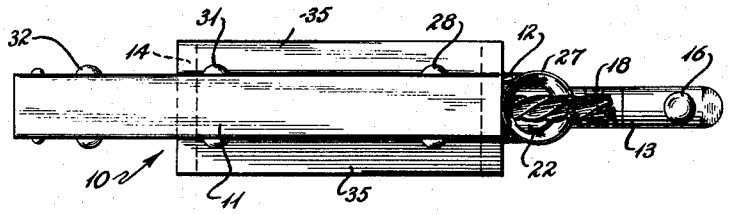
Oct. 11, 1960 J. L. HOWINGTON ET AL 2,955,560

ANCHOR LINE CONTROLLER

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Fig. 1



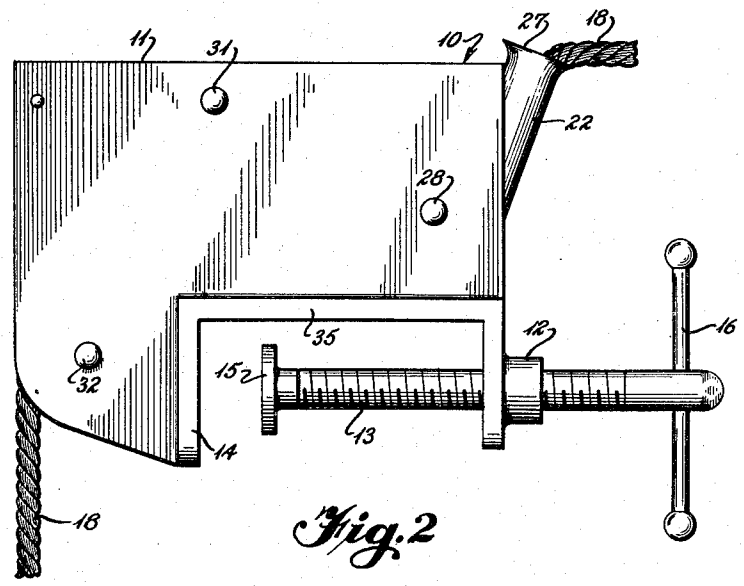


Fig. 2

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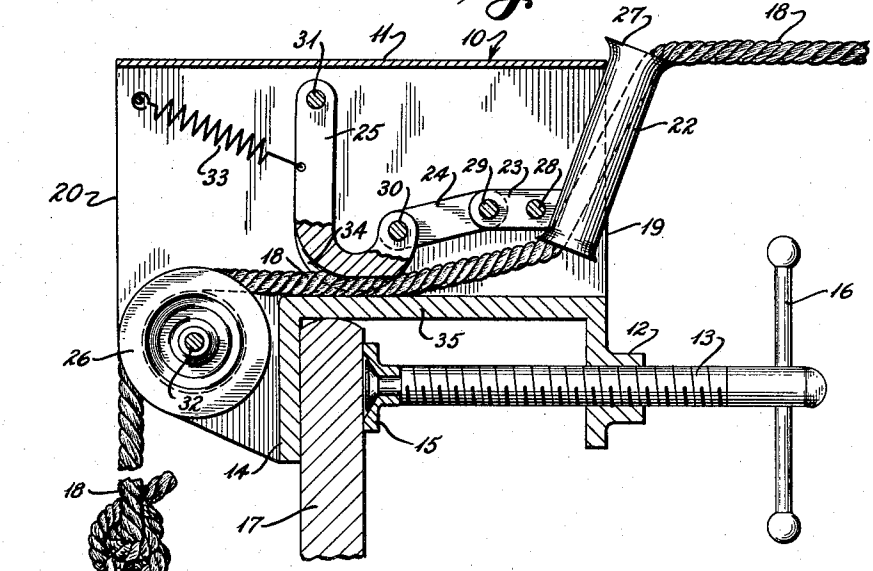
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ANCHOR LINE CONTROLLER

