

No. 811,036.

PATENTED JAN. 30, 1906.

W. W. CRAM.
DECOY.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 11, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

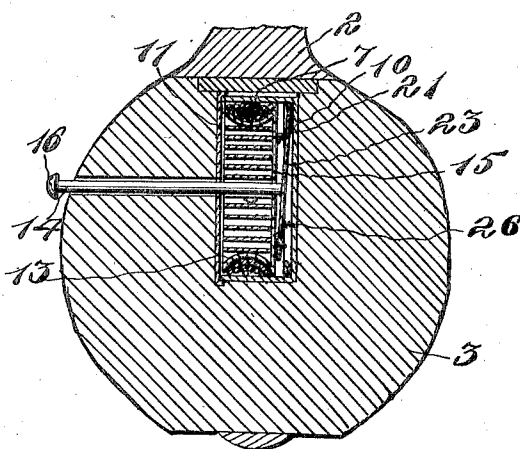
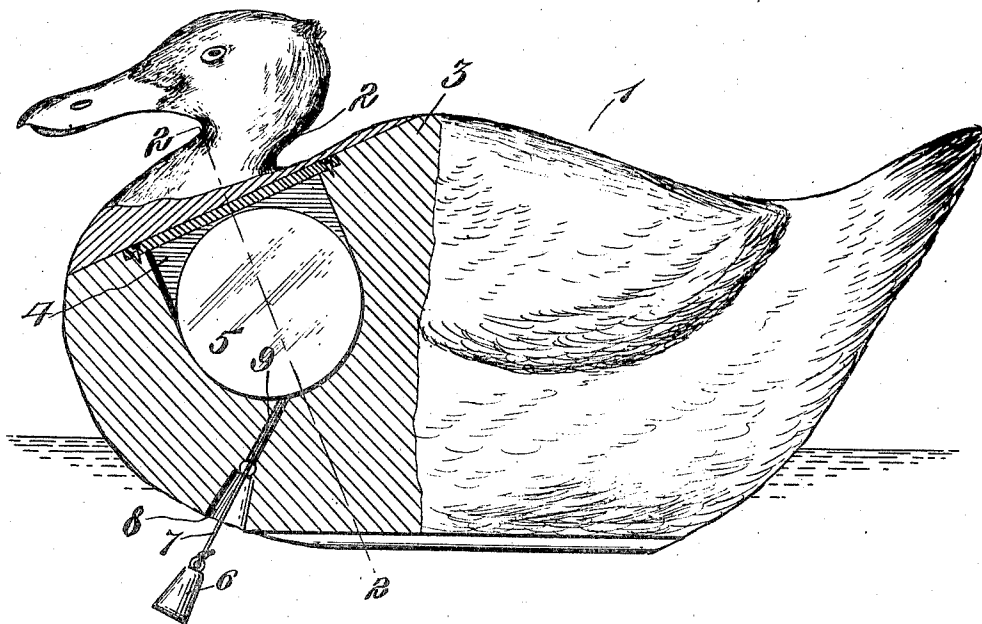


Fig. 2.

