

Aug. 9, 1949.

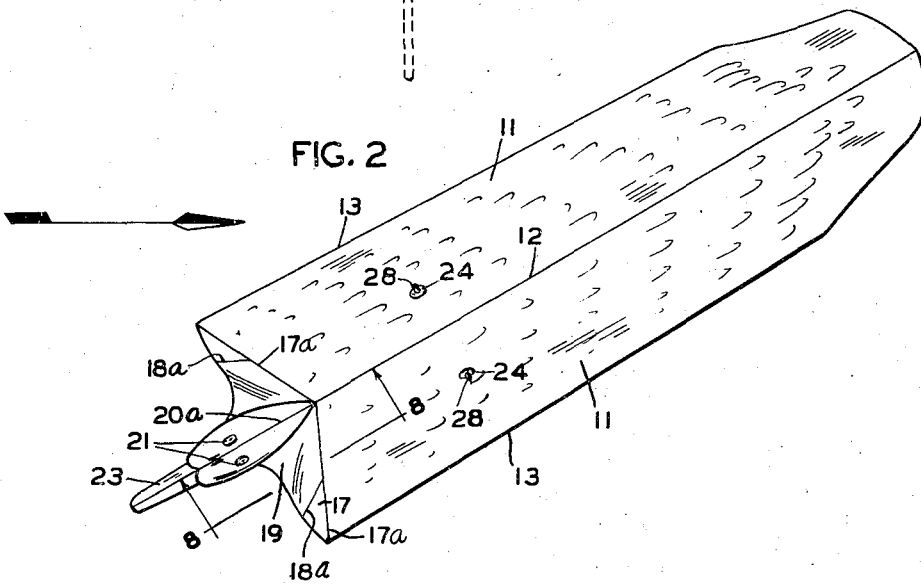
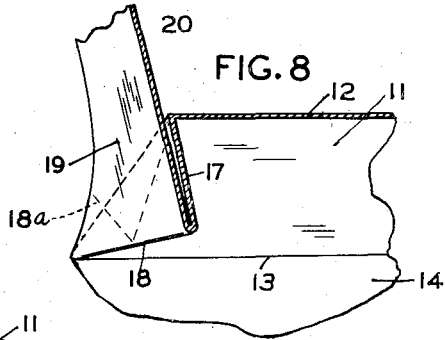
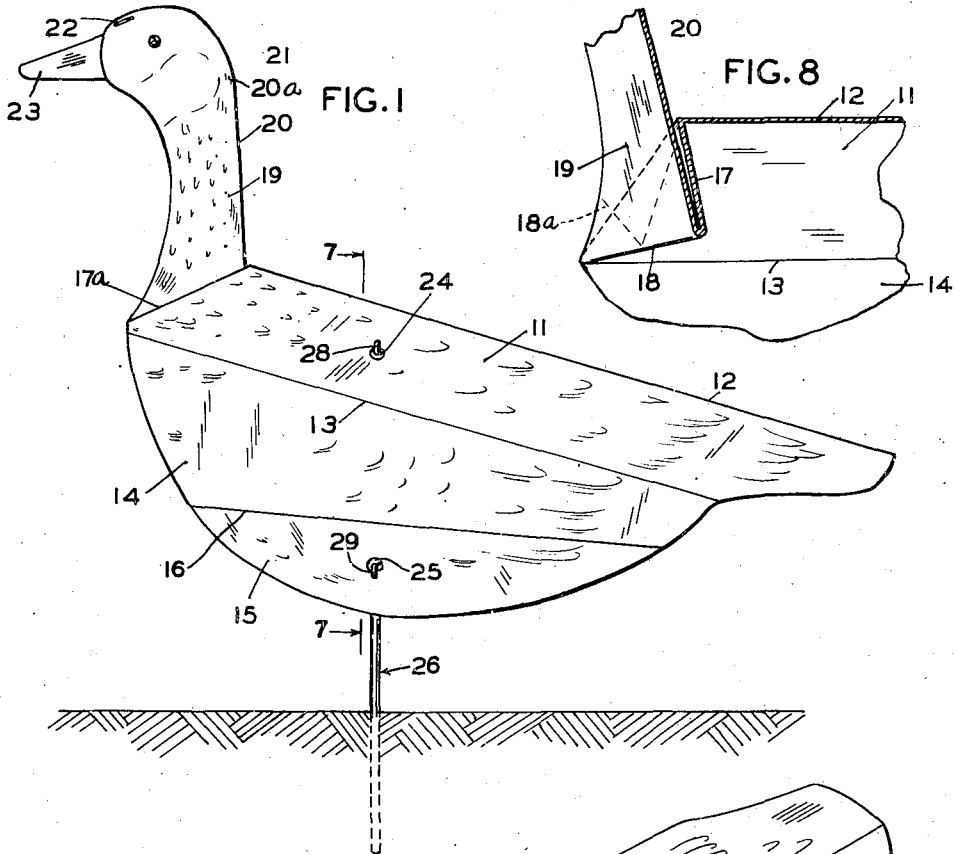
L. C. KOUBA

