April 18, 1950 F. E. SPIEHLER 2,504,461

PADDLE OR OAR SUSPENSION DEVICE

Filed April 20, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

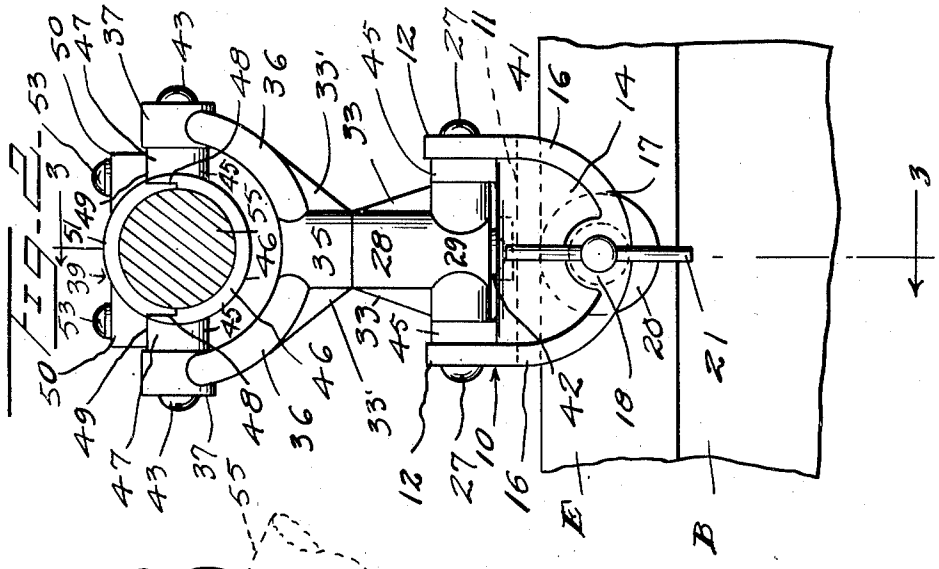


FIG. 2

