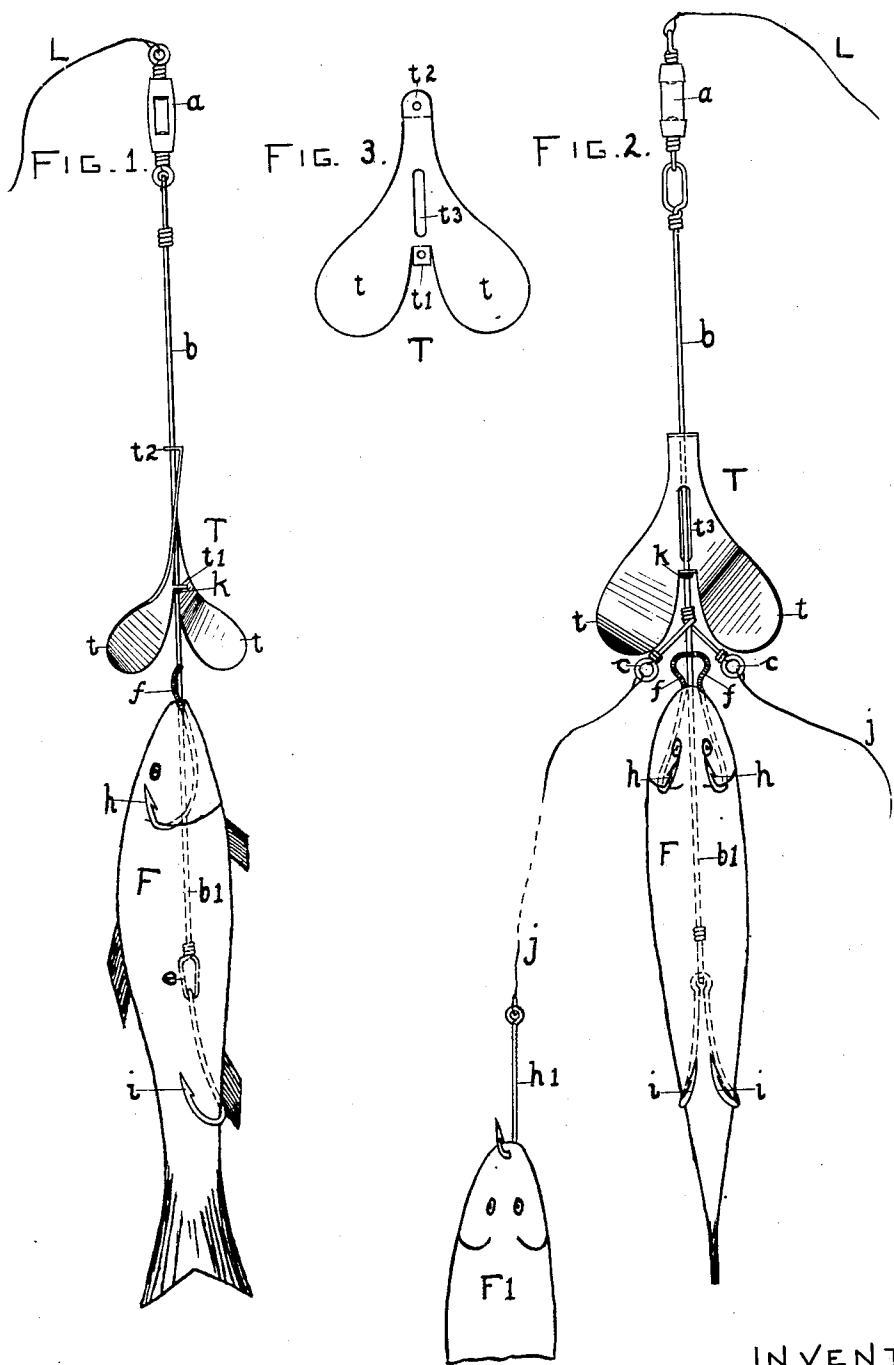


M. ZIMMERMAN.
FISHING TACKLE.
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FISHING-TACKLE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN ZIMMERMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Fishing-Tackle, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my present invention is to provide a fishing-tackle adapted to use with small fish as bait and with a multiplicity of hooks advantageously arranged therein and with the connections between them concealed within the body of the fish or bait. Twirlers or spoons for fishing-tackle of this class when formed from a single sheet of metal have heretofore presented a serious objection in that they were unbalanced, and their action upon the tackle therefore was objectionable on account of the vibration caused thereby and the resulting unsteadiness in the action of the tackle.

