

J. F. WINKLER.  
ANIMAL TRAP.  
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1,039,001.

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Fig. 1.

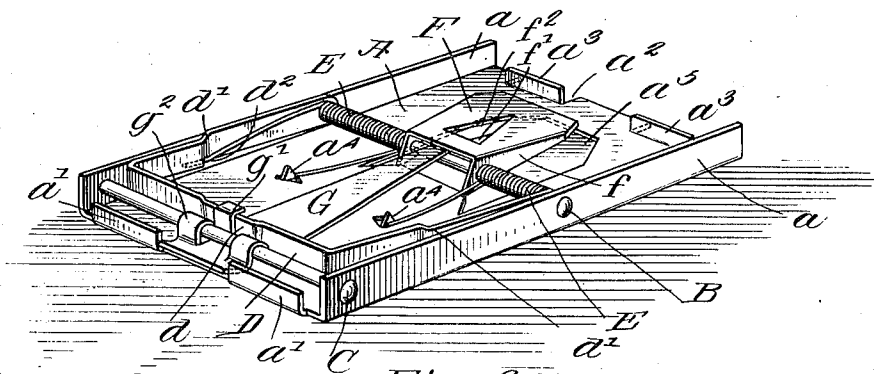


Fig. 2.

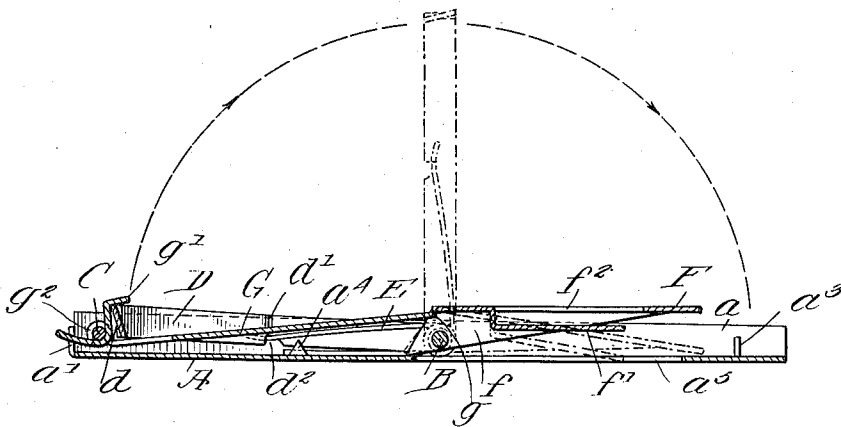
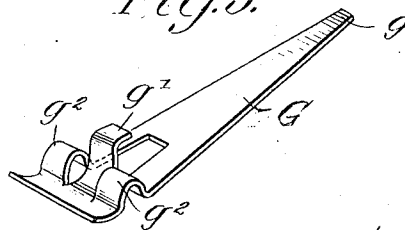


Fig. 3.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## ANIMAL-TRAP.

1,039,001.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 17, 1912.

Application filed May 1, 1912. Serial No. 694,327.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH F. WINKLER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Dollar Bay, in the county of Houghton and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Animal-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to animal traps of the striker type as shown in my former Patent No. 1,014,550, and my present object is to provide a novel construction of stamped metal which will be inexpensive to manufacture, positive in its action, highly sensitive, and durable in use.

A further object of my invention is to provide a novel construction whereby the setting of the trap may be rendered automatic in so far as the engagement of the striker and its latch.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a supporting base and a bait-carrier, each of which is a novel and simple construction with the particular purposes in view to economize in metal, promote strength and durability, and to enable the operator to move the bait carrier into engagement with the latch member, when setting the trap, without danger of his fingers being caught by the striker.

Further objects and the advantages, of my present invention will be apparent from the following description in which reference is made to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification and in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the trap, illustrating the parts set and ready for operation; Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section therethrough; and Fig. 3 is a detached perspective view of the latch member.

Referring now to these figures, the base A of my improved trap is substantially rectangular in form, its sides being provided with flanges  $a$  upstanding therealong, and its rear end being provided with spaced upstanding flanges  $a'$ . The forward end of the base A is provided with recesses  $a^2$  which, in the practical operation of continuous stamping, are formed by the rear end flanges  $a'$  of the next adjacent base. Within the recesses  $a^2$ , the forward end of the base is provided with upstanding flanges  $a^3$ .

