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Jackson et al.

[11] **3,842,530**

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[54] **FISHHOOK AND TROTLINE HOLDER AND DISPENSER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **43/54.5 A**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A01k 97/06**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 43/54.5 R, 54.5 A, 57.5 R, 43/57.5 A

[56] **References Cited**

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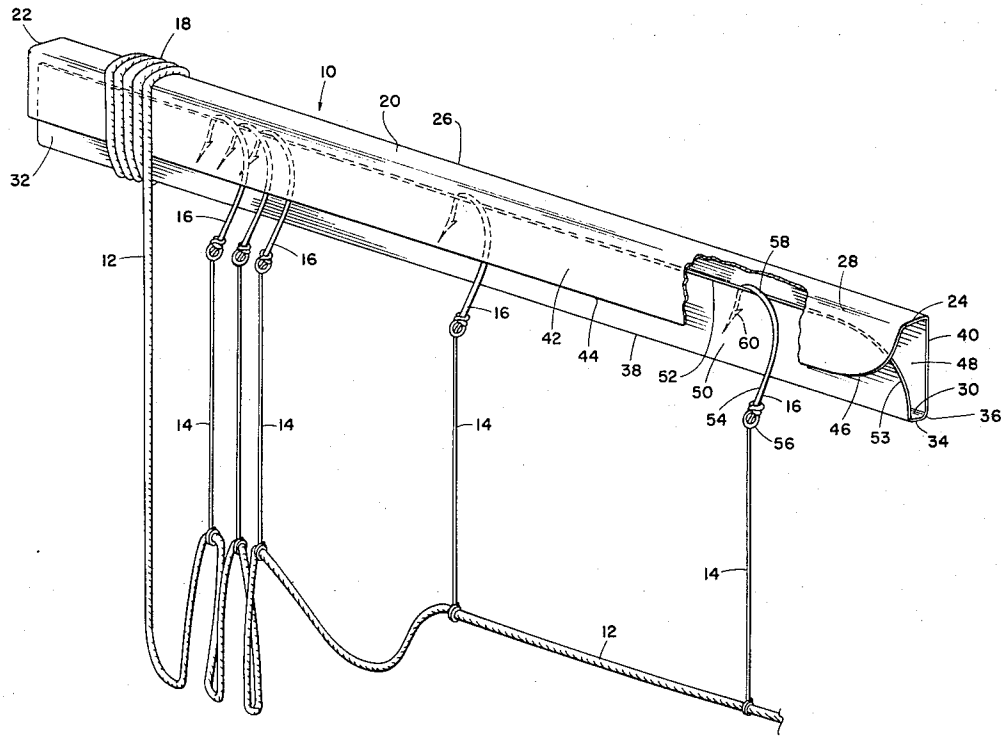
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A fishhook and trotline holder and dispenser for a trotline of the type having a plurality of spaced leaders attached at one end to the trotline; each leader has a fishhook attached to the free end thereof; each fishhook has a shank portion, an eye at one end of the shank portion for attachment to the leader, a curved portion attached to one end to the other end of the shank portion and a barb on the other end of the curved portion; the holding and dispensing device comprises an elongated casing formed by narrow elongated and horizontal top and bottom walls, a vertical and elongated side wall connecting from one side edge of the top wall to one side edge of the bottom wall, an elongated and vertical lip connected to and extending downwardly from the other side edge of the top wall parallel with the side wall, an elongated and vertical intermediate wall connected to and extending upwardly from the other side edge of the bottom wall and terminating in an upper side edge spaced below and parallel with the top wall, said intermediate wall being disposed between and parallel with said side wall and said lip, the upper side edge of said intermediate wall having a rounded end adjacent one end of the said casing; the vertical height of the intermediate wall is preferably somewhat less than the length of the shank portion of the fishhook extending from the eye portion thereof to the center of the curved portion thereof; the horizontal distance between the lip and the intermediate wall is preferably less than the distance from the center of the curved portion of the fishhook to the shank portion thereof; the dimensional recitations set forth above prevent the barbs of the various hooks from becoming entangled with each other; preferably, the holder and dispensing device can be folded from a single sheet of metallic material.

