Jan. 30, 1951 A. P. CLARK 2,539,727

DECOY ANCHOR

Filed Feb. 13, 1947

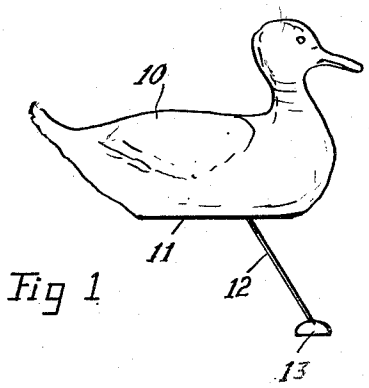


Fig 1

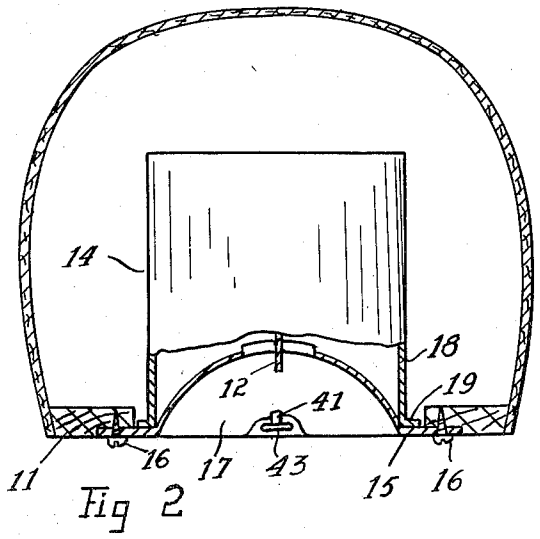


Fig 2

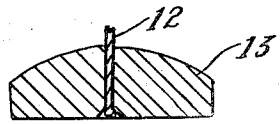


Fig 3

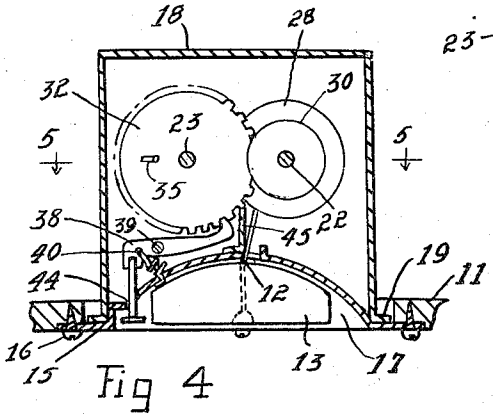


Fig 4

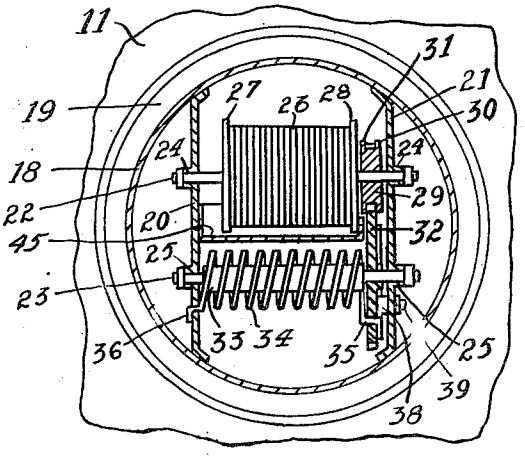


Fig 5

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DECOY ANCHOR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 43—3)

1

My invention relates to improvements in a decoy anchor.

In the decoys used by hunters of water fowl such as ducks, geese, etc., there must be provided some means for anchoring them. Ordinarily the decoys are anchored by tying a string to them and providing a small lead weight on the end of the string. When the hunter prepares the decoys to take out he has a lot of difficulty with the strings and weights. The decoys are usually carried in a bag and unless the strings and weights are properly disposed of they become tangled together in handling. When the decoys are taken up the disposal of the strings and weights is also a troublesome matter.

Means have been proposed in the past to provide for winding the string inside the decoy. However, the winding mechanism proposed did not provide a satisfactory apparatus that would handle the requisite amount of string and that would suitably dispose of the weight.

It is the purpose of my invention to provide a novel decoy anchoring means which embodies a reel, a separate spring motor for winding the reel, with means whereby the motor will be locked against rotation and likewise lock the reel when the desired amount of string for anchoring the decoy is reeled out, and when the string is all taken in.

