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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: **80200838.3**

51 Int. Cl.³: **A 63 C 15/03**

22 Date of filing: **09.09.80**

30 Priority: **17.09.79 BE 4385**

43 Date of publication of application:
08.04.81 Bulletin 81/14

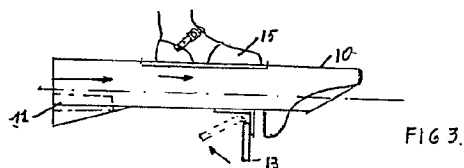
84 Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

71 Applicant: **Dejaegher, Roger Martin Edmond**
Boudewijn
Kanaalstraat 27
B-9060 Zezate(BE)

72 Inventor: **Dejaegher, Roger Martin Edmond Boudewijn**
Kanaalstraat 27
B-9060 Zezate(BE)

54 **Watershoes.**

57 Devices which can be attached to a persons feet to enable him to walk on water. Each device comprises a lightweight floatable member (10) with foot attaching means (15) on the upper surface, front valve means (13) on the front lower surface, and rear means (11) on the lower surface to resist backward propulsion.



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Background of Invention

This invention relates to devices which enable a person to walk, ski or skate on a body of water, as for example, a lake, bay, river, canal, sea or ocean.

5 One object of the present invention is to provide a device which can be worn on each foot of a person and can be used to walk on water.

Other object and advantages of this invention will appear from the description and claims which follow, taken together with the appended drawings.

10 The applicant, claims the benefit of the filing date of his prior foreign patent application, namely, Belgium Patent Application 4/4385 filed September 17, 1979.

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Summary of Invention

The invention in its most general terms comprises an elongated lightweight body which can float on water and can be formed

5 from a wide variety of water-resistant materials such as foamed plastic such as polystyrene foam or polyester foam or naturally occurring water-resistant materials which can float in water as for example, cork. On the top surface of the floatable body are means for inserting or attaching the foot of the person.

10 The bottom surface, which is immersed in the water has a front means preferably positioned below the toe portion of the foot and a rear means preferably positioned rearward of the heel portion of the foot for resisting rearward propulsion.

The front means could comprise a normally vertically positioned

15 member which pivots only to the rear. Such means can also be a flap extending across the floatable body or rearwardly facing pockets, or a combination of flaps and pockets.

The rear means is similar to the front means and is preferably a large central pocket which permits forward motion but resists
20 rearward motion when filled with water. The rear means can also have a large flap extending across the floatable body.

In addition stabilization fins can be provided on the lower surface at each corner and these can also be provided with rearwardly-facing pockets to restrain rearward motion.

25 Propulsion is accomplished by manipulating floatable sticks or rods so as to get forward propulsion. A preferred form of such propelling stick is an elongated rod having a floating member on the water and a small rudder member below the water.

In utilizing the invention, the person uses one propelling stick
30 in each hand to obtain initial motion of the floating bodies attached to his feet. The person at no time has his feet immersed in the water and is thus literally walking on water.

In addition to walking the invention is also suitable for being pulled so as to skate or ski on the water.

The manipulations by the person utilizing this invention are similar to snow skiing.

While the preferred form of the invention for the purpose of walking on the water is to have an elongated floating member to which the foot is attached, other shapes such as oval or square can be used.

The invention can also be used in combined form to form a catamaran sailing boat or with a pliable mast and sail to form a surf boat.

Wheels can also be added with a water propeller. Very little power is needed to pull or propel since each floatable member is quite light as for example, 6 pounds (3 kg) in weight.

BRIEF Description of Drawings.

Fig-1 is a side view of one embodiment of this invention where the foot is at rest.

Fig-2 is a rear view.

Fig-3 is a side view as in Fig.1 with the device in forward motion.

Fig-4 is a view a propelling rod.

Fig-5 is a perspective view of the invention in motion.

Fig-6 is a view of two coupled devices to form the base for a catamaran sailing boat.

