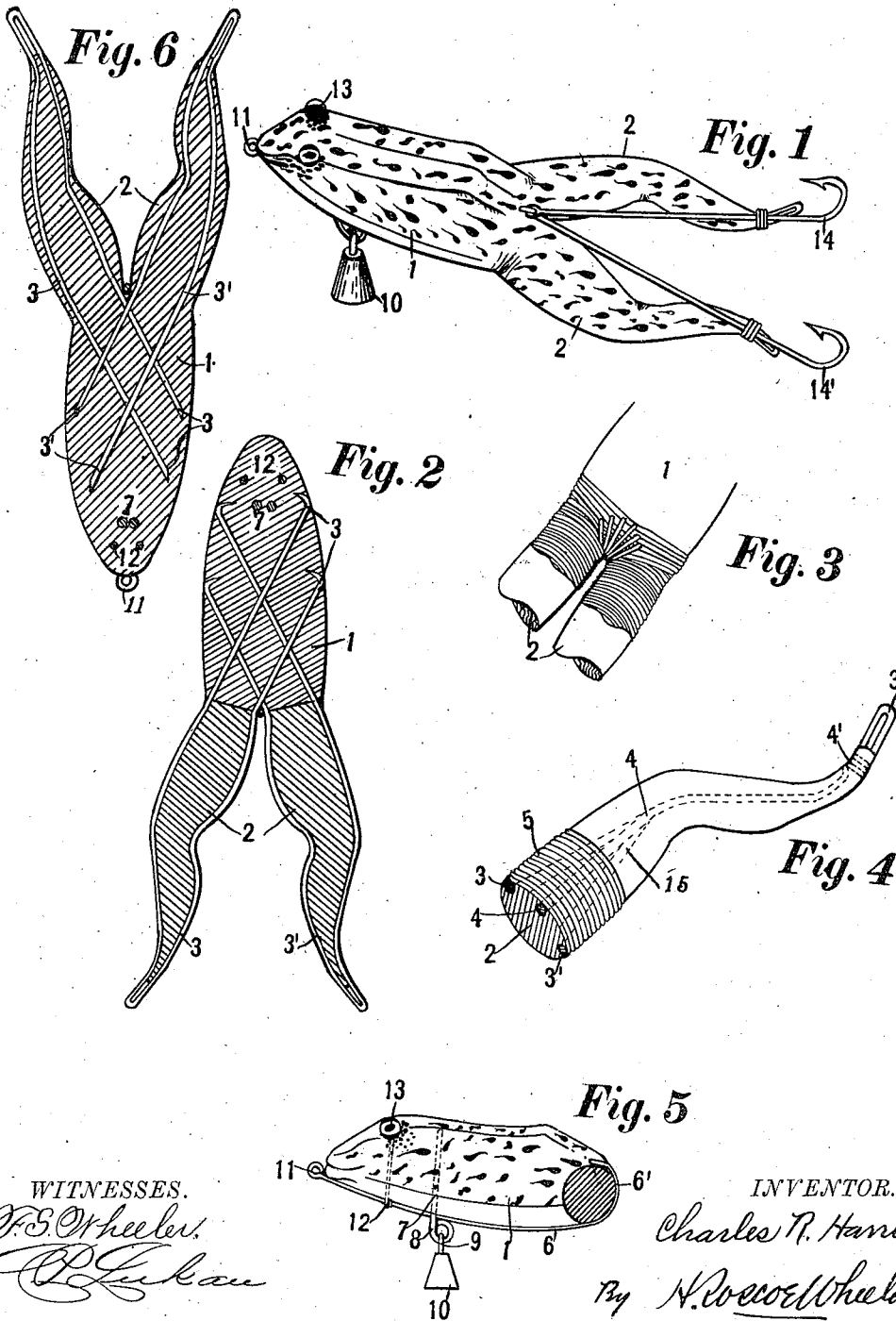


(No Model.)

C. R. HARRIS.
ARTIFICIAL FISH BAIT.

No. 588,729.

Patented Aug. 24, 1897.



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ARTIFICIAL FISH-BAIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 588,729, dated August 24, 1897.

Application filed January 14, 1897. Serial No. 619,182. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES R. HARRIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Artificial Fish-Bait; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

This invention relates to fishing-tackle, and has particular reference to artificial bait; and it consists in the construction and formation of parts, as hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out particularly in the claims.

The object of the invention is to provide a fish-bait constructed of cork in imitation of a natural frog both as to its formation and coloring, and which is so balanced as to attain the natural attitude of a frog while in the water, and which is provided with hooks or other barbed prongs so positioned as to catch in the mouth of a fish when snapping or endeavoring to swallow said frog.

Other objects of advantage as to its manufacture and general make up and manner of providing the frog with detachable catching-hooks and a removable balance-weight will be more particularly described, and which features are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a general perspective view of an artificial frog as made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is longitudinal section through Fig. 1, the back of the body and its members being removed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail showing the manner of winding and securing the lower extremities of the trunk. Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the under side of a leg, showing the particular construction thereof. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the trunk and head, showing the location and manner of securing the belly-wire, also manner of removably attaching the balance-weight. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the lower extremities formed integral with the trunk, as by casting or mold-

ing, and having strengthening-wires embedded in said trunk and extending into the legs thereof.

Referring to the numerals of reference, 1 designates the trunk, and 2 the lower extremities or legs, all of which are composed of cork having a less specific gravity than water.

