

Jan. 10, 1939.

J. B. HADAWAY

2,143,109

ROD HOLDER

Filed May 29, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

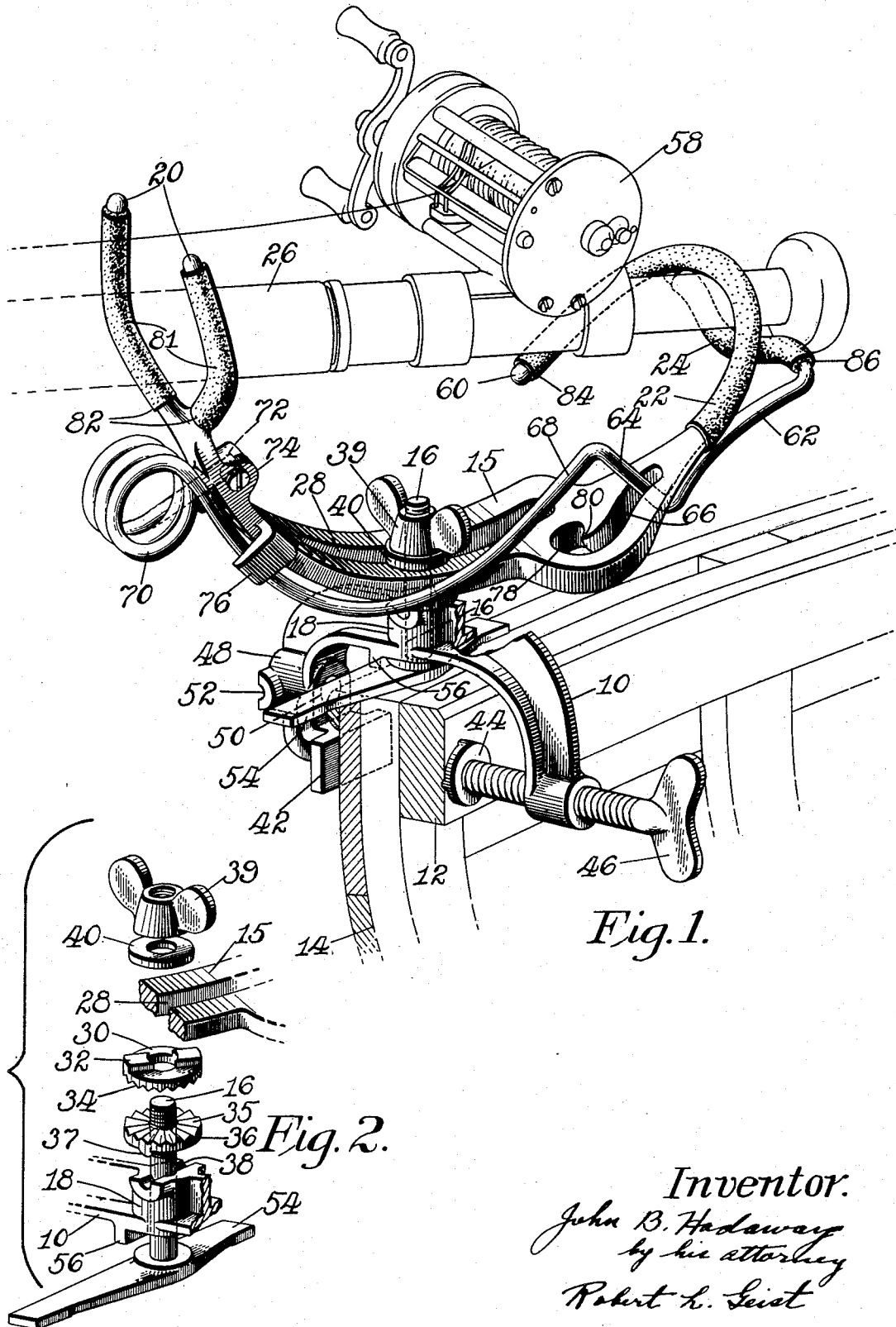


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Inventor.
John B. Hadaway
by his attorney
Robert L. Leist

Jan. 10, 1939.

