Dec. 5, 1939. H. M. NELSON 2,182,160

MINNOW BUCKET

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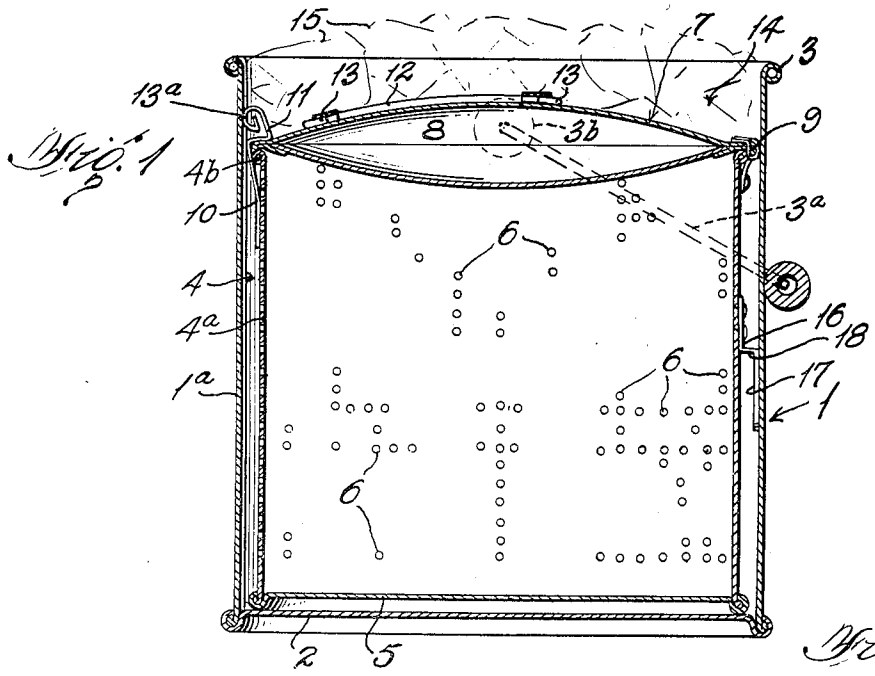


Fig. 1

Fig. 3

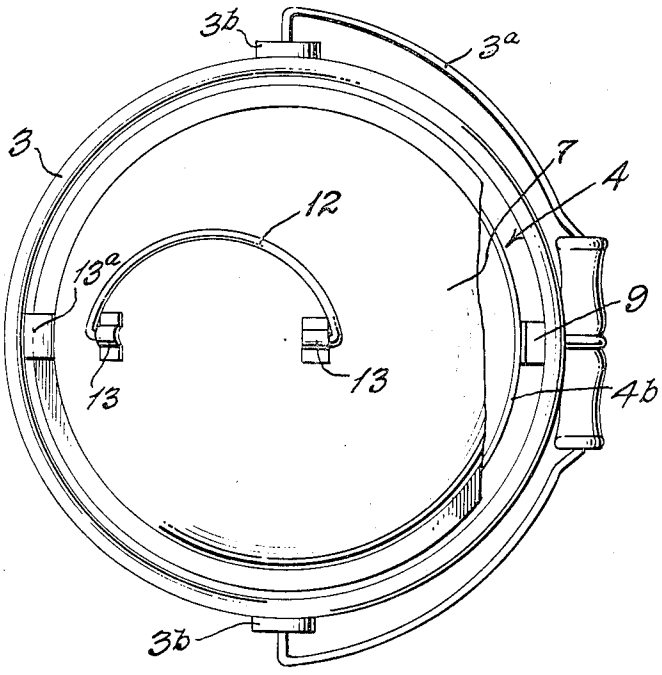
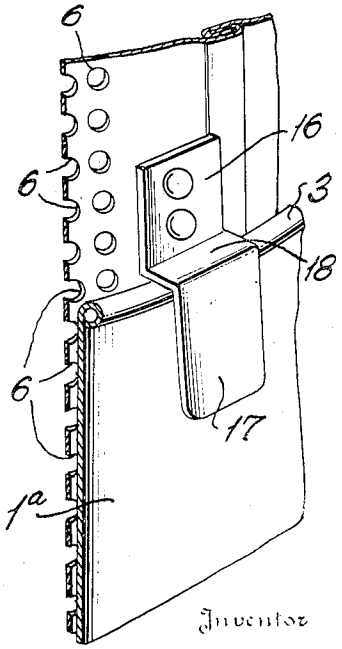


Fig. 2



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MINNOW BUCKET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 43—56)

The invention relates to minnow buckets and has for its objects to provide certain new and useful improvements in devices of this character.