3 and 3' indicate wires formed of any suitable metal and of the proper gage, which wires are bent to conform with the contours of the legs and which are placed in grooves in opposite sides of said legs, so that their outer sides will lie flush with the surface thereof. The ends of the wires are extended for some distance beyond the upper portion of the legs and are passed parallel with each other diagonally through the trunk, as shown in Fig. 2, so as to protrude therefrom opposite the side to which its respective leg is attached. When said wires 3 3' have been passed through the trunk, as set forth, they are drawn upon to bring their respective legs in close proximity to the base of the trunk, when they are cut off the proper distance from said trunk and passed therein again at a different angle from that at which they protruded.

To restrain the legs from bending upward from a plane with the trunk, I secure a cord 4 (which may be either a single strand or a cord composed of several strands) around the ankles of the legs, embracing the cork and wires, as shown by dotted lines at the ankle in Fig. 4, and then pass said strand upward in the direction of the trunk along the under surface of the leg and fasten it in any suitable manner to said trunk. Said strand may be secured at one point in the trunk or it may be unwound, as shown at 15, and the several ends securely fastened in the trunk, as found expedient.

In order to further secure the legs to the trunk and to protect the cork from being bitten or broken away and to give them a better outline, I wind linen, silk, or other threads from the ankles up the legs to the trunk, when said strands are brought together and wound for a distance upward around said trunk. They are then passed through the eye of a suitable needle or sewing device and sewed through the base of the trunk, preferably so

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 as to pass through the diamond formed by the wires 3 and 3' where they cross each other within said trunk.

5 When the winding has been completed, the frog is colored or tinted to represent a natural frog, which may be done with any suitable substance preferably of a waterproof nature.

10 When the coloring has been completed and become dry, the belly-wire 6 is placed in position and a suitable wire 7 secured thereto and passed upward through the trunk and returned therethrough on the opposite side of said belly-wire. Said wire 7 is then cut off and formed into a coil 8, into which an eye 9, 15 swiveled in a balance-weight 10, is adapted to be turned. The forward end of the belly-wire 6 is provided with an eye or loop 11 and the rear portion thereof is formed into a return-bend 6', for a purpose hereinafter set 20 forth.

When the manufacture thus far has been completed, the head is pierced at the sides thereof and the wires 12 of the eyes 13 passed downward therethrough and secured about 25 the belly-wire, as shown in Fig. 5.

14 and 14' represent fish-hooks, the eyes of which are passed over the curved portion 6' of the belly-wire and their shanks secured to the ankles of the frog in any suitable manner, 30 as by binding thereto with suitable threads, as shown in Fig. 1, or in such a way that said hooks may be readily removed and new ones attached should they become broken or their use otherwise impaired.

35 Fig. 6 represents a frog which is molded or cast. The strengthening-wires 3 3' being secured or held in the vertical center of a suitable mold, said mold being then filled up with a pulp composed of granulated or pulverized 40 cork and glue or other suitable adhesive in a plastic or compressible state, when a die corresponding in outline with said mold is forced down upon the matter contained in said mold sufficiently to cause the pulp to retain the proper shape, when it may be taken 45 out and dried in any suitable manner. When the frog thus formed has become hardened, it may be tinted or colored and equipped with the belly-wire, eyes, and hooks, as described 50 for the frog shown in Fig. 1.

55 It will now be understood that a frog, reptile, animal, or insect made in accordance with the description set forth and composed of cork may be thrown considerably farther in "casting a line" than where said bait is made hollow. It will also be seen that by reason of the sinker or balance-weight being 60 pivoted so as to have considerable lateral swing it will be impossible for said frog to remain upon its back when in the water, as the tendency of said weight is to roll either to one side or the other and thus turn the frog with it.

Having thus fully set forth my invention,

what I claim as new, and desire to secure by 65 Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial fish-bait, constructed of cork without internal cavities in the form of a natural frog, animal or insect; said bait having a movable 70 balance-weight attached thereto, a loop at its forward end for engagement with a fish-line, and a hook or other barbed prong secured to the body and ankles of said bait, the barbs being located distant from the body portion 75 for the purpose set forth.

2. A fish-bait, the same consisting of a cork trunk having legs secured thereto, a belly-wire extending along the under side thereof, a loop at the forward end of said wire, and 80 the curved portion at the rear, a fish-hook removably secured to the rear portion of said belly-wire and extending beyond the feet of said frog, said feet and legs of the frog being incapable of movement independent of the 85 body substantially as shown and described.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a fish-bait composed of cork and made in imitation of a natural frog, consisting of the separate 90 trunk and legs, rim-wires extending around said legs, and entering said trunk, a loop at the forward end of the trunk for engagement with a line, a belly-wire fastened to the under side of said trunk by means of the wire 7, said 95 wire being formed into a coil, into which the eye of a balance-weight is adapted to be turned, the eyes in the frog's head also secured to said belly-wire by passing their securing-wires through the head and coiling 100 them therearound, the rear portion of the belly-wire curving forward from between the legs, the fish-hooks removably attached to the ankles of the legs and having their eyes passed over the curved portion of said belly-wire.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a frog 105 consisting of a trunk formed of cork or other suitable material having a less specific gravity than water, the legs formed separate from said trunk and fastened thereto by wires 3, 3', a strengthening-cord extending along the 110 under side of each leg and secured in said trunk, the windings 5 extending around the legs from the ankles forward and also around the trunk for a portion of its length and secured therein in any suitable manner, the 115 paint or other waterproof-coating covering said trunk and legs, a balance-weight removably secured to the under side of said trunk, and a shank of a suitable fish-hook attached to each leg and removably attached to said 120 belly-wire substantially as shown and described.

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

CHARLES R. HARRIS.

Witnesses:

H. ROSCOE WHEELER,
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