(No Model.)

S. CURLIN.
INFLATABLE DECOY.

No. 512,810. Patented Jan. 16, 1894.

Fig. 1.

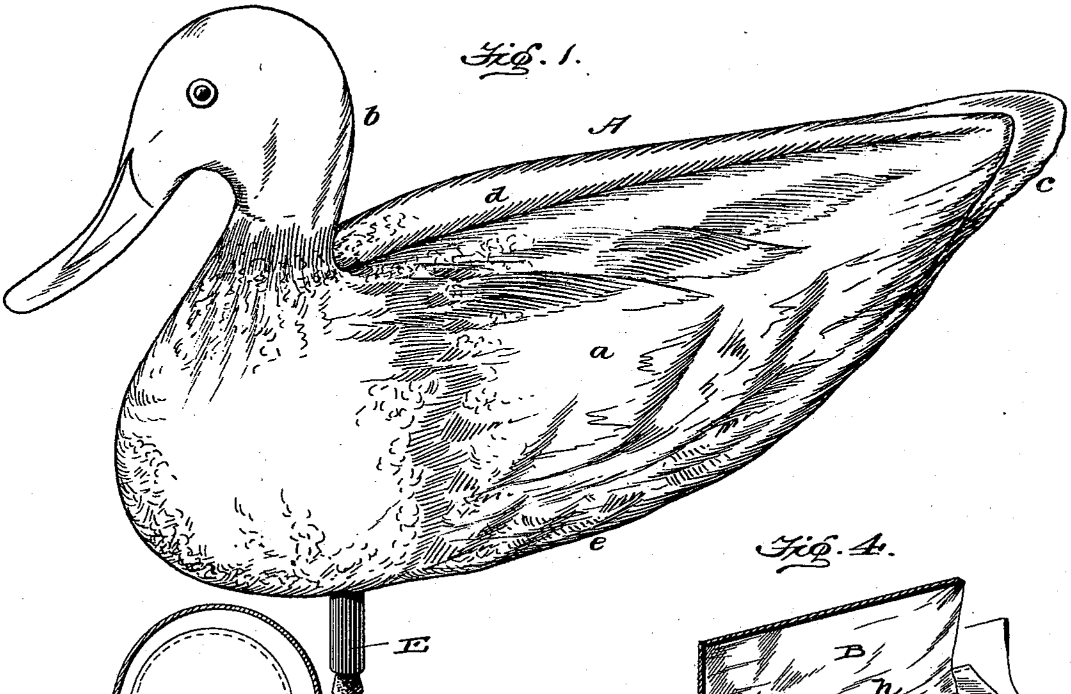


Fig. 4.

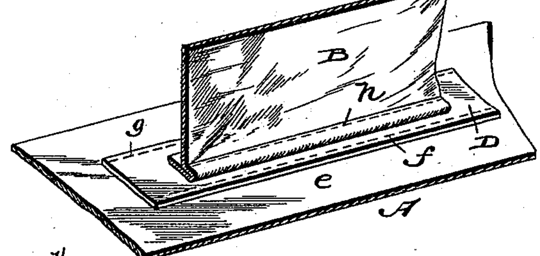
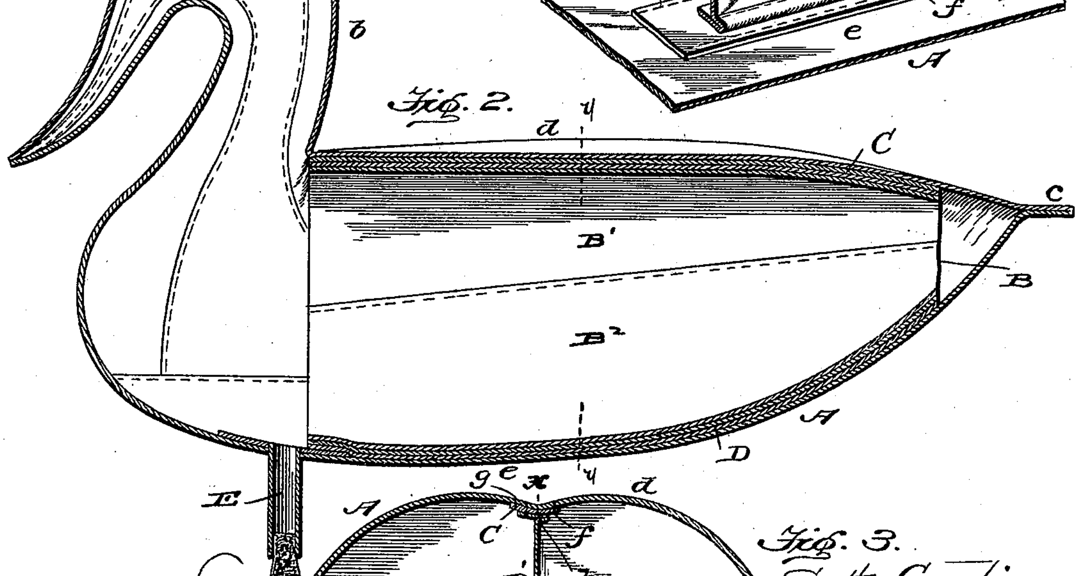