An important object of the invention is to provide a minnow bucket assembly including inner and outer pail members wherein the inner perforated pail member is provided with a float chamber built into the cover which provides for more even and uniform floating as well as a maximum capacity for minnows.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described wherein the inner pail member or inset is constructed so as to provide more convenient and complete access to the minnows, this being due to the cover assembly which permits the entire top of the inner pail member or insert to be opened. In prior known devices the inner pail member, wherein a float chamber is provided, the latter is in the form of annular ring constituting a part of the top of the inner pail member, which reduces the area of the hinged or removable cover, thereby rendering it more difficult to obtain complete and convenient access to the contained minnows.

A further object of the invention is to provide a minnow bucket wherein the nature of the float chamber of the inner removable pail member permits the entire side walls of the same to be constructed from hardware, cloth or any punched metal, the entire surface of such side walls being available for punching to provide apertures which permit quicker and more complete drainage when the insert is lifted from the outer pail member to permit quicker access to the minnows, as well as desirable and more complete aeration of the contained minnows than is provided for in prior buckets of this character wherein at least a material portion of the side walls has been constructed of solid metal in order to provide for the imperforate float chamber.

A further object of the invention is to provide a minnow bucket construction wherein provision is made for conveniently removably locking the inner perforated pail member to the outer imperforate pail member when the respective elements are partially disassociated from one another so as to provide for more convenient access to the minnows and also to permit the lower portion of the perforated insert member to be immersed in the water contained in the outside imperforate pail member. Such a construction and arrangement is necessary and desirable when the minnows are being rapidly used. Not only is it convenient but it tends to preserve the life of the minnows which are very delicate and do not live very long if permitted to flop around on the bottom of the pail.

A further object of the invention is to provide a minnow bucket assembly of the character described wherein the inset member or inner perforate pail is countersunk within the outer imperforate pail member so as to absorb any splashing of water from the outer imperforate pail member during transportation, the space provided by such countersunk construction providing also a space to accommodate cracked or crushed ice during transportation which aids in preserving the life of the minnows within the perforate inner pail member. The construction of the instant minnow bucket assembly is also such as to utilize all possible space within the outer imperforate pail member containing the water which enters the perforations of the inner pail member wherein minnows are contained, and also to permit the inner pail member to rest flat and in contact with the bottom of the outer pail member, thereby augmenting the economy of space in the entire assembly.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a minnow bucket assembly of the character described which may be conveniently and economically manufactured with a minimum of structural members.

With such objects in view as well as other advantages which may be incident to the use of the improvements, the invention consists in the parts and combinations thereof hereinafter set forth and claimed with the understanding that the several necessary elements constituting the same may be varied in proportions and arrangement without departing from the nature and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

In order to make the invention more clearly understood there are shown in the accompanying drawing means for carrying the same into practical effect, without limiting the improvements in their useful application to the particular constructions and arrangements which, for the purpose of explanation, have been made the subject of illustration.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view in central vertical section of the inner and outer pail members constituting the instant invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same partially broken away.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of a

portion of the side walls of the minnow bucket assembly illustrating the position of the inner and outer pail members when the former is elevated in respect to the latter for more convenient access to the minnows when in use.

In said drawing, 1 indicates the outer imperforate pail member of usual construction having a circumferential side wall 1a suitably double seamed or otherwise secured to an imperforate bottom member 2. The upper open end of the outer pail member 1 is preferably outwardly curled as at 3 to provide a smooth reenforced annular bead. The outer pail member 1 is further provided with the usual bail or handle member 3a engaging bail ears 3b on the outer pail member to provide convenience in transportation. The inner perforate pail or insert member is shown at 4 and comprises a supplemental pail member of lesser diameter having a bottom portion 5 which may be imperforate and the outer circumferential side wall 4a of which is completely perforated from top to bottom as indicated at 6. The upper portion of the inner pail member 4 is provided with a peripheral reenforcing bead 4b. The inner perforate pail member is further provided with a cover member 7 of double thickness having upper and lower spaced walls to provide an intermediate air or float chamber 8 which constitutes the entire internal area of the cover member. Said cover member which constitutes the floating medium for the inner perforated pail member or insert is suitably hinged as at 9 to the body wall of the insert 4. At the diametrically opposite portion of the insert member a spring latch 10 is provided and secured thereto having an offset portion 11 to removably secure the cover to the inner pail member. The inner pail member is further provided with a bail or handle 12 having a pivotal mounting 13 on the cover to permit the inner pail member to be conveniently lifted or removed from the outer pail 1 of the assembly.