2,478,585

DECOY

Filed Aug. 5, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR
LESLIE C. KOUBA
 BY *Williamson + Williamson*
 ATTORNEYS

Aug. 9, 1949.

L. C. KOUBA

2,478,585

DECoy

Filed Aug. 5, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3

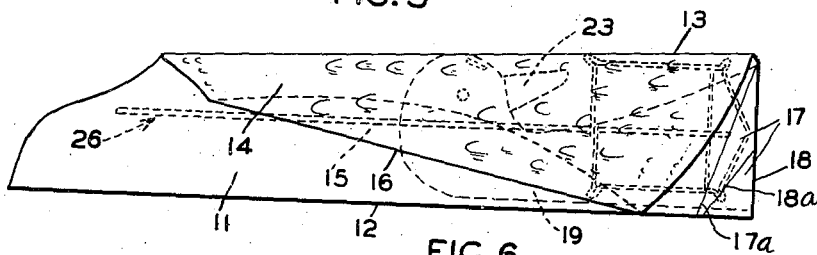


FIG. 6

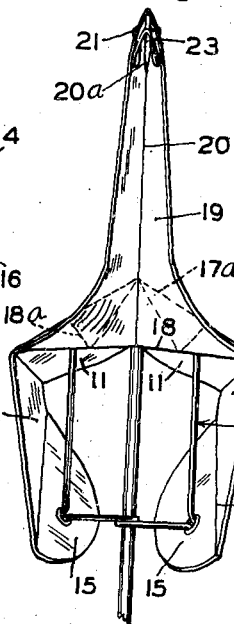


FIG. 9

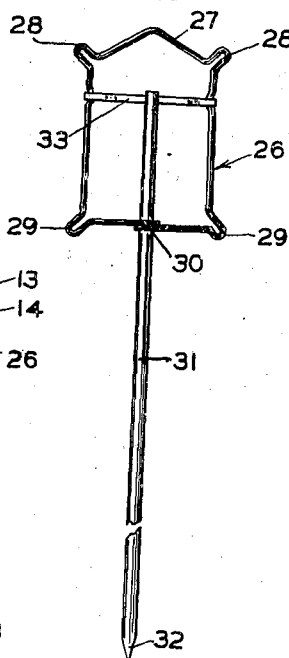


FIG. 5

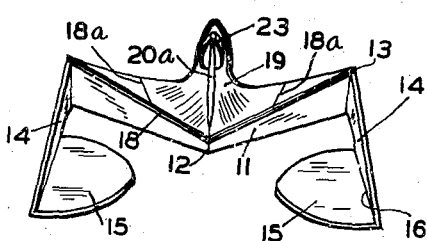


FIG. 7