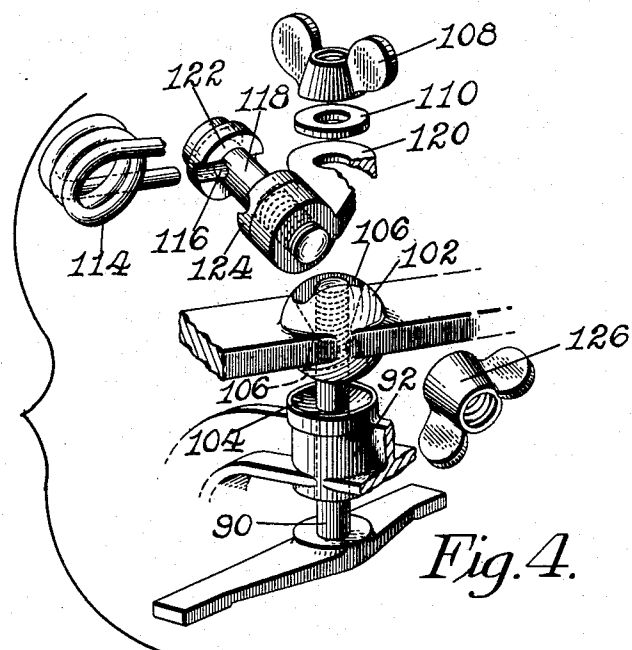
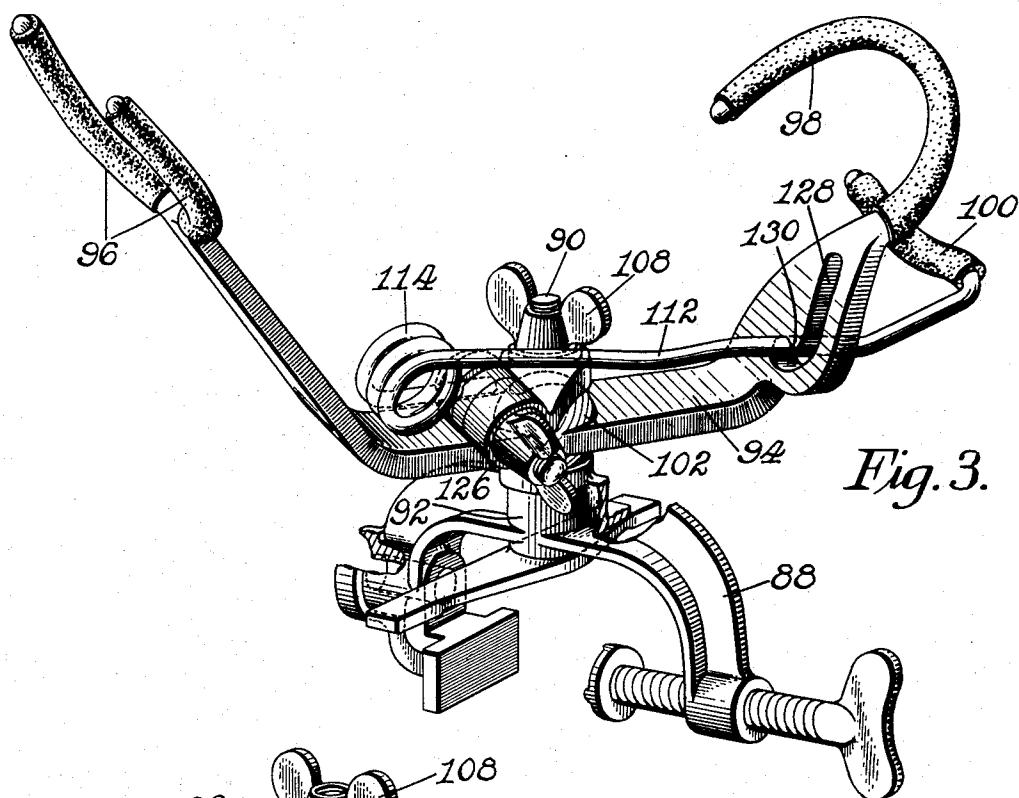
J. B. HADAWAY

2,143,109

ROD HOLDER

Filed May 29, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventor.

John B. Hadaway
by his attorney
Robert L. Geist

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,143,109

ROD HOLDER

John B. Hadaway, Swampscott, Mass.

Application May 29, 1936, Serial No. 82,537

5 Claims. (Cl. 248-42)

This invention relates to improvements in rod-supporting devices and is herein illustrated as embodied in a support for a fishing rod which is adapted to secure the rod in operative position upon the gunwale of a boat or other supporting structure.