An outwardly curled handle portion 13a of the spring latch 10 permits the cover of the insert to be released and also provides a spring tension bearing engagement against the inner wall of the outer pail member so as to removably maintain the inner and outer pail members in engagement with each other and against displacement during transportation. The engagement of the portion 13 of the spring latch member 10 with the inner wall of the outer pail member serves to force the hinge member 9 of said inner member against the diametrically opposite portion of the inner wall of the outer container 1 to maintain the inner and outer pail members against such rattling or bouncing during transportation.

The inner perforate pail member 4 is further constructed so as to rest flat on the bottom wall 2 of the outer imperforate pail member to completely utilize the space within the latter and also is of a slightly less vertical dimension so as to provide an upper space 14 which may be utilized to receive crushed or cracked ice indicated at 15 in Fig. 1, during transportation of the live minnows to the desired destination, to aid in prolonging the life of the minnows during seasonal weather conditions.

The inner perforate minnow containing pail member 4 of the assembly further comprises one or more lug members 16 secured thereto, said lug having an offset depending portion 17 constituting a spring flange spaced outwardly from the wall of the insert and having a frictional engagement against the inner wall of the outer pail member when the bucket is assembled as shown in Fig. 1, for purposes of transportation. When the minnow bucket is utilized under fishing conditions it is preferable and convenient to partially elevate the inner pail member from the bucket so as to permit release of the spring latch member 10 to provide access to the minnows, and to this end the portion 17 of the lug member 16 is utilized to support the inner pail member in partially elevated position by engagement of a shoulder 18 of the same with the annular curl or bead 3 at the upper end of the outer pail member. This partially disengaged relation of the inner and outer pail members is shown in Fig. 3 and permits convenient access to the minnows within the insert member while at the same time insuring a sufficient amount of water at the lower portion of the inner pail member to sustain the life of the minnows.

From the foregoing it will be observed that the invention provides an economical and convenient minnow bucket assembly wherein provision has been made for full and complete minnow capacity within the perforated insert member as well as complete aeration of the latter. This is due to providing the float chamber wholly contained within the cover member of the insert which insures even and uniform floating of the insert when desired. The invention further provides means 13a, 16 for frictionally retaining the insert member within the outer pail to insure against relative displacement or rattling during transportation, and the cover member of the insert constitutes the entire top portion of the latter, thereby providing for more convenient access to the minnows as compared to prior buckets wherein the cover member of the insert is of materially less diameter due to provision for the former annular floating chamber in the body portion of the insert. By constructing the insert of less vertical dimension than the outer pail member a space is provided for the reception of ice which promotes the desirable advantages of the minnow bucket while in use. The construction is such that all possible space within the outer minnow bucket is utilized for the reception of the perforated insert member. It is of course understood that the outer imperforate pail member 1 serves to contain the water which enters through apertures 6 in the insert member to maintain a constant level of the water in the latter so as to provide means for transporting and containing live minnows within the insert member or pail 4.

It is thought that the invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description, and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. In a minnow bucket the combination of an outer pail member and an inner pail member removably insertable therewithin, said inner pail member having an offset element thereon including a depending portion adapted to frictionally engage the inner wall of said outer pail member to yieldably maintain said members against relative displacement when in telescoped position, said depending portion being adapted to engage over the upper open end of said outer pail member and against a part of the outer surface thereof to sup-

port said inner pail member above and in partially telescoped relation to said outer pail member and to substantially restrain lateral movement of said inner pail member.

2. In a minnow bucket the combination of an outer imperforate pail member open at its upper end and a perforated inner pail member removably associated therewith, said inner pail member having a double walled hinged cover thereon constituting a float chamber, and a spring latch member normally holding said cover closed and yieldably engaging the inner wall of said outer pail member, said inner pail member further having an offset element on the outer wall thereof including a depending spring flange adapted to resiliently engage the inner wall of said outer pail member to cooperate with said spring latch member in yieldably maintaining said members against relative displacement when in telescoped position, said depending flange being adapted to engage over the upper open end of said outer pail member and against a part of the outer surface thereof to support said inner pail member above and in partially telescoped relation to said outer pail member and to substantially restrain lateral movement of said inner pail member.

HOWARD M. NELSON.