Fig. 2.



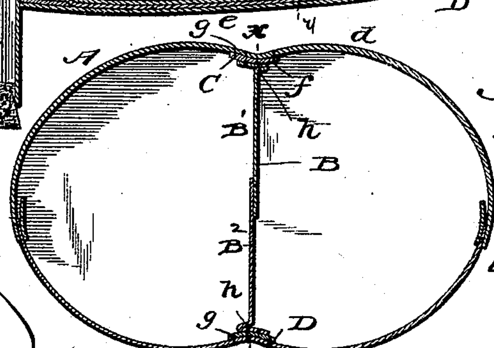


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

Seth Curlin.
Inventor

By Edson Bros.
Att'ys.

THE NATIONAL LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SETH CURLIN, OF UNION CITY, TENNESSEE, ASSIGNOR TO J. E. BECK, OF SAME PLACE.

INFLATABLE DECOY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 512,810, dated January 16, 1894.

Application filed April 21, 1893. Serial No. 471,310. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SETH CURLIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Union City, in the county of Obion and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Inflatable Decoys; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to an inflatable decoy more particularly designed as an improvement on the decoy patented to me the 17th day of June, 1890, which Letters Patent are numbered 450,565.

The decoy shown and described in my prior patent is made or composed of textile fabric and provided with a longitudinal stay to limit the displacement of the top and bottom thereof. Extensive practical experience with such a decoy has demonstrated that air vents or perforations are formed along the lines where the longitudinal stay is united to the top or bottom of the decoy; and the object of the present improvement is to unite the stay to the decoy in a manner to effectually overcome the formation of such air vents at the lines where the stay is joined to the top or bottom and thus prevent the decoy from collapsing after it has been properly inflated. With this end in view, I provide a reinforcement stay which is laid flat against the inner face of the side, top or bottom of the body and is fastened or united thereto, preferably by two lines of stitching, and the edge of the vertical stay is sewed or fastened to the flat reinforcement stay along the central longitudinal line thereof by stitches which pass through three layers of fabric, namely the side or wall of the decoy-body, the flat reinforcement stay, and the edge of the vertical stay. By thus reinforcing the connection between the decoy body and its vertical stay, the latter is caused to pull on the decoy-body over a greater area or surface than it does when the vertical stay is stitched directly to the decoy body as it acts through the reinforcement stay which is stitched to the decoy body by two lines of stitching outside of the line stitches that unite the edge of the vertical stay with the reinforcement stay and the decoy. This construction prevents formation of air vents in the decoy body, and the stay also serves to limit lateral displacement of the walls and to form a crease longitudinally in the top of the decoy, when the latter is inflated, to more closely simulate the appearance of the fowl.

Having thus stated the objects and general nature of the decoy, I will now proceed to a detailed description of the preferred embodiment of my improvement in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my decoy. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof on the plane indicated by the dotted line *x*—*x* of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line *y*—*y* of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view to more clearly show the reinforcement stay between the vertical stay and the decoy-body, also the method of uniting the parts together.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings, referring to which—

A designates the decoy which has the usual body *a*, head and neck *b*, and the tail *c*. This decoy is made of textile fabric in substantially the manner shown and described in my prior patent hereinbefore referred to, and the top and bottom *d*, *e*, of the body *a* are connected together by the vertical longitudinal stay B which has its edges united to said top and bottom in the peculiar manner which I will now proceed to describe. To the inner face of the top and bottom *d*, *e*, of the body are secured the reinforcement stays C, D. Each reinforcement stay extends longitudinally of the body, from the neck nearly to the tail of the decoy; and said reinforcement stay is laid flat against the body, to which it is united or fastened by two rows of stitches *f*, *g*. See Figs. 3 and 4. The edge of the vertical stay B is folded or turned over and laid against the reinforcement stay along the longitudinal central line thereof, and then united by a single row of stitches *h* which pass through the folded or turned edge of the vertical stay B, the reinforcement stay, and the body *a*, said row of stitches *h* being between

the two lines of stitches *f*, *g*, that unite the reinforcement stay to the body *a* of the decoy.

