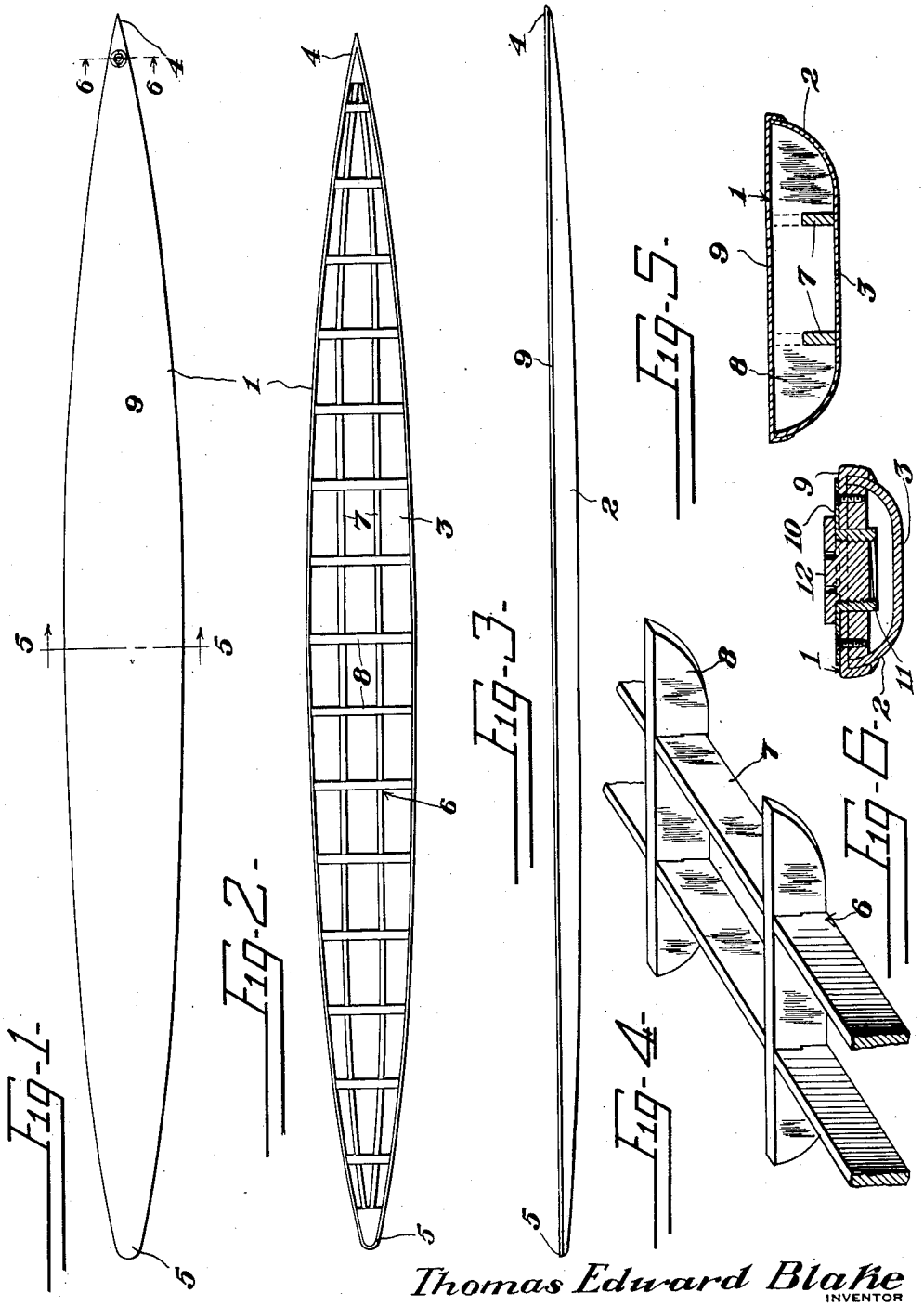
Aug. 16, 1932. T. E. BLAKE 1,872,230

WATER SLED

Filed April 18, 1931



Thomas Edward Blake
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans and Co
ATTORNEYS

Patented Aug. 16, 1932 1,872,230

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THOMAS EDWARD BLAKE, OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

WATER SLED

Application filed April 16, 1931. Serial No. 531,193.

This invention relates to a water sled and has for the primary object, the provision of a device of the above stated character which is especially adaptable for swimmers or bathers, whereby they may be efficiently floated on the water and may propel the device with the hands and arms through the water at a very rapid speed and obviate the employment of oars or paddles and further the device is capable of maintaining a number of people afloat, thereby providing a very efficient life saving device.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a water sled of the above stated character which will be simple, durable and efficient and which may be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low cost.

With these and other objects in view, this invention consists in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

For a complete understanding of my invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a top plan view illustrating a water sled constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a plan view with the cover or deck removed from the hull.

Figure 3 is a side elevation illustrating the device.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the reinforcing means for the hull.

Figure 5 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a detail sectional view illustrating a vent device for the hull.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the numeral 1 indicates a hull including the sides 2 and bottom 3 which gradually taper from a point intermediate its ends toward each end to form the bow 4 and stern 5. The taper of the bow 4 is greater than the taper of the stern to facilitate the passage of the hull through the water. As shown in Figure 3 the height of the sides is comparatively small so that a person lying upon the device will be supported in close proximity to the surface of the water whereby the person may employ the hands and arms to propel the hull through the water, using the arms in a paddling motion.

The bottom and sides of the hull are strengthened by a reinforcing structure 6 constructed from a plurality of longitudinal and transversely extending strips 7 and 8. The strips 7 and 8 are relatively spaced to form the reinforcing structure of a skeleton formation giving the sides and bottom of the hull the desired reinforcement and maintaining the weight of the device to a minimum.

A cover or deck 9 is positioned over the upper edges of the sides of the hull on which a person may lie and is suitably secured to the sides. The hull and deck may be constructed from any material suitable for the purpose and if constructed from light weight metal, the deck or cover may be welded to the sides.

The deck 9 adjacent the bow of the hull is provided with an opening over which is positioned an apertured plate 10 having an internally threaded neck 11 extending through the opening of the deck and normally closed by a flanged and screw-threaded plug or cap 12. The cap or plug 12 has a leak-proof connection with the deck plate 11 but may be removed from the deck plate when desiring to ventilate the interior of the hull which is desirable when the hull is in dry dock and under hot sun rays or the cap or plug may be removed when desiring to empty the hull of water which may have leaked into the hull during the use of the device.

One of the principal advantages of this device is its light weight so that a person may conveniently carry or handle the device and launch the same in case of emergency so that persons in need of help within the water may grasp the device and maintain themselves afloat. Due to the construction and shape of the device its buoyancy is of a maximum capacity, therefore a number of persons resting or sitting upon the device will be maintained afloat.

While I have shown and described the pre-

ferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that minor changes in construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention, as claimed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A water sled comprising a tapering hull including a bottom and narrow sides, a reinforcing structure located in the hull and engaging the bottom and sides and including longitudinally and transversely arranged strips, a cover secured to the upper edges of the sides for closing the hull and on which a person may lie and be supported in close proximity to the surface of the water to permit propulsion of the hull through the water by the legs and arms of the person, and means in the cover for venting the hull.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

THOMAS EDWARD BLAKE.