The invention is particularly adapted for use in fishing from boats by trolling, in which operation one or more fishing rods are customarily secured to a portion of the boat with the rod extending at an angle of about forty degrees from the center line of the boat and toward the stern thereof. Since the user of the rod in many instances must have his hands free, for example to row the boat, the rod should be securely supported in such manner that there will be no likelihood of losing the rod and other expensive equipment overboard and at the same time the rod must be supported in such position as to be effective in attracting fish but also should be readily removable from the support in condition for operation upon obtaining a "strike". In view of this, it is an object of the present invention to provide a holder of the type mentioned which will be particularly effective in its operation and which can be readily adjusted into various positions to accommodate for widely varying conditions met with in the sport.

To this end, and as illustrated, my invention provides a rod holder adapted to be clamped to the gunwale of a boat or other support and having a pivotally mounted bracket provided with a rod-engaging portion, there being resilient means for clamping the rod against said rod-engaging portion. Preferably, and as shown, the bracket is pivotally mounted upon a clamping member so that the position of the bracket and rod in horizontal and vertical planes can readily be varied. As shown, the bracket is provided with prongs adapted to engage and support the rod at the forward end of the bracket, there being a hook for engaging the rod on the rear portion of the bracket and a spring-pressed clamping member for forcing the butt end of the rod into engagement with the hook. This construction is advantageous in that it holds the rod in a predetermined position against a downward pull on the end of the rod as would be met with when the fish strikes or if the current in the stream or lake is swift. The clamping action of the hook and clamping member maintains the rod in position with the reel in operative position. Preferably, the bracket is provided with a cam slot so arranged that the clamping member can be held in inoperative position away from the rod. This is ad-

vantageous in that when it is desired to pick up the rod and remove it from the holder that can readily be accomplished merely by pressing against the clamping member with the butt end of the rod until the member is locked in its inoperative position. The rod can then be removed with a minimum loss of time, a point which is important in the operation of landing a fish.

These and other features of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings and are set forth in the following detailed specification and in the claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a rod holder embodying one form of my invention and illustrating the manner of using the device on a boat;

Fig. 2 is an exploded view in perspective, showing portions of the spindle and its associated mechanism;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a rod holder embodying a modified form of my invention; and

Fig. 4 is an exploded view illustrating in perspective the spindle illustrated in Fig. 3 and its associated parts.

The preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in Fig. 1 comprises a C-shaped clamp 10 adapted to be secured to a suitable support, such as the gunwale 12 of a boat 14. An arcuate shaped bracket 15 is adjustably secured to a spindle 16 extending through an opening in a boss 18 forming part of the clamp, the bracket having at opposite ends thereof rod-engaging members in the form of prongs 20, and a hook 22 and clamp 24 adapted to support and secure in predetermined position a rod, such as fishing rod 26.

The bracket 15 is arranged for angular movement about the axis of the spindle 16 as well as for angular movement in vertical planes passing through the axis. To this end the bracket has a longitudinal slot 28 through which the spindle 16 passes. The bracket rests upon a washer 30 which has a raised portion 32 only slightly less in width than the width of the slot so that it acts as a guide to maintain the bracket in a predetermined vertical plane during adjustment to elevate the rod. The underside of the washer is provided with teeth 34 adapted to engage the teeth 35 of a second washer 36 arranged to rest upon the upper side of the C-shaped clamp 10. The washer 36 has a projection 37 which is adapted to engage the walls of a groove 38 in the clamp whereby rotation of the washer is prevented. The washer 30 can be rotated relatively to the washer 36 in adjusting the angle of the

bracket and consequently of the rod relatively to the center line of the boat. After this adjustment is made and the bracket shifted in a vertical plane to its desired position, the holder is clamped in fixed position by means of a wing nut 39 which bears against a washer 40 on the upper side of the bracket. Thus it will be apparent that the construction above outlined provides for universal adjustment of the rod-holder bracket relatively to the C-shaped clamp by which any desired position of the rod in a vertical plane or a horizontal plane may be obtained.