The side flanges  $a$  of the base A serve to support the ends of transverse shafts B and C, which are respectively arranged at a central point and a point adjacent the rear

end of the base, the central shaft B serving as a pivot or fulcrum for the striker D, the latter being formed of a strip of metal bent to U-shape in order to provide a cross bar, the intermediate portion  $d$  of which is twisted to an inclined position, and side extensions which are provided with intermediate offsets  $d'$  having recesses  $d^2$  for the reception of the respective ends of the actuating springs E, said springs being coiled about the shaft B upon opposite sides of the bait-carrier F, and having their opposite ends disposed to bear upon the upper surface of the base plate A and maintained against displacement by integral lugs  $e^4$  struck up from the said base plate.

The bait-carrier F is provided with angular side wings  $f$  having openings through which the shaft B extends. The bait-carrier is also provided with an integral tongue  $f'$  struck downwardly therefrom in order to constitute a support for the bait and for the purpose of forming a triangular recess  $f^2$  in the bait-carrier, into the large end of which the bait is inserted and then moved forwardly so that in addition to being supported on the tongue  $f'$ , it is engaged by the converging sides of the recess  $f^2$ .

The latch member G comprises a flat tapering arm, the forward narrow end  $g$  of which is adapted for engagement beneath the lower edge of the bait-carrier, as shown in Fig. 1, and the rear broad end of which is disposed between the rear upstanding flanges  $a'$  of the supporting base, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Adjacent this latter end, the latch member is provided with substantially parallel longitudinal slits, forming an integral tongue  $g'$ . The portions of the latch member upon opposite sides of the tongue  $g'$  are crimped upwardly at  $a^2$  in order to form, with the said tongue  $g'$ , a bearing through which the shaft C passes in order to constitute a pivot for the latch member. The end of the tongue  $g'$  is bent upwardly and its extremity in turn bent angularly and substantially parallel with the latch arm and is thus so disposed that when the striker D is lowered for the purpose of setting the trap, the twisted portion  $d$  of the striker engages the angular extremity of the said tongue  $g'$  and rocks the latch member upon its pivot to an extent sufficient to permit of the engagement of that portion of the striker beneath the tongue. When this has been accomplished, it is merely neces-

sary for the operator to grasp the base A from beneath, by means of his thumb and middle finger upon the side flanges  $a$ , and insert his index finger upwardly through an opening  $a^5$  in the base A, and move the bait-carrier F to a horizontal position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 in order to engage the free end  $g$  of the latch arm beneath its lower edge. The trap is then set ready for the insertion of bait to be retained by the sides of the recess  $f^2$  and the holding tongue  $f'$ . Thus depression of the bait-carrier F and its consequent rocking movement tends to release the latch arm which, in turn, releases the striker D and the latter is then free to move under actuation of the springs E in accordance with the showing in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

When the trap has been sprung, the cross bar of the striker D will engage the base A at a point just forward of the flanges  $a^3$  of the latter, which flanges thus cooperate to hold an animal which may have been caught. It will be further noted from the particular shape of the bait-carrier F, that the latter may be formed of the section of material which is stamped from the supporting base A in order to provide the opening  $a^5$  before mentioned.

I claim:—

1. A trap, comprising a supporting base having spaced upstanding flanges at its opposite ends, shafts supported on said base, a spring-actuated striker pivoted on one of said shafts, a latch member engageable with the said striker, said latch member being pivoted on the other shaft and having a portion extending between, and guided by, the flanges at one end of the base, and a bait carrier engageable with the latch member, the said flanges at the opposite end of the

base cooperating with the striker for the purpose described.

2. A trap comprising a supporting base having upstanding flanges along its sides and provided at one end with spaced upstanding flanges, shafts supported by the said side flanges, a spring actuated striker pivoted on one of said shafts, a bait-carrier pivoted on the same shaft with the striker, and a latch member pivoted upon the other of said shafts, said latch member having portions engageable with the striker and with the said bait-carrier and also having a portion disposed between, and guided by, the said end flanges of the said supporting base.

3. A trap comprising a supporting base having side flanges, a shaft supported by said side flanges, a spring actuated striker pivoted on said shaft, a bait-carrier also pivoted on the said shaft, a latch member adapted for engagement at one end with the said bait-carrier, said latch member being longitudinally slitted adjacent its opposite end whereby to provide a central tongue and side portions upon opposite sides of the tongue which are crimped or bent in the same direction, and a second shaft supported by the side flanges of the base and extending beneath the said crimped side portions of the latch member and over the said tongue, the said tongue of said latch member being bent upwardly at one side of the last-mentioned shaft and provided with an angular extremity for engagement with the said striker.

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Witnesses:

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