Oct. 14, 1952 C. R. SUDA 2,613,843

PIVOTED BUCKET CLOSURE

Filed Aug. 15, 1946

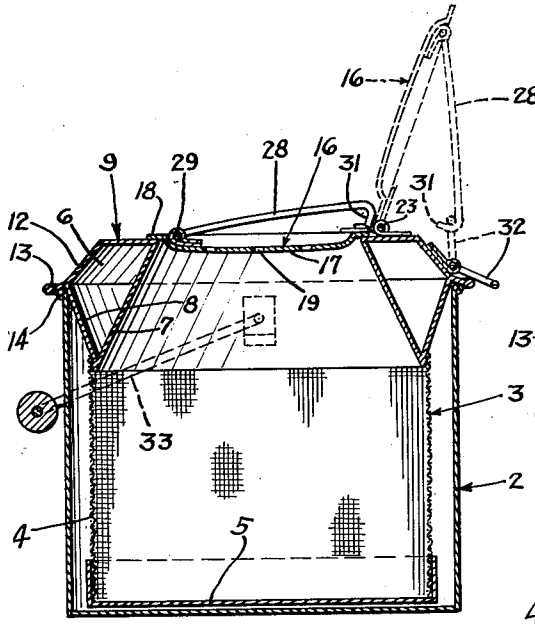


FIG. 1

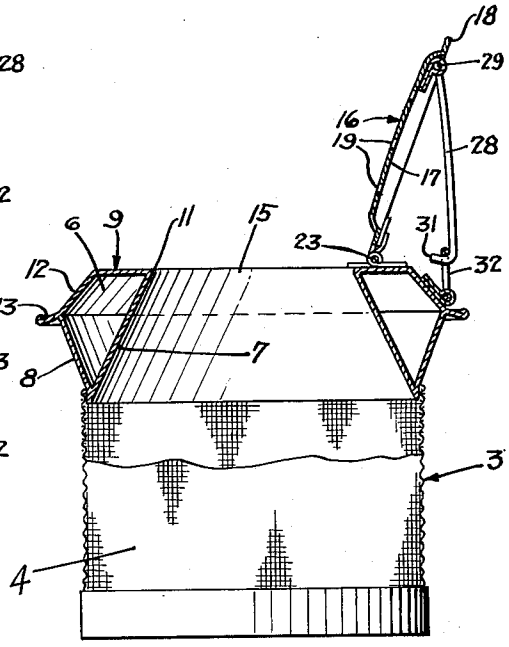


FIG. 3

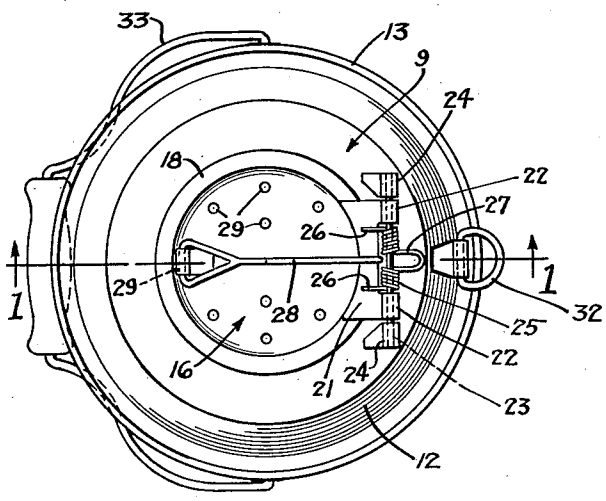


FIG. 2

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Patented Oct. 14, 1952 2,613,843

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,613,843

PIVOTED BUCKET CLOSURE

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Application August 15, 1946, Serial No. 690,727

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—35)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in minnow buckets and more particularly to such buckets embodying a float for retaining the bucket afloat in the water.

An object of the present invention is to provide a minnow bucket having an opening in its upper wall provided with a suitable cover or closure, and means being associated with said cover for constantly urging it into closing position, whereby the cover cannot be left open inadvertently.

