

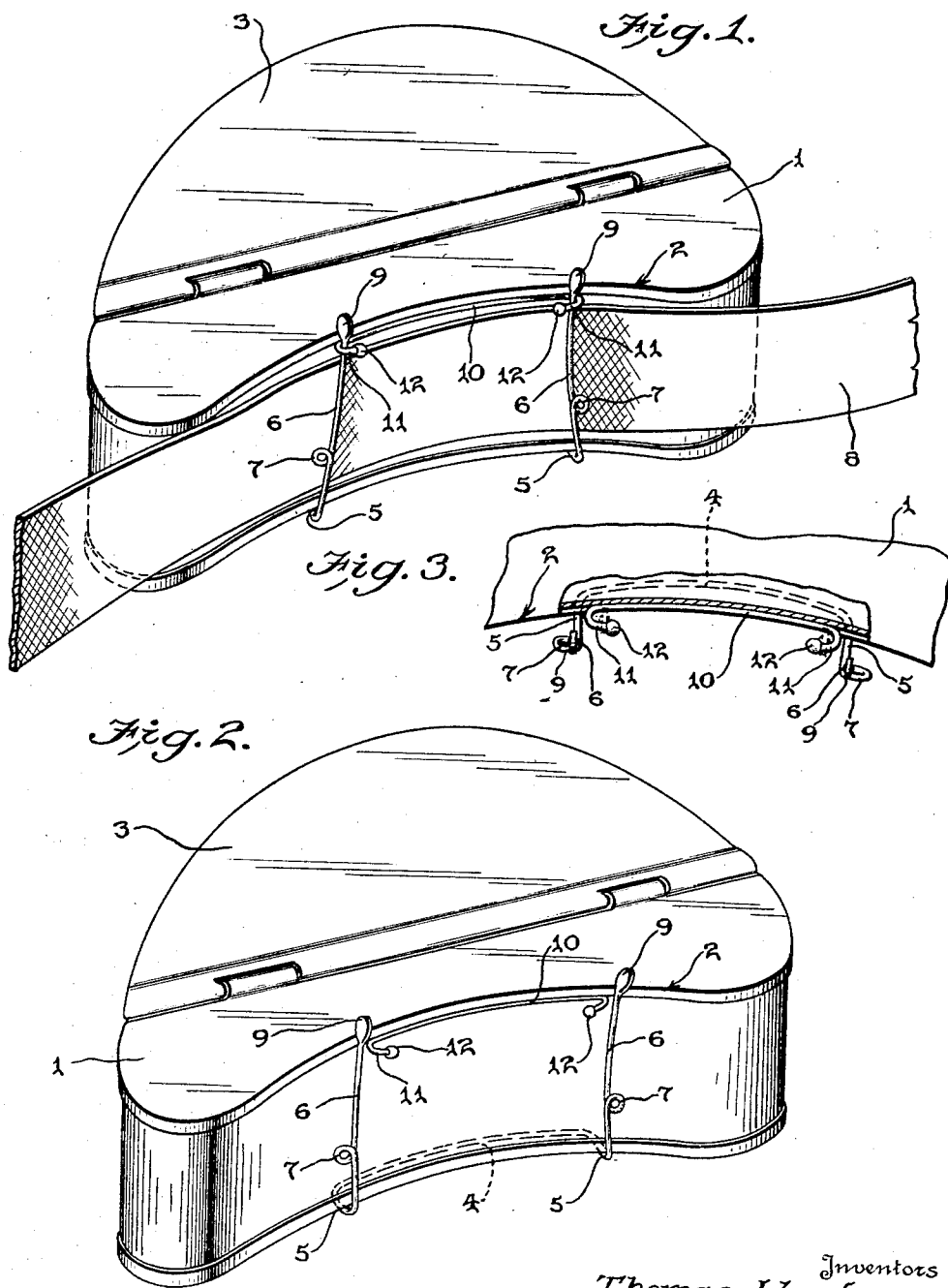
May 19, 1931.

T. LLOYD ET AL

1,806,477

ATTACHING DEVICE FOR BAIT BOXES

Filed July 8, 1929



Inventors
Thomas Lloyd
Thomas W. Lloyd

By *Linton Kellogg & Smith*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THOMAS LLOYD AND THOMAS W. LLOYD, OF ASHLEY, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNORS OF
ONE-THIRD TO WILLARD W. LLOYD, OF ASHLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

ATTACHING DEVICE FOR BAIT BOXES

Application filed July 8, 1929. Serial No. 376,619.

This invention relates to improvements in attaching devices and more particularly, has for an object to provide a device especially advantageous for use in quickly and effectively securing or attaching bait boxes and like devices to the belt of a sportsman user without the necessity of removing the belt from the wearer's body or threading the same through receiving loops, whereby the box will be conveniently supported in a position adjacent the user's body that access may be had thereto and furthermore, when required, that the box may be as readily and as quickly removed from the belt without disturbing its initial arrangement or the user's apparel.