4 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



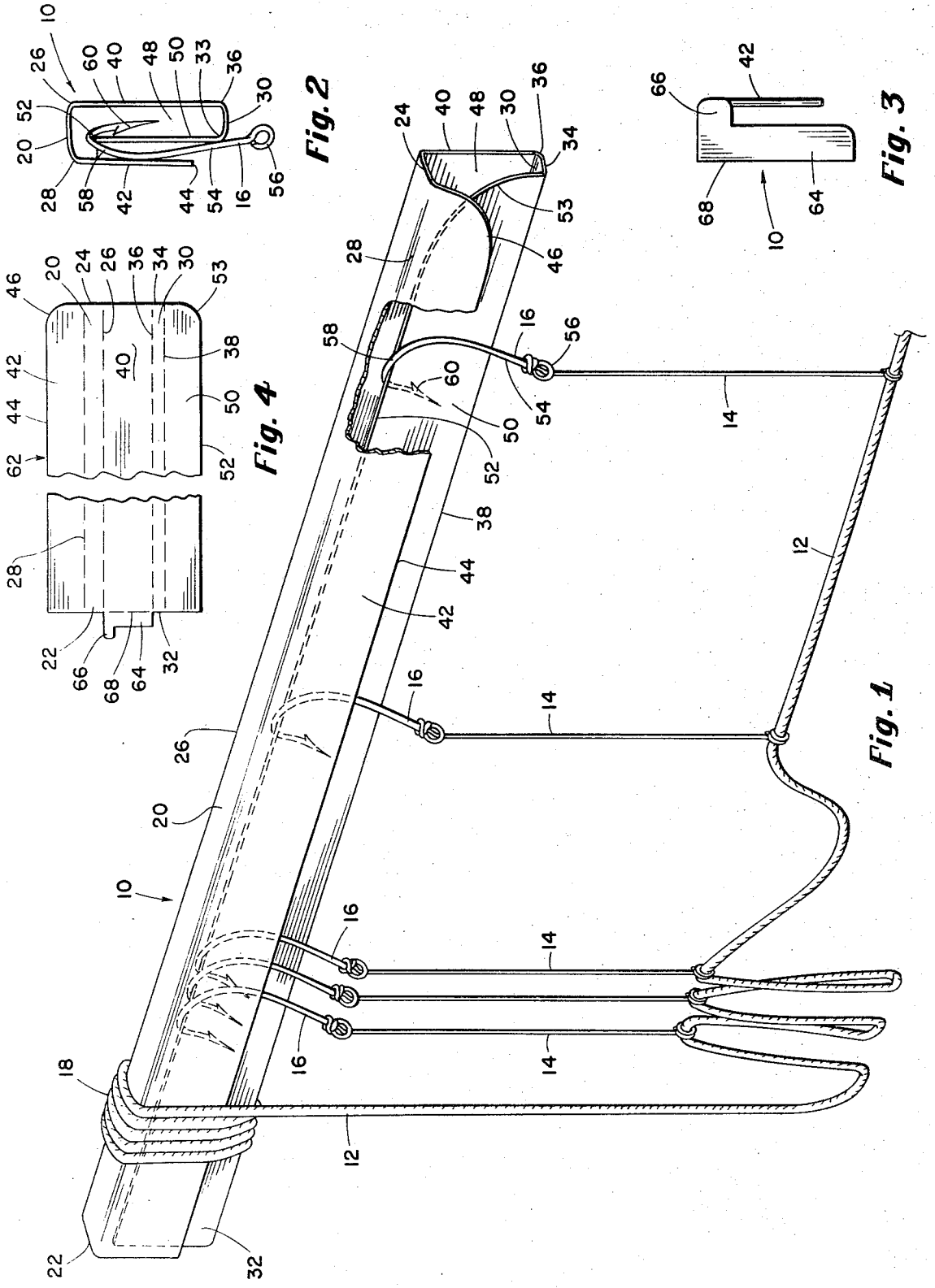


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

FISHHOOK AND TROTLINE HOLDER AND DISPENSER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a device for holding and dispensing fishhooks for a trotline; more particularly, the present invention relates to a holding and dispensing device for fishhooks and trotlines which is simpler and less expensive than those heretofore available; the present invention also prevents the hooks from becoming entangled with each other.

2. The Prior Art

The prior art patents which are believed to be the most pertinent as far as the present invention is concerned are as follows: to Vanderhider et al. U.S. Pat. No. 1,997,243, to Coalson U.S. Pat. No. 2,242,509, to Stevens et al. U.S. Pat. No. 2,633,661.

