No. 731,335. PATENTED JUNE 16, 1903.

N. BLANCHET.

AUTOMATIC BAIT BOX.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 17, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

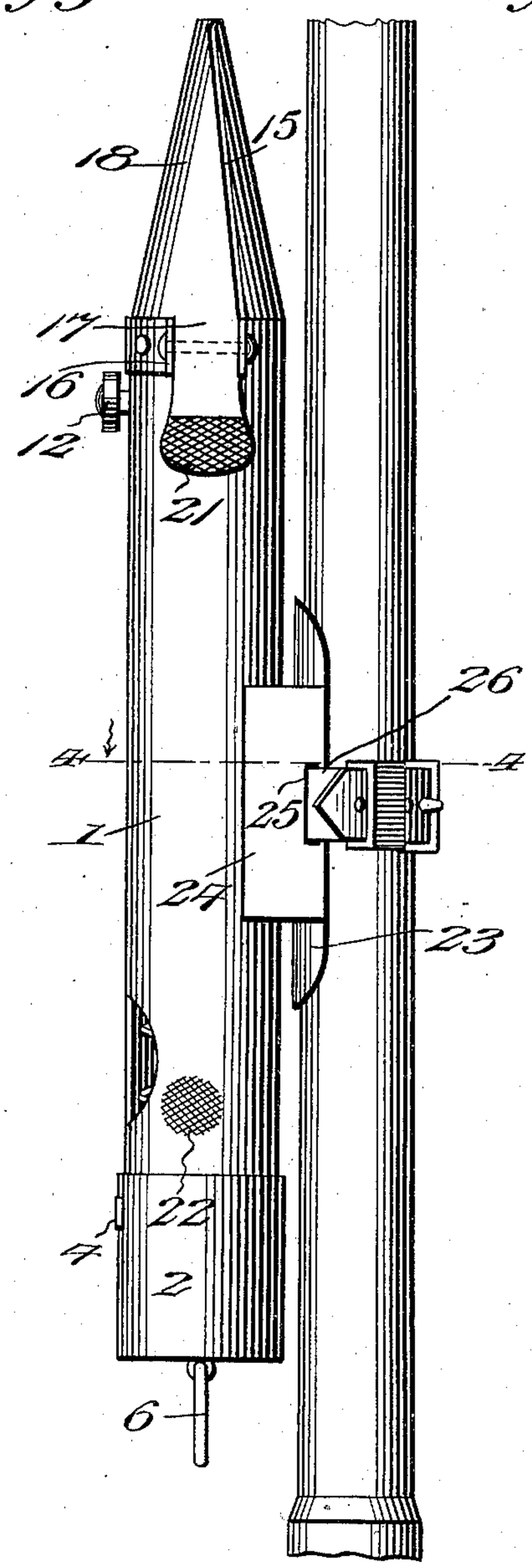


Fig. 2.

