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(54) A weight for attachment to a fishing line

(57) The present invention provides for a fishing weight having a central headed weight portion 1 and an annular ring 2 made of elastic material to facilitate securement of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion.

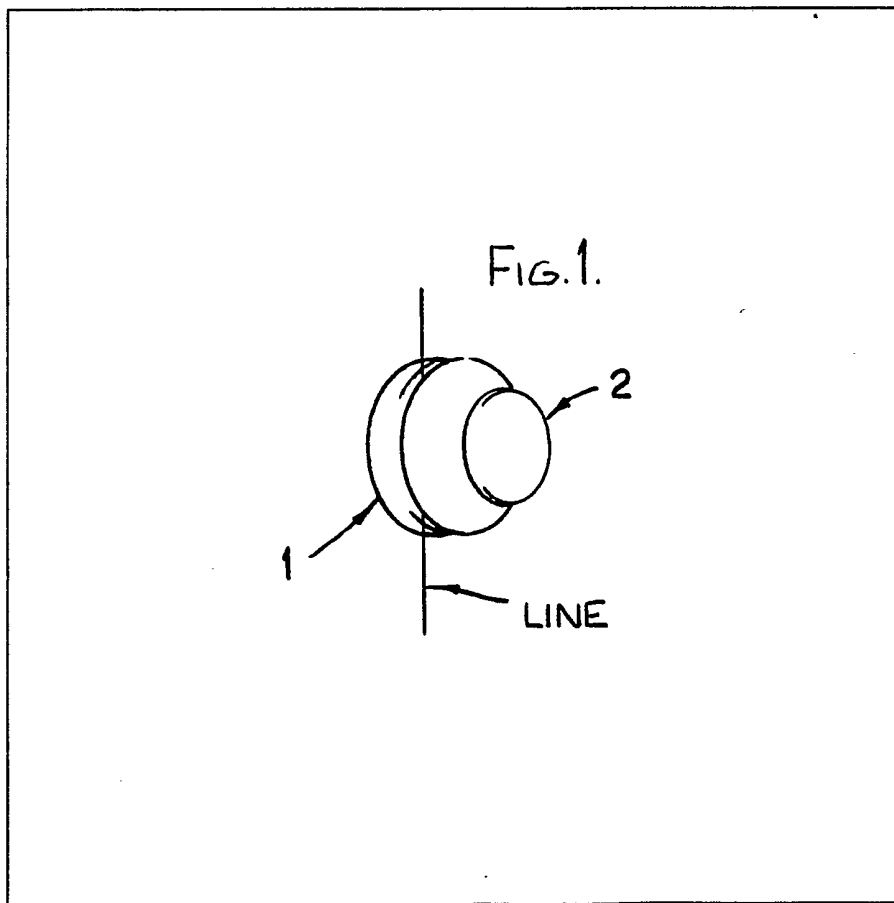


FIG. 1.

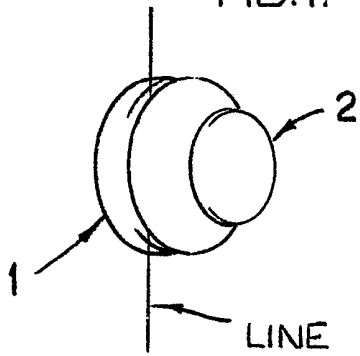


FIG. 2.

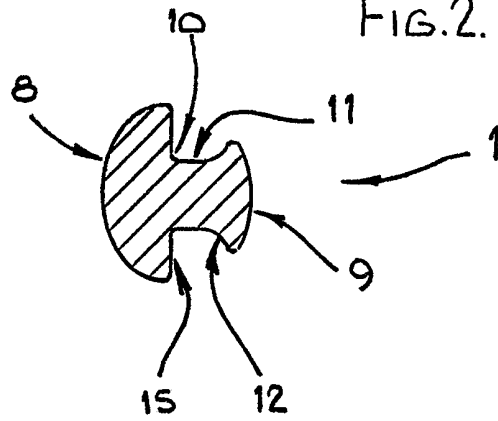


FIG. 3.

