C. N. LAWSON.

COMBINATION CANOE BACK REST AND LIFE PRESERVER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 14, 1916.

1,216,707. Patented Feb. 20, 1917.

Fig. 1.

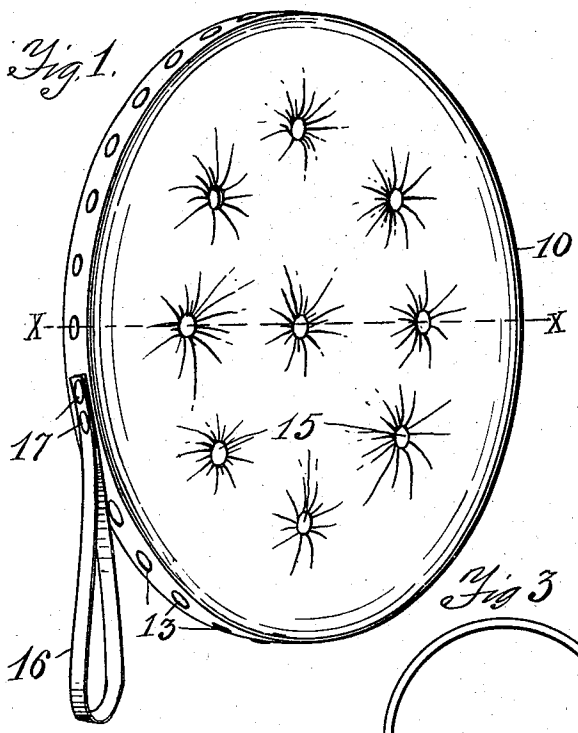


Fig. 2.

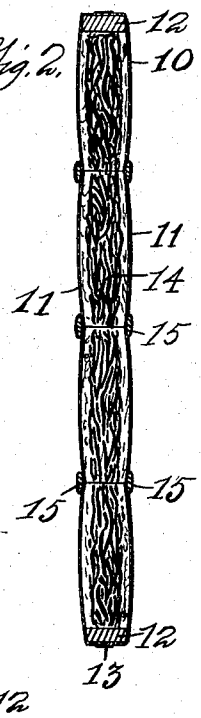


Fig. 3

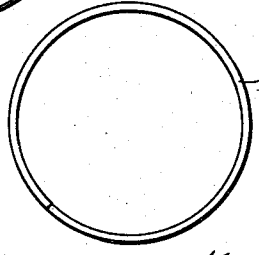


Fig. 4.

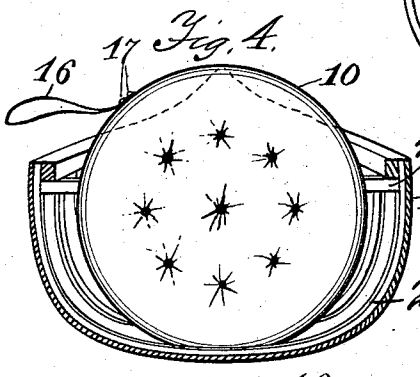


Fig. 5.

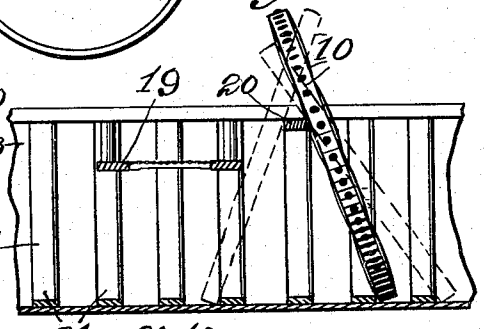
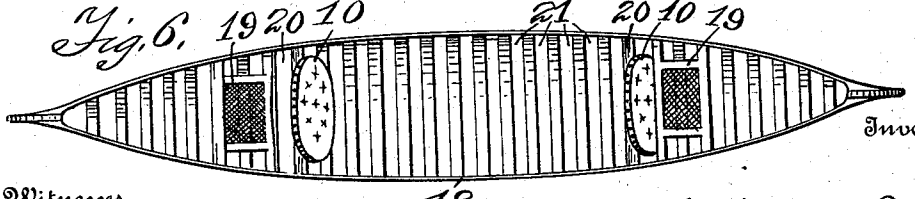


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

L. E. Nordstrom

W. A. Sandberg

Inventor

Claude N. Lawson

By J. Arthur Balderis

Attorney

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLAUDE N. LAWSON, OF CELORON, NEW YORK.