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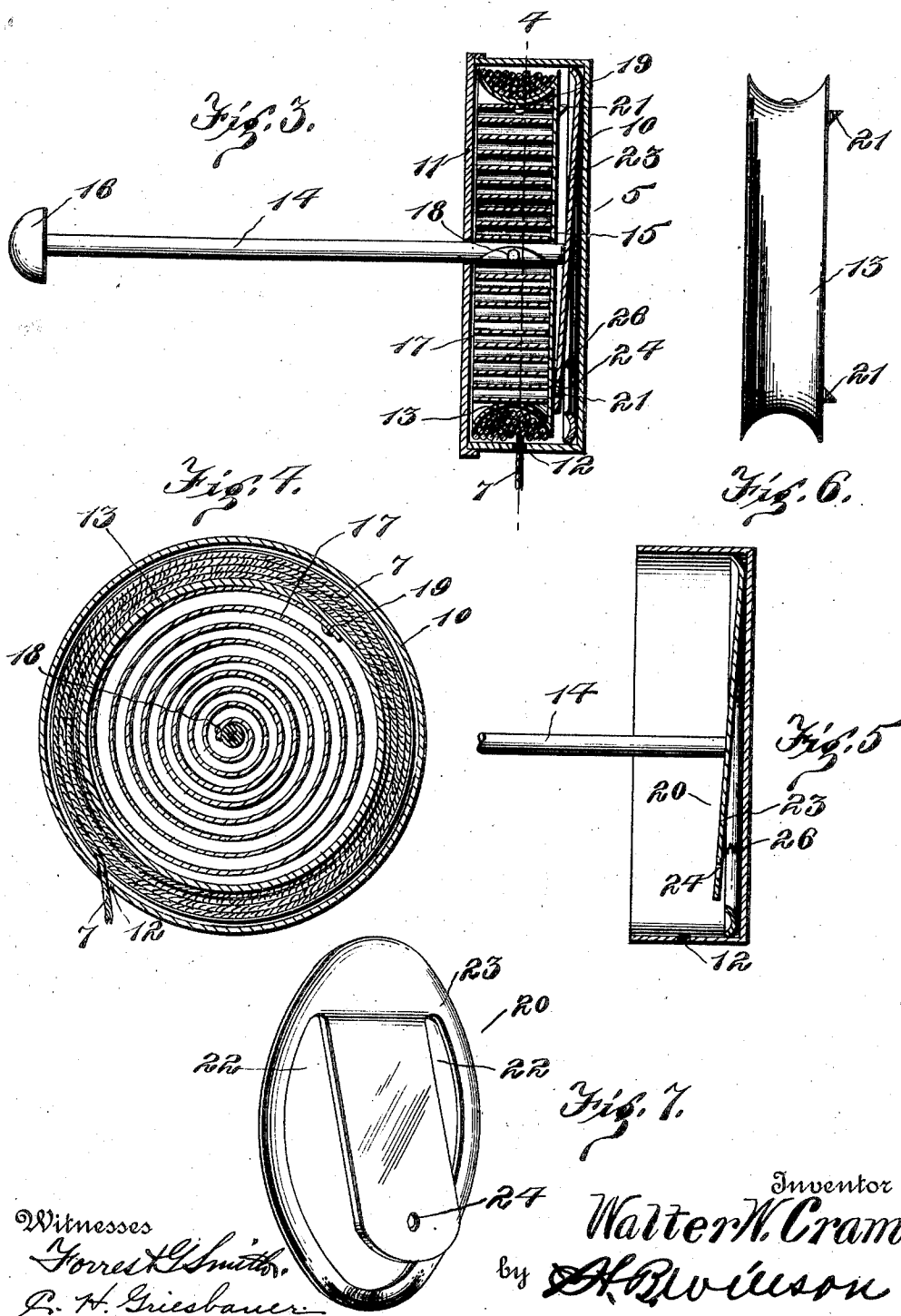
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER WARREN CRAM, OF SHELDON, IOWA.

DECOY.

No. 811,036.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER WARREN CRAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sheldon, in the county of O'Brien and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Decoys; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in anchoring devices for decoys used in hunting ducks, water-fowls, and other game.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, durable, and efficient automatic winding device for the anchor of a decoy of this character.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of a decoy provided with my improved anchoring device. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view, on an enlarged scale, through the automatic winding device. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4 4 in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view showing the outer casing, the brake-spring, and the push-rod. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the winding-drum, and Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the brake-spring.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, 1 denotes a floating decoy, which, as shown, is in the form of a duck, but which may be of any other form and construction. The neck 2 of the duck is removably secured upon its body portion 3, so as to cover a cavity or chamber 4, formed in the upper portion of the body at a point above the water-line of the float or decoy. In this cavity is removably mounted an automatic winding device 5 for the anchor 6 of the decoy. This anchor 6 is preferably in the form of a frusto-conical-shaped weight, which is connected at its small end to one end of a cord or other flexible connection 7, adapted to be wound upon and unwound from the device 5. In the lower or under side of the decoy is formed a recess 8, which corresponds in size and shape to the anchor-weight 6, so that the latter may be frictionally retained within the same when the decoy is not in use. This recess 8 is con-

nected with the cavity 4 by a passage 9, through which the cord 7 is adapted to pass.

