Dec. 1, 1931. J. W. BOLTE 1,834,329

MINNOW BUCKET

Filed Nov. 10, 1930

FIG. 1

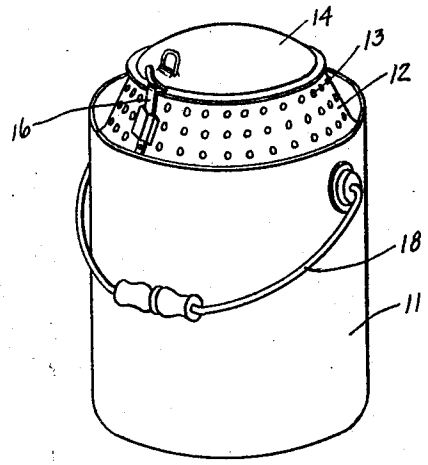


FIG. 2

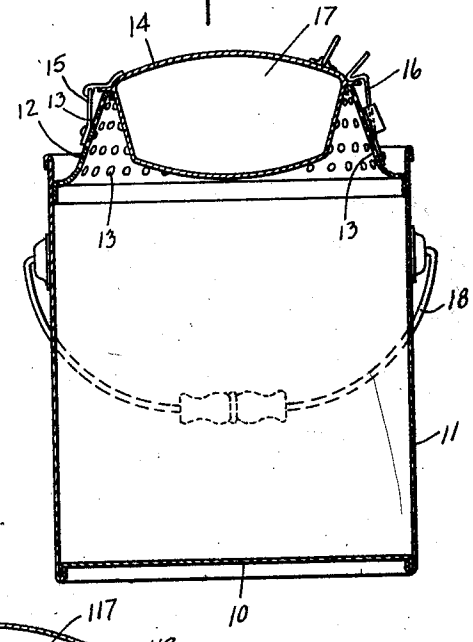
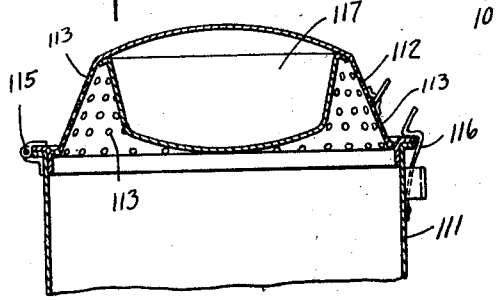


FIG. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MINNOW BUCKET

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This invention relates to a minnow bucket for the use of fishermen in transporting and preserving live minnows for bait.

In order to preserve live minnows for any appreciable length of time, it is necessary that they be constantly supplied with fresh water. Heretofore, this has been accomplished in two ways. The first is by the use of a minnow bucket having a solid bottom and sides and a perforated top which may be sunk in a stream while the owner is fishing. This is the so-called single bucket type and is convenient for transporting minnows since the sides are not perforated, but is inconvenient to use since it must be sunk in the stream instead of floating within easy reach. The second type is known as the double bucket type and consists of an outer bucket having a solid bottom and side walls and an inner bucket having perforated side walls and carrying a float which supports the bucket on the surface of the water. In carrying the double bucket type, the inner bucket is placed within the outer bucket and the outer bucket is filled with water. While the owner is fishing, the inner bucket only is lowered into the water and is kept afloat by the said float. The circulation is through the perforations in the side walls. The inner bucket alone can not be conveniently carried because of the said perforations in the side walls which do not permit sufficient water to remain in the bucket and which permit slopping of the water in carrying. This is the reason for the use of the outer bucket.

The present invention has for its object the provision of a minnow bucket which can be conveniently carried when filled with water and which still can be floated in a stream after the manner of the before-mentioned inner bucket to provide the necessary circulation of fresh water.

The principal feature of the invention resides in the provision of an unperforated side wall together with a perforated top member extending above the side walls and a float adapted to maintain the bucket at the proper level to permit water to enter the perforations in the top member.

Another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a bucket in which the air chamber serving as the float is so placed as to serve as insulation against heat caused by the direct rays of the sun when the bucket is carried or allowed to stand out of the water. The water in the bucket, therefore, remains at a much cooler temperature than in other types of buckets and thus prolongs the life of the minnows carried therein. This feature is applicable to the perforated side wall type of minnow bucket before mentioned, as well as to the perforated top type of bucket herein specifically described.

Other objects and features and the full nature of the invention will be understood from the accompanying drawings and the following description and claims:

Figure 1 is a perspective view and Figure 2 is a central sectional view of the preferred form of the invention. Figure 3 is a central sectional view of the upper part of an alternative form of the invention.

The bucket as illustrated herein is provided with a solid bottom 10 and unperforated side walls 11. In the preferred form a top member 12 is fastened to the side walls 11 at a point a short distance below the upper edge of said side walls. The top member 12 is preferably of the frusto-conical form shown in the drawings and extends above the upper edge of the side walls as shown. Perforations 13 are provided in the walls of the top member. A cover 14 is fastened by means of a hinge 15 and a latch 16 to the top member. The said cover is provided with an air space 17 which serves as a float to maintain the bucket at the proper elevation in the water to permit water to pass over the edge of the side walls 11 and into and out of the perforations 13. The bucket is furnished with the usual bail 18.

In the alternative form shown in Figure 3 the top member 112 is fastened to the side walls 111 by means of a hinge 115 and a latch 116. The said top member is formed with perforations 113 and has an air space 117 serving as a float.

It is evident that either form of the invention may be conveniently carried without the use of an outer bucket since the side walls are

unperforated below their point of contact with the top member. Sufficient water may carried therein for a large supply of minnows without danger of the water spilling out on the carrier's trouser legs or skirt. At the same time, the bucket may be floated within easy reach of the fisherman while a substantial circulation of fresh water is maintained therethrough. The provision of the portion of the side walls above the intersection thereof with the top member also aids in the prevention of spilling of water.

It is also evident that the float, when located in the cover, serves as heat insulation against the direct rays of the sun.

Minor variations in the shape and form of the parts may be made without departing from the broader features of the invention as defined by the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A minnow bucket including a solid bottom, side walls, a perforated top member fastened to said side walls, and a cover hinged to said top member, said cover including an air chamber serving as a float.

2. A minnow bucket including a solid bottom, side walls, a perforated top member extending above its line of contact with said side walls, said side walls being unperforated below said line of contact, and a cover hinged to said top member, said cover including an air chamber serving as a float.

3. A minnow bucket including a solid bottom, side walls, a perforated top member extending above its line of contact with said side walls, said side walls also extending above said line of contact and being unperforated below said line, and a float so placed as to maintain the bucket in a floating position at the proper elevation to permit water to pass over the upwardly-extending portion of said side walls and to enter at least a portion of said perforations.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

JOHN W. BOLTE.