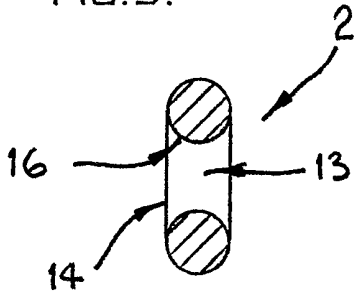


FIG. 4.

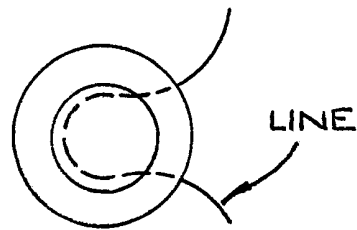


FIG. 5.

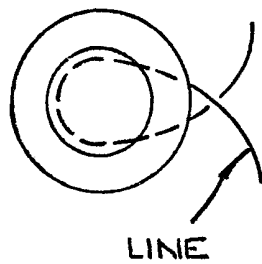
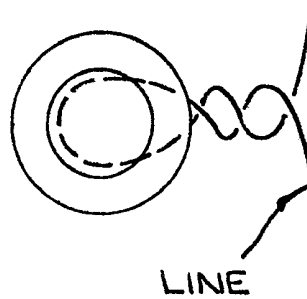


FIG. 6.



SPECIFICATION

A weight for attachment to a fishing line

5 This invention relates to a weight for attachment to a fishing line.

The invention is intended for use in all cases where lead weights would normally be attached to fishing lines, but more particularly, in all cases where split lead shot would conventionally be used.

10 Conventional split lead shot, because they are made of such soft metal, are easily damaged and deformed prior to use, to such an extent as to render them unfit for use or to impair their capability of being securely attached to a fishing line.

15 Furthermore, such split lead shot are commonly found to be of inconsistent weight, size and shape. Split lead shot are normally attached to a fishing line, by placing the fishing line into the split and pinching the shot from the outside, with pliers or some other such convenient implement, until the split is squeezed closed onto the fishing line.

20 Disadvantages arising from this method of attachment to fishing lines are, that when they have not been pinched sufficiently tight, split lead shot tend to slide along the fishing line, or, that when pinched overseverely tight, the fishing line is often damaged, weakening the structure of the line and thus creating a weak point, which will sometimes result in subsequent breakage of the fishing line.

30 A further drawback associated with the use of split lead shot, is that they are normally used only once, then commonly being discarded.

This gives rise to the most serious and important disadvantage arising from the present wide use by fisherman of split lead shot, in that tons of lead, deposited annually on river banks and in rivers, in the form of discarded split lead shot, represents a direct and most serious threat, in the form of lead poisoning, to both wildlife and the environment.

40 There is thus a most urgent need and requirement to provide a viable alternative to split lead shot, which is ideally lead free, not easily damaged or deformed, of consistent weight, size and shape, capable of being securely attached to a fishing line without possibility of damage to the fishing line and re-usable, such that the need for discardment after use is removed.

45 Accordingly the present invention provides for a fishing weight embodying all these requirements, which will constitute a direct replacement for split lead shot, having a central headed weight portion made preferably from metal, or alternatively any other convenient material and, not forming an integral part of the central headed weight portion, an annular ring, made preferably of substantially elastic plastics or rubber material.

50 The purpose of this annular ring, which may be of any convenient cross-section, is to facilitate securement of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion.

65 For a better understanding of the present invention and to show that the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made by way of example, to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an enlarged scale of an assembled fishing weight according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a sectionalised side view of the central headed weight portion, with the annular ring removed.

Figure 3 is a sectionalised side view of the annular ring.

70 *Figure 4* is a diagram showing how, as an initial stage of attachment of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion, a fishing line can be pulled between the head of the central headed weight portion and the annular ring.