It is likewise an equally important object of the invention to provide a belt attaching device of the character mentioned so constructed that an attaching engagement with a belt or other body supporting device will be effected in a manner to prevent distortion, folding or wrinkling of the belt and furthermore, will have a gripping engagement with such belt in a manner to prevent, to a great extent, objectionable creeping of the device or the box or bucket to which it is secured, with respect to the user's body, hence, ensuring the permanent arranging of the supported box or other device and therefore, maintaining it in conveniently accessible position at all times.

Other objects of the invention will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

In order that the invention and its mode of operation may be readily understood by persons skilled in the art, we have in the accompanying illustrative drawings, and in the detailed following description based thereon, set out several possible embodiments of the same.

In these drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the belt attaching device showing the same clampingly engaging a belt and as used in connection with a prevalent design of bait box;

Figure 2 is a similar view wherein the attaching device is shown in its open position ready to receive a belt or similar article therein, and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary detail in top plan view illustrating the attaching device in open position and showing the relative arrangement of the spring securing and clamping fingers with respect to the keepers provided therefor, and also, showing in dotted lines, the positions taken by the spring clamping fingers when they are engaged with their respective keepers in a belt securing or engaging position.

Having more particular reference to the drawings, in connection with which like characters of reference will designate corresponding parts throughout, we have shown for purposes of illustration herein, our improved belt attaching device as being used in conjunction with a design of bait box now prevalent in this particular art, the box being designated in its entirety, for convenience, by the numeral 1 and having one side wall thereof formed substantially arcuate as indicated by the numeral 2, this arcuate portion being adapted to snugly engage against a portion of a user's body, while the bait box proper is provided with a hinged closure or cover 3, for an obvious purpose. The bait box 1, as will be understood, is preferably constructed of sheet metal, though, of course, it may be formed of various other materials, such as conditions or preference may dictate. The improved belt attaching device, may be stated to comprise a single length of spring wire, bent into substantially U-shaped formation as is well shown in the Figure 2, the basal portion 4 of the device being laterally offset from the opposite sides or finger portions thereof by the forming of a substantially right angular bend 5 in the normally lower portions of each of said opposite sides of the device.

Securing or clamping fingers indicated by the numeral 6 are constituted by the opposite sides of the device and as will be noted, these fingers are formed with intermediately disposed loops 7, whereby to impart greater elasticity or spring thereto and also, to afford an effectual means for increasing the extent of frictional engagement of the fingers with a belt 8 or other device to be engaged thereby; the free extremities of the fingers 6 be-

ing enlarged, headed or otherwise finished, as indicated by the numeral 9 whereby to give finish thereto and to prevent their catching in or tearing the belt 8 or contacting portions of the apparel of a user. In this connection, it will be noted that the normal positioning of the fingers 6 of the attaching device are in substantially parallelism to the adjacent and arcuate side portion 2 of the bait box 1, the purpose of which will be subsequently apparent.

With a view toward providing means for effecting the securing of the clamping spring fingers 6 in clamping or securing engagement with a belt 8 or similar device to which the same are to be attached, I provide a curved or arcuate keeper 10, forming the same of a length of wire and curving the intermediate or body portion thereof upon itself, as is well shown in the Figure 3, and forming upon the opposite extremities of said body portion, inwardly turned or disposed pieces or keepers indicated for convenience by the numeral 11, the extremities of these keepers being preferably provided with enlarged heads as is indicated by the numeral 12. The length of the body portion of the keeper 10, as will be noted upon reference to the accompanying drawings, is such that the opposite extremities thereof carrying the inwardly disposed members 11 are arranged slightly inwardly of the spring fingers 6 when said fingers are in their open or inoperative positions, as illustrated in the Figure 2. This keeper 10 is preferably fixedly secured to the normally upper portion of the arcuate side wall 2 of the bait box 1 longitudinally of the same in a manner to positively effect the retaining of the keeper members 11 in positions extended outwardly from the bait box, whereby to permit of ready and convenient engagement of the upper or free portions of the spring engaging and clamping fingers 6 therein, in the manner as is shown in the Figure 3.

It will also be noted upon reference to the drawings, that the keeper 10 is fixed to the wall 2 of the box 1 in such a position that the keepers 11 will receive or engage the spring fingers at points below their enlarged or headed portions 9. By reason of this, it will be understood that the spring arms 6 will be limited in their outward transversal sliding movement, that is, should transversal stress be accidentally applied to the spring fingers 6, these latter would naturally bulge outwardly, and the enlarged portion 9 thereof coming in contact with adjacent portions of the arcuate keeper members 11, will prevent the fingers from sliding out of engagement therewith.

