Aug. 24, 1965 C. T. BARBEE 3,201,888

MINNOW TONGS

Filed June 22, 1962

Fig-1

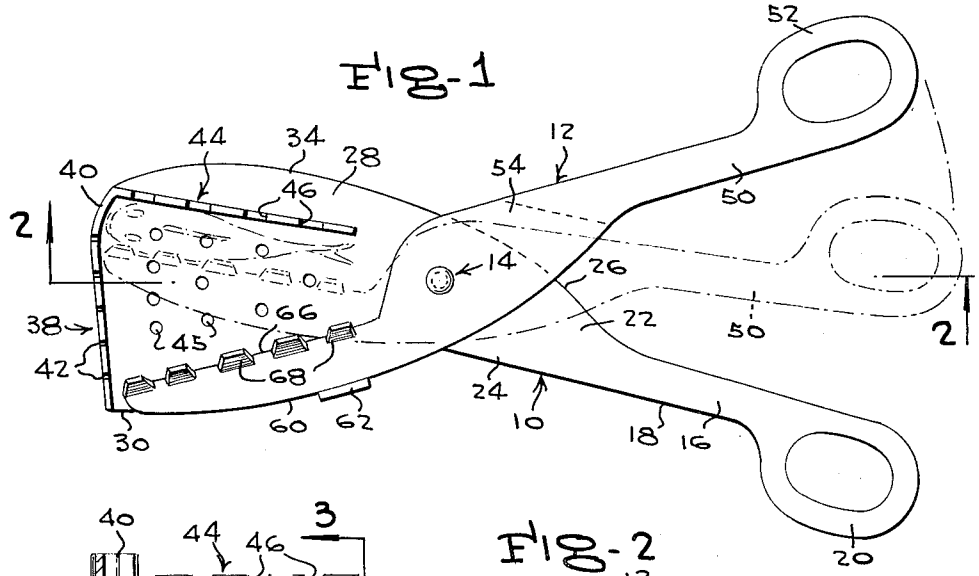


Fig-2

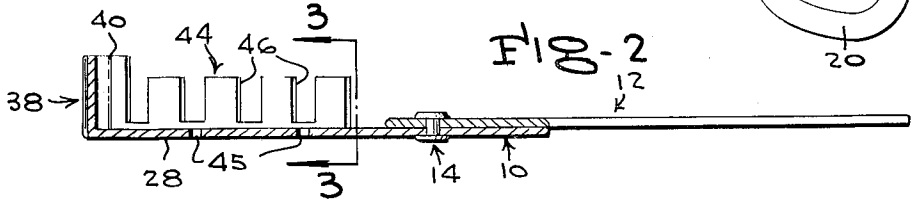


Fig-3

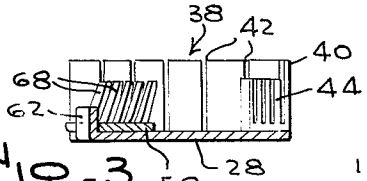


Fig-4

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United States Patent Office 3,201,888 Patented Aug. 24, 1965

3,201,888

MINNOW TONGS

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Filed June 22, 1962, Ser. No. 204,585
4 Claims. (Cl. 43—4)

This invention relates to a novel minnow tongs.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of an easily used, and efficient device of the kind indicated, for taking minnows from a container therefor, such as a minnow bucket, without putting the hands in the water therein, and without injury to minnows therein; and for easily and securely holding a minnow in position for insertion of a fishhook, without danger of injury to the hands or to the minnow.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a simple and inexpensive device of the character indicated above, which is composed of a minimum number of uncomplex parts which are easily manufactured and assembled.

Other important objects and advantageous features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein, for purpose of illustration only, a specific form of the invention is set forth in detail.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of a device of the present invention, showing the same open, in full lines, and closed, in phantom lines;

FIGURE 2 is a vertical longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a vertical transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is an exploded perspective view of the device.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the several views, the illustrated device comprises a lower lever **10**, an upper lever **12**, and a headed pivot pin **14**, which secures the levers swingably together where they cross.

The lower lever **10** comprises a flat bar having a straight, relatively narrow handle portion **16**, formed on its left-hand side edge **18**, at its outer end, with a lateral finger loop **20**. At its longitudinally inward end, the handle portion **16** merges into a flared intermediate portion **22**, having a left-hand side edge **24** continuous with the edge **18**, and a convexly curved right-hand side edge **26**.

The lower lever **10** further comprises a forwardly flaring, flat plate **28**, which is substantially wider than the intermediate portion **22**, and whose longitudinal centerline is disposed at an acute angle to the longitudinal centerline of the handle portion **16**, whereby the plate **28** reaches laterally outwardly beyond the left-hand side edges **18** and **24**. The plate **28** has a longitudinally and convexly curved left-hand side edge **30**, which, at its longitudinally inward end, intersects the left-hand side edge **24**, as indicated at **32**. The plate **28** has a longitudinally and convexly curved right-hand side edge **34** which is continuous with the right-hand side edge **26**, of the intermediate portion **22**. The left- and right-hand side edges **30** and **34** join, at their forward ends, the ends of a straight transverse forward edge **36**, which is disposed substantially normal to the longitudinal centerline of the plate **28**. It is to be noted that, for use by a left-handed person, the terms "right-hand" and "left-hand" would be reversed.