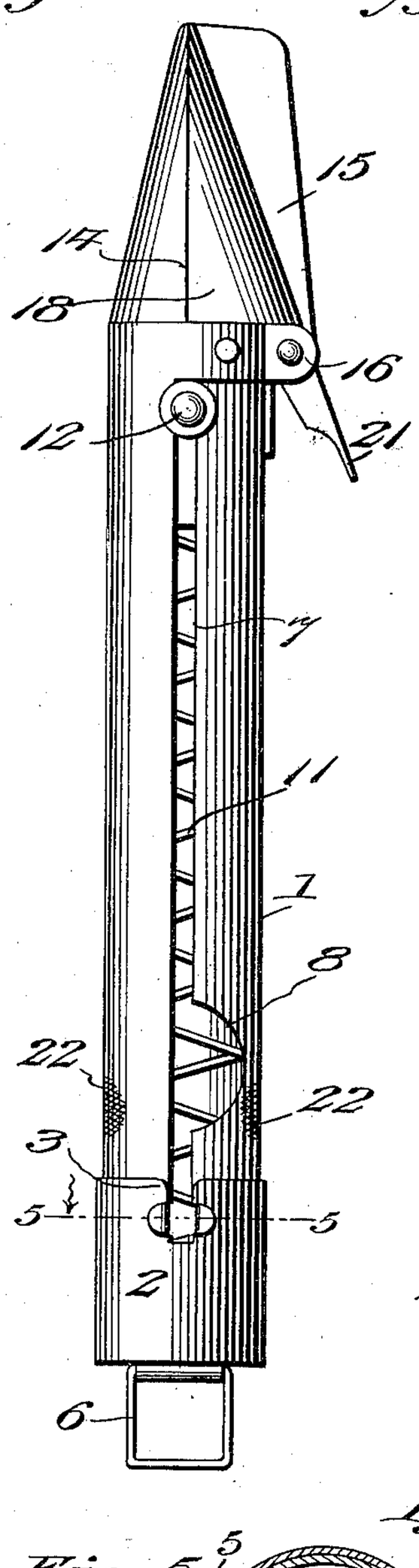


Fig. 3.

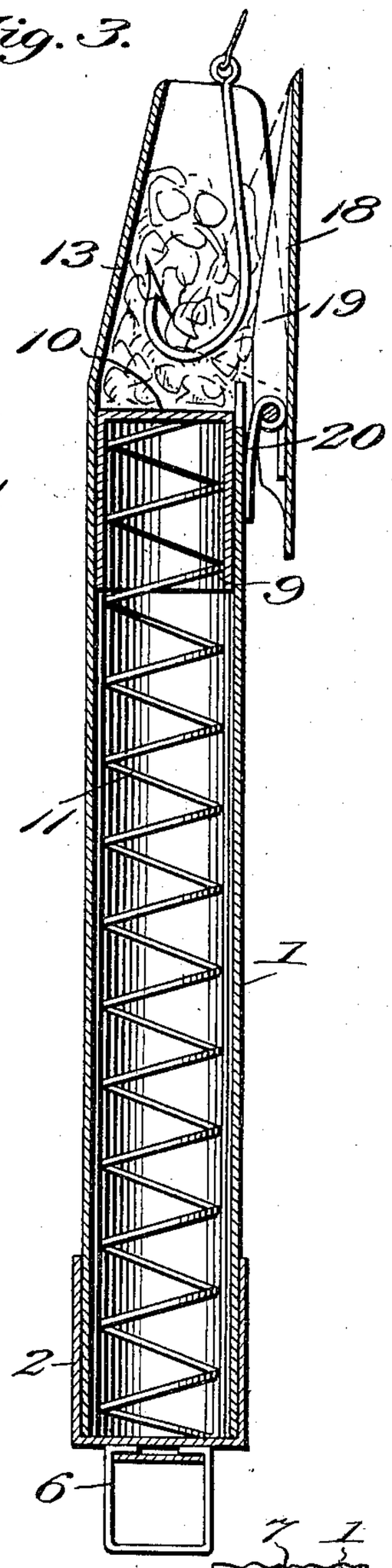


Fig. 6.

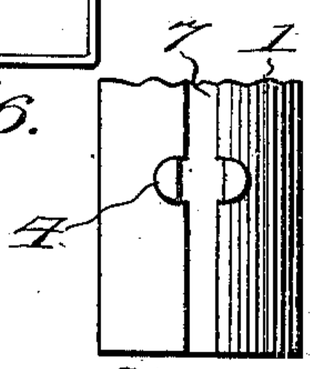


Fig. 5.

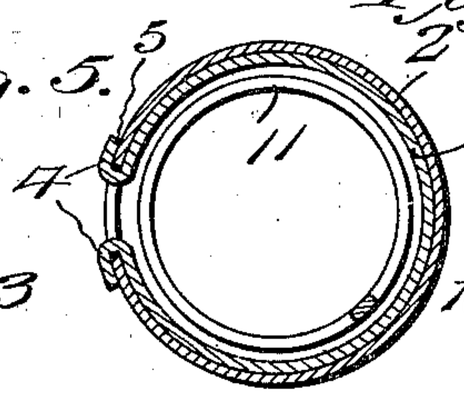
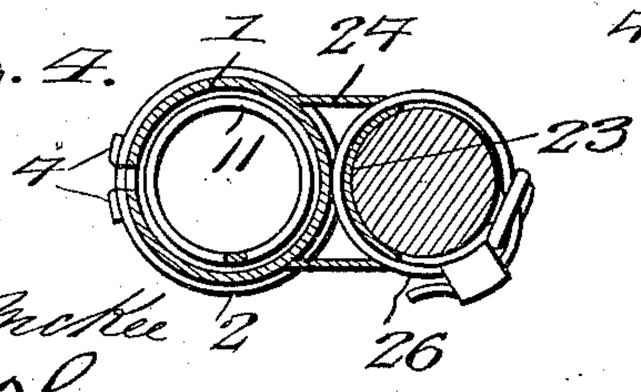


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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No. 731,335. Patented June 16, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NICHOLAS BLANCHET, OF PENDLETON, OREGON.