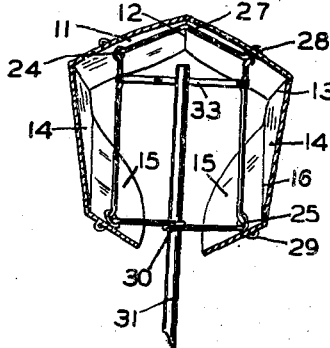


FIG. 4

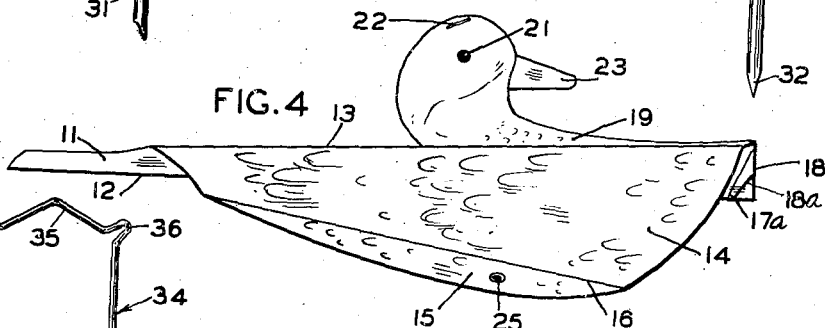
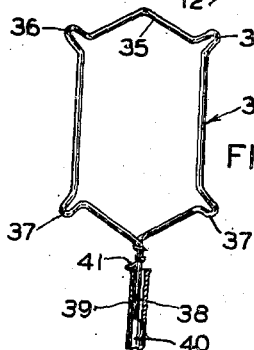


FIG. 10



INVENTOR
 LESLIE C. KOUBA
 BY *Williamson & Williamson*

ATTORNEYS

Aug. 9, 1949.

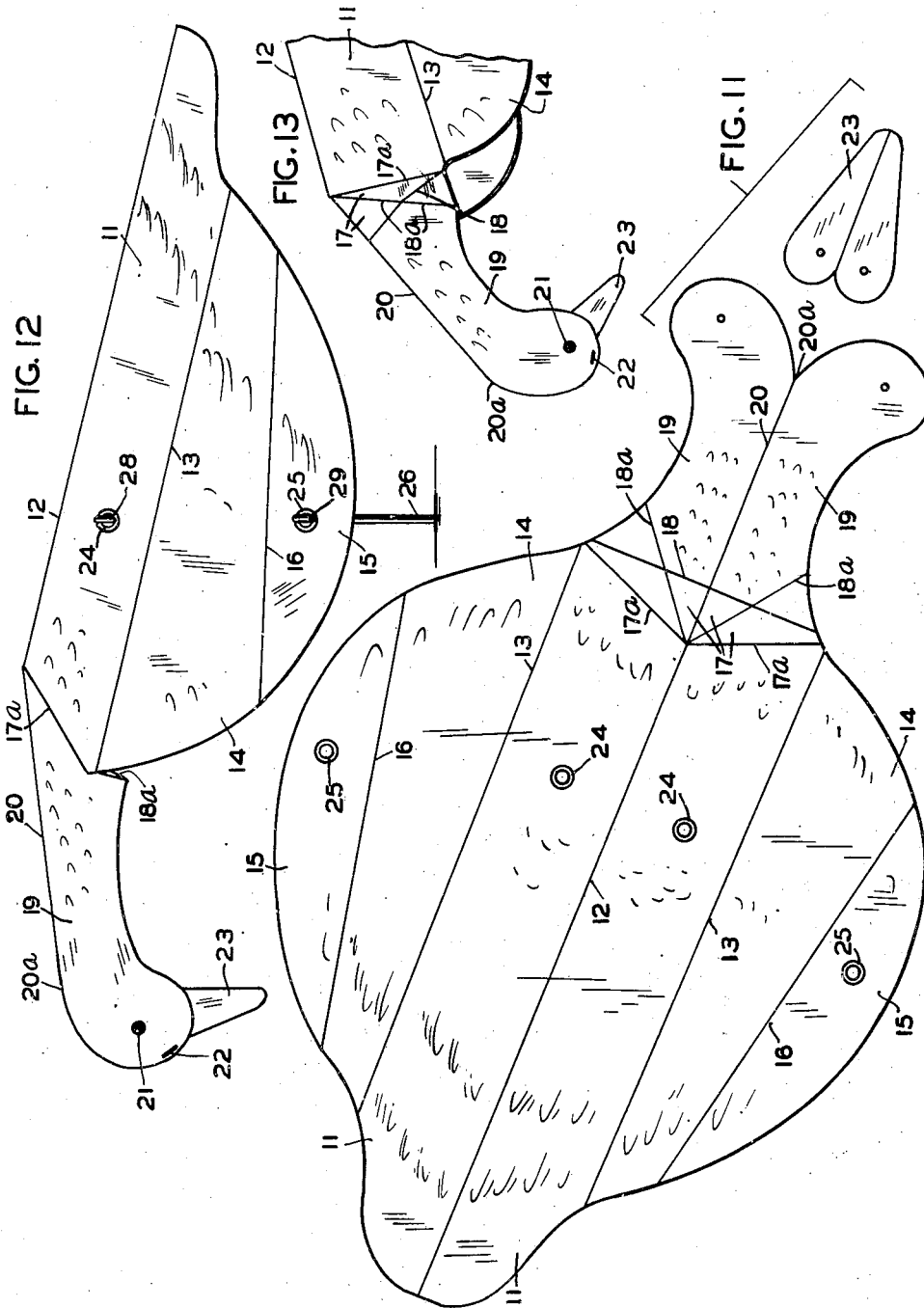
L. C. KOUBA

2,478,585

DECOY

Filed Aug. 5, 1946

3 Sheets—Sheet 3



INVENTOR
LESLIE C. KOUBA
BY
Williamson & Williamson
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,478,585