The prior art, typified by the above enumerated patents, shows that it is broadly old to provide devices for holding and dispensing fishhooks and trotlines. The prior art, such as the Vanderhider et al patent referred to above, shows that it is old to make such devices from a single sheet of metal which can be folded to provide the ultimate device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a fishhook and trotline holder and dispenser for a trotline of the type having a plurality of spaced leaders attached at one end to the trotline and a fishhook attached to the free end of each leader. Each fishhook is composed of a shank portion, an eye at one end of the shank for attachment to the leader, a curved portion at the other end of the shank and a barb on the free end of the curved portion. The device itself comprises an elongated casing having narrow and elongated top and bottom walls, a side wall connecting one side edge of the top wall with one side edge of the bottom wall, an elongated and vertical lip connected to and extending downwardly from the other side edge of the top wall parallel with the side wall, and an elongated and vertical intermediate wall connected to and extending upwardly from the other side edge of the bottom wall and terminating in an upper side edge spaced below and parallel with the top wall. The upper side edge of the intermediate wall is rounded adjacent one end of the casing. The vertical distance from the upper side edge of the intermediate wall to the bottom wall is preferably no greater than the distance from the center of the curved portion of the fishhook to the eye portion thereof so that the eye portion will be disposed below the bottom wall when the curved portion of the fishhook is received on the upper side edge of the intermediate wall. The horizontal distance between the lip and the intermediate side wall is less than the distance from the center of the curved portion of the fishhook to the shank portion thereof so that, when a fishhook is inserted into one end of the casing the plane of the curved portion of the fishhook is disposed at an acute angle with respect to the plane of the intermediate side wall so as to prevent the barbs of the adjacent fishhooks from becoming entangled with each other. Preferably the casing or device of the present invention can be formed from a single metallic sheet or blank which is folded to form the various portions of the device as referred to above. The blank is also provided with a tab for folding over the end of the device opposite from the place of insertion of the fishhooks.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective, with a portion broken away, of the fishhook and trotline holder and dispenser of the present device showing a trotline associated therewith;

FIG. **2** is an end view of the holding and dispensing device showing the relative position of a fishhook received therein;

FIG. **3** is an end view of the holding and dispensing device opposite from the position shown in FIG. **2**; and

FIG. **4** is a plan view, on a reduced scale, of a blank from which the dispensing and holding device of the present invention can be made.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings in detail, reference numeral **10** generally designates a holding and dispensing device for a trotline **12** having attached thereto a plurality of leaders **14.** A plurality of fishhooks **16** are attached to the free ends of the leaders **14** by suitable knots as is well known. One end **18** of the trotline **12** can be wound around the rear end of the device **10** and attached thereto by a suitable knot as would be well known. The other end (not shown) of the trotline **12** would be attached to a main line, a stake, or other stationary object which would permit the withdrawal of the trotline and leaders by a pulling action on the device **10** away from the stationary object so that the hooks **16** could be lowered into a body of water (not shown). The casing **10** has an elongated and narrow top wall **20** which is defined by a pair of opposite and narrow end edges **22** and **24** and a pair of opposite and elongated side edges **26** and **28.** Below and parallel to the top wall **20** is a bottom wall **30** which is defined by a pair of opposite and narrow end edges **32** and **34** and a pair of opposite and elongated side edges **36** and **38.** It should be noted that the side edges of the top wall are substantially of the same length as the side edges of the bottom wall but the end edges **22** and **24** of the top wall are somewhat wider than the end edges **32** and **34** of the bottom wall. An elongated and vertical end wall **40** extends from the side edge **26** of the top wall **20** to the side edge **36** of the bottom wall **30.** An elongated and vertical lip **42** extends downwardly from the side edge **28** of the top wall **20** substantially parallel with the side wall **40** and terminates in a lower side edge **44** spaced above and parallel with the bottom wall **30.** The lower side edge of the lip **42** is preferably provided with a rounded end **46** adjacent the open forward end **48** of the casing.

Extending upwardly from the side edge **38** of the bottom wall **30** is an intermediate wall **50** which is parallel with and between the lip **42** and the side wall **40.** The upper end of the intermediate side wall **50** terminates in an upper side edge **52** spaced below and parallel with the top wall **20.**

As best shown in FIG. **2,** a fishhook **16** is shown as received in the open end **48** of the device **10.** The fishhook **16** has a main straight shank portion **54** at one end of which is an eye **56.** The other end of the shank portion **54** connects with a curved portion **58** which is

curved approximately through 180° and which terminates in a barb **60** at the end of the curved portion.

The distance from theupper edge **52** of the intermediate wall to the lower edge **38** is preferably less than the distance from the center of the curved portion **58** to the eye **56** of the fishhook **16.** This means that, when the hook **16** is inserted into the device, the eye **56** will be disposed below the lower wall **30**; stated conversely, the vertical height of the intermediate wall **50** should be such that the eyes **56** will not ride against the side of the intermediate wall **50** when the fishhook is inserted into the device.