A further object of my present invention therefore is to provide a twirler or spinner which may be economically constructed from a single sheet of metal and with ears or lugs bent from the plane thereof to form supporting-bearings for the twirler. To bend such ears or lugs in the same direction results in the above-mentioned objection in that the twirler is badly out of balance. To overcome these difficulties, I have devised a twirler having the supporting ears or lugs bent in opposite directions from the plane of the blank and having an opening through the body of the blank, between the ears or lugs, to receive the supporting-wire. By means of this construction I am enabled to provide a practically balanced spinner or twirler.

The accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, are as follows: Figure 1 shows my improved tackle with a minnow or small fish in position thereon, such fish being shown in side view. Fig. 2 is a similar view, but with the parts arranged so as to show the back of the fish. Fig. 2 also shows my method of attaching a leader-line to the main tackle. Fig. 3 shows a blank struck out to the proper form to make one of my spoons or twirlers T.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, a fishing-tackle constructed in accordance with my present invention comprises the usual swivel *a*, connected at its upper end to the line *L*, as indicated, and to the lower end of which there is

connected a fine wire *b* by means of the usual loop which is formed at its upper end and after there has been inserted thereover the twirler or spoon *T*, which in turn is supported upon the knob *k*, as indicated. This twirler *T* is formed from a blank such as shown in Fig. 3 and comprises the principal sections *t*, which are bent to form balanced vanes, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. Between these sections *t* there is formed an ear or lug *t'*, having a hole therethrough, and at the narrowed upper end *t²* of the blank there is also bored a hole, and this ear *t'*, at a point a short distance above the hole therethrough, is bent along the dotted line, as indicated, in a direction practically at right angles to the plane of the blank, while the upper end *t²* of the blank, at a short distance below the hole therethrough, as indicated by the dotted line, is also bent along such dotted line in a direction practically at right angles with the plane of the blank, such parts *t'* and *t²* being caused to occupy practically parallel planes, but they extend in opposite directions from the body of the blank, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3. The holes in the parts *t'* and *t²* lying on opposite sides of the blank *T*, as indicated, necessitates that to receive the wire *b* there be formed in the blank a slot, as *t³*, adapted to receive the wire *b* as it passes through the holes in the parts *t²* and *t'*. The parts *t'* and *t²* when bent up as just above described and with the holes therethrough constitute bearings for revolvably supporting the spoon or twirler *T* upon the wire *b*.

On account of the slots *t³* the vanes *t* may be readily bent to such a conformation, and especially at their upper ends, as to secure a practically balanced construction, which it is one of the objects of my invention to provide. The result of this is that the twirler being balanced no matter how rapidly it revolves there is no confusion on account of the vibration and resulting unsteadiness of the tackle, as is the case when an unbalanced twirler is used.

A short distance beneath the knob *k* the hooks *h* are connected, on opposite sides, to the wire *b*, such connection being made by the connectors *f*, which are both flexible and elastic and have a tendency when the hooks *h* are inserted within and outwardly through openings in a bait or within and behind the gills of the fish, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, to draw the hooks *h* forward and keep them firmly seated in the position indicated in the

drawings. The wire *b* extends downward, as seen at *b'*, and terminates at its lower end in an eye or loop *e*, and through the eye *e* one member of the twin hook *i* is inserted and brought to the position indicated in Figs. 1 and 2.

The manner of using my fishing-tackle is as follows: The twin hook *i* is removed from the loop *e*, and the end of the wire containing the loop *e* is inserted, when a fish is used for bait, through the mouth of the fish *F* and forced downwardly through the body of the fish and outwardly just to the rear of the ventral fin, and the hooks *h* are inserted through the gills of the fish. The twin hook *i* is then inserted in place and the entire device drawn forwardly through the mouth of the fish until the parts assume the positions substantially such as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, with the two members of the hook *i* lying close up against the body of the fish, approximately in the position indicated, and the hooks *h* extending outwardly and engaging through and beneath the gills of the fish.

When it is desired to use a leader with my fishing-tackle, leader-eyes *c* may be formed in a suitable wire, as indicated, after the same has been formed around and secured to the wire *b* at a point approximately as shown in Fig. 2. To each of these eyes *c* there may be attached the usual leader-line *j*, terminating in a hook *h'*, carrying a living bait *F'*, as indicated. Only one of such bait *F'* is partially shown in Fig. 2.