COMBINATION CANOE BACK-REST AND LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,216,707. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 20, 1917.

Application filed September 14, 1916. Serial No. 120,071.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLAUDE N. LAWSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the village of Celoron, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combination Canoe Back-Rests and Life-Preservers, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

The invention relates to a combined back-rest and life preserver for use in canoes and similar boats; and the object of the invention is to provide a simple upholstered back-rest, filling the same with buoyant material and providing the same with a strong circular rim which fits firmly within the canoe holding against the cross bar and cleats, being provided with a loop through which the arm may be inserted thereby attaching the life preserver to the person so that in case of accident as, for example, the overturning of the canoe, an efficient life preserver will be attached to the person yet in no wise limiting the action of said person in propelling the canoe while seated in the same; and the invention consists in the novel features and combinations hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the combination back-rest and life preserver showing the conformation of the same. Fig. 2 is a sectional view at line X—X in Fig. 1 showing the construction and arrangement of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the outer rim or hoop which forms the frame for the back-rest. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the back-rest in position against the cross bar of the canoe, the canoe being shown in crosswise section; and Fig. 5 is an edgewise view of the back-rest, a portion of the canoe being shown in lengthwise section, and the different positions in which the back-rest may be adjusted being shown in dotted outline. Fig. 6 is a top plan view of a canoe with two back-rests in position therein.

Like characters of reference refer to corresponding parts in the several views.

The numeral 10 designates the combination back-rest and life preserver which comprises the water proof covering 11 attached around the periphery of a hoop or rim 12, preferably of wood, by means of suitable tacks 13 and the space within the hoop 12 and cover 11 filled with a buoyant material 14 like cork, preferably in the form of cork chips, which are held in place by means of cross stitches and buttons 15, upholstering material being placed within and adjacent to the covering 11 and each side to render the back-rest as comfortable as possible.

The circular form of the rim 12 makes a very strong and convenient construction for placing in a canoe 18. A looped strap 16 is attached by means of suitable tacks to the periphery of the rim 12 and is of sufficient length to permit the occupant of the canoe 18 to move freely backward and forward as when paddling a canoe yet attaches the back-rest and life preserver to said occupant so that in case of the over-turning of the canoe or the accidental falling overboard of said occupant the back-rest and life preserver 10 will be attached to the body of said occupant by the strap 16 and is of sufficient size to support the weight of an adult in the water.

The stiff wood rim 12 makes a firm, light floatable frame which is easily grasped by the user so that the back-rest when used as a life preserver can be sunk in the water beneath the person and held there, the circular rim making an especially strong construction which will not fold, break or change its form. The back-rest is preferably made about two inches in thickness and twenty-six to thirty inches in diameter so that it holds a goodly quantity of cork or other buoyant material yet can be easily thrown to a distance on account of its disk shape.

The canoe 18 is usually provided with cross bars or top braces 20 against which the back-rest 10 may be inclined, the lower edge engaging in the cleats 21. The seat 19 is usually lower than the cross bars 20 and alongside the same so that the back-rest 10 may be inserted between the two as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 or may lean against the opposite side of the cross bar 20 according as the occupant wishes to use the seat 19 or sit in the bottom of the canoe.

I claim as new:—

1. A combination back-rest and life preserver comprising a wooden hoop, a water-proof covering for both sides of said wooden hoop, said hoop filled with buoyant or floatable material and upholstering on both sides, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A combination back-rest and life pre-

server comprising a round wooden hoop, a water-proof covering for both sides of said wooden hoop, said hoop filled centrally with cork and upholstering on both sides, and a looped strap attached to the periphery of said hoop to receive the arm of the occupant of the canoe therethrough.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CLAUDE N. LAWSON.

Witnesses:
H. O. SANDBERG,
D. L. CARLSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."