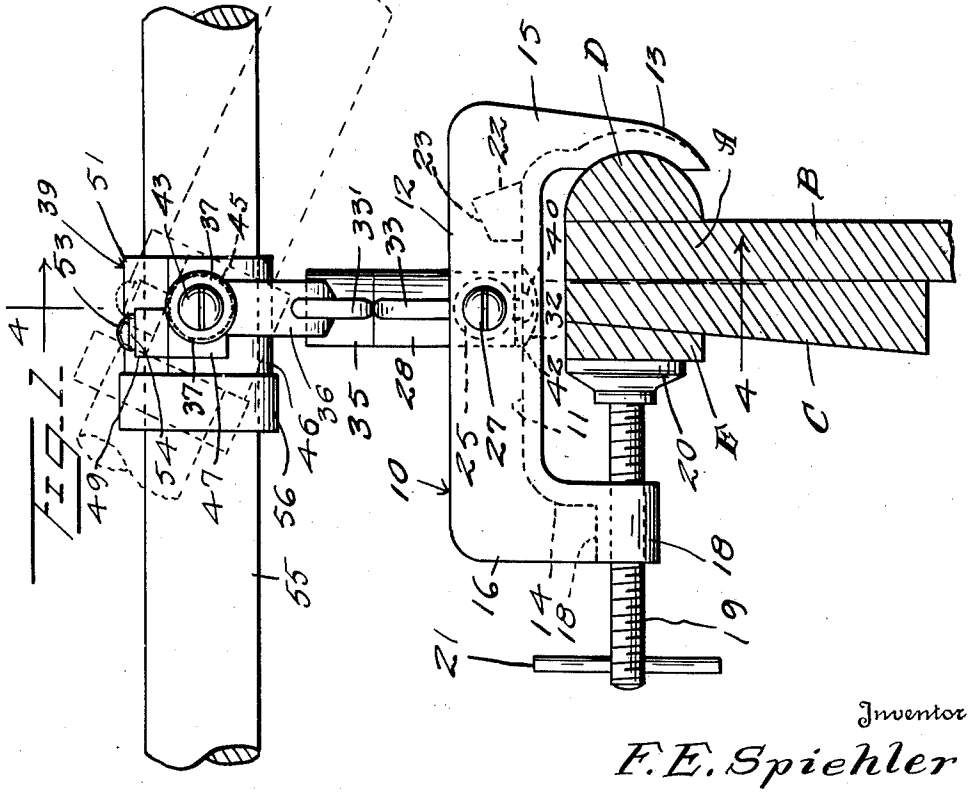


FIG. 1

Inventor

F. E. Spiehler

By

Kimmel & Crowell Attorneys

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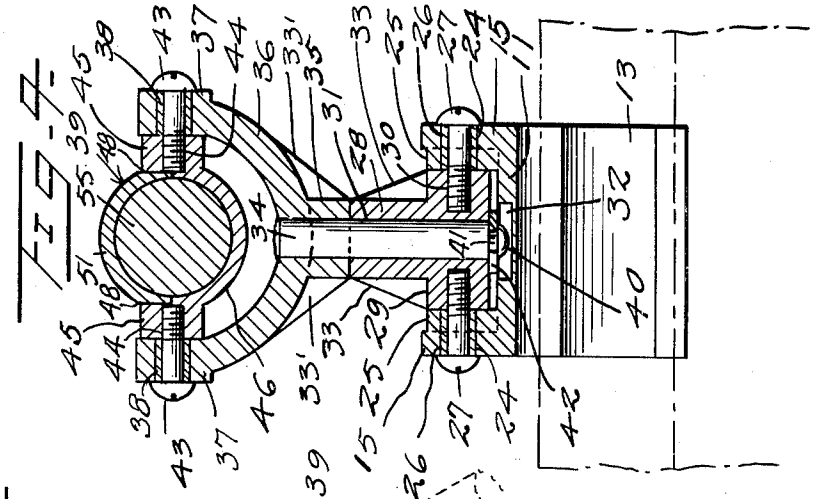


FIG. 4.