It is also the purpose of my invention to provide a novel device of this character in which the decoy anchoring mechanism, including the anchor itself, is embodied in a complete unit that is inserted in the usual baseboard of the decoy so that all of the parts are inside the decoy with the bottom of the unit substantially flush with the baseboard to prevent the string and weight from being pulled out in the ordinary handling of the decoys and in transporting them. The construction is such that when the anchor is not in use it is carried in a pocket in the bottom of the decoy. When it is in use sufficient string is attached thereto and housed in the mechanism to take care of a depth of water up to as much as 15 or 20 feet.

The novel features that I consider characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the claim. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be understood from the following description of a preferred form of the invention which is also illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a general view illustrating the decoy with an anchor attached by means of a string;

2

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view of the decoy with the baseboard shown partly in section and with my improved mechanism mounted thereon;

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view of the anchor with the string attached;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view through the reel and spring casting illustrating the drive mechanism for the reel and illustrating the manner in which the anchor is seated in the decoy, and

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

Referring now to the drawings, Fig. 1, illustrates a decoy 10 having the usual baseboard 11. The anchor string 12 is shown extending from the decoy to a small lead weight 13 which provides the anchor. According to my invention I provide a unit 14 which can be attached to the baseboard 11 of a decoy by cutting an opening therein. This unit comprises a supporting plate 15 which is large enough to enable it to be secured by screws 16 to the baseboard 11. The plate is recessed as indicated at 17 to receive the anchor 13. I prefer to make the plate of a suitable metal sheet such as aluminum sheet which will not rust.

The plate 15 has an inverted cup 18 mounted thereon by means of a flange 19 on the cup. This cup houses the mechanism for storing and winding up the string 11.

Within the cup 18 I provide two spaced vertical supporting walls 20 and 21 which serve to mount a reel shaft 22 and a spring shaft 23. The plates 20 and 21 have suitable bearings as indicated at 24 and 25 for the shafts 22 and 23.

The shaft 22 carries a reel 26 on which the string 11 is wound. The reel 26 has end disks 27 and 28 for confining the string. Between the disk 28 and the plate 21 I affix a gear 29 to the shaft 22. This gear has flanges 30 and 31 projecting beyond the teeth thereof so as to provide guide means to keep a drive gear 32 in mesh with the gear 29.

The gear 32 is fixed on the shaft 23. The shaft 23 carries a drum portion 33 on which a spring 34 may be wound. The spring 34 has one end 35 attached to the gear 32. The other end 36 of the spring is attached to the plate 20. It will be noted that the gear 32 is much longer than the gear 29 so that for one revolution of the large gear several turns of the smaller gear will take place. The spring 34, therefore, can be wound with sufficient turns to take care of 15 or 20 feet of string on the reel 26 without using an excessive amount of space for the spring. I prefer to use an elongated spiral spring as shown in

order that the diameter thereof may be kept small.

The spring 34 is put under tension sufficient to draw the weight 13 into the recess 17 provided for it. I find, however, that it is necessary to lock the mechanism against rotation when the string is all wound on the reel as well as when the string is drawn out. In order to do this I provide a locking pawl 38 which is pivoted by pin 39 on the plate 21. This pawl is spring pressed toward the gear 32 by a spring 40. In order to release the pawl I connect a rod 41 to the pawl and extend the rod through the plate 15 where it is provided with a head 43 that can be depressed to release the pawl from the gear. The spring 11 passes through an opening 44 in the plate 15 to the reel. It is prevented from becoming entangled with the spring 34 by a shield 45 that extends upwardly between the reel and the spring.

It is believed that the nature and advantages of my invention will be clear from the foregoing description. Having thus described my invention, I claim:

The combination with a floating decoy having an opening in the base thereof, of an anchor unit having means for securing it to the bottom of the decoy, said unit comprising a plate having a rim portion for securing to the decoy base around the opening therein, said plate being recessed upwardly to provide an anchor weight receiving recess, a reel supported on said plate and having a string thereon extending through the plate, an anchor weight secured to the string, said weight being smaller than said recess whereby it may be completely drawn within the outlines of the decoy, a spring motor drivingly connected to the reel for winding the string thereon, a locking device operable to lock the reel against rotation, and manually operable means in said recess for releasing said locking device.

ARLIE P. CLARK.

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