Fig-7 is a bottom view of the device of FIG .I.

Fig-8 is the bottom view of the device, but with flxible flaps and mountend between the stabilisation finns.

Fig-9 is the bottom view of the device, but ~~with flxible~~ here also equiped with flexible flaps and the stabilisation finns, are here more evidently shown than on Fig;8.

Specific Example of Invention

Referring now to Fig. 1 to 5 there is illustrated therein a pair of water-resistand, elongated foam plastic floatable bodies

5 - 9 and 10 for the left and right foot respectively of the person utilizing the invention. Each floatable body 9 and 10 sits in the water with the upper surface clear of the water so that the feet inserted into the foot supports 14 and 15 do not get wet.

The lowest surface of each floatable body 9 and 10 has a front 10 restraining means 13 which comprises in this instance a pair of normally vertical but rearwardly-pivotable flap members 13 located below the toe portion of the foot, and registering rearward-facing pockets 13 a in Stabilization fins 10a.

Rearward of the heel portion of the foot and on the lower surface 15 of the body is a pocket 11 in which the water is allowed to fill when the device is first placed into the water.

As the person propels the floatable bodies forward in alternate fashion by means of the propelling rods 16, the front flap members

13 are driven backward. The particular propelling rod 16

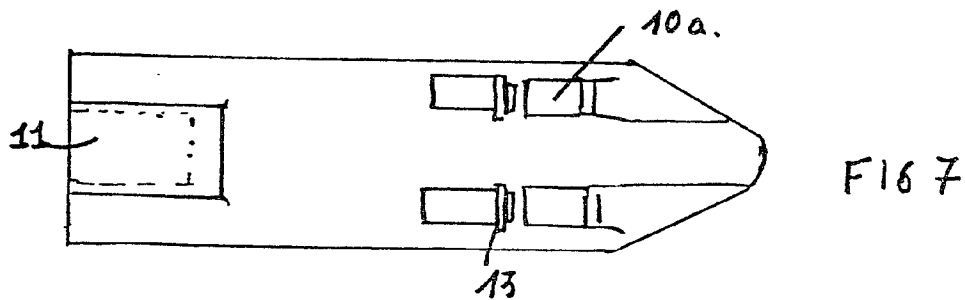
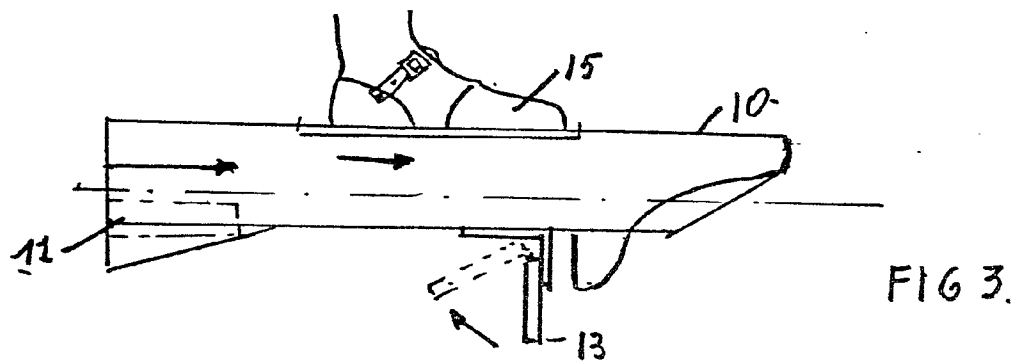
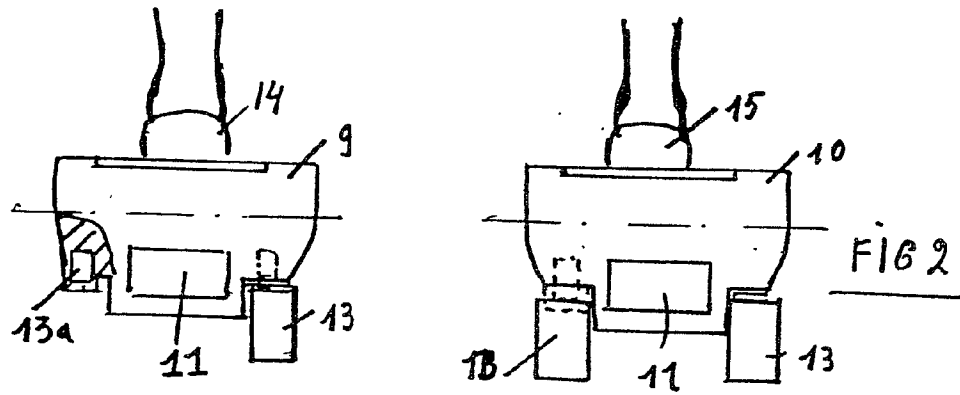
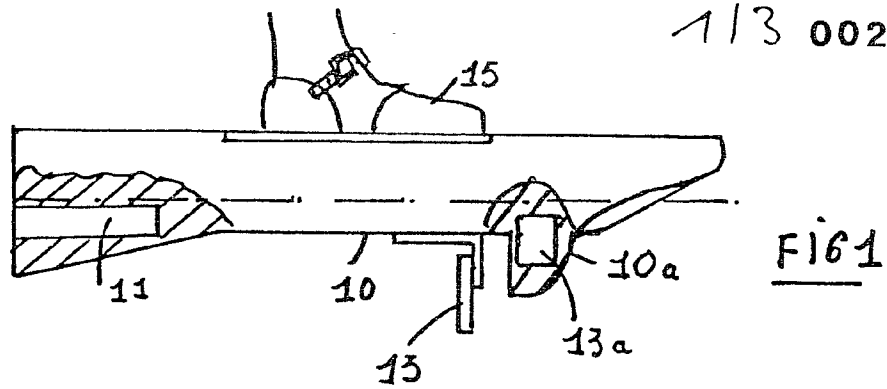
20 illustrated in the drawings has a handle portion 17, a relatively large floating member 18, and a below-the-surface rudder 19.