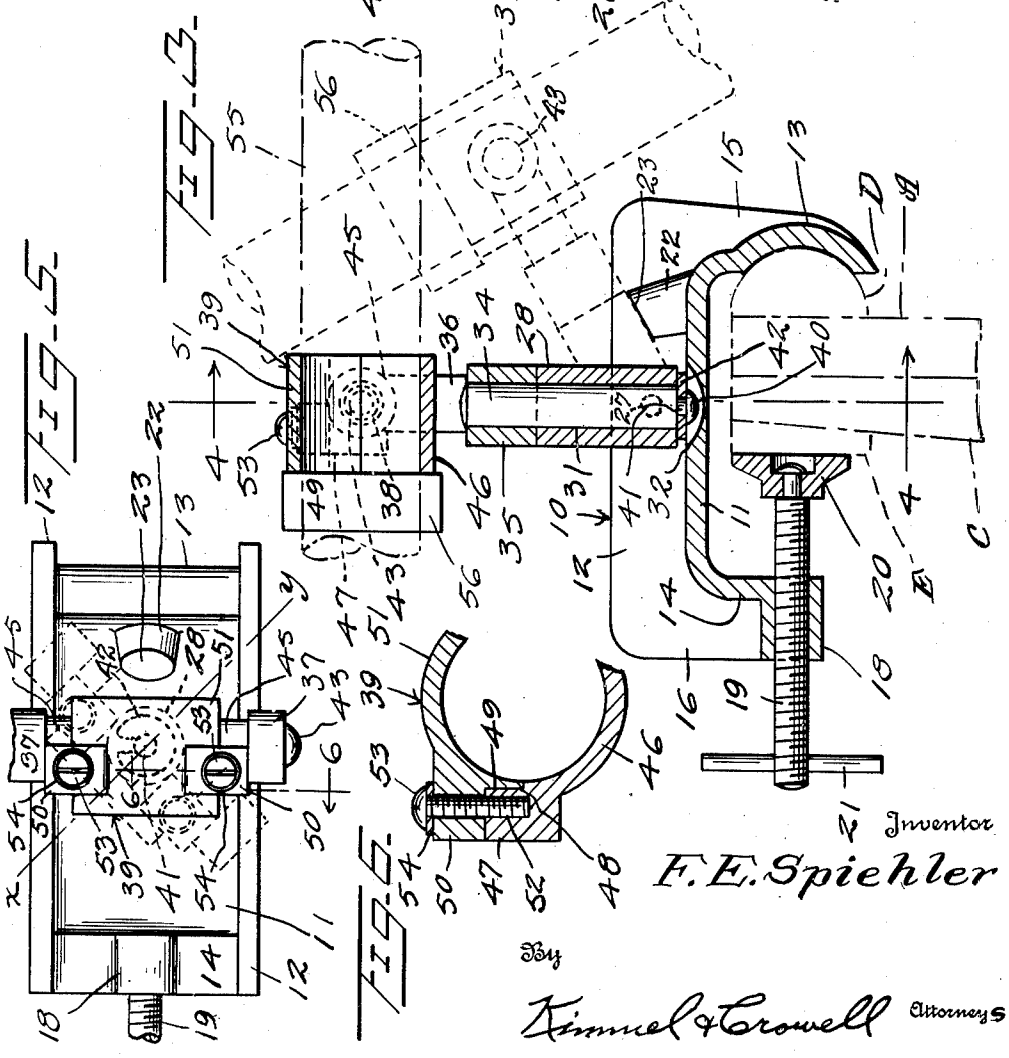


FIG. 3.

FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

Inventor
F. E. Spiehler

By
Kimmel & Crowell Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PADDLE OR OAR SUSPENSION DEVICE

Francis E. Spiehler, New Orleans, La.

Application April 20, 1948, Serial No. 22,039

3 Claims. (Cl. 9—26)

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My invention relates to a support for paddles as used for propelling canoes or boats adapted to be used for suspending a paddle on one or both sides of a small or row boat used by one man or person for fishing, either in streams or in open water where not rough, so that the paddle may be tilted outwardly at any desired angle and operated by one hand to move the boat or to keep it from moving or floating with the wind, current or tide too far at one time while the other hand is occupied in fly or plug casting or trolling.

An object of the invention is to provide a demountable support or bracket somewhat similar to an oar lock for oars, but which is especially designed to support and guide or clamp a canoe paddle or an oar against accidentally falling out and into the water, or slidably support the same, so that the paddle may be swung on horizontal axes out and down at a slight angle or substantially to an upright or vertical position at one or both sides of a small or row boat or the like, or turned on a vertical axis, said horizontal axes adapting the paddle held in the support or bracket to be tilted on either or both of these horizontal pivots in planes one above the other, and the paddle held at the upper pivot being also adapted to pivot or swing horizontally on the vertical axis as in paddling or operating the paddle or an oar.

Another object is to provide a supporting bracket for a paddle in the nature of an oar lock, except that it is supported against displacement or sliding out but adapted to pivot up and down in either or both of two horizontal axes or planes located one above the other and to turn on a vertical axis, instead of merely turning on a vertical axis, as in connection with most oar locks usually of U-shaped or forked design, in which the oars merely rest and from which they are displaceable, sometime accidentally and fall overboard to be fished in or lost.

Still another object is to mount the paddle between the blade and handle thereof, either clamped to swing on the vertical axis and two upper and lower horizontal axes or in which the paddle may be held against or limited in its sliding movement and supported to project into the boat at the handle end of the paddle and floated or dipped down into the water at its blade end so as to permit operation of the paddle by one hand while the other hand is free for fishing, casting or trolling, so that the boat may float about or be kept, moved, propelled, maintained or returned to a certain location or place where fishing is best.