It will be understood that both edges of the vertical stay B are fastened to the reinforcement stays and the top and bottom, respectively, of the decoy in the manner described.

In the manufacture of the decoy, I unite the several pieces of fabric together except along the lines between the top and bottom of the body *a*, and employ a sectional stay, B, or a stay made of two pieces B′, B², which are fastened respectively to the top and bottom of the body *a*. By thus leaving the body of the decoy open or exposed, the sections of the stay B and the reinforcement stays C, D, can be readily united to the top and bottom of the body as access to the interior can be conveniently had for sewing the stays to the body. After the stays have thus been united to the top and bottom of the body *a*, the sections B′, B², of the vertical stay B are united or sewed together, and then the edges of the top and bottom are united or sewed to complete the decoy.

A decoy made of textile fabric is made water and air proof before completely closing the body by a suitable composition which is applied to the inside as well as the outside surfaces of the decoy, over the several lines of stitching or joints between the sections of the body and the stays, and the decoy is painted on the outside to closely simulate the appearance of the fowl. This decoy is provided in its bottom with the inflating tube E which is fastened thereto in any suitable manner and provided with means for closing or stopping up the air passage, as for instance by a stopper or cork.

In order to close up or seal any crevices or air vents that may occur in the decoy, a quantity of free oil or other liquid composition is introduced into the body *a* through the inflating tube E, and the decoy is turned or inverted to allow the composition or oil to flow or pass over the interior surface of the decoy and along the lines of stitches, whereby the air pressure within the decoy when it is inflated serves to force the oil into the crevices or vents where it remains and dries so as to seal and close up the crevices.

The vertical stay serves to limit the lateral displacement of the top and bottom of the body, and when the latter is inflated the stay serves to depress the top of the body along its longitudinal central line and thereby form a crease or depression in the top as shown by Fig. 3. This stay B acts on the top and bottom of the decoy through the reinforcement stays C, D, as well as by the lines of stitches *h*, and thus the stay B when the decoy is inflated acts or pulls upon a larger surface of the top and bottom than it does when the stay B is united directly to the decoy without the intervening reinforcement stays C, D. The formation of air crevices along the lines of stitching between the stay B and the decoy is wholly overcome, and on the whole a more durable and satisfactory decoy is produced.

It is evident that the stay herein referred to as the vertical or displacement stay can be arranged in a horizontal or other suitable position, and I would therefore have it understood that I do not strictly confine myself to the precise details of construction and arrangement of parts herein shown and described as an embodiment of my invention as I am aware that changes and alterations can be made therein without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of my invention.

No claim is herein made for the process invented by me and claimed in the patent issued to me November 14, 1893, No. 508,818.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, an inflatable decoy, made of textile fabric, provided with the flat reinforcement stay united to the inside of the body thereof and having the displacement-stay united to said reinforcement stay and the decoy, as and for the purpose described.

2. As a new article of manufacture, an inflatable decoy made of textile fabric, having the flat reinforcement stay C united longitudinally to the inside of the body by rows of stitches, and the displacement stay having its edge united centrally to the reinforcement stay between its rows of stitches, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. As a new article of manufacture, an inflatable decoy made of textile fabric having an air proof coating on the inner and outer surfaces thereof and provided with the longitudinal flat reinforcement stays C, D, united to the inside of its top and bottom respectively, and the displacement stay B having its edges united centrally to the reinforcement stays between their lines of stitching, the stitches that fasten the edges of the vertical stay passing through the reinforcement stays and the body of the decoy, substantially as described.

4. As a new article of manufacture, an inflatable decoy made of textile fabric, provided with the longitudinal flat reinforcement stays that are united to the inside of the top and bottom, respectively, of the body, and the sectional stay B having one edge of its sections united respectively to the stays and the top and bottom of the decoy and the meeting edges of the stay-sections being united together longitudinally, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SETH CURLIN.

Witnesses:
HENRY E. COOPER,
H. I. BERNHARD.