

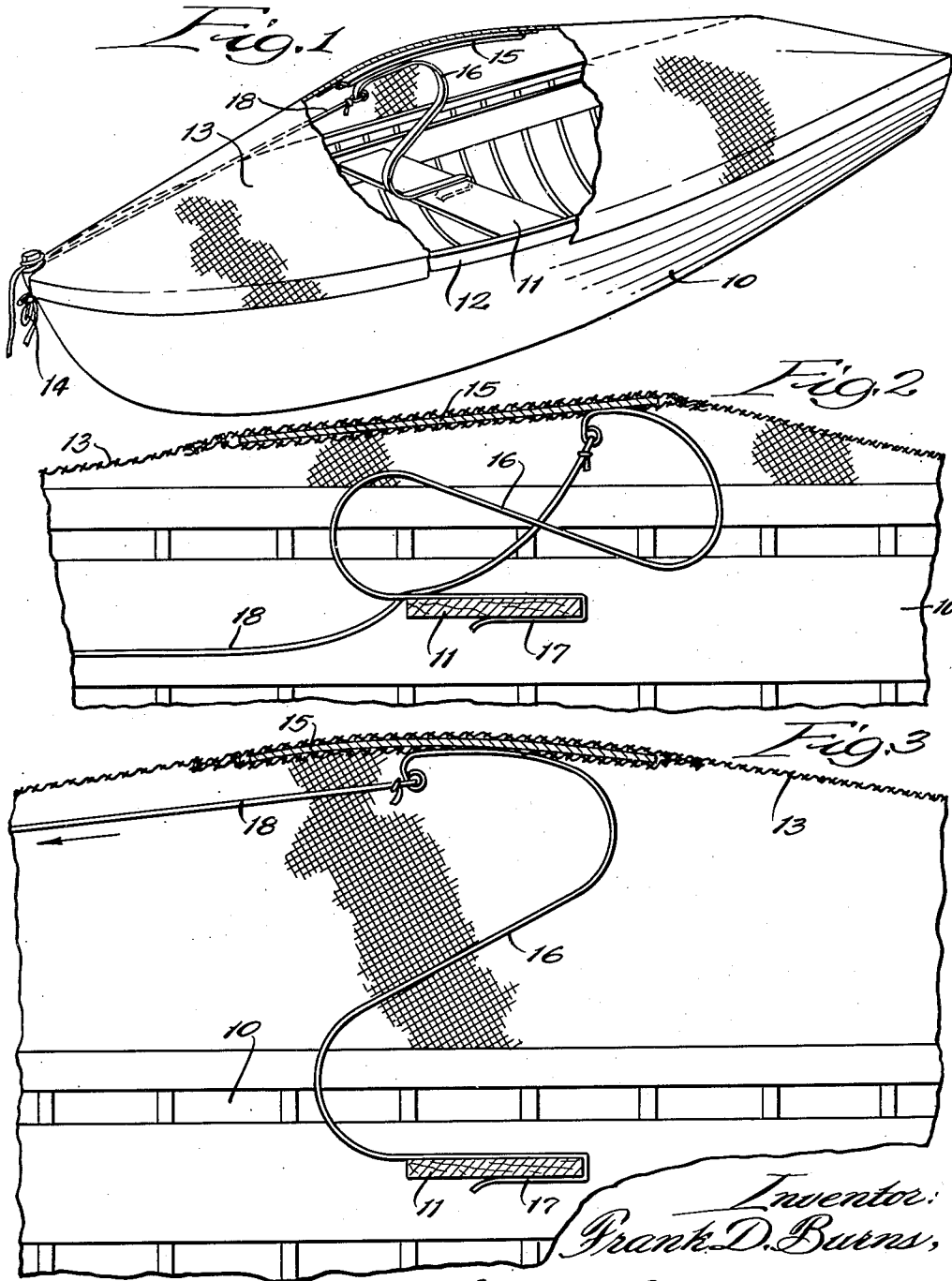
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BOAT COVER

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BOAT COVER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 135-6)

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This invention relates to boat covers and more particularly to removable covers for relatively small boats such as lifeboats, sailboats and the like.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a boat cover which can be installed easily and quickly by one person.

Another object is to provide a boat cover which can be attached to a boat in a relatively loose condition and can easily be tightened after it is so attached.

Still another object is to provide a boat cover which is supported above the boat by a spring and in which the spring can be raised to an upright supporting position from the exterior of the cover after the cover has been attached to the boat.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will be more readily apparent from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a boat covered according to the present invention with a part of the cover broken away;

Figure 2 is an enlarged partial section taken axially of the boat with the supporting member in lowered position; and

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 with the supporting member in elevated position.

