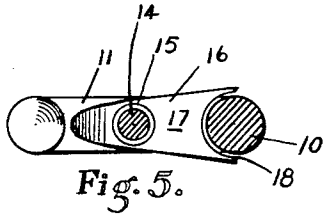


Fig. 5.

INVENTORS
JOHN M. BOWERS
JAMES F. LOGUE, JR.

BY Harrington A. Lackey
ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office

2,983,243

Patented May 9, 1961

2,983,243

BOAT ANCHOR

John M. Bowers, 950 Greerland Drive, and James F. Logue, Jr., 1112 Inglewood Drive, both of Nashville, Tenn.

Filed Oct. 10, 1958, Ser. No. 766,594

5 Claims. (Cl. 114—230)

This invention relates to a boat anchor and more particularly to a boat anchor which may be firmly clamped to a remote object, such as a tree bough or the like, in any position above or below the surface of the water.

One object of this invention is to provide an anchor which is light enough to be easily manipulated with one hand of the occupant of a small watercraft.

Another object of this invention is to provide a boat anchor which may be hooked and securely clamped against a remote object, and which may be completely controlled by an occupant of the boat.

A further object of this invention is to provide a boat anchor provided with a hooked end for engaging a remote object, such as a tree bough, and a slideable clamp which may be ratchet-actuated to engage and securely clamp the object engaged by the hooked end of the anchor.

Another object of this invention is to provide a boat anchor having a forward hooked end which may be securely clamped and easily unclamped on a remote object by operation from the rear end of the anchor.

Another object of this invention is to provide a boat anchor having a hooked end which may be securely clamped to and easily unclamped from a remote object, the opposite end of the anchor being secured to the boat and flexibly connected to the hooked end to present a latitude of choice of objects to which the boat may be anchored.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention in one operative position;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the invention in another operative position;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary side elevation disclosing the clamping member and the ratchet mechanism in various positions;

Fig. 4 is a view taken along the lines 4—4 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a view taken along the lines 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring now to the drawings in more detail, the boat anchor comprises a shaft **10**, the forward end of which comprises a hook **11** adapted to engage a remote substantially round object such as a tree bough **12**, the trunk of a sapling, a post or the like. Mounted at spaced intervals along the shaft **10** are a plurality of aligned guides comprising looped metal bands **13**. Adapted to slide longitudinally and freely rotate within the loop guides **13** is a clamping rod **14**. The forward end of the rod **14** is swivelly joined to freely rotate within the sleeve **15** of the clamping member **16**. The forward end of the sleeve **15** is fixed to an arcuate clamping plate **17** which is concave along one lateral dimension towards the hook **11**. One end of the clamping plate **17** forms a guide **18** adapted to slideably engage the shaft **10** to permit longitudinal movement but prohibit rotational movement of the clamping member **16** when the rod **14** is moved longitudinally or rotationally. The other end of the arcuate clamping plate **17** terminates near the inner surface of the hook **11** in clamping position so that the clamping plate **17** may firmly seat itself against the bough **12** engaged within the hook **11**.

A ratchet mechanism **20** comprising a trigger housing **21** is fixedly mounted near the rear end of the shaft **10** and is adapted to slideably receive the clamping rod **14**. Formed in one side of the rear portion of the rod **14**, which is adapted to slide within the trigger housing **21**, are a plurality of ratchet teeth **22**. The ratchet mechanism **20** may be of any convenient type, but as disclosed in detail in Fig. 3, comprises a pawl **23** actuated by a trigger **24** to engage one of the teeth **22** to move the clamping rod **14** forward intermittently at a uniform increment for each pull on the trigger **24**. The trigger **24** is pivoted to the housing **21** at **25** and to the pawl **23** at **26**. The trigger is urged to its forward inoperative position by the spring **27**, and the pawl **23** is normally urged upward by the spring **28**. To prevent rearward movement of the rod **14**, a retaining pawl **29** is provided to lock the rod **14** in a forward position.

In order to move the clamping rod **14** toward the rear, a handle **30** is provided on the rear end of the clamping rod **14**, which may be turned to rotate the rod and the ratchet teeth **22** out of engagement with the pawls **23** and **29**. In disengaged position, the rod **14** is free to move through the trigger housing **21** in either longitudinal direction.

In order to secure the rear end of the shaft **10** to a watercraft, such as the rowboat **35**, a rod bent at substantially right angles to form two legs **36** and **37** is provided so that the leg **37** may slide through the aperture in an oarlock support or a similar attachment **38** fixedly secured to the inside of the boat **35**. The leg **36** is attached to the rear of the shaft **10**, preferably by a flexible connection, such as cable **39**, in order to provide extensive maneuverability for the anchor. The end of the rod leg **37** is provided with any type of securing means such as a clip **40** to prevent the rod from slipping through the aperture in the attachment **38**.

In order to provide additional length or flexibility to the anchor, the end of the leg **37** may be provided with a short length of chain **41** having a retaining bar **42** fixed to the end thereof to prevent the chain **41** from slipping through the attachment **38**.