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Fig. 3



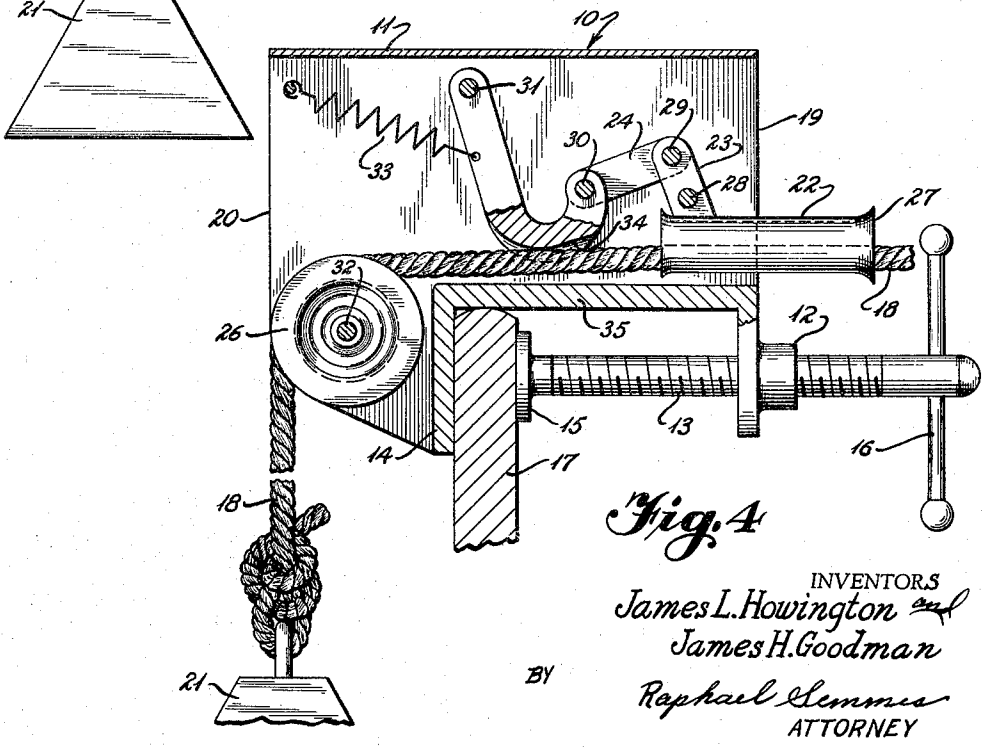


Fig. 4

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ANCHOR LINE CONTROLLER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 114—210)

The invention disclosed herein relates to the control of anchor lines, and, more particularly, to portable devices, which can be remotely controlled, for gripping and securing anchor lines.

The purpose of this invention is to provide a portable anchor line controlling device suitable for small fishing boats, such as rowboats, canoes, or small sailing craft, which will enable a fisherman to raise or lower his anchor or to pay out or take in anchor line from a position remote from its dropping point. Pulleys or rollers set in hawse holes have the effect of lessening the friction between an anchor line or cable prior to securing the line on a cleat; to accomplish this simple operation necessitates a handler at this spot. The same is true in small boats. A fisherman must tediously haul in the anchor hand over hand or pay it out, unsecuring and securing the line from a cleat or fastening point to make even the slightest adjustment. The present invention makes possible the raising or lowering of an anchor or slight to large adjustment of the anchor line, including the locking of the line, from a position remote from the device.

With this and further objects in view as will be apparent from the ensuing description, the invention consists of the construction described but without any purpose to limit the construction to that actually depicted.

Referring to the drawings, in which the same reference numerals designate the same parts in all of the views:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the anchor line controller;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the device and its attaching means;

Fig. 3 is a cross section of Fig. 2 with an anchor line installed and locking means in operation; and

Fig. 4 is a cross section of Fig. 2 with an anchor line installed and locking means disengaged.

