United States Patent

[11] **3,580,213**

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[54] **SWIMMING PADDLES**
4 Claims, 6 Drawing Figs.

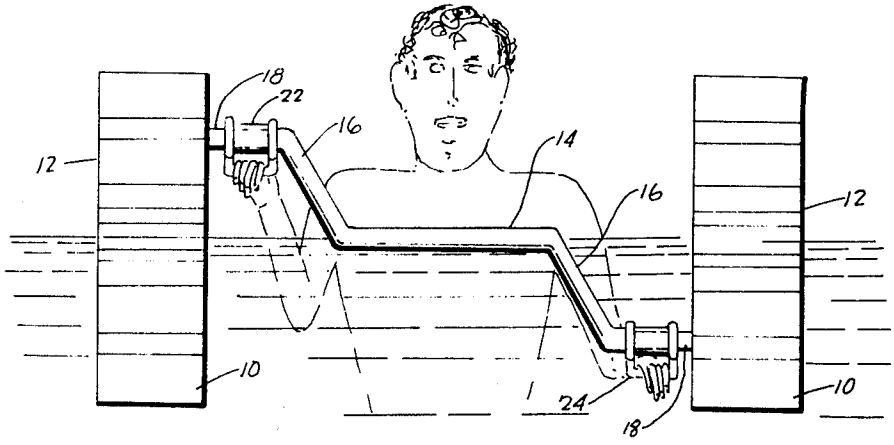
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **115/22.3,** 416/86
[51] **Int. Cl.** **B63h 16/04**
[50] **Field of Search** 115/22.3; 416/86, 84, 69, 70, 63

[56] **References Cited**
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Primary Examiner—Andrew H. Farrell

ABSTRACT: A shaft has oppositely extending offset portions at opposite ends, each portion being connected to a corresponding flotation paddle. Straps secure the shaft rotatably to a user in water. The user, using hands or feet, rotates the shaft to move the paddles and propel himself in the water. The paddles are lighter than water and act as floats as well as assisting in propulsion.



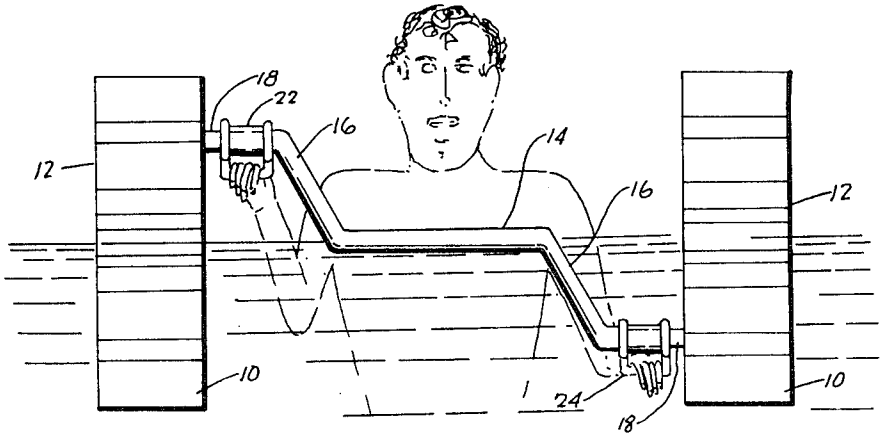


Fig. 1.

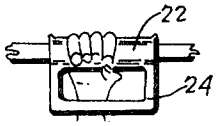


Fig. 6.

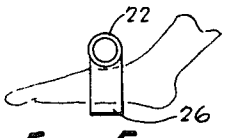


Fig. 5.

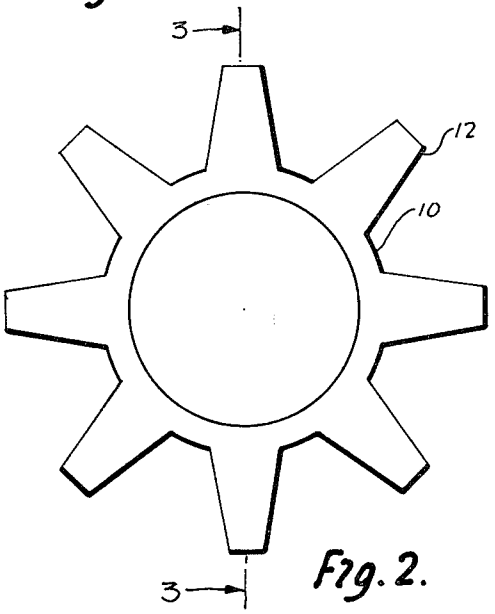


Fig. 2.