A further object is to provide a minnow bucket having an annular air chamber at its upper end defined by inner and outer inclined walls and a top wall, and said top wall having an opening therein provided with a hinged cover, and having a spring constantly urging it into closing position, and a suitable hook-like member having one end pivoted to the cover whereby the cover may be conveniently opened by grasping said member, and the opposite end of said member being adapted to engage a keeper thereby to retain the cover in open position against the tension of said spring, when it is desired so to do.

A further object is to provide a minnow bucket comprising an outer container having an inner container removably supported therein, the inner container being provided at its upper end with an annular air chamber defined by an inner inclined wall and an outer wall inclined in the opposite direction and having its upper edge terminating at an elevation below the upper edge of the inner wall and a top wall being secured to the upper edges of said inner and outer walls and having a central opening through which access may be had to the interior of the inner bucket, and a spring-actuated cover being hinged to said top wall and normally closing the opening therein and having one end of a hook-like member pivoted thereto, said member serving as a handle for opening the cover and also as a means for retaining the cover in open position against the tension of its spring, and an annular outwardly directed flange being provided at the junction of the upper edge of the outer incline wall and the cover, said flange being adapted to engage the upper marginal edge of the outer bucket thereby to retain the inner perforated bucket in proper position within the outer one.

Other objects of the invention reside in the provision of a highly efficient and practical minnow bucket of the floating type having a hinged cover which is so mounted that it may readily and conveniently be opened or closed with one hand, which often is highly desirable in devices of this kind.

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Other objects of the invention will appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings and will be pointed out in the annexed claim.

In the accompanying drawings there has been disclosed a structure designed to carry out the various objects of the invention, but it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the exact features shown, as various changes may be made within the scope of the claim which follows.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view substantially on the line 1—1 of Figure 2, showing the general construction of my improved minnow bucket;

Figure 2 is a top view of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a view showing the inner perforated bucket removed from the outer bucket and partially broken away to more clearly illustrate the construction thereof.

In the selected embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, there is illustrated in Figure 1, for purposes of disclosure, an outer bucket or container 2 having an open top whereby an inner bucket, generally designated by the numeral 3, may be readily inserted into the outer bucket or removed therefrom in the usual manner.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the construction of the upper portion of the inner bucket 3, whereby when the inner bucket is removed from the outer bucket or pail 2, the danger of losing live bait contained therein, such as minnows, frogs, or other live bait, is greatly minimized.

As best shown in Figures 1 and 3, the body 4 of the inner bucket 3 is perforated to permit free flow of water therethrough, the bottom 5 preferably being imperforated, as is customary in buckets of this type, whereby a small portion of water may be retained therein.

An annular air chamber 6 is provided at the upper end of the bucket 3 and is defined by an inner inclined wall 7, an outer inclined wall 8, and a top wall 9. The upper edge of the outer inclined wall 8 is disposed at a location below the upper edge 11 of the inner wall 7, the top wall 9 is formed with a downwardly inclined wall portion 12 which terminates at its lower end in an outwardly turned annular flange 13, adapted to seat upon the upper edge or bead 14 of the outer bucket 2, as best shown in Figure 1. The upper edge of the outer conical wall 8 of the air chamber 6 is suitably secured to the top wall 9 at the base of the outwardly turned flange 13.

An enlarged central opening 15 is provided in

the top wall 9 and coincides in size substantially with the opening provided by the upper end of the inclined wall 7. The upper marginal edge of the wall 7 is suitably secured to the edge of the top wall 9 which defines the opening 15, by such means as soldering, thereby to provide a leak-proof joint between said walls whereby the chamber 6 may be rendered air tight.

Because of forming the top wall 9 as above described, and as shown in Figures 1 and 3, when the inner bucket is inserted into the outer bucket, as shown in Figure 1, the upper portion of the composite bucket will present a conical wall surface, as a result of the wall portion 12, which greatly enhances the appearance of the bucket and adds distinctiveness thereto.

Another important feature of the invention resides in the means provided for closing the opening 15 in the top wall 9 through which access may be had to the interior of the inner bucket 3. As clearly illustrated in the drawing, a suitable cover, generally designated by the numeral 16, is shown having a central concave wall portion 17 surrounded by an outwardly turning annular flange 18 adapted to seat upon the top wall 9, as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. Suitable perforations 19 may be provided in the cover 16, if desired.

