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COMBINATION MOTOR WELL AND GASOLINE TANK

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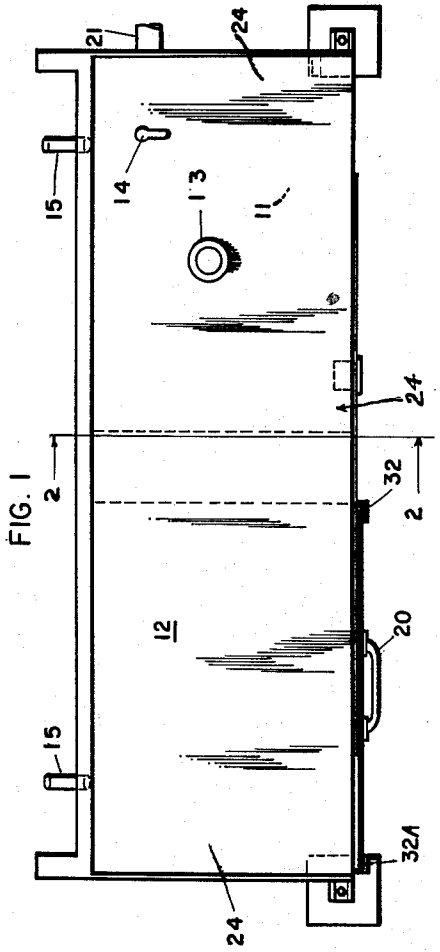


FIG. 1

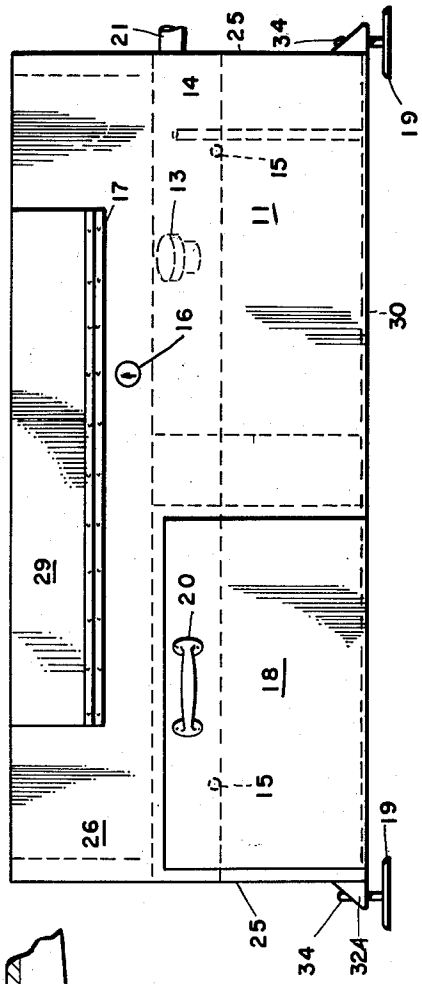


FIG. 3

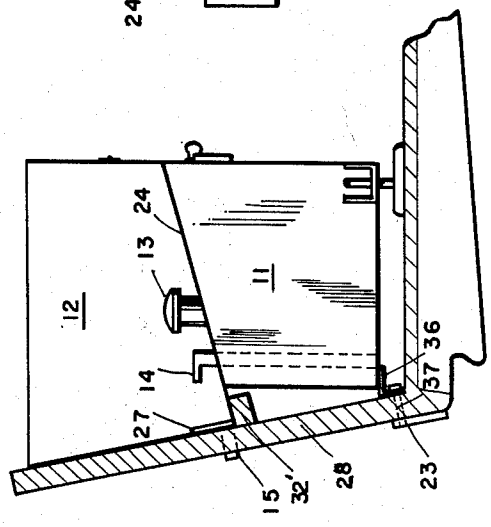


FIG. 2

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COMBINATION MOTOR WELL AND GASOLINE TANK

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This invention relates to boats and, more particularly, to a combination motor well and gasoline tank for outboard boats.

Gasoline tanks for outboard boats are often in the form of a can. The boat owner will first purchase a small can for a gas tank with his boat. Then later he may purchase another can for an auxiliary tank. These cans rest loosely in the boat and form an unsightly appearance at the rear end of the boat and are exposed to damage, spillage of gasoline, and other hazards. Further, the batteries used to start the boat are often strewn at random at the rear of the boat and other gear form an unsightly appearance adjacent the motor.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide a single motor well, gasoline tank, battery box, and storage area which may be lined with a light material such as balsam wood or foam plastic. The entire unit is compact and capable of conserving space while, at the same time, it provides a flotation unit for use as a life preserver or to save the motor should the boat sink.

The motor well is so designed that it keeps backwash from entering the boat and also provides a sump for draining water or spilled gasoline out of the well and out of the boat. By mounting the gasoline tank under the well, it eliminates a need for hose connection and it gives positive connection between the filling opening of the tank and the tank. The arrangement of the tank enables it to hold more fuel in less space than when separate can type tanks are used. Also, shorter connections are used from the boat to the motor, thereby introducing another factor in convenience and safety.