When the bait is arranged as indicated in the drawings and the line is cast, the relative motion between the water and spoon *T*, in whatever way produced, causes the twirler or spoon *T* to revolve on the wire *b*. This attracts the larger fish, and in their effort to secure the bait, comprising the fish *F*, they are almost sure to be caught by one of the hooks *h* or one of the members of the twin hook *i*.

When it is desired to use leaders with living bait, use may be made of the eyes *c*, to which leader-lines *j* may be secured in the usual way and also to hooks, such as *h'*, only one of which is shown and upon which there may be secured a bait, such as shown partially at *F'*.

Attention is especially called to the connectors *ff* and to the fact that they operate to yieldably hold the hooks *h* in operative position, as indicated, at their curved upper ends, and on account of such flexibility and elasticity they are readily adjustable to use with fish of different sizes within a moderate range.

What I claim is—

1. In a fishing-tackle, a suitable support and a hook secured thereto by a flexible and elastic connection whereby such hook, when inserted within a bait and extended outwardly through an opening therein, may be yieldably held against the body of such bait.

2. In a fishing-tackle, a suitable support and two hooks each independently secured thereto by a flexible and elastic connection whereby such hooks when inserted within the mouth and outwardly through and behind the gills of a fish impaled thereon may be yieldably held in such position.

3. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire adapted to be inserted through the bait and carrying a permanently-closed loop and a hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the bait to expose such hook adjacent thereto and such bait, when thus in position thereon, operating to prevent the removal of such hook from such loop.

4. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire adapted to be inserted through the bait and carrying a permanently-closed loop and a twin hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the bait to expose each member of such twin hook on the sides thereof and such bait, when thus in position thereon, operating to prevent the removal of the twin hook from such loop.

5. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire, a hook connected thereto and adapted to be inserted within and extend outwardly through a bait impaled thereon, such wire carrying an extension below such hook and adapted to be inserted through the bait and carrying a loop and a hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the bait when in position to prevent the removal of such last hook and to expose the same adjacent to such bait.

6. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire, a hook secured thereto by a flexible and elastic connection and adapted to be inserted within and extend outwardly through a bait impaled thereon, such wire carrying an extension below such hook and adapted to be inserted through the bait and carrying a loop and a hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the bait when in position to prevent the removal of such last hook therefrom and to expose the same adjacent to such bait.

7. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire, two hooks each secured thereto by a flexible and elastic connection whereby such hooks may be inserted within the mouth and extend outwardly through and behind the gills of a fish impaled thereon, such wire carrying an extension below such hooks and adapted to be inserted through the fish and carrying a loop and a twin hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the fish when in position to prevent the removal of the twin hook therefrom and adapted to expose each member of such twin hook on the sides of the fish.

8. In a fishing-tackle, a supporting-wire, two hooks connected thereto and adapted to

be inserted within the mouth and extend outwardly through and behind the gills of a fish impaled thereon, such wire carrying an extension below such hooks and adapted to be inserted through the fish and carrying a loop and a twin hook removably secured in such loop, the whole device adapted to be drawn forward within the fish when in position to prevent the removal of the twin hook therefrom and adapted to expose each member of such twin hook on the sides of the fish.

9. In a fishing-tackle, a wire, a twirler or spoon comprising a blank struck out from a sheet of metal having lugs or ears bent in parallel planes and at practically right angles to the plane of the blank but on opposite sides thereof, such lugs or ears having holes therethrough constituting bearings spaced apart for revolubly supporting such twirler upon such wire, an opening through such twirler to receive such wire and such twirler having wings formed into curved blades ex-

tending obliquely outward from a line connecting such holes.

10. In a fishing-tackle, a wire, a twirler or spoon comprising a blank struck out from a sheet of metal having lugs or ears bent in parallel planes and at practically right angles to the plane of the blank but on opposite sides thereof, such lugs or ears having holes therethrough constituting bearings spaced apart for revolubly supporting such twirler upon such wire, and an opening through the body of such twirler between such lugs or ears to receive such wire whereby such twirler may be revolubly supported and balanced on such wire and such twirler having wings formed into curved blades extending obliquely outward from a line connecting such holes.

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Witnesses:

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