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2,464,086

LIFE FLOAT

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FIG. 1.

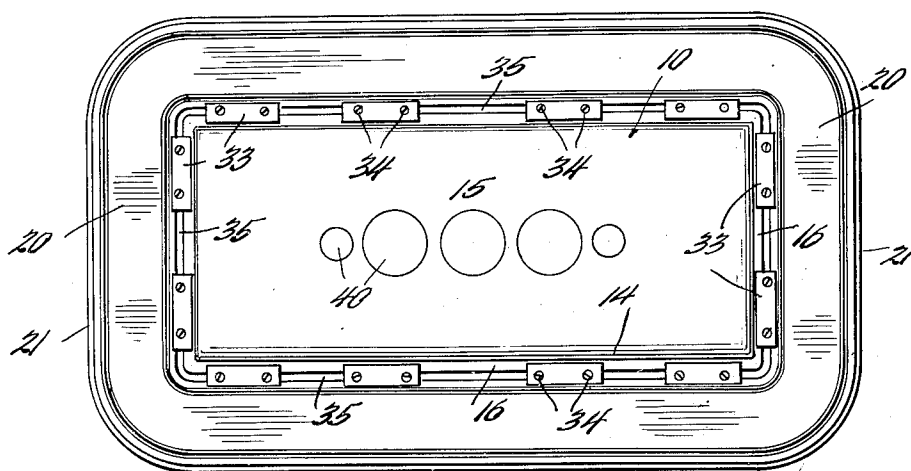


FIG. 2.

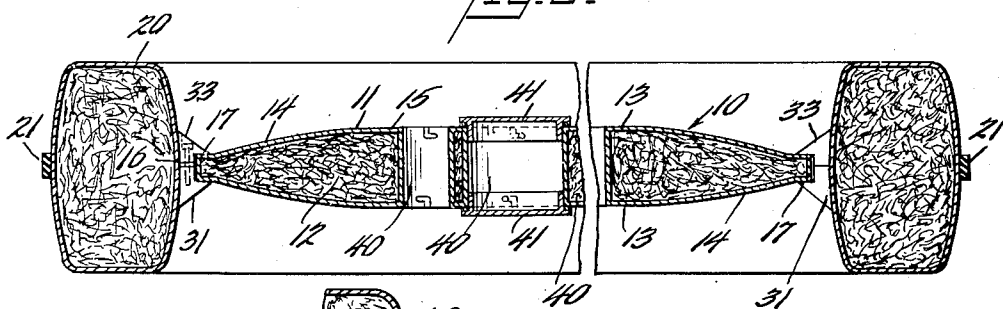
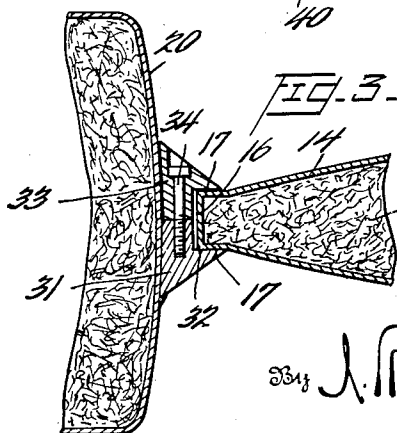


FIG. 3.



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LIFE FLOAT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 9-11)

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The present invention relates to a life float and has for its main object a rugged, simply constructed float which will maintain buoyancy and serviceability and rough handling both on board ship and during launching, and which will support the maximum number of survivors out of the water in relative safety and having a maximum of additional reserve buoyancy to support survivors clinging to its edges.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide a life float which may be arranged to float free of or be thrown or launched from the vessel without the aid of any lowering devices of any kind; which is reversible and which can be used either side up.

The present life float embodies a hollow light sheet metal construction which is filled with light non-absorbent buoyant material such as cellular plastic, cellular rubber, or any other light buoyant material. Essentially the construction includes two elements; one in the form of a self-bailing buoyant inner deck platform upon which the survivors may sit or lie above the surface of the water and the other in the form of an outer ring bulwark which with the inner deck and its drainage arrangements, provides the required buoyancy, stability and further provides a raised bulwark to prevent the survivors from sliding overboard and in addition also provides a backrest and substantial free board and protection against washing and wetting by the sea.

