Oct. 22, 1957 R. P. COCHRAN 2,810,138

SWIMMING PADDLE

Filed Aug. 27, 1954

Fig. 1.

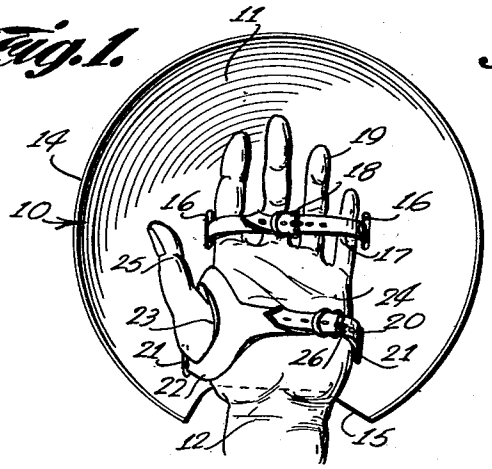


Fig. 2.

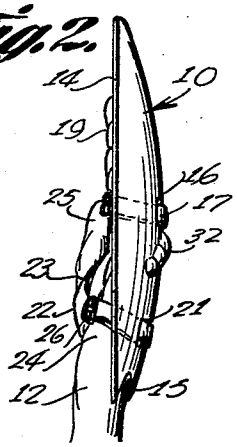


Fig. 4.

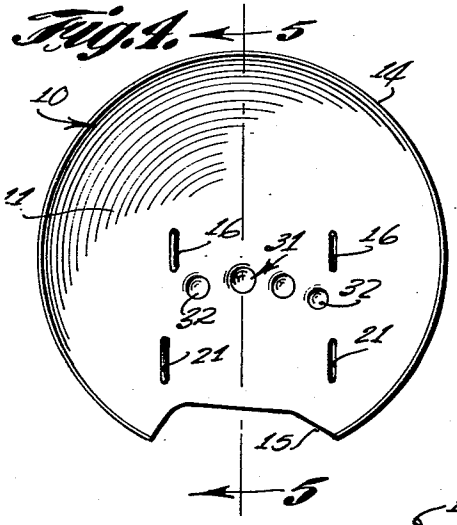


Fig. 3.

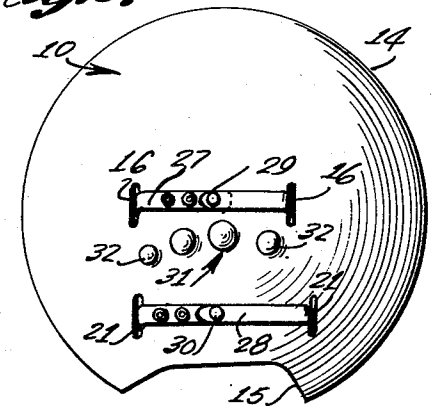
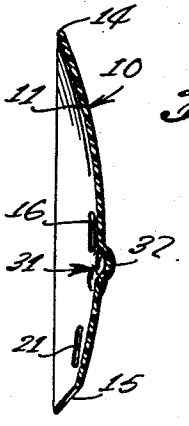


Fig. 5.



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SWIMMING PADDLE

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Application August 27, 1954, Serial No. 452,654

1 Claim. (Cl. 9—21)

This invention relates to a swimmer's accessory, and more particularly to a swimming paddle.

The object of the invention is to provide a swimming paddle which is adapted to be detachably connected to a swimmer's hand whereby the person will be able to swim with greater efficiency.

Another object of the invention is to provide a swimming paddle for attachment to a swimmer's hand whereby the fingers are free for grasping any object desired while the paddle is on the hand, and wherein the hands are in the natural position for swimming.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a swimming paddle which is constructed so that the hands are left in a natural position so that the paddle facilitates the training of inexperienced persons to swim and wherein the hands are free to grasp any article while the paddle is thereon and wherein when the paddles are being used, the user can tread water, swim under water, and also dive without any interference, the paddles serving to increase the effective area around the hands since the swimmer can propel the body in the act of swimming beyond that of the human hand.

