

E. E. HAYDEN.
 FLY CATCHING PISTOL.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 18, 1910.

980,633.

Patented Jan. 3, 1911.

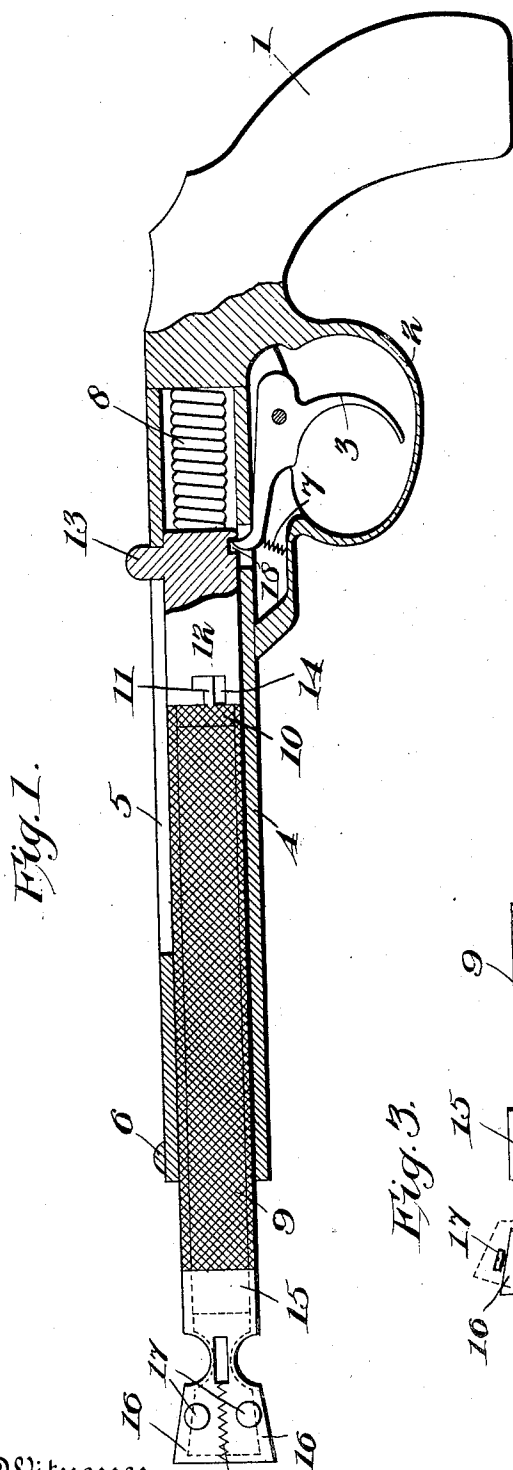


Fig. 1.

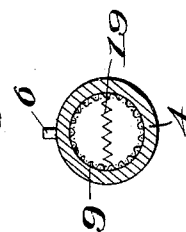
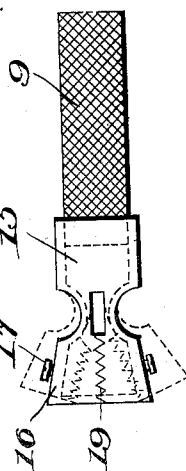


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD E. HAYDEN, OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

FLY-CATCHING PISTOL.

980,633.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 3, 1911.

Application filed May 18, 1910. Serial No. 562,060.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD E. HAYDEN, commander U. S. Navy, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fly-Catching Pistols; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to a fly catching pistol; and the object of my invention is to make a simple, light implement shaped like a pistol, by means of which flies and other insects and animals may be successfully killed or caught and afterward killed by detaching a part of the pistol and plunging it into boiling water.

With this object in view, my invention consists in the construction and combinations of parts as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing—Figure 1 is a side view, partly in section, of my invention. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same, and Fig. 3 is a detail of the head.

The principle of the invention is the provision of weighted jaws hinged on the end of a movable part, the jaws being weighted outside of the hinged lines of the said part, so that as the movable part is moved forward, under the influence of a spring or other motive power, the weights will cause the jaws to fly apart, thus forming an opening, which opening, however, instantly closes when the head strikes an object or is stopped by the stoppage of the movable part. In other words, the device is a pistol containing a movable part carrying on its outer end a head having movable jaws, which jaws automatically open when the pistol is fired and automatically close when the motion of the movable part is checked.

The apparatus, in its preferred form, presents the appearance of an ordinary pistol with a rod having a head projecting therefrom.

1 represents the pistol grip, 2 the trigger guard, 3 the trigger, and 4 the barrel, provided with a slot 5 on its upper side and with a sight 6.

7 represents a spring normally forcing the trigger up, and 8 the impelling spring, located in the barrel.