AUTOMATIC BAIT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 731,335, dated June 16, 1903.

Application filed September 17, 1902. Serial No. 123,744. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NICHOLAS BLANCHET, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pendleton, in the county of Umatilla and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automatic Bait-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an automatic bait-box for the use of fishermen, and the main purpose of the same is to provide a simple and effective device adapted to be attached to a fishing-rod and having means whereby bait may be conveniently and regularly ejected therefrom within convenient reaching distance of a fisherman and avoid the necessity of carrying a separate box and the delay and inconvenience of frequent movements from one place to another in order to obtain bait for replenishing a hook with the same.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts, which will be more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of a portion of a fishing-rod, showing the improved bait-box secured thereto in operative position. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the improved bait-box, showing it in a position different from that illustrated by Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section through the improved bait-box in the position shown by Fig. 2, showing the manner of inserting a hook to engage the bait. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 4 4, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5 5, Fig. 2. Fig. 6 is a detail elevation of a portion of the device.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

The numeral 1 designates a tubular cylindrical body, which is closed at one end by a cap 2, having a slot 3 at its front end engaged by outwardly-bent locking-tongues 4, integrally formed with the rear extremity of the body, the tongues being capable of an inward bending operation to permit the cap to be removed when it is desired to clean or otherwise adjust the parts of the bait-box. The tongues 4 extend through the slot 3 of the cap 2, as clearly shown by Fig. 2, and engage suitable counter-slots 5, cut in the opposite walls of the slot 3, to provide a secure holding means for the cap and prevent the latter from accidentally pulling off from the rear end of the body 1. To the center of the rear end of the cap 2 a hanger-link or analogous device 6 is movably attached for the purpose of connecting the entire bait-box to a fish-basket or other device when not in use for convenience in transportation and storage. Extending longitudinally of the body 1 is a slot 7, with a laterally-extending recess or counter-slot 8 near the cap 2, the said slot 7 serving as ventilating means for the interior of the box and the counter-slot 8 for manipulating and controlling the position of parts contained within the body and which will be now set forth. Movably mounted within the body 1 is a hollow follower or expelling device 9, having a front closed end 10, and extending into the said follower or expelling device is the front extremity of an expelling-spring 11, having its opposite terminal bearing against the rear end of the cap 2, the said spring holding the follower or expelling device normally projected to its full forward movement within the body. To prevent the follower or expelling device from turning within the body, a headed stud 12 projects outwardly therefrom and moves in the slot 7, and when the improved device is filled with bait the headed stud is grasped and drawn rearwardly toward the cap 2 until the counter-slot 8 is reached, when the fisherman or operator inserts his finger through the said slot and firmly holds the follower retracted. It will be seen that when the follower or expelling device is drawn backwardly toward the cap 2 the spring 11 is compressed, and when the bait is inserted in the improved device it is disposed against the front closed end 10 of the said follower or expelling device and is thus forced toward the delivery end of the bait-box. The front end of the body 1 has a conical nozzle or feeder 13, with a slot 14 therein extending lengthwise thereof and having an angular guard 15 projecting outwardly from one of the walls thereof. In rear of the said slot and at the front extremity of the body is a pair of outwardly-projecting ears 16, between which the