A still further object is the providing of a paddle supporting bracket including a clamp adapted

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to be detachably held or mounted on the gunwale or rim of a boat in a desired position, preferably adjacent the ends of a cross seat and permit the paddle to be operated back and forth as in paddling with the blade extending down almost straight or at an off angle inclined gently outwardly so that a fisherman can operate either paddle with one hand to move the boat or keep it from moving or drifting too far at one time while the other hand is free or occupied in hand fishing or casting, and anyone with experience as a fisherman of fresh water fish can readily understand and appreciate the value of this device which has been tried and works very satisfactory.

Another object is to provide a paddle bracket such as is set forth which is relatively simple in structure, strong and durable and economical to manufacture and permit operation of the paddle held thereby, and in which means is provided on the paddle spaced from the handle end to locate the paddle in the support bracket so that the paddle cannot fall overboard and is clamped and held therein or limited in its lengthwise displacement in the support or bracket by means on the paddle spaced from the handle or hand grip thereof to abut a split ring or clamp constituting means to receive and hold the paddle, and the bracket having means for clamping the same at any desired place along the length of the gunwale or rim at either or both sides of the boat or hull thereof.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the paddle support or bracket in accordance with my invention, applied to the side of a boat which together with the gunwale thereof is shown in section and showing in solid and dotted lines two positions of the paddle in its support,

Figure 2 is an inside elevation or end view of the device as shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a central vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 of the device in the position shown in solid lines in Figure 1 and in still another position in dotted lines,

Figure 4 is a vertical section at right angles to Figures 1 and 3 with the hull in dotted lines,

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the device with part omitted, and showing another position of the device as in paddling, and

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Referring to the drawings, the paddle support or brakcet comprises a clamp 10 of channel or U-shaped cross section having a horizontal connecting portion or wall 11 with upstanding sides or flanges 12, and is of U-shape longitudinally or at right angles to the cross section with outwardly convexly curved depending outer and inner ends or jaws 13 and 14, the latter being double convex. Outer end or jaw 13 is concavo-convex vertically and concave on the inside horizontally and also somewhat channeled or hollowed out transversely at the outside by reason of the sides or flanges 12 extending and tapering downwardly as shown at 15 to end or jaw 13 which is longer than and depends below the inner end or jaw 14 along each side of which sides or flanges 12 also extend downwardly and rearwardly as shown at 16 with an arcuate connecting or bight portion 17 therebetween concaved at the top and convex at the bottom. Portions 14 and 17 are formed with a central longitudinal internally threaded sleeve 18 partly as a raised boss on wall 17 to take a horizontal threaded stem or screw shank 19 therethrough. Outwardly of wall 14, stem 19 is provided with an enlarged flat swiveled jaw or head 20 and at the inner end is provided with a cross bar or handle 21 set in a diametrical hole by which the screw may be turned.

The clamp 10 is adapted to be applied to the rim or gunwale A of the sides of a small or row boat hul B having transverse ribs with upright or vertical end portions C at the inside of the hull. The sides of the hull bear a plano-convex strip D on the outside at the top and a flat strip E on the inside at the top for engagement by the conforming jaw 13 and head or jaw 20, respectively. The top of wall 11 is provided adjacent its outer end with an upstanding boss or lug 22 having its top face 23 inclined inwardly for a purpose to be later explained. Clamp or bracket 10 and sides or flanges 12 thereof are adapted to pivotally support a paddle engaging and holding means, guide or clamp, and for this purpose, said sides or flanges 12 are provided substantially medially of their lengths or slightly outwardly thereof with transverse horizontally aligned openings 24 through said sides or flanges and inwardly extending bearing bosses 25 formed on the inner sides thereof concentrically of the openings to receive bearings such as bushings or sleeves 26 of suitable bearing metal or alloy to receive screws 27.