The C-clamp 10 is provided with a fixed jaw 42 and a movable jaw 44 operable by a thumb screw 46 and is arranged to engage opposite sides of the gunwale 12 of the boat. As shown in Fig. 1, the spindle 16 is positioned in a boss 18 in the back of the clamp and extends upwardly in substantially vertical position. However, in the event that it is desired to attach the clamp to the seat of a boat there is provided on the clamp a second boss 48 having a spindle-receiving opening 50 therein and a recess 52 corresponding to the recess 38 for receiving the spindle and associated parts. The lower end of the spindle is provided with a plate 54 extending laterally on both sides of the axis of the spindle. This plate cooperates with the spindle and nut 39 to secure the arcuate bracket 15 in its adjusted position. Another function of the plate is to prevent rotation of the bracket about the axis of the clamping jaws 42 and 44, the ends of plate 54 being arranged to engage the upper surface of the gunwale to prevent such rotation. Angular movement of the plate relative to the clamp is prevented by a downwardly projecting lug 56. The feature just described is of considerable importance in maintaining the bracket in position with a rod held therein so located that a reel such as the reel 58 will at all times be accessible to the fisherman. This would not be the case if the bracket 15 could turn about the axis of the jaws of the clamp 10 until the reel or portions of a line extending therefrom or the bracket would engage the gunwale or other portion of the boat, a difficulty which has been experienced in connection with the operation of some of the rod-holding devices in the prior art.

The preferred means for holding the rod in position upon the bracket will now be described. This means comprises a U-shaped member at the forward end of the rod formed by the prongs 20 which constitutes a crotch in which the forward part of the butt of the rod can be placed. The rear end of the butt is engaged by the inverted U-shaped member or hook 22 which is bent in a plane extending laterally of the axis of the bracket 15 and has an end portion 60 extending forwardly and upwardly relatively to the bracket. The rod rests in the prongs or crotch 20 and since the center of gravity of the rod is forward of that point the butt end of the rod will be thrust upwardly and when placed beneath the hook member 22 will tend to bear up against its undersurface. The shape of the member 22 provides adequate clearance for the insertion and removal of the butt of the rod.

The members 20 and 22 thus serve to support the weight of the rod and limit its movement in lateral directions and, to a certain extent, up and down movement. However, in order to insure that the butt end of the rod is rigidly held in position, I have provided the clamping member 24 which is adapted to engage the underside of the butt end of the rod rearwardly of the

hook 22 and to clamp it against the hook. This clamping member comprises a slightly curved portion extending transversely of the bracket and has a resilient shank portion 62 extending beneath the bracket and which includes an offset portion 64 which extends through a retaining slot 66 in the bracket, and a second offset portion 68 at the end of which is a coiled spring 70 having an end portion 72 which is secured in an opening in the bracket by a screw 74. The spring 70 and the curved portions 62 and 68 form resilient means normally operative to force the clamping member upwardly toward the hook member 22. The spring is prevented from moving laterally away from its position along the bracket by a lug 76 on the bracket. The slot 66 is curved inwardly toward the axis of the bracket and near its lower end terminates in a notch 78, there being a detent in the form of a projection 80 which acts as a lock to hold the clamping member in inoperative position when it has been moved downwardly until the offset shank portion 64 is positioned in the notch 78 of the slot. This construction is advantageous in that the clamping member can be readily depressed and held in inoperative position, then the rear end of the butt of the rod is inserted between the ends of the hook and of the clamp 24 and placed upon the upper surface of the clamp. The forward portion of the butt is then lowered into the crotch 20 and a slight downward and lateral pressure will result in the release of the clamp, the spring 70 forcing the clamp to engage the underside of the rod to press it firmly against the hook member 22. When it is desired to remove the rod it is only necessary to press the butt end thereof downwardly until it is locked in inoperative position. This can be done very rapidly with very little conscious effort upon the part of the fisherman. The rod is then readily removable by raising it out of the crotch 20 and by swinging the butt end outwardly and downwardly of the bracket.

It is to be noted that when the clamping member is in its lower or inoperative position the distance between the end 60 of the hook member and the clamping member is sufficient to permit insertion of a rod by moving the same downwardly beneath the hook then upwardly and inwardly over the clamping member. When in position the rod will not readily be shaken loose even though the clamping member is not in operative position.

Since the clamp 24 is positioned rearwardly of the hook 22 the pressure of the spring will force the rear end of the butt upwardly about the hook as a fulcrum, thus tending to force the forward portion of the butt downwardly thereby to maintain it within the prongs 20 against jerks applied at the end of the rod.

The prongs 20 are bent inwardly as at 81 from points at a short distance below their ends so that forces tending to jounce the rod laterally will not be effective to jerk the rod out of the crotch. That is, the intumed ends of the projections serve as buffers to prevent the rod from being withdrawn from the crotch by accident, the space between the ends of the projections being only slightly greater than the diameter of the butt of the rod at that point.