rearwardly-extending shank 17 of a closure 18 is pivotally mounted, the said closure conforming in contour to the remaining portion of the nozzle and having a flange 19 at one side which bears closely against the guard 15, the latter and the said flange preventing the bait from being forced outwardly in a lateral direction from the nozzle, and thereby prevent loss of the same. The closure 18 is normally held shut by a spring 20. Interposed between the shank and the adjacent part of the body 1 and continuing from the said shank is a suitably roughened or milled finger-piece 21, on which the fisherman or user of the bait-box exerts a downward pressure to open the closure when it is desired to withdraw a bait therefrom. The guard 15 continues forwardly and downwardly toward the free end of the nozzle from the one ear 16, and the side portion of the closure opposite that which closely bears against the guard and having the flange 19 is projected beyond the opposite ear, so that the fisherman may obtain enough clearance to reach the bait when the closure is opened without effecting a too great exposure of the bait and avoid liability of loss of the same. The body 1 on opposite sides of the counter-slot 8 is formed with milled or serrated finger-gripping surfaces 22 to afford the fisherman or operator means for obtaining a firm hold on the body during the operation of maintaining the follower or expelling device in retracted position. It will also be understood that the spring 11 will be of a light nature and not strong enough to impart a crushing pressure to the bait, but having sufficient resilient force to gradually feed and press the bait toward the nozzle 13.

The improved bait-box when in use is adapted to be attached to a fishing-rod, and for this purpose a longitudinally-disposed concave seat 23 is secured to the intermediate portion thereof by metallic strips 24, the latter having slots 25 therein, through which is passed a strap 26, provided with a buckle. The seat 23 is placed against the rod and the strap 26 drawn around the latter and secured, said seat being long enough to prevent the box from moving from its applied position and maintaining it in parallel relation to the rod, as clearly shown by Fig. 1.

It will be seen that the particular mode of attaching the cap 2 to the rear extremity of the body provides convenient means for assembling the spring 11 and follower 9 in relation to the body 1, and, as before stated, said cap may be removed at any time and the spring and follower withdrawn from the body to permit the latter to be cleaned and afterward the parts reassembled, as shown. In charging the improved box with bait the closure 18 is opened and the bait inserted through the slot 14 against the follower or expelling device 9, the latter having been first drawn backwardly as far as possible. After the bait has been inserted in the box the closure 18 is released and the follower or expelling device is permitted to exert its pressure against the bait within the body. When it is desired to withdraw a bait from the box, the closure 18 is opened and the bait are withdrawn, as shown by Fig. 3, and by successive operations, whereby the bait is relieved from the box, the follower or expelling device gradually forces the remaining portion of the bait toward the feeding-nozzle or outlet end of the device.

It is proposed to construct the improved bait-box of suitable sheet metal of non-corrosive nature and to suitably ornament the same by plating or other design embellishment, and it will also be understood that the dimensions and proportions of the entire structure may be varied at will.

The improved device will be found exceptionally useful for the purpose for which it has been devised and will avoid considerable annoyance to fishermen by always having their bait at hand and ready for use.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A bait-box consisting of a tubular body having a conical outlet end, and a spring-actuated feeding device mounted in the body and operating to force the bait toward the outlet end of the latter.

2. A bait-box of the class set forth for attachment to a fishing-rod having means therein for forcing the bait toward the front outlet end thereof.

3. A bait-box for attachment to a fishing-rod or the like having a tubular body with a front conical feeding-nozzle, a closure movably operating in relation to said nozzle, and a spring-actuated feeding device disposed in the body.

4. A bait-box having a tubular body with a feeding-nozzle at the front extremity thereof formed with an outlet-slot having a guard at one side, a closure coöperating with said slot, and a spring-actuated expelling device mounted in the body.

5. A bait-box comprising a tubular body having a slot extending longitudinally thereof, a spring-actuated expelling device mounted in the body and having a headed projection extending through the said slot, and a reduced extremity at the front end of the body having means to permit the removal of bait therefrom and toward which the expelling device presses the bait within the body.

6. A bait-box comprising a tubular body with a longitudinally-extending slot therein and a counter-slot near the rear end of the body, an outlet device on the front end of the body, and a spring-actuated expelling device mounted in the body and having a headed projection movable in the slot, the said expelling device being accessible through the counter-slot.

7. A bait-box comprising a tubular body

with a slot therein and tongues at the rear end thereof, a slotted cap fitted over the rear end of the body and engaged by the said tongue, an expelling device movably mounted in the body, and outlet means at the forward extremity of the body.

8. A bait-box comprising an elongated tubular body having an outlet means at its forward extremity, and a spring-actuated bait-expelling device in the said body.

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

NICHOLAS BLANCHET.

Witnesses:

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ADNA RALEY.