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F. E. STALLMAN

DECOY

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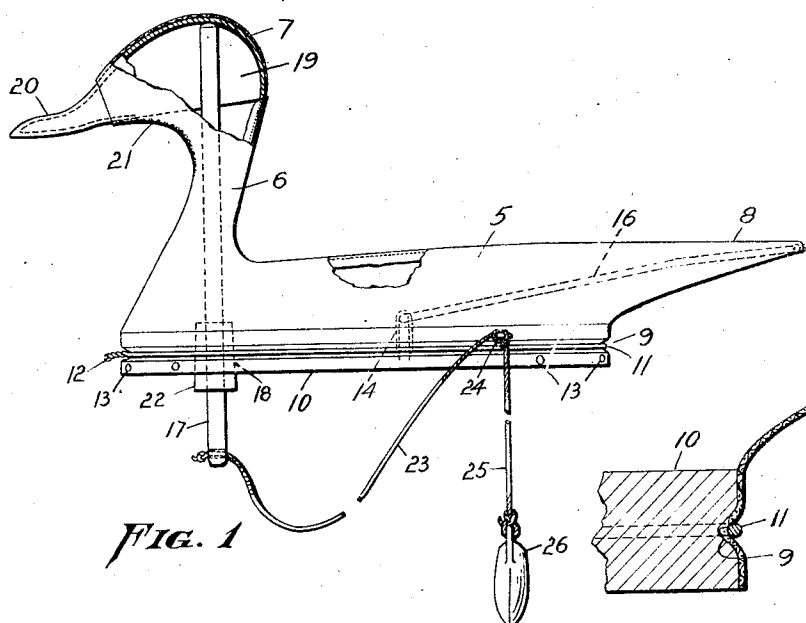


FIG. 1

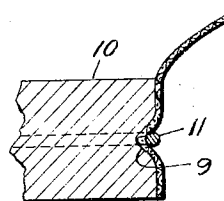


FIG. 3

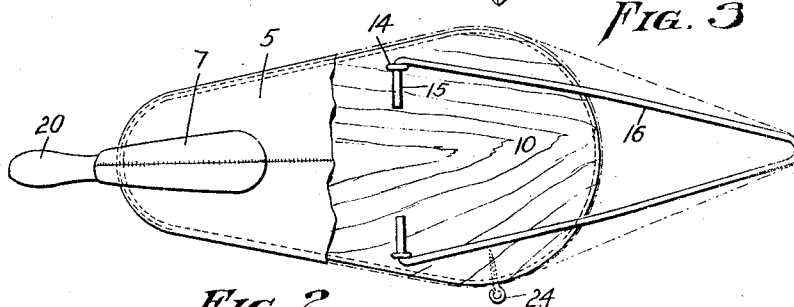


FIG. 2

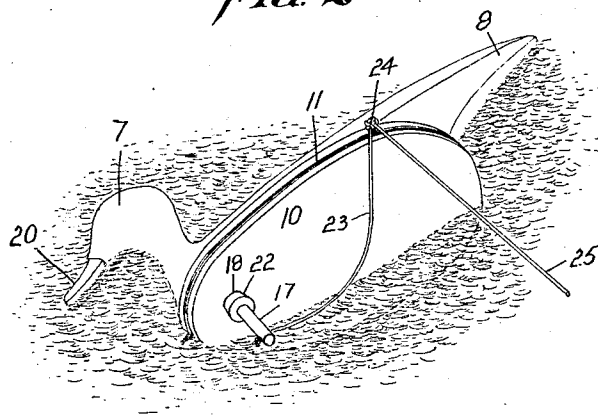


FIG. 4

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DECOY.

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My invention relates in general to decoys for water fowl, and has particular reference to a so called collapsible decoy with a water-tight construction to enable the same to be used to the best possible advantage, including a self-arighting float when capsized.

The present invention is an improvement over my decoy Patent No. 1,527,711, issued February 24, 1925, and the improved features will now be described with reference to the illustrations shown in the accompanying drawing.

In said drawing Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of my decoy set up for use, parts being broken away to show interior construction; Fig. 2 is a top plan with a portion of the back broken away to show the tail-expanding member; Fig. 3 is a detail view in section, much enlarged, showing the method of attachment of the body to the base; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the decoy capsized and presenting to view the large base area for wind arighting of the decoy.

