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CALL HOLDER

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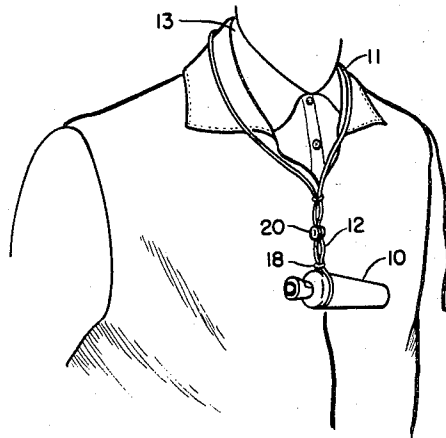


FIG. 1

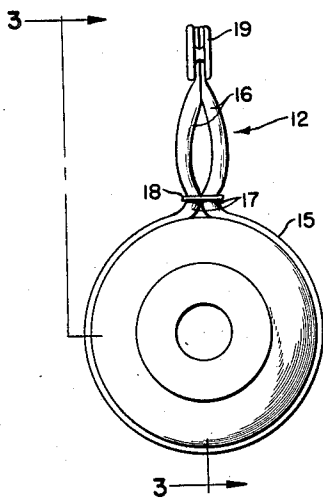


FIG. 2

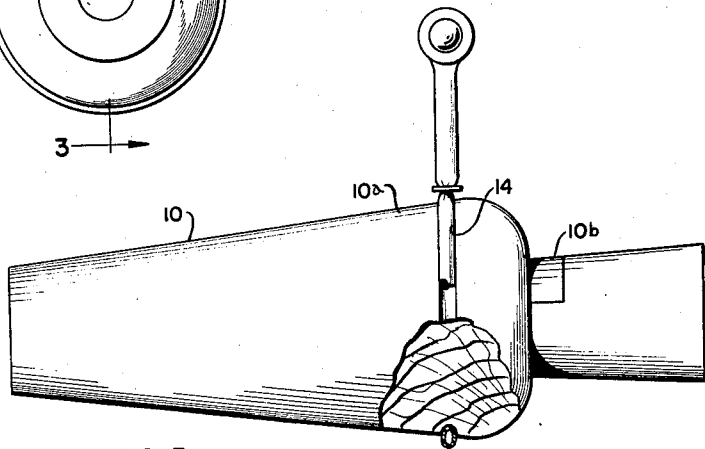


FIG. 3

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CALL HOLDER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 24—73)

This invention relates to musical instruments and in particular to call devices intended to be carried by a person to be available for instant use.

In hunting, as for ducks, the hunter conventionally utilizes a duck call comprising an instrument which, when blown properly, produces a sound attractive to ducks. Thus, when the hunter sights a group of ducks, he utilizes the call to attract the ducks to his vicinity. It is desirable to dispose the call on the person of the hunter so that it is instantly available for use. One method of disposing the call for such instant use is to support it on the end of a lanyard worn around the hunter's neck. To secure the call to the lanyard, such calls conventionally are provided with an annular groove extending about the mid-portion thereof so that a cord or a portion of the lanyard may be tied or otherwise secured therearound.

The principal feature of the instant invention is the provision of means for connecting an instrument provided with an external annular groove to a lanyard, said means having a new and improved coaction with the instrument.

Another feature is the provision of such a connecting means comprising a resilient tube having a loop portion secured annularly around the instrument in the groove, portions of the tube extending outwardly from the ends of the loop portion, and a ring extending annularly around the outwardly extending portions to maintain the ends of the loop portion in juxtaposed relationship thereby to retain the loop portion in the groove.

A further feature is that the uncompressed transverse cross section of the tube loop portion is greater in diameter than the width of the groove in the instrument.

Still another feature is that the interior of the ring is smaller than the exterior of the outwardly extending portions so that the ring is securely retained in position on the outwardly extending portions notwithstanding a stretching of the loop portion in moving it over the instrument during installation and removal.

Still another feature is that the ring adjusts the size of the loop portion so that it is maintained smaller than the diameter of the groove in the instrument.