The forward edge **36** of the plate **28** has extending therealong a straight upstanding front wall **38**, which extends from the left-hand side edge of the plate **28** toward the right-hand side edge thereof, whereat the wall

38 has a laterally outwardly and rearwardly curved portion **40**. The wall **38**, except for the curved portion **40**, is formed, at equally spaced intervals, with relatively narrow perpendicular water escape slots **42**.

The curved end portion **40** of the front wall **38** merges into the forward end of an upstanding, rearwardly extending side wall **44** which is disposed at a slight laterally inward and rearward angle relative to and is somewhat longer than the wall **38**, and is spaced laterally inwardly from the right-hand side edge of the plate **28**. The plate **28** has water-escape holes **45** distributed thereover.

The side wall **44** is lower than the front wall **38** and is formed with a plurality of equally spaced, relatively wide vertical slots **46**, through which a fishhook is adapted to be selectively inserted, for hooking the fishhook in a minnow. At a centered point substantially in transverse alignment with the intersecting point **32**, the intermediate portion **22** is provided with a pivot hole **48**, through which the headed pivot pin **14** is adapted to be engaged.

The upper lever **12** overlies and crosses the lower lever **10**, and comprises a flat bar, preferably of the same gauge as the lower lever bar, which has a handle portion **50**, a finger loop **52**, and an intermediate portion **54**, which are similar to but reversed with respect to the same components of the lower lever **10**, the intermediate portion **54** having a centered pivot hole **56**, for reception of the pivot pin **14**.

In the forward end of the intermediate portion **54** is a forwardly extending relatively narrow flat plate **58**, whose longitudinal centerline is substantially parallel to and is laterally offset to the left-hand side of the longitudinal centerline of the handle portion **50**. The plate **58** has a longitudinal convexly curved left-hand side edge **60** having the same curvature as the corresponding side edge **30** of the plate **28** of the lower lever **10**, which has thereon, in a position to be engaged by the edge **60**, as shown in FIGURE 1 an upstanding stop **62**, in the open position of the device. The plate **58** has a forward end which is located close to and longitudinally-spaced from the rearward side of the transverse front wall **38**.

The plate **58** has a straight right-hand side edge **66** along which rises a wall composed of a plurality of relatively widely spaced teeth **68** which are disposed at a slight laterally inward and upward angle relative to the plate **58**, and hence to the plate **28**.

In effect, the plate **28**, front wall **38**, and side wall **44** of the lower lever **10** constitute an open-top, open-sided minnow container, whose open side is closed by the teeth **68** on the plate **58** of the upper lever **12**.

In use and operation, the container of the device is inserted in a minnow bucket, in open condition, and a minnow scooped into the container and lifted out of the bucket, at the same time that the device is closed, so that the teeth **68** are moved toward the side wall **44**, so as to position the minnow longitudinally in the container and lightly clamp the minnow, in an immobile condition, between the teeth **68** and the side wall **44**. The slant of the teeth **68** serves to clamp the minnow down upon the plate **28** of the lower lever **10** without injury to the minnow. A fishhook (not shown) can then be selectively inserted through the spaces between the teeth **68** or through the slots **46** of the side wall **44** and accurately impaled in the minnow, after which the device is opened to release the minnow.

Although there has been shown and described a preferred form of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not necessarily confined thereto, and that any change or changes in the structure of and in the structure of and in the relative arrangements of components thereof are contemplated as being within the

scope of the invention as defined by the claims appended thereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A minnow tongs comprising a lower lever and an upper lever, said levers being crossed and pivoted together intermediate their ends, said lower lever terminating at its forward end in a first flat plate, an upstanding transverse wall extending across the forward end of said plate, an upstanding longitudinal wall extending on said plate rearwardly from one end of said transverse wall, said upper lever terminating at its forward end in a second flat plate substantially narrower than the first plate of the lower lever, the forward end of the second plate being located close to and longitudinally-spaced from the rearward side of said transverse wall, and an upstanding longitudinal wall extending along the edge of the second plate adjacent to and opposed to the longitudinal wall of the first plate, said first and second plates being arranged to have sliding contact with each other as the levers are closed, the longitudinal wall of the upper level plate being disposed at an upward and laterally-inward angle relative to the second plate for holding a minnow upon the first plate and between the longitudinal walls as the levers are closed, said transverse wall being taller than said longitudinal walls.

2. A minnow tongs according to claim 1, wherein said walls are formed with longitudinal spaced vertical slots.

3. A minnow tongs comprising a lower lever and an upper lever, said levers being crossed and pivoted together intermediate their ends, said lower lever terminating at its forward end in a first flat plate, an upstanding transverse wall extending across the forward end of said plate, an upstanding longitudinal wall extending on said plate rearwardly from one end of said transverse wall, said upper lever terminating at its forward end in a second flat plate substantially narrower than the first plate of the lower lever, the forward end of the second plate being located close to and longitudinally-spaced from the rearward side of said transverse wall, and an upstanding longitudinal wall extending along the edge of the second plate adjacent to and opposed to the longitudinal wall of the first plate, said first and second plates being arranged to have sliding contact with each other as the levers are closed, the walls being perforate, said transverse wall being taller than the longitudinal walls.

4. A minnow tongs according to claim 3, wherein said walls are formed with longitudinal spaced vertical slots opening to their upper edges.

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