DECOY

Leslie C. Kouba, Minneapolis, Minn.

Application August 5, 1946; Serial No. 688,502

3 Claims. (Cl. 43-3)

1

This invention relates to decoys and particularly to collapsible decoys such as are frequently used when hunting water fowl.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a collapsible decoy of sheet material which can be folded into a relatively compact condition so that it will take up a minimum of space when not in use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a collapsible or foldable decoy of sheet material wherein the folded body and the collapsible neck and head unit can be made from a single sheet of material, and wherein the body and head and neck unit can be collapsed into a package or bundle of minimum size.

A further object of the invention is to provide a simple yet highly efficient neck supporting arrangement for the decoy.

Still another object of the invention is to provide improved means for mounting the decoy so that it will have a life-like movement when acted upon by air currents.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the views, and, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view of the device in a completely collapsed position;

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the decoy partially collapsed;

Figure 5 is a front elevational view of the device in approximately the position of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a front elevational view;

Figure 7 is a section taken approximately on the line 7-7 of Figure 1;

Figure 8 is an enlarged fragmentary detail of the neck supporting structure;

Figure 9 is a side elevational view of the frame and supporting upright member;

Figure 10 is a modification of the device shown in Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a view of the blank from which the device is made;

Figure 12 is a side elevational view of the decoy set up in a feeding position; and

Figure 13 is a fragmentary perspective view of the forward portion of the structure in Figure 12.

The body of the decoy is preferably formed of a thin relatively stiff water-proof sheet material,

2

and as indicated in the drawings, it may be suitably ornamented to represent the feathers of a duck or goose or the like. The body of the decoy includes a pair of back sections 11 which are connected by a hinge or fold 12 which extends longitudinally along the upper back portion of the simulated figure. Connected by a hinge or fold 13 to each of the back sections 11 is a side section 14 and a lower side section 15 is connected to or separated from the side section 14 by means of a hinge or fold 16.

At the forward end of each of the back sections 11 is a downwardly folded portion 17 provided by a V-shaped fold 17a, and the material from which the device is made is thence bent upwardly along a straight transverse fold 18 to form complementary neck sections 19, which are connected by a fold crease 20 which extends approximately to the point 20a as shown in Figure 1. Above the point 20a the neck sections 19 are shaped to form head portions which are connected as by metal staples 22. A bill portion 23 lies between the upper portions of the neck members 19 and they are hingedly supported at 24 by a suitable element which may be colored to simulate the eyes of a wild fowl. Each of the back sections 11 is provided with grommetted apertures 24 and the lowermost side portions 15 are provided with similarly grommetted apertures 25.

A V-shaped fold 18a is formed across the base of the neck portion and, as shown, it lies within the V of the fold 17a and has a considerably sharper angle than that of said fold 17a.

In Figure 9 there is shown a frame indicated generally at 26. The frame is shown to be formed from a loop of wire, the upper portion of which is arched in the form of a wide inverted V as at 27. At the upper corners, the wire is bent to provide projecting elements 28 which are preferably directed upwardly and outwardly, and the lower corners of the frame 26 are provided with downwardly and outwardly projecting members 29. The lower cross member of the frame 26 is looped as at 30 to movably receive a stick or other suitable upright member 31 having a sharpened point 32 by means of which it can be readily pushed into the ground. Extending between the sides of the frame 26 is a flexible and preferably resilient element 33 which may be of rubber. The central portion of the element 33 is connected to the upper end of the vertically disposed stick 31. The frame 26 is adapted to swing about the vertical axis of the stick 31 and the resilient band 33 yieldably permits this swinging but naturally tends to return the frame 26

3

to a definite rotative position relative to the stick 31.