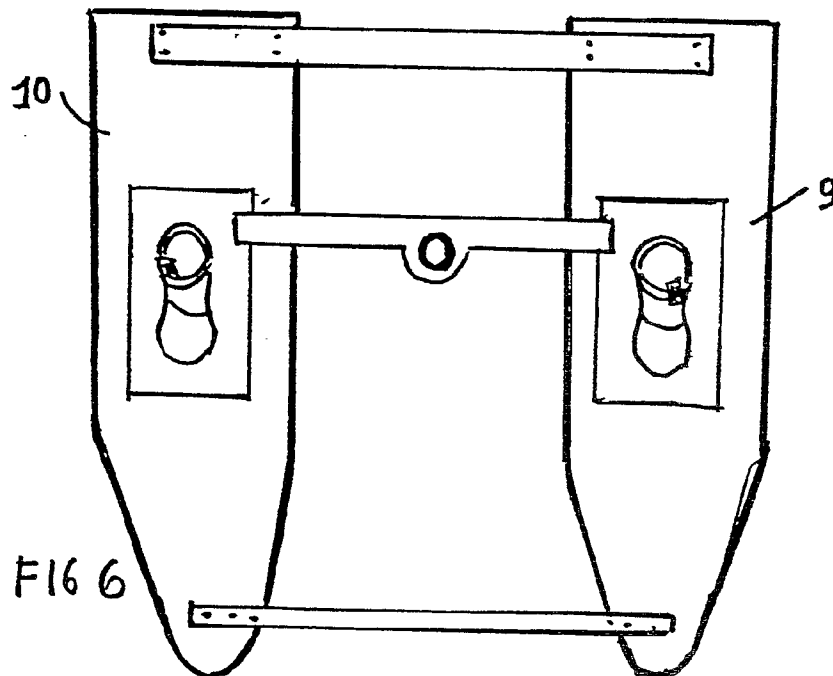
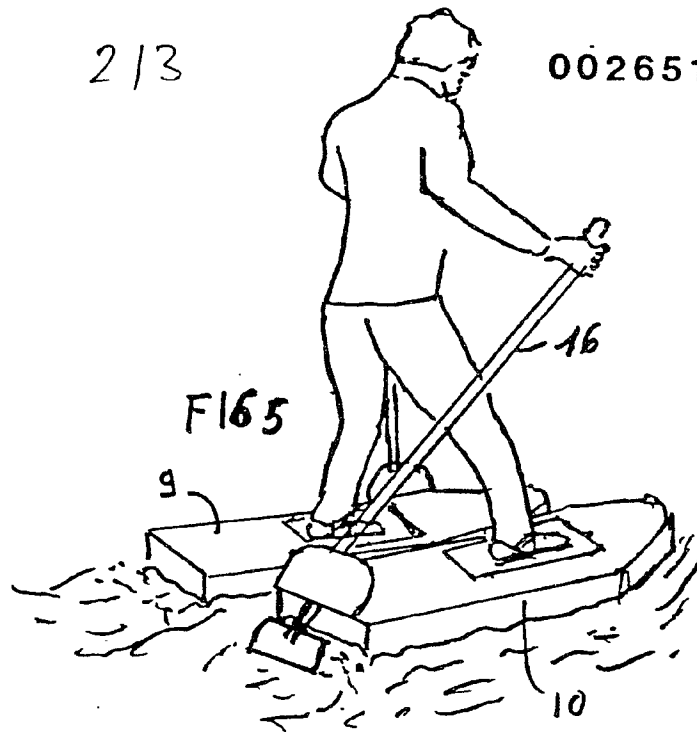
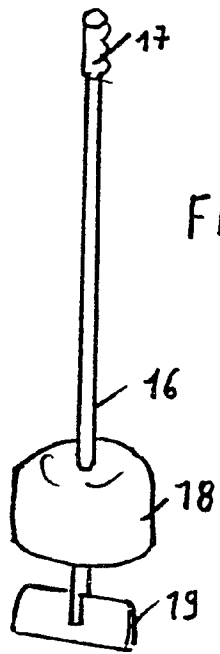
As illuatrated in Fig. 6 two such divices can be combined together to form the base of a catamaran sail boat.

