No. 883,588. PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

C. B. THATCHER.

INVISIBLE AIR CHAMBER AND SPONSON FOR CANOES.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 16, 1906.

Fig. 1.

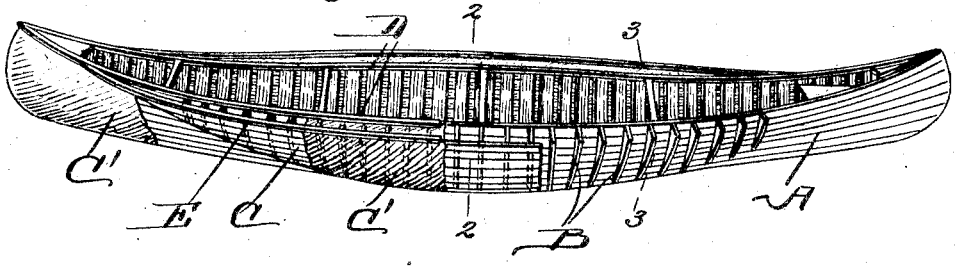


Fig. 2.

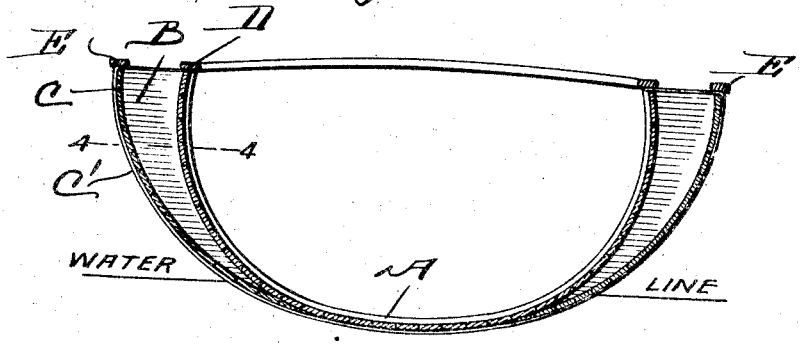


Fig. 3.

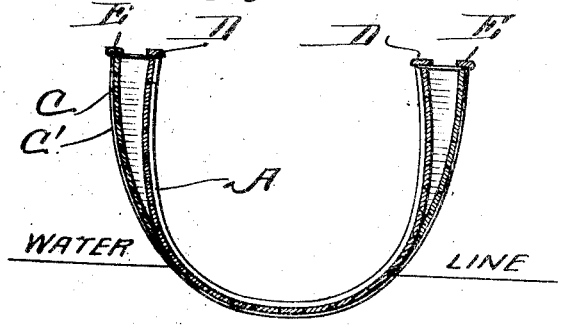
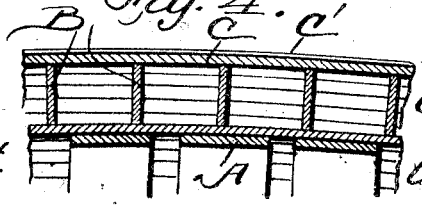


Fig. 4.



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CALEB B. THATCHER, OF BANGOR, MAINE.

INVISIBLE AIR-CHAMBER AND SPONSON FOR CANOES.

No. 883,588. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed May 16, 1906. Serial No. 317,120.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CALEB B. THATCHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bangor, in the county of Penobscot and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improvement in an Invisible Air-Chamber and Sponson for Canoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to air chambers and sponson for canvas boats and more particularly to invisible air chambers and sponsons for canoes, the object being to provide a sponson which extends from the gunwales to the water-line so that the sponson will be brought into contact with the water, as soon as the canoe is tilted off an even keel.

This invention consists of the novel features of construction, hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a canoe provided with my improved sponson showing the canvas broken away. Fig. 2 is a section taken on lines 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section taken on lines 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section taken on lines 4—4 of Fig. 2.

In constructing a canoe with my improved sponson I employ a hull A, of the ordinary construction before the canvas has been put on, which is air and water tight, then I secure to the outside of the hull spaced curved tapering ribs B, which extend from the gunwales of the canoe to the water line. These ribs are widest at the center of the canoe, and gradually decrease in width and length towards each end to where they stop. The ribs are then covered with ordinary canoe planking C, which is made water tight in any suitable manner. A canvas covering C′ is then placed over the hull of the canoe and planking of the sponson and drawn over the spaces formed by the ribs between the two plankings and secured under the gunwales D, of the canoe, forming an invisible air tight compartment or sponson. A gunwale E, is then placed over the canvas and is secured to the planking C, and ribs B, so that they will be protected.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that the hull of the canoe can be made narrower so that when the sponson is attached, a canoe of the ordinary shape will be formed. It will also be readily seen that by constructing a canoe as described, an invisible sponson is obtained which has great advantages over the sponsons now in use.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A canoe having tapering curved ribs cut to conform to the curvature of the hull secured to the outside of the planking and extending from the gunwales to the water line, said ribs gradually decreasing in width and length from the center towards each end, planking secured on said ribs, end canvas secured over said hull and ribs having its side edges secured under the gunwales of the canoe forming an invisible air tight compartment.

CALEB B. THATCHER.

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