The sheet metal in the present life float is preferably completely covered with plasticized canvas or similar non-skid protecting material closely and firmly adhered to the metal.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent to persons skilled in the art from the illustrative embodiment of my invention shown in the accompanying drawings and described in the following specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the float; and

Fig. 2 is a front elevation thereof showing half the float in section.

Fig. 3 is a detail showing of the clips.

The life float comprises essentially the element 10 which constitutes a reversible deck and is composed of the hollow sheet metal shell 11 filled with the material 12 which may be of any desirable light non-absorbent buoyant material such as cellular plastic foam, cellular rubber or the like. The exposed faces 13 of the platform 10 may be described as being bowed or as sloping towards the outer edges as indicated particularly by the zone 14 which is directed toward each

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other. The large central zone 15 of each face of the platform may be bowed only to a slight extent or may be substantially flat. It will be understood that this construction with the sloping portions 14 surrounding the central zone 15 all water that will enter the float will flow out of the float through the openings between the platform and the bulwark which will be described in greater detail in the later portion of this specification. The marginal portion 16 of the platform preferably has horizontal parallel faces 17.

The second element of the present life float is the bulwark 20 which takes the form of an annulus having a cross section shown in Fig. 2 also made of hollow sheet metal filled with balsa wood, cork or any other suitable light and non-absorbent material. Attached to the bulwark 20 is the hardwood rubbing strip 21.

The bulwark and the platform may be manufactured as separate units and the over all dimensions of the platform are substantially smaller than the corresponding inner dimensions of the bulwark ring. Thus, the platform readily enters the bulwark ring while providing a substantial amount of space between its edges and the inner face of the bulwark ring. For the purpose of holding the two units in assembly spacer clips are employed and are shown in cooperating pairs gripping the marginal portion of the platform. One set of such spacer clips 31 may be welded or otherwise attached to the bulwark ring as shown. These clips provide a series of shoulders 32 which are designed to receive the marginal portion of the platform and keep the same spaced from the bulwark ring. When the platform is deposited on the clips or spacers 31 the cooperating clips 33 are attached to the clips 31 by means of screws or bolts 34.

As is clearly shown in Fig. 1 the spacer clips are spaced from each other and will be seen to serve the function of holding the platform in assembly with the bulwark ring and also the function of holding the edges of the platform spaced from the bulwark ring. The spacer clips are spaced from each other so that they alternate with and serve to form passages 35 between the edges of the platform and the bulwark ring, which render the float self bailing.

In the present float the platform is disposed substantially in the median zone, namely, the zone which embraces the median plane of the bulwark ring and the platform as well as the entire float is symmetrical about the median plane of the ring. Thus the float is reversible, no care need be taken when it is tossed overboard and it is

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ready for use whichever way it alights on the water.

The buoyancy is such that when the float supports its rated number of survivors, the upper surface of the deck will be above the level of the water.

The deck or platform is provided with several through passages 40 having removable water tight closures 41 at each end. These constitute chambers for housing any desired emergency supplies or equipment, such as food, flash lights, signal equipment or the like. These chambers 40 are accessible from either end.

Instead of sheet metal the present float may employ a variety of sheet plastic materials, such as methyl methacrylate or plasticized composite materials such as canvas impregnated with suitable plastics, which render it rigid and flexible or other such materials. Many such materials, which are light and increase the buoyancy of the float may be employed.

I claim:

1. A life float comprising a buoyant bulwark ring having a keg-shaped cross section, a platform disposed in the median zone of the ring, said platform having its faces oppositely bowed, the space between said faces being filled with cellular nonabsorbent buoyant material, and spacer clips carried by the ring and holding the platform in assembly with the ring, said spacer clips forming passages between the platform and the ring, each of said spacer clips comprising one element fixedly carried by the bulwark ring and another element detachably attached thereto.

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2. A life float comprising a buoyant bulwark ring consisting of a hollow annular shell filled with a cellular nonabsorbent buoyant material, a platform disposed in the median zone of the ring, said platform comprising an outwardly bowed element of sheet material on its upper and lower face and buoyant nonabsorbent cellular material filling the space between said elements, and spacer clips carried by the ring and holding the platform in assembly with the ring and providing passages between the platform and the ring, each of said spacer clips comprising one element fixedly carried by the bulwark ring and another element detachably attached thereto.

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