Referring to the drawings in detail: I first propose to make the decoy collapsible, so to speak, at least so far as concerns the body portion 5. In this way I am enabled to carry a great many decoys in a small carrier and also pack them for transportation or storage in a relatively small space. In realizing this feature I propose to make the body portion of cloth, such as light canvas, or any other material suitable for the purpose. The material will be cut in the desired design to simulate a duck, as an example, and stitched to leave a flexible hollow body having a neck 6, a head 7, and a projecting tail 8. The open bottom of the body portion is adapted to slip over a baseboard 10 which is of an oblong shape and in reality is the float for the assembly.

The baseboard or base as I will term it, is made with a groove 9 around the edge of the same, and after the open bottom of the body has been set to overlap the edge, I suggest using a suitable wire 11 in the groove to tightly bind the material of the body to the base. By twisting the ends of the wire as at 12, I can make a practical water-tight joint between the base and body. As a preliminary securing means I may use small tacks 13 to tack the edge of the material to the base.

On top of the base 10 on the inside of the body 5 are a pair of eyes 14, positioned to receive the inwardly turned ends 15 of the wire stiffening brace member 16.

When set up for use a supporting post or the like 17 will be inserted through the opening 18 in the bottom of the base 10, and the post will extend vertically within the neck 6 and terminate at the inside top of the head 7 as best shown in Fig. 1. The head comprises in its preferred embodiment, a metallic shell 19 inserted in and made to conform to the shape of the cut and stitched material for the head, and the shell has a beak portion 20 projecting through an opening allowed for the same in the material. For the insertion of the head form in the material I leave the portion under the head as at 21 open and unstitched, and after the head is inserted in place the opening is stitched up so that the head is held firmly and snugly covered by the material.

The opening 18 in the base 10 is much larger than the post 17 so as to accommodate preferably a cork closure 22, which forms a water-tight seal for the base. The cork has a central bore for snugly fitting the post so that the latter is held water-tight therein and in adjusted extending relation relatively to the head and body by the frictional engagement of the post with the cork. By forcing the post upward against the head, not only is the latter held in an extended position, but the pull on the body will also extend the body to give it a contour. The shaping of the body is aided by the wire stiffener 16 for the back and tail.

The post is provided with a loss-preventing string or the like 23, which is fastened to an eye 24 in the side edge of the base. This eye also serves as an attaching means for the string, or the like 25 for the anchor 26. The eye 24 is placed at the location shown for a particular purpose. Rough water or wind often capsizes the decoys and for this reason I have placed the eye at the most outward point so that it will always be at windward, then when the decoy capsizes, the broad exposure of the base will offer a flat surface to the wind and the next gust will flip the decoy right side up again.

What I claim as new and desire to secure Letters Patent therefor is the following:

1. A decoy duck comprising a base having an opening therein, a collapsible body at-

tached thereto, and a rigid and removable member carrying a closure and being adapted to expand the body into life-like form, the closure frictionally engaging said member and the wall of said opening and effecting a water-tight seal for the base and the member.

2. A decoy duck comprising a base having an opening therein, a collapsible body attached to the base, a rigid post adapted to be inserted through said opening to extend the body into life-like form, said opening being larger than said post and a closure for said opening having a bore through which the post is projectable, the said bore adapted to frictionally hold the post in projected position relative to the body and said means effecting a water-tight seal for the base and the post.

3. A decoy comprising a base, a head in the form of a hollow shell, a collapsible fabric covering the head and connected to the base, an opening provided in the base, a rigid post extending through said opening and into the hollow of the head, frictional means carried by the post and adjustable thereon, said means adapted to be engaged in the

opening in the base and to frictionally hold the post in projected adjusted relation relative to the head, and said means effecting a water-tight seal for the base and the post.

4. A decoy comprising an oblong base, a head in the form of a hollow shell, a collapsible fabric covering the head and connected to the base, an opening provided in the base, a rigid post extending through said opening and into the hollow of the head, frictional means carried by the post and adjustable thereon, said means adapted to be engaged in the opening in the base and to frictionally hold the post in projected adjusted relation relative to the head, and said means effecting a water-tight seal for the base and the post, the connection between the fabric covering and the base comprising a groove around the edge of the base, the fabric overlapping said groove and a wire encircling the base and embedding the material of the covering in said groove so as to make a water-tight joint between the fabric and the base.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FRANK E. STALLMAN.