Within the barrel is located a movable

part, consisting of a cage 9, made hollow, either of wire gauze or of a tube provided with perforations and having the rim of the rear end solid, as shown at 10, and provided with a plurality of L-shaped projections 11.

12 represents a plug provided with a rear sight 13, adapted to be screwed therein and having L-shaped openings 14, so that the cage and plug may be joined together as one movable part by inserting the parts 11 into the slots 14 and turning the parts relatively to each other, whereupon they become locked together.

On the outer end of the cage 9 is a head 15. This head is hollow and is provided with movable jaws 16, having weights 17 thereon. Preferably this head is made in a fanciful manner, each of the jaws indicating half of a dragon's head, for example, with the weights 17 indicating the eyes. The jaws are provided with teeth 19, which interlock with each other when the jaws are closed, as shown in Fig. 1, and the weights 17 are located on the outside of the jaws, so that the inertia due to the weights, aided by the resistance due to the air, will cause the jaws to automatically open when the pistol is fired and to snap shut when the movable part stops.

The plug 12 is provided with a slot 18, with which the upper end of the trigger 3 engages when the cage and plug are pushed back by hand or are drawn back by a pull on the rear sight 13, thereby compressing the spring 8.

The operation is as follows:—The cage and plug being pushed back, compressing the spring 8, until the trigger 3 has engaged the slot 18, the pistol is ready for use. It is sighted at a fly or other insect that it is desired to catch and the trigger pulled, whereupon the spring 8 forces the movable part, composed of the cage 9 and plug 12, the former carrying the head, outwardly. The weights 17 being mounted on the outside of the jaws 16, cause these jaws to fly open, this movement being aided by the resistance of the air. When the sight 13 has moved to the end of the slot 5, the movement is suddenly stopped and the jaws fly together instantly. The action is very rapid and the pistol very effective for the purpose designed.

When the cage 9 has become nearly filled with flies or other insects, it may be disengaged from the plug 12 and withdrawn from the pistol and put into boiling water, which,

of course, immediately kills the insects. Then the jaws are opened and water from a hydrant allowed to run through the cage, which washes out the dead insects. Even when there are a number of flies in the cage 9, it can still be further used, because in operation, as the jaws 16 fly open, the inrush of the air into the cage prevents the flies or other insects from escaping.

While I have thus described one form of my invention, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not limit myself to the exact details shown and described, as these might be varied widely without departing from the spirit of my invention, the principal features of which are the provision of a cage carrying a head with movable jaws, which are automatically opened when the pistol is fired and immediately closed when the movement of the cage stops. Neither do I limit myself to the materials of which the device is made. For instance, the head 15 and jaws 16 may be made of rubber, or the jaws may be made of metal with spring portions between the jaws and the main part of the head. The cage 9 may be made of wire gauze strengthened, if desired, by metal strips or wires, or it may be made of paper or other material. Similarly, the barrel may be made of metal, wood, or paper, and I do not restrict myself in any respect to the use of any particular material.

Any desired means may be used for impelling the cage and plug. For instance, by changing the shape of the sights 6 and 13, the impelling power could be furnished by an ordinary rubber band, passing over these sights. Instead of L-shaped joints uniting the parts 9 and 12, any suitable fastening means might be employed. For instance, the end of the cage 9 might be provided with a projecting screw engaging the part 12, or the plug 12 might be made hollow and screw-threaded inside, and the rear end of the cage might have a reduced screw-threaded portion, engaging said plug, and many other detail changes might be made. Furthermore,

an ordinary skeleton shoulder piece could be applied to the pistol grip 1 in the usual manner, if desired.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. In an insect catching pistol, the combination with the barrel, trigger and spring, of a compound part attached to move freely within said barrel for a limited distance, said part comprising a slotted head at one end, an intermediate, foraminous, tubular portion partly within the barrel, and a hollow head provided with movable jaws at the other end, substantially as described.

2. In an insect catching pistol, the combination with the barrel, trigger and the impelling spring in the barrel, of a movable compound part having a slotted head at one end notched for the reception of the trigger, an intermediate, foraminous, tubular portion located partly within said barrel, and a hollow head at the other end, said head being provided with weighted jaws, the weights being located on the outside portion of said jaws and at a greater distance from the center of the movable part than the tubular portion thereof, so that the jaws will open and close automatically when the trigger is pulled, substantially as described.

3. In an insect catching pistol, the combination of a barrel having a slot in its upper part, a trigger, and an impelling spring located in the barrel, with a compound part adapted to move as a whole, and having a portion projecting through the slot in the barrel and acting as a rear sight, a portion of said movable part being hollow and provided with foraminous walls and a hollow head carried by said portion and provided with weighted and toothed jaws, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD E. HAYDEN.

Witnesses:

N. CURTIS LAMMOND,
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