The horizontal distance between the lip **42** and the intermediate wall **50** must be sufficiently small that it would be impossible to insert a hook into the device where the plane of the hook was at right angles to the plane of the intermediate wall **50**; stated somewhat differently, the distance from the center of the curved portion **58** of the hook to the shank portion thereof (extended) should be greater than the distance from the lip **42** to the intermediate wall **50.** This means that the plane of the fishhook as formed by the curved portion thereof will always be at an acute angle with respect to the plane of the intermediate wall. Again, when the fishhook is inserted into the open end **48** of the device **10** the fishhook will not rotate with respect to the axis of the shank portion **58** such that it is impossible for the barb **60** to come in contact with a barb of an adjacent fishhook thereby preventing possible entanglement between the fishhooks. The upper side edge of the intermediate wall **50** is provided with a rounded end **53** adjacent the forward open end **48** of the casing.

FIG. **4** shows a blank **62** from which the device **10** of the present invention may be made by merely folding along the dotted lines indicated. The blank **62** has been marked with reference numerals representing the corresponding lines and portions described in relation to FIGS. **1** to **3.** The blank **62** of FIG. **4** also shows an integral flap **64** having an outwardly projecting tab **66.** The flap **64** is adapted to be folded relative to the side wall **40** along the folding line **68** so as to cover the end opposite from the open end **48** as best shown in FIG. **3.**

Starting with the blank **62** shown in FIG. **4,** the intermediate wall **50** and the side wall **40** are formed parallel to each other and perpendicular to the bottom wall **40** by folding along lines **36** and **38.** Thereafter, the lip **42** is folded relative to the top wall **20** along the folding line **28** and the top wall **20** is folded relative to the side wall **40** along the folding line **26** until the relative configuration shown in FIG. **2** is achieved. Thereafter, the flap **64** is folded along the lines **68** until flap **64** and tab **66** are in the position shown in FIG. **3.**

When inserting the fishhooks **16** into the device **10,** the barbs **60** are preferably turned toward the rear so that the fingers of the fisherman come in contact with the hook opposite from the barbed portion. Therafter, the hooks are slid towards the rear as far as possible. The barbs of adjacent hooks will not come into contact with each other, however, because the hooks are firmly engaged between the lip and the intermediate wall and cannot be twisted.

Whereas the present invention has been described in particular relation to the drawings attached hereto, it should be understood that other and further modifications, apart from those shown or suggested herein, may be made within the spirit and scope of this invention.

We claim:

1. A fishhook and trotline holder and dispenser for a trotline having a plurality of spaced leaders attached thereto, each leader having a fishhook attached to the free end thereof, and each fishhook being of substantially the same size and shape and being composed of a shank portion, an eye at one end of the shank portion for attachment to the leader, a curved portion attached at one end to the other end of said shank portion and a barb on the other end of said curved portion comprising:

an elongated casing formed by

a narrow elongated and horizontal top wall having a pair of opposite and narrow end edges and a pair of opposite and elongated side edges,

a narrow elongated bottom wall disposed below and parallel with said top wall and having a pair of opposite and narrow end edges and a pair of opposite and elongated side edges,

the side edges of said top wall being of substantially the same length as the side edges of said bottom wall, the end edges of said top wall being wider than the end edges of said bottom wall,

an elongated and vertical side wall connected from one side edge of said top wall to one side edge of said bottom wall,

an elongated and vertical lip connected to and extending downwardly from the other side edge of said top wall substantially parallel to and substantially coextensive with said side wall,

an elongated and vertical intermediate wall having a length substantially equal to that of said vertical side wall and connected to and extending upwardly from the other side edge of said bottom wall and terminating in an upper side edge spaced below and parallel with said top wall, said intermediate wall being disposed between and parallel with said side wall and said lip, the upper side edge of said intermediate wall having a rounded end adjacent one end of said casing,

the vertical distance from the upper side edge of said intermediate wall to said other side edge of said bottom wall being no greater than the distance from the center of the curved portion of the fish hook to the eye portion thereof, whereby said eye portion will be disposed below said other edge of said bottom wall when said curved portion is received on said upper side edge of said intermediate wall, and

the horizontal distance between said lip and said intermediate side wall being less than the distance from the center of the curved portion of the fishhook to the shank portion thereof, whereby the fishhook must be inserted and retained in said casing in such manner that the plane of the curved portion is at an acute angle with respect to the plane of said intermediate side wall.

2. The invention of claim **1** wherein said casing is formed from a single metallic sheet which is folded to form said top wall, bottom wall, side wall, lip and intermediate wall.

3. The invention of claim **1** wherein said casing is provided with an end wall to close the end thereof opposite from said one end of said casing.

4. The invention of claim **3** wherein said casing is formed from a single metallic sheet which is folded to form said top wall, bottom wall, side wall, lip, intermediate wall and end wall.

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