In order to insure greater rigidity of the rod when supported in the holder than could otherwise be obtained, I have provided the prongs 20, the hook member 22 and the clamping member 24 with coverings of friction material such as

soft rubber, herein shown as tubing 82, 84 and 86. The frictional contact between the tubing referred to and the butt of the rod serves to decrease any tendency for the rod to rotate in its support and, in addition, assists the effectiveness of the clamping action between the member 22 and the clamping member 24.

Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a modified form of rod-holding device. As shown, this device comprises a C-clamp 88 similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1, a spindle 90 extending through a boss 92 in the spindle and having adjustably mounted thereon a bracket 94. The bracket 94 is provided with prongs 96 and a hook member 98 similar in construction to the corresponding members shown in Fig. 1; there being a clamping member 100 for cooperating with the member 98 to clamp a rod in position. The bracket 94 in this instance is mounted for universal movement about the spindle 90 by means of a ball-and-socket joint, the ball portion 102 being integral with the bracket and being received in a recess 104 in the boss 92. The upper and lower portions of the ball are counterbored as indicated at 106 to provide a spindle-receiving opening and to provide clearance for movement of the bracket angularly of the axis of the spindle. The bracket can readily be clamped in adjusted position by means of a lock nut 108 and washer 110.

The clamping member 100 has a shank portion 112 which terminates in a coil spring 114, the end of which is adapted to be held in position in an opening 116 in a bolt 118 carried by the bracket 120 adapted to be secured on the spindle between the washer 110 and the upper surface of the ball 102. The spring is clamped in position between a head 122 on the bolt 118 and a washer 124, there being a wing nut 126 for holding these parts together. This construction provides means for varying the force of the spring in operating the detent 100. For example, if the nut 126 is loosened and the bolt rotated in a counterclockwise direction and the nut again tightened, increased spring pressure will be applied to the clamping member. The shank 112 of the clamping member extends through a slot 128 in the bracket, there being a projecting detent 130 for holding the member in an operative position.

The operation of the rod-holding devices above described is substantially the same and it is believed will be clear from the foregoing description. However, in summing up the operation of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, it is to be noted that after having adjusted the bracket 15 angularly to a desired position in horizontal and 55 vertical planes and locking the bracket in adjusted position, a rod is placed in position in the holder by resting the forward part of the butt portion in the crotch 20 by tilting the rear end of the butt portion downwardly and under the leg 60 of the member 22 and over the clamping member 24, which, at this time, should be in its inoperative position with the shank 64 in the notch

78 of the slot 66. A slight downward and lateral movement to the left of the butt end of the rod will result in releasing the clamping member and the spring 70 will force said member upwardly to clamp the rod in position against the member 24. Thus it will be apparent that I have provided a simple and effective rod-holding device by which a rod can be held securely in any desired angular position relatively to its support while at the same time the rod will be readily 10 removable at a moment's notice.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A rod holder comprising a bracket having 15 rod-engaging members at opposite ends thereof, a resilient clamping member arranged to cooperate with one of the rod-engaging members to clamp the rod in position, the bracket having a slot therein through which the clamping member passes, and a detent adjacent the slot for holding the clamping member in inoperative position.

2. A rod holder comprising a rod-holding member, a rod-clamping member movable into and out of operative position relatively to the rod-holding member, and means on the rod-holding member for holding the clamping member out of operative engagement with the rod.

3. A rod holder comprising a bracket having 30 rod-engaging members, and a clamp for cooperating with one of the members for holding a rod in position in the bracket, said clamp having a laterally projecting rod-engaging portion and a resilient shank portion mounted upon the bracket and extending through a slot therein, the walls of said slot extending in a heightwise direction to guide the shank in movements to a rod-engaging position or into inoperative position.

4. A rod-holding device comprising a clamp 40 for securing the device to a support, a bracket mounted upon the clamp for universal movement, rod-engaging members carried by the bracket, a resilient rod-securing member having a shank portion and a rod-engaging portion 45 adapted to cooperate with one of the rod-engaging members to grip the butt of a rod, the bracket having a cam slot therein through which the shank portion extends and which is adapted to guide the securing member between its operative and inoperative positions, and a detent for holding the shank in position with the rod-engaging portion in inoperative position.

5. A rod holder comprising a bracket, rod-engaging members carried at the ends of the 55 bracket, a resilient clamping member carried by the bracket and arranged to cooperate with one of the rod-engaging members to clamp the rod in position, and means for varying the pressure exerted by the clamping member. 60

JOHN B. HADAWAY.