An inverted T-shaped fitting, arm or stud 28 has its lower horizontal cross head 29 fitted between the bearings at bosses 25 and its projecting ends are provided with threaded bores or sockets 30 to take screws 27 at their threaded inner ends, while the outer portions of the screws are smooth and are received in bushings 26 to turn as a transverse horizontal axis above and at the inner vertical plane of the side of the boat and gunwale lengthwise and parallel thereto. The head and stem or leg of the T-shaped fitting 28 are preferably round or circular in cross section and the stem hollow or tubular with a longitudinal central bore 31 therethrough from end to end and the wall 11 is provided with a longitudinally concaved arcuate recess 32 medially transversely in its top surface below head 29. Fitting 28 is reinforced by webs or ribs 33 to head 29 at each side.

Bore 31 receives a reduced shank or stem 34 to turn therein on a vertical axis and attached to or formed on a central hub 35 enlarged relative to the shank or stem 34 or the latter reduced to fit bore 31 and relative to hub 35 which rests on

the upper end of tubular stem or leg 28 to turn thereon. Hub 35 is formed centrally on or has a fork, yoke or cradle 36 with arcuate arms extending upwardly in semi-circular fashion on diametrically opposite sides braced to hub 35 on diametrically opposite sides with webs, gussets or ribs 33' similar to webs 33 of fitting 28, and formed with horizontally aligned bearing rings or collars 37 on their upper ends to receive bearings such as bushings 38 of proper metal or alloy in which a split sleeve or clamp 39 is mounted to swing on a horizontal axis defined by and of which the rings 37 form an axis. Shank or stem 34 is reduced near its lower end to form a head 40 with an interposed groove 41 between the head 40 and the lower end of shank or stem 34, said groove 41 receiving a horse-shoe shaped washer 42 on the reduced portion of the lower end of said shank 34 to retain the shank and yoke 36 in position. While the head 40 of shank 34 may be countersunk and recess 32 omitted, as shown, said recess accommodates said head to permit free swinging of the fork or yoke 36 as seen in Figure 3.

The bushings 38 receive the unthreaded or smooth portions of screws or pivots 43, the inner threaded ends of which engage threaded sockets 44 of bearing bosses or sleeves 45 formed on the narrowed upper ends of the lower semi-circular half-section 46 of split sleeve or clamp 39, with the outer ends of the bosses or sleeves 45 abutting or turning within or against the inner ends of the bearing rings or collars 37. The upper ends of the lower half-section or jaw 46 of sleeve or clamp 39 are formed with laterally offset vertically apertured lugs or ears 47 angularly recessed at the inner faces or sides from the top to the center of clamp 39 as indicated at 48, said apertures or holes being threaded and the recesses 48 adapted to receive the corresponding and conforming correlative outer lower recessed portions 49 of similarly offset vertically apertured lugs or ears 50 formed on the ends of a separable upper semi-circular half-section 51 of split clamp or sleeve 39. Lugs 47 are provided with threaded vertical sockets 52 therein disposed in registry with the vertical apertures of the apertured lugs 50 of upper section 51 of clamp or sleeve 39 when placed thereon over the paddle, and headed screws 53 are engaged through the apertures of lugs 50 and screwed into sockets 52 with interposed lock washers 54 to secure section 51 in position to slidably mount or clamp a paddle 55 such as used in propelling canoes or small boats, or an oar, well down on the same a considerable distance or spaced from the handle or broadened hand grip and blade thereof. A rubber or other collar 56 may be frictionally and snugly mounted or otherwise fixed on the paddle 55 or an oar in a similar position on its shaft to form a stop to limit the displacement outwardly and downwardly of the paddle in its support or mounting bracket as described by engagement with sleeve or clamp 39, especially if the paddle is loose or slidably and turnably mounted therein, but the paddle may be clamped and held in said sleeve or clamp 39 by the stud bolts 52 and nuts 53.