In the drawings, **10** generally indicates the anchor line controller. An inverted U, broadly stated, comprises the housing **11** of the device. This housing **11**, made of cast or rolled metal, encloses the working elements of the anchor line controller and provides a bearing **12** for the screw shaft **13** of the clamp-like attaching means and its cooperating face **14**. The driven end of screw shaft **13** terminates in an enlarged rotatably mounted head **15** while its outboard end is provided with means to operate it in the form of a sliding T-handle **16**. In Figs. 3 and 4 this clamp-like attaching means is shown holding the anchor line controller secure to the transom **17** (shown in part) or the gunwale of a small boat.

The anchor line **18** is fed from the inboard side of the boat through the device and its working elements to the outboard side, the housing **11** having openings **19** and **20** respectively for this purpose. Extending downwardly from the outboard end of the anchor line is a representation of an anchor **21** or weight. This anchor **21** may be of any suitable form as it has been found this device operates efficiently with any of the common types.

The working elements within the housing **11** comprises a line guide **22**, a pivoting bar **23**, a link member **24**, a

J-shaped wedge **25** and a pulley **26**. The line guide **22** is cylindrical in form and sufficiently small in diameter to move freely within the housing opening **19**. To prevent unnecessary chaffing or wear on the anchor line as it passes through the line guide **22**, it is slightly flared at its opening as at **27**. Line guide **22** is attached, as by welding, to one end of pivot bar **23**, which, in turn, rocks on a pin **28** which tranverses the housing **11**. Link **24** serves as a connecting means between the pivot bar **23** with its line guide **22** and wedge **25**; pins **29** and **30** through the ends of link **24** effect this movable connection. The opposite end of wedge **25** from its connecting link **24** is pivoted similarly to pivot bar **23** by means of a second transverse pin **31**. Pulley **26**, freely rotatable on a third transverse pin **32**, guides the anchor line **18** from the wedge **25** to its anchor **21**. A small coil spring **33** secured at one end to the housing **11** is attached at its other end to wedge **25**. A coil spring has been selected because it is far less expensive than a flat tension spring of similar power and also far more available.

Wedge **25**, heretofore mentioned as being J-shaped, is the key member of the working elements of the anchor line controller. Its foot is grooved or notched lengthwise as indicated at dotted line **34**. Specifically, this groove is smooth, having no teeth or other projecting means which might possibly injure the anchor line as it is acted upon. This groove of wedge **25** presses the anchor line **18** against the inside base **35** of the housing **11** when the line is locked in position. Wedge **25**, therefore, pinches the anchor line **18** but it does not dig teeth into it or damage the line in anyway.

In actual use the anchor line controller is simplicity itself. The anchor line **18** is fed through the line guide **22**, under the foot of wedge **25**, over pulley **26** and secured to an anchor **21**. When the line guide **22** and its pivot bar **23** is pulled by the anchor line into a horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 4, link **24** raises wedge **25** from tight engagement with the line enabling the operator to take in or pay out the line. On the other hand, the line may be wedged into a locked position either by an upward movement raising the line guide into a vertical position, which forces wedge **25** downward, aided by coil spring **33**, through the articulation of pivot bar **23** and link **24** or by quickly releasing pressure on the anchor line **18** which permits spring **33** to contract thereby putting pressure on anchor line **18** by J-shaped wedge **25**.

Actuation of the anchor line controller from a remote position is accomplished by a horizontal or downward pull on the line **18**; this pull will create a tension on line **18** which will lower line guide **22** and free the line from the wedge **25**. Whereas a release of line **18** will raise the line guide **22** and enable wedge **25** to squeeze the line against the inside of the housing, securely locking the line from further movement. For example, a fisherman seated in the bow of a rowboat can operate the anchor line controller when the device is attached to the transom or stern, and this operation can be accomplished easily with one hand.

Numerous variations may doubtless be devised by persons skilled in the art without departing from the principles of our invention. We, therefore, desire no limitations to be imposed on our invention, except as are indicated in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. An anchor line controller comprising a housing through which an anchor line passes having clamping means adapted to secure said housing to the transom of a boat, a line guide, a guiding pulley for the anchor line, a pivot bar pivotally mounted in said housing, said pivot bar also having a portion thereof secured to said line guide, a spring biased wedge pivotally mounted in said housing in spaced relationship to said pivot bar, a link

connecting said pivot bar to said wedge, said wedge being adapted upon the biasing thereof to pinch the anchor line against a portion of the housing, and whereby said line guide and pivot bar will act upon a horizontal or downward pull on the anchor line to pivot said wedge and effect a release of said wedge from said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to free said anchor line for adjustment, and wherein a quick release or an upward movement of said anchor line will pivot said line guide upwardly and effect locking pressure of said wedge on said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to lock said anchor line in position.

