April 9, 1940. F. STEINHOFF 2,196,508

PHANTOM MINNOW

Filed March 27, 1939

Fig. 1

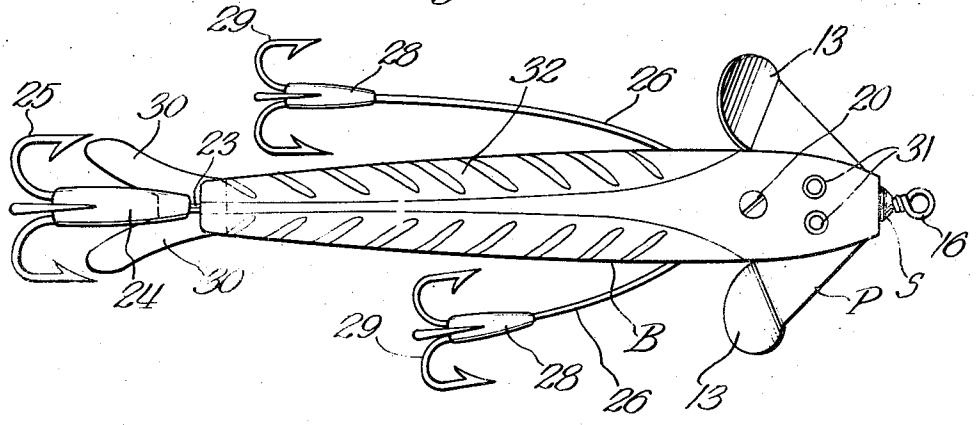


Fig. 2

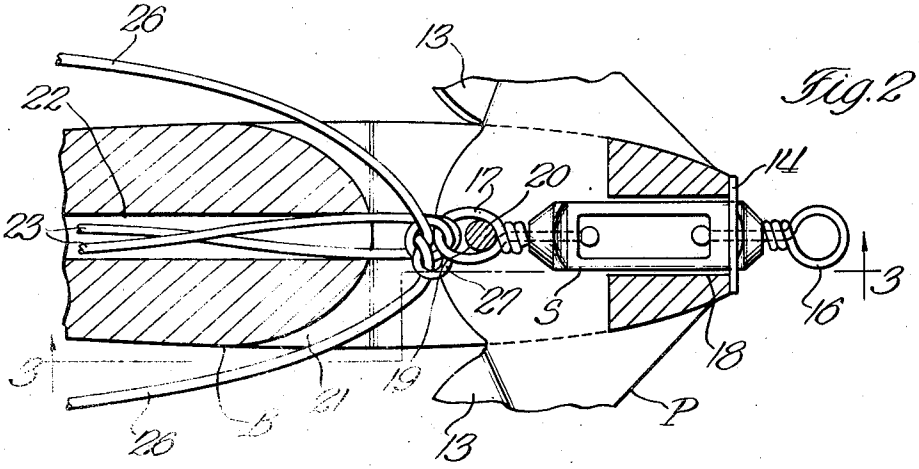
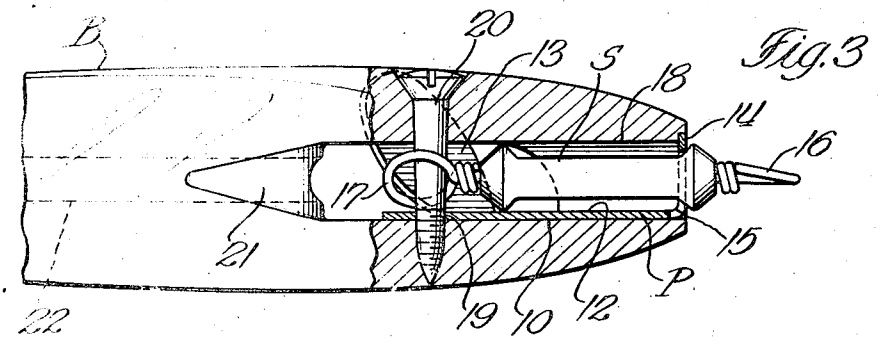


Fig. 3



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Patented Apr. 9, 1940 2,196,508

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,196,508

PHANTOM MINNOW

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Application March 27, 1939, Serial No. 264,371

9 Claims. (Cl. 43—47)

An object of my invention is to provide a phantom minnow of simple, durable and inexpensive construction.