A suitable hinge member 21 is secured to the flange 18 of the cover 16 by such means as soldering or spot welding, and is shown provided with tubular guides 22 adapted to receive a pivot pin 23, the opposed end portions of which are supported in complemental bearing elements 24, suitably secured to the top wall 9 as by soldering or spot welding.

A suitable spring 25 is coiled about the pivot pin 23 between the tubular hinge elements 22 of the hinge member 21, and has its opposed terminals 26 extending laterally from the pivoted pin 23 and seated upon the hinge member 21, as best shown in Figure 2. The spring 25 is shown wound from a single piece of wire and has a loop 27 formed intermediately of the ends thereof adapted to seat directly on the top wall 9 of the air chamber 6.

By thus mounting the cover upon the top wall 9 of the bucket, the cover will normally be retained in closed position by the action of the spring 25, as will readily be understood. The spring has sufficient tension to retain the cover in closed position against any resistance offered by live bait within the bucket, but is such that an individual may readily grasp the cover and swing it to an open position with one hand, when it is desired to remove a minnow or other live bait from the bucket, or insert live bait therein.

However, to facilitate opening the cover, a suitable combination hook and handle member 28 is shown having one end pivoted to the cover 16, as indicated at 29 in Figure 1, and is provided at its opposite end with a hook-like element 31 adapted to engage a keeper or ring-like element 32, shown pivotally mounted on the downwardly sloping portion 12 of the top wall 9.

When the cover is in closed position, as shown in full lines in Figure 1, the handle member 28 will be positioned as shown in said figure, whereby the intermediate portion of the handle member 28 may readily be grasped by the fingers of one hand and the cover swung upwardly to the dotted line position shown in Figure 1. When the cover is so positioned the hook 31 of the handle may be engaged with the ring-like keeper 32, as shown in dotted lines in Figure 1 and full lines in Figure 3, whereby the cover may be retained in open position until the hook 31 is disengaged from the keeper 32.

From the foregoing it will be noted that the cover 16 of the inner bucket 3 may readily and conveniently be opened and closed with one hand, which is a highly desirable feature in buckets of this type. It will also be noted that the conical wall portion 12 of the top wall 9 elevates the uppermost portion of the inner container a substantial distance above the upper rim of the outer bucket 2, thereby making it possible to enlarge the air chamber 6, and also materially adding to the general appearance of the bucket, as a whole.

The outer bucket 2 is shown provided with the usual bail 33 whereby the bucket or pail may be conventionally carried about from place to place in the usual manner.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal objects of my invention, and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments herein described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, and that the invention is capable of uses and has advantages not herein specifically described; hence it will be appreciated that the herein disclosed embodiments are illustrative only, and that my invention is not limited thereto.

I claim as my invention:

In combination in a minnow bucket of the type which includes a foraminous container, an annular shell secured to the top of said container, said shell having a top wall consisting of a horizontal portion and a downwardly and outwardly inclined portion terminating at its lower portion in an outwardly extending peripherial flange, said top wall horizontal portion having an opening to permit access to said container, a closure for said opening in the top wall horizontal portion, a horizontally disposed hinge connected to said closure and said top wall portion of the annular shell, spring means mounted on said hinge for constantly urging said closure toward said opening in the top wall portion, said closure being adapted to be pivoted upwardly from said opening and beyond a vertical dead center position immediately above said hinge, a handle-rod having one end pivoted to the closure adjacent an edge thereof diametrically opposite from said hinge and provided at its opposite end with an inturned hook, and a link in alignment with said closure hinge and said handle-rod, said link being pivotally secured to said downwardly and outwardly inclined wall portion adjacent said outwardly extending peripherial flange whereby said link when pivoted to a downwardly and outwardly extending position rests on said peripherial flange and a portion thereof extends outwardly beyond said peripherial flange permitting said hook on the handle to be readily engaged in said link extending portion thereby to pivot said link to an upward position in engagement with said handle hook and to secure the closure in open vertical position beyond the vertical dead center position immediately above said hinge whereby said spring means also serves to retain said hook in engagement with said link.

CHARLES R. SUDA.

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