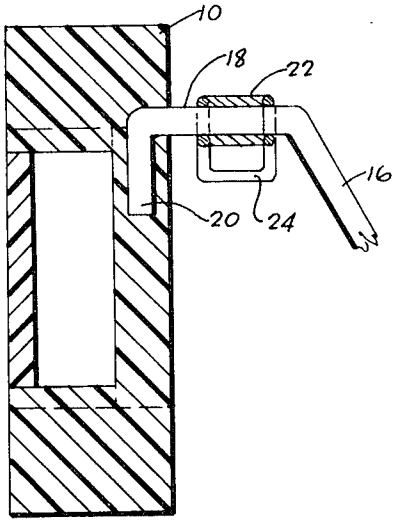


Fig. 3.

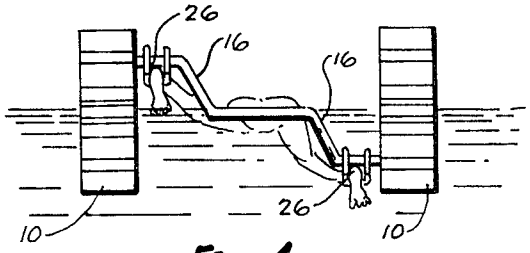


Fig. 4.

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SWIMMING PADDLES

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An elongated horizontal shaft has oppositely disposed offset arms extending outward from opposite ends of the shaft. Each arm has a horizontal extension connected to a lighter-than-water paddle wheel. Hand or foot straps secured to each extension are adapted to be held and used by the hands or feet of the user whereby the shaft is rotated rotating the wheels. When the user is disposed in the water with this equipment, the user is both supported and propelled in the water.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a view of my apparatus in hand-operated use;

FIG. **2** is an end view of a paddle wheel;

FIG. **3** is a detail side view of my apparatus;

FIG. **4** is a view of my invention in foot-operated use;

FIG. **5** is a detail view of a portion of the structure of FIG. **4**; and

FIG. **6** is a detail view of a portion of the structure of FIG. **1**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to FIGS. **1—6**, first and second hollow lighter than water paddle wheels **10** each have spaced-apart radially extending vanes or paddles **12**. A horizontal shaft **14** has offset arms **16** extending inclinedly outward from opposite ends of the shaft, the arms extending in opposite directions. Each arm has a horizontal extension **18** terminating in a vertical tip **20** imbedded rigidly in the side of a corresponding wheel. A

sleeve **22** is rotatably disposed about each extension and is provided with a hand receiving strap **24** or a foot receiving strap **26**.

The wheels provide enough lift when in water to prevent a user from sinking. By use of hands or feet, the user can rotate the shaft about its axis to rotate the wheels and propel himself through the water. The wheels can be inflatable if desired.

While I have described my invention with particular reference to the drawings, such is not to be considered as limiting its actual scope.

Having thus described this invention, what I claim as new is:

1. Apparatus used in swimming comprising:

a horizontal shaft;

first and second extension arms extending inclinedly outwards from opposite ends of said shaft in opposite directions;

hand- or foot-operated means secured to said arms to rotate said shaft about its axis; and

first and second lighter-than-water paddle wheels secured to corresponding arms and rotated with said shaft.

2. Apparatus as set forth in claim **1** wherein each arm has at an end remote from said shaft a horizontal extension with a vertical tip, each wheel being secured to a corresponding tip.

3. Apparatus as set forth in claim **2** wherein said means includes a first sleeve rotatable about the horizontal extension of one arm and a second sleeve rotatable about the horizontal extension of the other arm.

4. Apparatus as set forth in claim **3** further including a pair of hand- or foot-operated straps, each strap being secured to a corresponding sleeve.