In the use and operation of the device, the paddle or oar 55 is placed in the sleeve or clamp 39 before or after the support is mounted on the boat, by removing the screw 53 and detaching the upper section 51. The paddle is placed on and in lower section 46 as seen in the drawings and then the upper section 51 applied or mounted on the section 46 and the screws 53 screwed in the sockets 52 with the washers 54 in position there-

on. The clamp 10 is mounted at the desired place on the gunwale or rim of the boat, at one or both sides, usually adjacent a seat, so that concaved jaw 13 fits against part D and jaw 14 spaced inwardly of the rim or gunwale at the inside while the bottom wall 11 is above the rim and straddles the same on top between jaws 13 and 14. Jaw or head 26 is then clamped against the inside of the gunwale or rim such as at strip E. The paddle is thus supported for suspending the same with the blade end thereof extending out and down on and over the side of the boat to be operated by one hand while a fisherman has the other hand free for fishing, casting or trolling, especially in streams, lakes or open water where not rough. In this way, the fisherman can operate the paddle to move the boat or keep it from moving about or too far at one time while the other hand is occupied such as in fly or plug casting as will be appreciated by anyone experienced as a fresh water fisherman. It may be pointed out that the device simulating an oar lock, has dual pivots with horizontal axes one above and parallel to the other at 27 and 43 respectively, and on a vertical pivot or axis 34 therebetween and connecting same centrally of said horizontal axes. In this way, the paddle may swing horizontally on vertical axis 34 in paddling when dipped downwardly and outwardly in an inclined position on pivot 43 as seen in Figure 1, or on pivot 27, or both fulcrums or pivots 43 and 27, almost straight down or at a sharper angle to rigidly bear or rest on inclined boss or lug 22 and then pivot vertically at 43 so as to be allowed to drop into the water for propelling or when not in use, as seen in Figure 3, when the distance between axes 27 and 43 allow the paddle or oar to overhang or extend to, over or beyond the outside of the side of the boat in the latter position, and if necessary, restrained between portions 15 of flanges or sides 12, at the front or outside, as distinguished from flange portions 16 at the inside, which as with flanges or sides 12 and portions 15 stiffen and strengthen or reinforce the bracket support 10 and bottom walls 11, and end walls or jaws 13 and 14 thereof for support of the dual or triple pivot mounting for the paddle or oar as described.

I do not mean to confine myself to the exact details of construction herein disclosed but claim all variations falling within the purview of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A bracket support for paddles or oars, comprising a clamp adapted to engage over the gunwale of a boat side to engage and anchor the clamp at the outside and inside of said side, a fitting pivoted horizontally in the clamp for transverse inboard and outboard swinging movement relative to said gunwale, a stop member secured to said clamp to limit the outboard swing of said fitting to an angularly inclined position at an angle of less than 180°, a vertical pivot carried by said fitting, a yoke mounted to swivel horizontally on said vertical pivot, and a paddle receiving member pivoted horizontally on the yoke.

2. A bracket support for paddles or oars, comprising a clamp adapted to engage over the gunwale of a boat side to engage and anchor the clamp at the outside and inside of said side, a fitting pivoted horizontally in the clamp for transverse inboard and outboard swinging movement relative to said gunwale, a stop member secured to said clamp to limit the outboard swing of said fitting to an angularly inclined position at an angle of less than 180°, a vertical pivot carried by said fitting, a yoke mounted to swivel horizontally on said vertical pivot, and a paddle receiving member pivoted horizontally on the yoke in a plane in the same direction as, and spaced above the first horizontal pivot.

3. A bracket support for paddles or oars, comprising a clamp adapted to engage over the gunwale of a boat side to engage and anchor the clamp at the outside and inside of said side, a fitting pivoted horizontally in the clamp for transverse inboard and outboard swinging movement relative to said gunwale, a stop member secured to said clamp to limit the outboard swing of said fitting to an angularly inclined position at an angle of less than 180°, a vertical pivot carried by said fitting, a yoke mounted to swivel horizontally on said vertical pivot, and a split sleeve pivoted horizontally in the arms of the yoke and adapted to slidably receive and clamp the shaft of a paddle between the blade and handle thereof.

FRANCIS E. SPIEHLER.

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