A further object is to provide a phantom minnow which is made of light material such as swamp willow or other soft light wood, the minnow including a swivel and propeller blades for rotating the body of the minnow so that in making casts the minnow goes into action the instant it strikes the water and remains in action as it follows the sinker downwardly to the level at which it is retrieved. This function is of particularly vital importance in the successful catching of pike and bass.

Another object is to provide a minnow which is made of light material so that it can revolve at a relatively high speed and to provide the propeller blades made of sheet metal so that they can be readily bent to change the speed of rotation as desired.

Another object is to provide a phantom minnow in which a stock swivel can be used, there being provided a novel arrangement for connecting the hook leaders to the swivel and in turn connecting the swivel rigidly in the body of the minnow by means of a screw or the like, which screw also serves to retain the propeller blade in position.

A further object is to provide a leader arrangement for the side hooks of the minnow which effectively mounts the hooks relative to the minnow body and prevents any chafing or undue wear of the side leaders extending out of the sides of the body.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of my device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a phantom minnow embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view therethrough looking downwardly and taken just above a swivel and a propeller plate of the minnow; and

Figure 3 is a side elevation partly in section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing the manner of connecting the propeller plate and swivel in the body of the minnow.

On the accompanying drawing I have used the reference character B to indicate generally the body of my phantom minnow. The body B is formed of light material such as swamp willow or any suitable soft wood to facilitate its speed of rotation. The body B has at its forward end a slot, the bottom of which is indicated at 10 and the top thereof at 12. Received in this slot is a propeller plate P having propeller blades 13 bent in opposite directions as shown in Figure 1 to cause rotation of the body B when the minnow is drawn through the water after a cast.

The plate P has an upstanding flange 14 at its forward end provided with a perforation 15. A swivel S extends through the perforation 15 and has a forward eye 16 exposed beyond the front end of the body B. The other eye of the swivel is indicated at 17 and is located within the body B. Space is provided in the body B in the form of a groove 18 for the swivel.

The plate P is perforated as at 19 to receive a screw 20. The screw extends into the body B and serves to retain the propeller plate in assembled position and also extends through the eye 17 of the swivel S so as to anchor the swivel to the body B. Side opening slots 21 are provided in the body B and communicate with the eye 17. Extending longitudinally through the body is a bore 22, the forward end of which communicates with the eye 17 and the rear end of which opens at the tail end of the body B.

A doubled leader 23 passes through the eye 17 and is connected as at 24 to a tail hook 25. Side leaders 26 in the form of a single cord knotted at 27 in the eye 17 are provided. Their free ends are connected as at 28 to side hooks 29. The side opening slots 21 for the side leaders 26, it will be noted by reference to Figures 2 and 3, are rounded and carved out of the body so that they minimize any possibility of chafing of the leaders 26 against their edges.

The tail end of the body B is provided with a pair of fin members 30 made of flexible material such as oilcloth or the like so as to minimize resistance to turning movement of the minnow and yet give a lifelike appearance to the minnow. Surface ornamentations such as representations of eyes at 31 and surface markings at 32 may also be provided to enhance the lifelike appearance of the minnow.

I have provided a phantom minnow which goes into action the instant it strikes the water due to the lightness of the minnow in proportion to its size. The propeller blades 13 effect a relatively rapid rotation of the minnow and the speed of rotation may be readily changed by bending the blades 13 to different degrees of inclination. The swivel S is well anchored in the body B by the screw 20 and the leaders also are assured of an

adequate connection in the body by extending through the swivel eye 17 and the eye in turn having the screw 20 extending through it.

The parts of the minnow are inexpensive to manufacture and can be readily assembled and due to the rugged construction disclosed the minnow has a relatively long life. Where the minnow is made in larger sizes the specific gravity is low enough to permit the minnow to float, which is beneficial in the case of backlash and this eliminates the possibility of the hooks snagging on obstructions at the bottom of the stream.