The automatic winding device 5 comprises a casing 10, preferably of cylindrical form and provided with a removable cap or cover 11, and an opening 12, formed in its periphery to receive the cord 7. Within the casing or barrel 10 is revolvably mounted a winding-drum 13, having a grooved periphery or rim to which one end of the cord 7 is secured and about which the latter is adapted to be wound. This drum 13 rotates upon the inner end of a push-rod 14, which extends through one side of the body 3 of the duck and through alining openings formed concentrically in the cap 11 and in the closed side 15 of the drum 13. This push-rod 14 has a limited longitudinal sliding movement, which may be caused by pressing inwardly upon a head 16, provided upon its outer end, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The winding-drum 13 is spring-actuated to wind the cord 7 thereon by means of a coil-spring 17, which is arranged within the drum and has one of its ends secured to the rod 14, as shown at 18, and its opposite end secured to the inner side of the rim of the drum, as shown at 19. In order to hold the winding-drum against rotation under the action of said spring when it is desired to adjust the cord 7 and anchor-weight 6 at any desired point, I provide a brake-spring 20, which coacts with one or more lugs or projections 21, provided upon the outer face of the side 15 of the winding-drum. This brake-spring, as clearly shown in Figs. 5 and 7 of the drawings, is formed by recessing, as shown at 22, a resilient metal disk 23 in order to form the spring or tongue. The latter has its inner end sprung inwardly and formed with an opening or recess 24 to receive one of the lugs or projections 21 upon the winding-drum. The spring or tongue 20 is adapted to be moved outwardly, so as to disengage the lug 21 by the inner end of the push-rod 14, which is secured thereto. In order to increase the resiliency of the spring or tongue 20, a coil-spring 26 may be provided between the same and the outer casing 10, as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

The construction, operation, and advantages of my invention will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings. It will be seen that by using this automatic anchor-winding device there can be no tangling of the string or cord in transporting

the decoy to and from the hunting-grounds and that there will be no dangling of the anchor-weight to mar the paint on the decoy or boat. By placing the winding device in a cavity in the decoy above its water-line the cord will be kept dry and prevented from rotting. The use of the device will permit the decoys to be quickly put out or taken in without soiling the hands or gloves. The winding device is of simple and durable construction and can be manufactured at a comparatively small cost and may be applied to either an old or a new decoy.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A decoy embodying an anchor and means for securing the anchor within the decoy.
2. A decoy provided with an opening, an anchor and means for securing the anchor within the opening.
3. A decoy provided with a cavity opening externally, an anchor proportioned to form a closure for the cavity, a cord secured to the anchor and means for winding the cord within the decoy.
4. A decoy provided with an aperture within the under side, an anchor proportioned to form a closure for the aperture and to conform substantially to the surface of the decoy, a cord securing the anchor to the decoy and means for adjustably controlling the length of cord between the decoy and the anchor.
5. In a decoy, a winding-reel, an anchor-cord wound upon the reel, a tension elastically engaging the reel and arranged to hold the reel at a predetermined rotary adjustment.
6. In a decoy, a winding-reel, an anchor, a cord wound upon the reel and secured to the anchor, a tension elastically engaging the

reel and arranged to retain a predetermined length of cord wound upon the reel.

7. A decoy provided with a recess and having a flexibly-connected anchor-weight corresponding in size and shape with said recess so that said anchor-weight may be frictionally contained therein.

8. A decoy provided with a cavity, an anchor-receiving recess and a connecting-passage, a tapered anchor-weight, a flexible connection attached to said anchor-weight and passed through said recess and said passage, and means within said cavity for taking in or paying out said flexible connection.

9. A decoy provided with a cavity, an anchor-receiving recess and a connecting-passage, a tapered anchor-weight, a flexible connection attached to said anchor-weight and passed through said recess and said passage, a spring-actuated winding-drum within said cavity for said flexible connection, a brake-spring for holding said drum against movement and a push-rod for releasing said brake-spring.

10. An anchor-winding device for decoys comprising an outer casing, a push-rod extending therethrough, a spring-actuated winding-drum upon said push-rod, a projection upon one end of said drum, a resilient disk within said casing recessed to form a spring-tongue adapted to be actuated by said push-rod, said tongue being formed with an aperture to receive one of said projections and a coil-spring disposed between said spring-tongue and said casing.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WALTER WARREN CRAM.

Witnesses:

W. H. MYERS,
E. E. SPRINGER.