In Figure 10 there is shown a frame 34 having arched upper portion 35, upwardly and outwardly projecting members 36 and downwardly and outwardly projecting members 37. The lower portion of the frame 34 has one wire extending vertically downwardly to provide a pivot pin 38 which extends into the socketed upper end 39 of a vertical supporting rod 40. The other end of the wire loop 34 is bent about the vertical wire portion 38 and thence outwardly as at 41 so that it will rest upon the top of the vertical supporting rod 40. This construction permits free rotation of the frame 34 relative to the rod 40.

In Figure 3 the decoy is shown in its collapsed position. The width of the frames 26 and 34 are such that they will fit within the confines of the folded device, and it will be seen that all parts of the device fold within the widths of the back panels or sections 11 to provide a compact knocked-down structure. In assembling the device the back panels are swung away from each other from the position in Figure 3 and they are swung to a position wherein their upper surfaces slant laterally and downwardly. In such position they will lie approximately along the arched upper frame portion 27 of the frame 26. The upper corner projections 28 are placed in the grommetted apertures 24 in the back sections 11, and the lower corner projecting members 29 are placed through the grommets 25 in the lower side sections 15. The device is so constructed that there is a slight pull required to fit the lower projecting frame members 29 into their grommets 25. This produces a slight arching or curving of the back sections 11, as best shown in Figure 7, and this tension plus the downward and outward direction of the frame projections 29 firmly secures the body of the decoy on the frame member.

As the body is unfolded from its collapsed position in Figure 3 the neck sections 19 are swung upwardly and forwardly and the small triangular portions 17 at the forward ends of the back sections 11 are swung downwardly as best shown in Figure 3, and at the same time the neck sections 19 will be moved to and supported in a generally upright position as shown in Figures 1 and 8.

The decoy can be made to assume a feeding position such as illustrated in Figures 12 and 13. The base of the neck is spread to a substantially flat condition; then the material is pressed downwardly at the lines of the fold 18a, whereupon the neck will hang at a slight downward slant as in Figure 12. Furthermore, when the neck is in this position, a slight wind will cause it to bob in an extremely realistic simulation of a feeding bird.

The device is then set up in the field, and it is preferred that it be headed into the wind. By reason of the resilient pivotal mounting of the frame 26 on its vertical stick 31 the action of the wind will cause the decoy to swing slightly about the stick 31. At times it will tend to swing or partially rotate in one direction and then in the other. Also at times the decoy will be held at an angle to the wind, and it will maintain a slightly oscillatory movement which, while not great, will

4

greatly enhance the life-like appearance of the decoy. In addition the flexible and resilient connection 33 between the upper end of the stick 31 and the frame will permit the decoy to rock backward and forward slightly under the action of the wind, thereby further increasing the life-like appearance.

The frame in its support shown in Figure 10 is modified somewhat from the structure in Figure 9. The looped portion of the frame is generally the same, but the pivotal mounting of the frame in its supporting member 40 is such that the decoy is capable of swinging completely around. However, by reason of the particular balancing of the decoy relative to the supporting frame 34 it has been found that the decoy will quarter into the wind and at times will swing to opposite quarters on either side of the wind. This movement similar to that of the frame and support in Figure 9 gives the decoy a life-like active appearance.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the various parts without departing from the scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a decoy, a sheet of relatively stiff material including a folding body portion and a neck portion, said neck portion having a V-shaped fold joining it with said body portion and extending substantially entirely across the base of said neck portion, and said neck portion having a straight transverse fold therein and lying outside of said V-shaped fold.

2. The structure in claim 1, and said neck portion having a second V-shaped fold substantially entirely thereacross and lying within the V of said first mentioned fold.

3. In a decoy, a sheet of relatively stiff material including a folding body portion and a neck portion, said neck portion having a V-shaped fold joining said body and neck portions substantially entirely across the base of said neck portion, and having a second V-shaped fold substantially entirely across said neck portion and lying within the V of said first fold, and said V-shaped folds having common apexes.

LESLIE C. KOUBA.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
364,573	Brinkop	June 7, 1887
603,203	Rahn	Apr. 26, 1898
883,161	Rosentreter	Mar. 24, 1908
957,750	Cunningham	May 10, 1910
1,603,114	Johnson	Oct. 12, 1926
1,718,384	Sherman	June 25, 1929
2,237,897	Vos	Apr. 8, 1941
2,244,378	Turner	June 3, 1941

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
341,236	Great Britain	Jan. 15, 1931