As shown in the drawing, the cover is adapted to cover a small skiff or the like having a hull 10 provided with one or more transversely extending seats 11, at least one of which extends across the central portion of the hull. The top of the hull is open or at least partially open, as shown, and terminates in an upper edge which may be beaded or reinforced, as shown at 12.

The cover comprises a sheet of canvas or like flexible material 13 of a size and shape to fit over the top of the boat with its edge portion extending over the reinforced or beaded edge 12 of the boat. The edge portion of the cover may carry tie cords 14 which may be tied at one or more points around the boat to secure the cover thereto. When the cords 14 are tied, as shown in Figure 1, the edge of the cover sheet will be drawn tightly around the edge of the boat to hold the cover securely in place on the boat.

The central portion of the cover is preferably reinforced by a stiffening member 15 which may be in the form of a light board fitting into a pocket formed on the interior of the cover. The stiffening member 15 is preferably relatively short and

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relatively narrow and lies in the central part of the cover.

To hold the cover supported in taut condition above the edge of the boat, a supporting element in the form of a spring is provided. As shown, the supporting element comprises a leaf spring 16 generally S-shaped and terminating at one end in a hook portion to hook over a central seat 11 in the boat. The spring is preferably so shaped that it normally occupies a substantially horizontally lowered position as shown in Figure 2. When the spring is in this position, the cover may rest against its outer end but will be relatively slack so that it can easily be drawn over the edge of the boat hull and secured in place.

To tighten the cover after it has been secured to the hull, a cord or rope 18 is connected to the outer end of the spring strap 16 and extends through an opening in the cover adjacent one end of the boat. The opening through which the cord 18 extends may conveniently be formed by a grommet to prevent wearing and tearing on the cover sheet. When the cord 18 is pulled forward, as shown in Figure 3, the spring 16 will be swung to an upright position in which its upper end engages the stiffening strip 15 in the central part of the cover. Due to the shape of the spring, it will be vertically resilient so that the cover will be held taut without requiring exact fit of the cover and exact spring size. When the cord has been drawn forward, it may be tied to any convenient projecting part of the boat, as shown in Figure 1.

With this construction one person can easily install the cover on a boat, simply by first attaching the spring to a seat, then placing the cover sheet over the boat and finally drawing the spring to an upright position through the cord 18. When installed, the cover sheet will be held in taut position above the boat to keep water and other foreign materials out of the boat.

While one embodiment of the invention has been shown and described in detail herein, it will be understood that it is illustrative only and is not intended as a definition of the scope of the invention, reference being had for that purpose to the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, a resilient element formed adjacent one end for attachment to the central part of a boat and shaped normally to lie in a generally horizontal position when it is attached in the boat, and a cord connected to the

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other end of the resilient element and extending through the sheet to pull the element to a generally vertical position in engagement with the central part of the sheet.

2. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, an elongated spring member formed at one end to be attached to the central part of the boat and shaped normally to lie in a generally horizontal position in the boat, and a cord connected to the free end of the spring member and extending through the sheet to swing the spring member into generally vertical position in engagement with the central portion of the sheet.

3. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, an elongated spring strip formed at one end to hook over a seat in the central part of the boat, the spring being S-shaped and being so formed that it will lie generally horizontal when said one end is hooked over a boat seat, and a cord connected to the other end of the strip and extending through the sheet to pull the strip into an upright position in engagement with the central part of the sheet.

4. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, a spring member formed to be laterally and longitudinally resilient, means at one end of the spring to connect it to a central part of the boat to lie in a generally horizontal position, and a cord connected to the other end of the spring and extending through the sheet to pull the spring to an upright position in engagement with the central part of the sheet.

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5. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, a stiffening member substantially shorter and narrower than the sheet carried by the central portion of the sheet, a spring member formed at one end for attachment to a central part of the boat and shaped normally to lie in a generally horizontal position, and a cord connected to the other end of the spring member and extending through the sheet to swing the spring member to an upright position in engagement with the stiffening member.

6. A boat cover comprising a flexible sheet adapted to overlie a boat and to be fastened at its edge portion to the boat, a stiffening member substantially shorter and narrower than the sheet carried by the central portion of the sheet, an elongated spring strip formed at one end to hook over a central seat in the boat, the spring being S-shaped and being so formed that it will lie generally horizontal when said one end is hooked over a boat seat, and a cord connected to the other end of the strip and extending through the sheet to pull the strip to an upright position in engagement with the stiffening member.

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