A further object of the invention is to provide a swimming paddle which is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing the paddle attached to a hand.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view showing the paddle in use.

Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the paddle showing straps having snap fasteners thereon instead of the buckles.

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of the paddle with the paddle removed from the hand and with the straps removed.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral **10** designates the body of the paddle which can be made of any suitable material such as plastic, and the body **10** has its central portion **11** dished out so that the body **10** has a concave or convex shape. The outer periphery of the body **10** is indicated by the numeral **14**, and the outer periphery is of circular formation.

The body **10** is further provided with a cutout **15** which extends inwardly from the outer edge **14**, and the cutout **15** defines a space that provides clearance for a portion of the person's hand when the paddle is attached to the hand as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

The body is further provided with a pair of spaced apart slots **16**, and a flexible strap **17** extends through the slots **16** and engages the fingers **19** of the hand **12**.

A buckle **18** may be provided for maintaining the strap **17** in engagement with the fingers.

There is further provided a second pair of slots **21** which are spaced from the first pair of slots **16**, and a second strap **20** which also may be made of flexible material such as leather, extends through the pair of slots **21**. The strap **20** extends across the palm **24** of the hand **12**, and the strap **20** is provided with an enlarged portion **22** that has an opening **23** therein for the projection therethrough of the thumb **25** of the hand. A buckle **26** can be used for maintaining the strap **20** in its proper position on the hand.

Referring to Figure 3 of the drawings there is shown a slightly modified arrangement wherein a pair of straps **27** and **28** are adapted to be used in lieu of the straps **17** and **20**. The strap **27** may be retained in place by means of a snap fastener **29**, while the other strap **28** may have a similar snap fastener **30**.

The surface of the body **10** which is contiguous to the back of the user's hand may be provided with a recessed portion **31** that includes a plurality of indentations **32** that are adapted to comfortably and snugly receive the knuckles of the hand so as to insure a snug fit.

From the foregoing it is apparent that there has been provided a swimmer's paddle which can be readily attached to a person's hand so as to permit the person to swim with greater efficiency and wherein learners can be aided while learning to swim. In use the parts can be arranged as shown in the drawings so that the hand is between a portion of the straps **17** and **20** and wherein the thumb **25** extends through the opening **23** in the enlarged portion **22** of the strap **20**. Thus, the fingers are free to move so that the fingers can grip any desired object or article while the paddle is thereon. The cutout **15** provides clearance for the back of the hand and the indentations **32** receive the projecting knuckles or bones of the hand. The buckles **18** and **26** can be adjusted so that the device will fit hands of different sizes or shapes, and instead of using the buckles **18** and **26**, the snap fasteners **29** and **30** can be utilized. The body **10** is of a larger size than the hand as shown in Figure 1.

I claim:

In a swimming paddle, a concave body having its central portion dished out and its outer periphery shaped as a circle, the dished central portion of said body being larger than the user's hand and adapted to bear against the back of the user's hand so that the palm of the hand faces outwardly and is exposed, there being a trapezoidal shaped cutout in said body extending inwardly from the outer edge thereof to provide clearance for the hand whereby wrist motion will not be impaired, said body having a first pair of spaced parallel slots therein, there being a second pair of spaced apart parallel slots in said body, said second slots being arranged adjacent said cutout, said slots being spaced inwardly from the outer edge of said body, said first slots being arranged in alignment with said second slots, a first strap extending through said first pair of slots for engagement with the fingers of the hand whereby the fingers will be free to move, a second strap extending through said second pair of slots and extending across the palm of the hand, said first and second straps being arranged in spaced parallel relation with respect to each other, said second strap including an enlarged portion provided with a circular opening for the projection therethrough of the thumb of the user's hand, and fastening means for retaining the straps in their proper position on the hand, the user's hand adapted to be inserted or removed without unfastening the fastening means, there being a recessed portion having a plurality of spaced apart indentations in said body for receiving

the knuckles of the hand, said indentations being interposed between said first and second pairs of slots, said indentations being of non-uniform sizes.

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