It is, accordingly, an object of the present invention to provide a combination motor well and gasoline tank which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and simple and efficient to use.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved combination motor well, gasoline tank, and storage space for use in an outboard boat.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a motor well and gasoline tank according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1 showing a part of the boat supporting the device; and

FIG. 3 is a front view of the motor well and gasoline tank.

Now with more particularly reference to the drawing, a combination fuel tank, motor well, and storage compartment is shown wherein a gasoline tank **11** is located at the right hand side and the storage compartment having a door **18** is located at the left hand bottom part of the arrangement. A backwash wall **12** is disposed above the gasoline tank **11** and the door **18** and has a rearwardly sloping bottom **24** supported intermediate the top and bottom of side panels **25** and a front **26**. The floor **24** can be made as the top of the gasoline tank.

The motor well is, therefore, made up of the bottom **24**, the side panels **25**, the front **26**, and a rear wall **27**. The wall **27** directs water and gasoline which may accumulate in the well through a drain **15** which extends through a back panel **28** of the boat to drain from the boat any water or gas which may spill.

The door **18** has a handle **20** thereon for opening and closing it. The door is slidable up and down between cleats **32** to provide access to the space inside the storage compartment and battery container. In its lowered position, it rests on the floor.

A well door **29** is connected to the front **26** by a piano hinge **17** and this door may be swung forward to provide convenient axis to the motor well. The well may be provided with a suitable floor **30** extending from one side to the other of the device and the storage compartment may be provided with a suitable rear wall **31**.

A gasoline tank filler neck **13**, a gauge **16**, and a motor intake gasoline connection **14** extend up through the bottom of the motor well to provide easy access.

The device according to the invention has brackets **32A** fixed to the side edges thereof. Front adjustable supports **19** have a threaded staff **34** which engages the brackets **32A** and provides adjustment for the front end of the device to accommodate it to the irregular flow of the boat.

L-shaped brackets **36** are attached to the rear corners of the device and they may be attached by bolts **37**. The bolts **37** extend through holes in the back of the boat and into support brackets and ground connections **23**.

The rear part of the well may rest on a suitable support **32'** on the rear part of the boat to hold it steady. A suitable vent **21** may extend out through the side of the device.

The device according to the invention may be made of sheet metal, fiberglass, plastic, or other suitable material and it may be made of a size and general configuration suitable to fit into the rear end of the ordinary outboard boat.

The foregoing specification sets forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. In combination, a motor well and gasoline tank comprising a generally vertically extending front wall, two spaced side walls attached to said front wall and extending generally perpendicular thereto, a motor well bottom disposed between the top and bottom of said front wall and said side walls, a floor, said floor attached to said front wall and to said side walls adjacent the bottom thereof, a gasoline tank adjacent one said side wall on said floor occupying approximately one-half the space between said floor and said well bottom, a door slidably attached to said front wall and providing access to said space between said bottom and said floor adjacent said tank, and a tank filler member extending upward through said bottom.

2. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein a door is swingably attached to said front wall above said floor and forming an upper part of said front wall to provide access to said well.

3. The combination recited in claim 2 wherein said door is adapted to slide downward into engagement with the floor of a boat .

4. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein said bottom slopes downwardly from said front wall.

5. In combination, a motor well and gasoline tank comprising a generally vertically extending front wall, two spaced side walls attached to said front wall and extending generally perpendicular thereto, a motor well bottom disposed between the top and bottom of said front wall and said side walls, a floor, said floor attached to said front wall and to said side walls adjacent the bottom thereof, a gasoline tank adjacent one said side wall on said floor occupying approximately one-half the space between said wall and providing access to said space between said bottom and said floor adjacent said tank.

6. A combination gasoline tank and motor well comprising a front wall, a bottom wall attached to said front wall and adapted to extend rearwardly into engagement with the rear wall of a boat, a gasoline tank under said bottom wall and at one side thereof, a sliding door on the side of said front wall remote from said gasoline tank providing access to the space under said bottom wall adjacent said tank, said tank having a filler neck extending through said bottom wall, means to secure said tank and well to said boat, and drain means above said bottom wall adapted to communicate with the outside of said boat.

7. A combination gasoline tank and motor well comprising a front wall, a bottom attached to said front wall and adapted to extend rearwardly into engagement with the rear wall of a boat, a gasoline tank under said bottom and at one side thereof, a door on the side of said front wall remote from said gasoline tank providing access to the space under said bottom adjacent said tank, said tank having a filler neck, and means to secure said combination to said boat.

8. A combination gasoline tank and motor well comprising a front wall, a bottom wall attached to said front wall and adapted to extend rearwardly into engagement with the rear wall of a boat, a gasoline tank under said bottom wall and at one side thereof, a door on the side of said front wall remote from said gasoline tank providing access to the space under said bottom wall adjacent said tank, said tank having a filler neck, means to secure said combination to said boat, and drain means above said bottom wall adapted to communicate with the outside of said boat.

9. A combination gasoline tank and motor well comprising a front wall, a bottom wall attached to said front wall and adapted to extend rearwardly into engagement with the rear wall of a boat, a gasoline tank under said bottom wall and at one side thereof, a door on the side of said front wall remote from said gasoline tank providing access to the space under said bottom wall adjacent said tank, said tank having a filler neck extending through said bottom wall, means to secure said combination to said boat, and drain means above said bottom wall adapted to communicate with the outside of said boat.

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