75 *Figure 5* is a diagram showing how, as a final stage of attachment of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion, a fishing line can be wound around the fishing weight assembly, before being pulled taught between the head of the central headed weight portion and the annular ring, thereby providing a secure method of attachment, whereby slippage of the fishing weight assembly along the fishing line is still possible.

80 *Figure 6* is a diagram showing how, as a final stage of attachment of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion, a fishing line can be wound around the fishing weight assembly and twisted, before being pulled taught between the head of the central headed weight portion and the annular ring, thereby providing a secure method of attachment, whereby slippage of the fishing weight assembly along the fishing line will be prevented.

85 As shown in the accompanying drawing, a fishing weight assembly according to one embodiment of the invention, has a central headed weight portion 1, cylindrical in cross-section and, not forming an integral part of the central headed weight portion, an outer annular ring 2.

The central headed weight portion 1 is preferably made of metal, such as steel, brass, zinc or any other convenient metal or metal alloy.

This central headed weight portion 1 provides the main element of weight, whereas substantially elastic plastics or rubber annular ring 2, provides the means for securement of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion 1.

90 As can be seen from *Figure 2* the central headed weight portion 1 is preferably mushroom shaped at both ends, with a large domed head 8 at one end and a smaller domed head 9 at the other, both heads being interconnected by a still smaller root diameter 11.

95 At the point where the large head 8 meets the root diameter 11, the corner 10 is substantially sharp, to allow space for a fishing line to be seated between end face 15 of the central headed weight portion 1 and annular face 16 of the annular ring portion 2.

100 At the point 12 where the small head 9 meets the root diameter 11, the corner may be shaped to suit the cross-section of the annular ring 2.

105 As shown in *Figure 3*, the annular ring 2 is preferably circular in cross-section, with an inner bore 13 dimensioned to be a fit on root diameter 11 of the central headed weight portion 1.

110 With the annular ring 2 fitted onto the root diameter 11 of the central headed weight portion 1,

with the face 14 of the annular ring 2 abutting on end face 15 of the central headed portion 1, the annular ring 2 is retained fixedly on the central headed weight portion 1.

- 5 A weight of the invention can be supplied in an assembled or disassembled form and be made in any convenient manner.

For example, the central headed weight portion 1 can be cast, moulded, turned, stamped, forged or

10 cold headed from any convenient metal, moulded, pressed and sintered from any convenient powdered metal or moulded and fired or otherwise processed from glass, clay, ceramic, porcelain or any other suitable material or substance.

- 15 The annular ring portion 2 can be injection moulded, case or stamped from any convenient substantially elastic plastics or rubber material, or any other material possessing suitably elastic properties.

20

CLAIMS

1. A fishing weight for attachment to a fishing line, having a central headed weight portion made of
- 25 metal, glass, porcelain, ceramic or any other suitably heavy material and, not forming an integral part of the central headed weight portion, an outer annular ring made of plastics or rubber, or any other suitable substantially elastic material, with the annular ring
- 30 providing the means for attachment of a fishing line to the central headed weight portion.

2. A fishing weight according to claim 1, in which one or both ends of the central headed weight portion are mushroom or dome shaped.

- 35 3. A fishing weight according to claims 1 and 2, in which one or both ends of the central headed weight portion are flat as opposed to being mushroom or dome shaped.

- 40 4. A fishing weight according to claims 1 and 2, in which one or both ends of the central headed weight portion are hollowed out instead of being mushroom or dome shaped.

- 45 5. A fishing weight according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the central headed weight portion is provided with only one headed end instead of two.

- 50 6. A fishing weight according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in which the central headed weight portion is upturned at one end, to retain the ring portion to the central headed weight portion.

7. A fishing weight according to claims 1 to 6, in which the outer annular ring is of circular cross-section.

- 55 8. A fishing weight according to claims 1 to 6, in which the outer annular ring is of some cross-section other than circular.

9. A fishing weight according to claims 1 to 6, in which the outer annular ring is produced without a through bore, in the form of a cap.

- 60 10. A fishing weight substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.