Some changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts of my device without departing from the real spirit and purpose of my invention, and it is my intention to cover by my claims any modified forms of structure, or use of mechanical equivalents, which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a phantom minnow, an elongated body having a slot therein at the head end thereof, a propeller plate extending through said slot and having blades located on opposite sides of said body, said propeller plate being formed of sheet metal whereby to facilitate bending of said blades at different degrees of inclination to secure different speeds of rotation of said body, a swivel, said body having a groove adjacent said slot to receive said swivel, said propeller plate having a flange at the forward end thereof, said flange having a perforation through which said swivel extends with one eye of the swivel exposed beyond the head end of the body and the other eye thereof located in said groove, a screw extending into said body and through said last mentioned eye, leaders connected with said eye, said body having openings for said leaders to extend through from said eye to the exterior of said body, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

2. In a phantom minnow, an elongated body formed of soft light wood, said body having a slot therein at the head end thereof, a propeller plate extending through said slot and having blades located on opposite sides of said body, a double end swivel partially in said body, fastening means extending into said body through said propeller plate and through one eye of said swivel, leaders connected with said eye, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

3. In a phantom minnow, a body, a propeller plate for rotating said body, a swivel, said body having a socket to receive said swivel, said swivel having one eye exposed beyond the head end of said body and the other eye thereof located in said socket, common means extending through said last mentioned eye and through said propeller plate to anchor said swivel and said plate in said body, leaders connected with the sides of said eye, openings in said body for said leaders, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

4. In a phantom minnow, a body, a propeller plate for rotating said body, a swivel connected with said body, a screw extending into said body and through said swivel, said body having a longitudinal bore from said swivel to the tail end of the body, side opening slots in said body communicating with said swivel, leaders connected with said swivel and extending through said bore and side opening slots, hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders, and a relatively flexible tail fin connected with the tail end of said body.

5. In a phantom minnow, a body, a propeller plate for rotating said body, a swivel, said body having a socket to receive said swivel, said swivel having one eye exposed beyond the head end of said body and the other eye thereof located in said socket, means extending into said body and through said last mentioned eye and said propeller plate, said body having a longitudinal bore from said eye to the tail end of the body, side opening slots in said body communicating with said eye, leaders connected with said eye and extending through said bore and side opening slots, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

6. In a phantom minnow, an elongated body having a slot therein at the head end thereof, a propeller plate extending through said slot and having blades located on opposite sides of said body, a swivel, said body having a groove adjacent said slot to receive said swivel, said swivel having one eye thereof exposed beyond the head end of the body and the other eye thereof located in said groove, a screw extending into said body and through said last mentioned eye, said body having a longitudinal bore from said eye to the tail end of the body, side opening slots in said body communicating with said eye and being widened rearwardly and outwardly from said eye, leaders connected with said eye and extending through said bore and side opening slots, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

7. In a phantom minnow, a body, a propeller plate for rotating said body, a swivel for propelling said body, said body having a socket to partially receive said swivel with one eye thereof exposed beyond the head end of the body and the other eye thereof located in said socket, means to anchor said swivel in said body, said body having a longitudinal bore from said other eye to the tail end of the body and side opening slots communicating with said eye, leaders connected with said eye and extending through said bore and side opening slots, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

8. In a phantom minnow, an elongated body, a propeller plate and a swivel adjacent the head end thereof, said swivel being partially embedded in said body, leaders connected with said swivel, said body having a longitudinal bore and side opening slots communicating with the embedded portion of said swivel, said leaders extending through said bore and said side opening slots and connected with said swivel, and hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders.

9. In a phantom minnow, a body, a propeller plate and a swivel adjacent the head end thereof, said swivel having an eye within said body, leaders extending through said body and connected with said eye of said swivel, hooks connected with the free ends of said leaders, and means extending through said plate and said eye to anchor said plate and said swivel in said body and thereby also anchor said leaders in said body.

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