

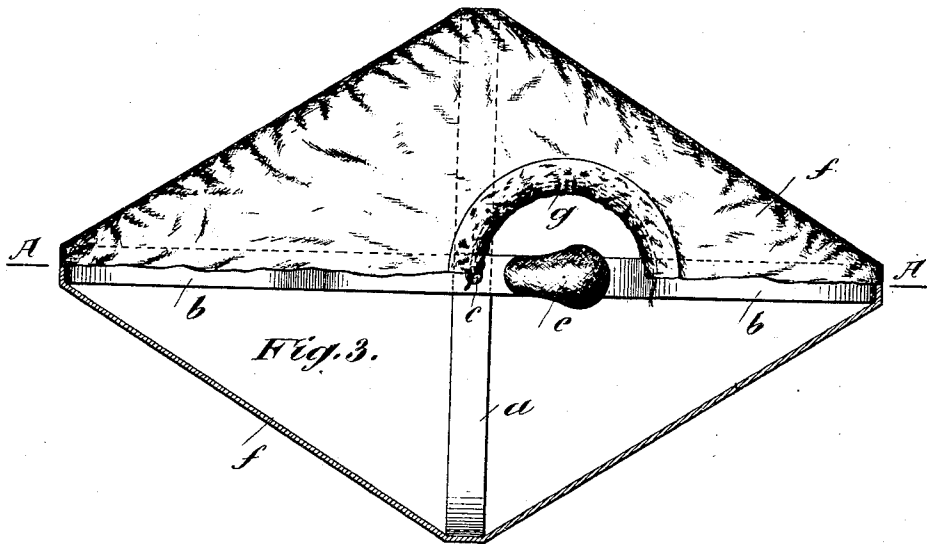
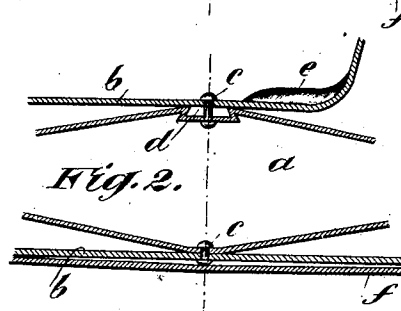
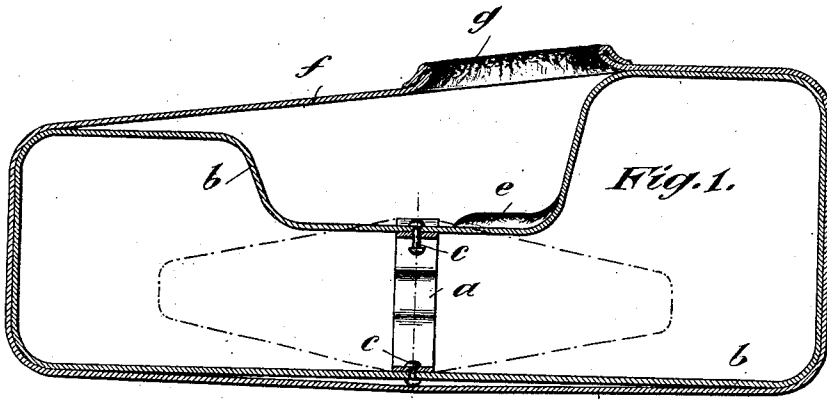
No. 660,252.

Patented Oct. 23, 1900.

J. GUTKNECHT.  
COLLAPSIBLE BOAT OR FLOATING DEVICE.

(Application filed Aug. 6, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

*Attker*  
*B. K. Summers*

Inventor:

*Johann Gutknecht*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHANN GUTKNECHT, OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.

## COLLAPSIBLE BOAT OR FLOATING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 660,252, dated October 23, 1900.

Application filed August 6, 1900. Serial No. 26,052. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHANN GUTKNECHT, a citizen of the Republic of Switzerland, residing at Zurich, Switzerland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Boats or Floating Devices, (for which I filed applications for patents in France on the 7th of July, 1900, No. 290,236; in Germany on the 9th of July, 1900, and in Great Britain on the 11th of July, 1900, No. 12,526;) 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention has for its object a collapsible boat or floating device which is also applicable as a life-saving apparatus.

One form of construction of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a section on the line A A of Fig. 3. Fig. 2 is a similar section of part of the device in another position; and Fig. 3 is a plan view, partially in section, of the device.

The appliance has two frames *a b*, one of which is inserted within the other and pivotally mounted therein by means of bolts *c*, so that it can be either adjusted into a position at right angles to the other frame, Figs. 1 and 3, or it can be turned into line with the other frame, as in Fig. 2 and the dotted position shown in Fig. 1. A groove *d*, Fig. 2, is provided in the upper cross-bar of the frame *a*, into which groove the upper cross-bar of the frame *b* springs and in this manner holds fast the frame *a* in this position when the latter is brought into a position at right angles to the frame *b*. The upper cross-bar of the frame *b* is bent in the form of a saddle and has a seat *e* in the bend. The frames are surrounded by a cover *f* of water-tight material. This cover is stretched when the frames are brought into a position at right angles to one another and is held in a taut extended position by the frames. In this manner a frame is formed inside the cover in which a person

can sit upon the seat *e*. Over the seat is an opening *g*, formed in the cover, which may be reduced in size by its edges being drawn together with a cord, so that it may be closely and water-tightly secured around the upper part of the body of a person seated inside the cover.

The arrangement hereinbefore described is applicable, when in an extended position, as a water conveyance or boat and may be propelled over the water by a person by means of a pair of oars or a double-bladed paddle.

The device is capable of being folded up, the frame *a* then being in line with the frame *b*, the whole thus being flat and capable of being carried with ease or stored in a limited space.

As the appliance can be rapidly made ready for use and as penetration of water into the casing—for instance, in the event of waves arising—is prevented by its closely fitting around the person seated therein, this device may be employed with safety as a life-saving boat in the event of disasters on the water.

For larger and respectively longer boats there may be employed two or more frames *a*, the character of the invention being not altered by such a plurality of frames *a*.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is—

1. A collapsible boat or floating device adapted to be used as a life-saving apparatus, which consists of two frames pivotally connected with one another and inserted one in the other, which are capable of being retained at right angles to one another, and which are so inclosed by a cover that when the frames are placed at right angles the cover is held taut by them and forms a space adapted to contain a person, substantially as described.

2. A collapsible boat or floating device, applicable also as a life-saving apparatus which has two pivotally-connected frames inserted one in the other, and which are adapted to be fixed at right angles to one another, and are inclosed by a cover in such a way that the latter is held taut when the frames are placed at

right angles to one another, and forms a space  
for receiving a person, the said cover being  
formed of waterproof material or the like and  
having a contractible opening which may be  
5 water-tightly secured around the body of the  
person seated beneath the cover, substantially  
as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as  
my invention I have signed my name in pres-  
ence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHANN GUTKNECHT.

Witnesses:

MORITZ VEITH,  
A. LIEBERKNECHT.