Claims

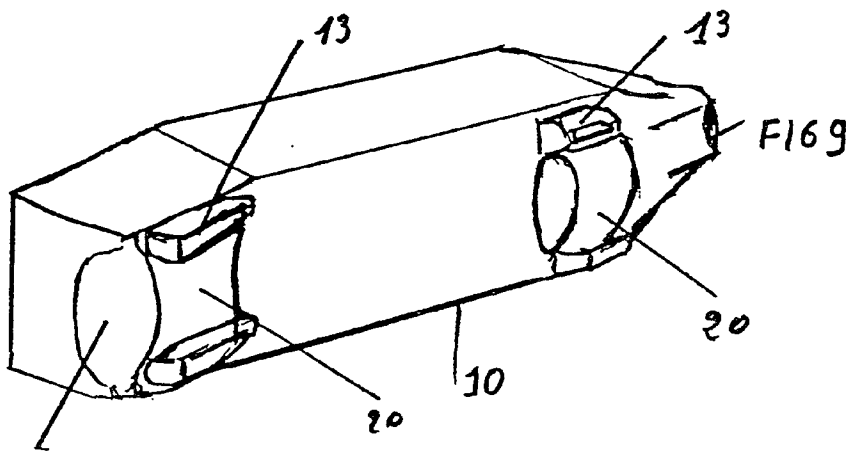
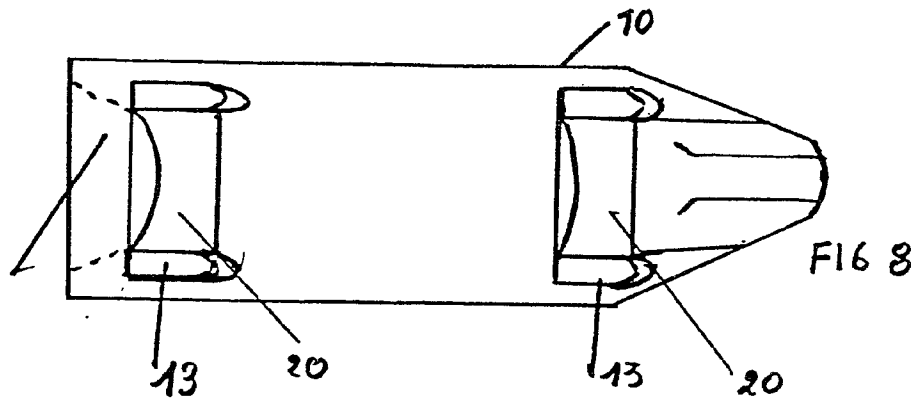
1. A device adapted to be attached to the foot of a person
for propulsion on the surface of a body of water, comprising
5 an elongated lightweight floatable member having means on its
upper surface to attach to the foot of a person, front means on
its lower surface to resist backward propulsion and rear
means in the lower surface to resist backward propulsion.
- 10 2. A device made in accordance with Claim I wherein the
said front means comprises a normally vertical member pivotable
only in the rearward position by the force of water as it is
propelled in the forward direction.
3. The device made in accordance with Claim I wherein said
rear means comprises a rearwardly-facing pocket.
- 15 4. A pair of devices made in accordance with Claim I and
adapted to be attached to both feet of a person.
5. A device made in accordance with Claims I in combination
with a floatable propelling rod.
- 20 6. Two devices made in accordance with Claim I and coupled
together to form the support for a sailing vessel.
7. It is also possible to equip the waterschoes(10)
with flexible fins(20) and stabilisation keels(13)

Fig 8 and Fig 9





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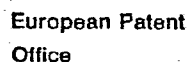
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0026513

Application number

EP 80 20 0838.3

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	<u>DE - U - 1 929 433</u> (D. DREES) * claims 1, 4; fig. 1, 3, 4, positions 1, 2, 3, 5 *	1,2, 4	A 63 C 15/03
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X	<u>DE - A - 2 217 426</u> (F. NEUMANN) * claims 1 to 4; fig. 1, 3, 4 *	1-4, 7	
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X	<u>DE - A - 2 042 715</u> (R. GÖRIKE) * claims 1-3, 5, 16; fig. 1a, 1b, 4b, 5, 11a to 11c, 14 *	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)
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X	<u>CH - A 181 949</u> (E. KUHN) * claims 1 to 5; fig. 1, 6, 9, 10 *	1,2, 4-6	A 63 C 15/00
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X	<u>DE - U - 1 924 771</u> (FARBWERKE HOECHST AG) * claims 1 to 3; fig. 1, 5, 7, position 2 *	1,2, 4,5, 7	
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	<u>DE - A - 2 000 272</u> (A. HEIGRODT) * claim 2; second figure *	3,7	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
	--		X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons
	<u>DE - A - 2 022 113</u> (K. REIMER) * claims 20 to 23 *	5,6	
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	./..		
X	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 22-12-1980	Examiner DROPMANN



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)
Category	Creation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<u>FR - A1 - 2 376 672</u> (SOC. D'EXPLOITATION CHAUDRONNERIE PLASTIQUES INDUSTRIELS) * pages 2, 3; fig. 5 *	7	
P,X	<u>BE - A - 878 837</u> (R.M.E.B. DEJAEGHER) * whole document *	1-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)