In usage of my improved attaching device and assuming that the same is affixed or secured to a bait box such as illustrated herein and identified by the numeral 1, the spring

securing and clamping fingers 6 are arranged in their open or in operative positions as is shown in the Figure 2. At this time, the fingers are engaged over one side of the belt 8 in the fashion shown in the Figure 1, whereupon the free extremities 9 thereof are engaged between the fingers of a user's hand and flexed in a direction toward each other and inwardly with respect to the bait box 1, bringing them into proximity to or contact with the intermediate or body portion of the element 10. At this time, the free extremities of the fingers 6 are released whereupon they will immediately snap into fixed engagement with their adjacent keeper members 11 and in so doing, will effect a positive clamping engagement or connection with the belt 8, hence, ensuring an efficient connection of the bait box 1 to the belt 8, which, of course, is arranged about the body of a sportsman user. Due to the provision of the loops 7 in the intermediate portions of the spring fingers 6, it will be seen that a positive frictional connection will be effected as between these loops and the belt and consequently upon this, that the shifting movement of the attached bait box 1 along the belt 8 will be prevented. This clamping engagement, of course, is accentuated by reason of the inherent resiliency of the spring arms 6 and their mode of engagement in the keeper members 11 secured to the upper side of the arcuate side wall 2 of the bait box 1. Furthermore, it is to be understood that by reason of the formation of the loops 7 in the spring fingers 6, the elasticity of these fingers will be materially increased and therefore, that their free extremities will be positively retained within their respective keeper members 11, hence, preventing accidental or undue disconnection of the fastener or attaching device from the belt 8 as well as effecting such a clamping engagement with said belt 8 as to prevent the creeping of the attached bait box 1 therealong.

The respective lengths of the spring fingers 6 is such that the free extremities 9 thereof, preferably extend for slight distances above the upper side of the equipped bait box 1, so as to permit of convenient engagement therewith by a user, when it is desired to detach the bait box 1 from the belt 8 or to rearrange the same, such as preference may dictate.

Because of the arcuate or curved formation of the body portion of the keeper member 10, it will be seen that not only is a positive engagement of this element with the arcuate side wall 2 of the bait box ensured, but also, the fingers 6 may be more readily moved into engagement with their respective keeper members 11 when released from the fingers of a user's hand subsequently to flexing and inward movement of the same in a direction toward the arcuate side wall 2 of the bait box, as is illustrated in the Figure 3.

Manifestly, the construction shown is capable of considerable modification, and such modification as is within the scope of our claims, we consider within the spirit of our invention.

We claim:—

1. An article attaching device, comprising a body portion formed with relatively spaced spring fingers adapted to be disposed substantially transversely of a portion of the article and having loops formed in their intermediate portions, and an arcuate keeper body secured to a portion of said article in proximity to the free extremities of said spring fingers having keeper members formed upon the opposite extremities thereof and adapted to receive the extremities of said spring fingers therein, the length of said keeper body being slightly less than the distance between said spring fingers prior to their engagement in the keeper members.

2. An article attaching device comprising a substantially U-shaped body portion formed with a laterally offset basal portion adapted to be fixedly secured to an adjacent portion of the article, the opposite sides of said body constituting spring fingers, said fingers being disposed in proximity to and substantially transversely of the adjacent portion of the article and having loops formed in their intermediate portions, the lengths of said fingers being greater than the depth of the article to which they are attached and extending for distances slightly above the upper side of said article, a keeper body fixedly secured to the adjacent side of said article in proximity to the free extremities of said fingers and formed upon its opposite ends with intumed keeper members adapted, to receive the free portions of said fingers therein, and the length of said keeper body being less than the normal distance between said fingers when the same are in their normal open positions.

3. An article attaching device comprising a single length of spring wire formed into substantially U-shaped fashion, the basal portion of said U-shaped length of wire being laterally offset and fixedly secured to an adjacent portion of the article and the opposite sides of the U-shaped wire being disposed in proximity to the adjacent side of the article and substantially transversely thereof, the respective lengths of said opposite sides of the U-shaped wire being of lengths greater than the depth of the article to which they are attached and extending for a distance above the top thereof, said sides of the U-shaped wire having loops formed in their intermediate portions, and a keeper member fixedly secured to an adjacent portion of the article and having keeper members formed upon its opposite extremities, said keeper body being of a length slightly less than the normal distance between the opposite sides

of the U-shaped wire and adapted to receive the free extremities thereof.

4. An article attaching device comprising relatively spaced spring fingers extending over a portion of the article and having one of their ends secured to the latter, the free ends of said fingers being formed with an enlarged extension, an arcuate keeper body fixed to said portion of the article in proximity to the free ends of the fingers, keeper means formed upon the opposite end portions of said keeper body and adapted to receive and retain the free extremities of said spring fingers and to engage the same at a point below the enlarged extension thereof to limit the outward transversal sliding movement of said fingers when engaged by said keeper means.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

THOMAS LLOYD.
THOMAS W. LLOYD.

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