2. An anchor line controller comprising a housing through which an anchor line passes having clamping means adapted to secure said housing to the transom of a boat, a line guide, a guiding pulley for said anchor line, a pivot bar pivotally mounted in said housing, said pivot bar also having a portion thereof secured to said line guide, a spring biased wedge pivotally mounted in said housing in spaced relationship to said pivot bar, a link connecting said pivot bar to said wedge and said wedge being provided with a notched foot for pinching the anchor line against a smooth portion of the housing upon the biasing thereof, and whereby said line guide and pivot bar will act upon a horizontal or downward pull on the anchor line to pivot said wedge and effect a release of said wedge from said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to free said anchor line for adjustment, and wherein release or an upward movement of said anchor line will pivot said line guide upwardly and effect locking pressure of said wedge on said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to lock said anchor line in position.

3. An anchor line controller comprising a housing through which an anchor line passes having clamping means adapted to secure said housing to the transom of a boat, a line guide, a guiding pulley for said anchor line, a pivot bar pivotally mounted in said housing, said pivot bar also having a portion thereof secured to said line guide, a spring biased wedge pivotally mounted in said housing in spaced relationship to said pivot bar, a link connecting said pivot bar to said wedge, said wedge also being provided with a smooth surfaced notched foot for pinching the anchor line against a smooth portion of the housing upon the biasing thereof, the connection between said pivot bar and wedge being such that said line guide and pivot bar will act upon a horizontal or downward pull on the anchor line to pivot said wedge and effect a release of said wedge from said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to free said anchor line for adjustment, and wherein a quick release or an upward movement of said anchor line will pivot said line guide upwardly and effect locking pressure of said wedge on said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to lock said anchor line in position.

4. A portable anchor line controller comprising a housing through which an anchor line passes, clamping means integral to said housing to attach it to a boat, a pulley to guide said anchor line from said housing, a line guide surrounding said anchor line, a pivot bar pivotally mounted in said housing, said pivot bar also having a portion thereof secured to said line guide, a spring biased wedge pivotally mounted in said housing in spaced relationship to said pivot bar, a link connecting said pivot bar to said wedge, said wedge also being provided with a smooth surfaced notched foot for pinching the anchor line against a smooth surfaced portion of the housing upon the biasing thereof, said pivot bar and wedge being so connected that said line guide and pivot bar will act upon a horizontal or downward pull on the anchor line to pivot said wedge and effect a release of said wedge from said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to free said anchor line for adjustment, and wherein a quick release or an upward movement of said anchor line will pivot said line guide upwardly and effect locking pressure of said wedge on said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to lock said anchor line in position.

5. An anchor line controller comprising a housing through which an anchor line passes having clamping means adapted to secure said housing to the transom of a boat, a hollow tube-like line guide, a guiding pulley for said anchor line, a pivot bar pivotally mounted in said housing, said pivot bar also having a portion thereof secured to said line guide, a spring biased wedge pivotally mounted in said housing in spaced relationship to said pivot bar, a link connecting said pivot bar to said wedge, said wedge also being provided with a smooth surfaced notched foot for pinching the anchor line against a smooth portion of the housing upon the biasing thereof, the connection between said pivot bar and wedge being such that said line guide and pivot bar will act upon a horizontal or downward pull on the anchor line to pivot said wedge and effect a release of said wedge from said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to free said anchor line for adjustment, and wherein a quick release or an upward movement of said anchor line will pivot said line guide upwardly and effect locking pressure of said wedge on said anchor line through actuation of said pivot bar and link to lock said anchor line in position.

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