The shaft **10** and the rod **14** may be made of any desired length, but preferably long enough to engage overhanging boughs or saplings growing along the banks of a body of water (Fig. 1) or similar vegetation of sufficient strength and size which might be growing on the bottom of the body of water (Fig. 2) to provide shallow anchorage for a small boat. The material and size of the anchor should be sufficiently lightweight to provide easy maneuverability and control with only one hand of the occupant of the boat.

If, for example, a fisherman in a rowboat desires to anchor his boat near the bank of a river or the shore of a lake, or in a shallow body of water, he will grasp the trigger housing **21** in the right hand, extend the anchor beyond the side of the boat and engage the hook **11** around an overhanging branch **12**. With the rod handle **30** in the position disclosed in Fig. 1 and the solid line position of Fig. 4, so that the ratchet teeth **22** are facing down to engage the pawls **23** and **29** as disclosed in Fig. 3, he will pull the trigger **24** repeatedly until the rod **14** has moved forward far enough for the clamping plate **17** to firmly engage the bough **12**. Leaving the rod handle **30** in the same position in order to lock the clamping member **16** against the bough **12**, he releases his grip on the trigger housing **21**, maneuvers his boat **35** until the rod leg **37** may be inserted into

the aperture of the attachment **38**. After the leg **37** has been inserted through the attachment **38**, the clip **40** is secured to the end of the leg **37**. The boat **35** is then securely anchored to permit the occupant of the boat to proceed with his fishing.

Fig. 2 discloses an alternative use of the boat anchor when it is desired to clamp the bough or limb **12**[1] on the bottom of a shallow body of water. Fig. 2 also illustrates the maneuverability of the device, because of the flexible cable **39** and the bent rod **36** and **37**. In order that the device may be used as disclosed in Fig. 2, the materials should be rustproof and anti-corrosive, such as stainless steel, aluminum or plastic.

When it is desired to release the boat from its anchored position, the occupant of the boat will grasp the trigger housing **21** with one hand and with his other hand rotate the rod handle **30** to a position, such as that disclosed in dashed lines in Fig. 4, whereby the ratchet teeth **22** will be disengaged from the pawls **23** and **29**. With the handle **30** in rotated position, it is pulled toward the rear to withdraw the clamping member **16** away from the bough **12**. The shaft **10** is then unhooked from the bough **12** and the entire device stored in the boat.

It will be noted that the forward end of the clamping rod **14** is swivelly engaged within the sleeve **15** of the clamping member **16** in order that the handle **30** may be turned to freely rotate the rod **14** within the guides **13** without rotating the clamping member **16**. The guide **18** provides lateral stability for the clamping member **16** so that the clamping member will not rotate but will move in a longitudinal direction only.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the invention, without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, and therefore the invention is not limited by that which is shown in the drawings and described in the specification, but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A boat anchor comprising a shaft having a hook on its forward end, guides mounted in alignment along said shaft, a rod slideably supported in said guides for longitudinal and rotatable movement parallel to said shaft, a clamping member on the forward end of said rod operable to clamp a tree bough or the like within said hook, a ratchet mechanism mounted toward the rear end of said shaft for effecting forward intermittent motion to said rod and for locking said rod in clamping position, a handle on the rear of said rod operable to rotate said rod to selectively disengage and engage said rod with said ratchet mechanism, and means on the rear end of said shaft for securing said anchor to a boat.

2. The invention according to claim 1 in which one side of said rod is provided with teeth adapted to engage said ratchet mechanism when said rod is rotated to engaging position.

3. The invention according to claim 2 in which the forward end of said rod swivelly engages said clamping member and in which a guide is provided on said clamping member for slideably engaging said shaft to prevent rotation of said clamping member.

4. A boat anchor comprising a shaft having a hook on the forward end thereof, aligned guides mounted along said shaft, a rod slideably supported in said guides for longitudinal and rotational movement parallel to said shaft, an arcuate clamping member concave toward said hook having a guide for slideably engaging said shaft and swivelly mounted on the forward end of said rod, a ratchet mechanism mounted on said shaft near the rear end thereof comprising a pawl and a trigger for actuating said pawl, ratchet teeth formed on one side of said rod near the rear end thereof and adapted to be engaged by said pawl in operative position, a handle on the rear end of said rod to rotate said rod to an inoperative position whereby said teeth will be rotated out of engagement with said pawl and said rod may be freely moved longitudinally within said guides, a securing member adapted to attach said anchor to a boat, and a flexible connection between said securing member and the rear end of said shaft.

5. The invention according to claim 4 in which said securing member comprises a bent rod, an attachment to said boat having an aperture through which a straight portion of said rod is adapted to be inserted, and a key to lock said rod in said attachment.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,520,543	Meachen	Dec. 23, 1924
1,852,629	Sturges	Apr. 5, 1932
2,522,454	Lewry	Sept. 12, 1950
2,613,100	Casey	Oct. 7, 1952
2,730,985	Wingate	Jan. 17, 1956
2,819,110	Redmon	Jan. 7, 1958