A yet further feature is that the tube is formed of a latex rubber having a high coefficient of friction so that it has improved retaining coaction with the walls of the groove and has improved retaining action with the adjusting ring.

Still another feature is that the tube is sealed to entrap air within the loop portion to provide an improved gripping coaction with the walls of the groove.

Other features and advantages will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a call instrument, secured by a connecting means embodying the invention, to a lanyard arranged around the person's neck, the person being shown fragmentarily;

Fig. 2 is an end view of the call instrument with the connecting means installed thereon; and

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Fig. 3 is a side view thereof, with a portion of the instrument and connecting means broken away.

In the exemplary embodiment of the invention as disclosed in the drawing, an instrument 10, such as a duck call, is shown to be secured to a lanyard 11 by a connecting means generally designated 12. The lanyard is arranged to extend around the neck 13 of the user so that the duck call is retained directly in front of the user for instant availability. An example of a lanyard well-suited for such use is that disclosed in my co-pending application Serial No. 622,613, filed November 16, 1956.

As best seen in Figs. 2 and 3, call instrument 10 is provided with an annular groove 14 disposed around a mid-portion 10a thereof. Connecting means 12 comprises a resilient tube having a loop portion 15 extending annularly around the instrument in groove 14 and a pair of elongated portions 16 extending outwardly one each from opposite ends 17 of loop portion 15. A keeper ring 18 extends annularly around the outwardly extending portions 16 adjacent ends 17 of the loop portion and serves to maintain ends 17 juxtaposed thereby to retain loop portion 15 in the groove. Keeper ring 18 is elongated and the long inside dimension of the ring is substantially smaller than the corresponding long outside dimension of the pair of outwardly extending portions 16 so that the ring tends to constrict the tube portions. Thus, the resulting gripping action of the ring on portions 16 acts to retain the ring in position on the tube notwithstanding a stretching of the loop portion 15 around the instrument 10 during installation or removal of the loop portion relative to the instrument. The resilient nature of the tube, however, permits the ring to be moved over the tube when desired so that the diameter of loop portion 15 may be readily adjusted to be smaller than the diameter of the groove 14 thereby assuring that the loop portion will be securely retained within the groove when installed therein.

At the outer end of outwardly extending portions 16 is provided a securing device 19, herein comprising a snap fastener adapted for attachment to a suitable complementary snap fastener device 20 provided on lanyard 11. Snap fastener 19 also serves to close sealingly the outer ends of portions 16 thereby entrapping a body of air within tube portions 15 and 16.

To provide an improved retaining coaction between the connecting means and the portion of the call instrument defining groove 14, it is preferred that the cross sectional diameter of the tube defining loop portion 15 be greater than the width of the groove 14. However, by entrapping air within the tube, as described above relative to fastener 19, loop portion 15 may be readily constricted transversely of the groove, as best seen in Fig. 3. Thus, notwithstanding the greater width of the tube, it will readily accommodate itself to the groove and seat itself firmly in the bottom thereof. By adjusting ring 18 so that the diameter of the loop defined by loop portion 15 is smaller than the diameter of the groove 14, loop portion 15 automatically draws itself firmly into the groove.

It is preferred that the resilient material from which the tube is formed have a relatively high coefficient of friction. A material found to have such desirable combined resiliency and frictional characteristics is latex rubber. In addition to providing a new and improved gripping coaction with the groove walls, such a latex rubber tube provides improved retention of the ring 18. Thus, call instrument 10 is retained by connecting means 12, not only substantially positively against inadvertent disassociation therefrom, but also against rotation about its longitudinal axis within loop portion 15. Thus, where the instrument is provided with adjustable means, such as means 10b for controlling the sound produced by the instru-

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ment, connecting means 12 maintains the instrument with the adjustable means retained outwardly so that such adjustment may be readily effected.

While I have shown and described certain embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that it is capable of many modifications. Changes, therefore, in the construction and arrangement may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. For use with a duck call having an external annular groove around the mid-portion thereof and intended to be connected to a lanyard worn around the neck of a user, a connecting means comprising a rubber tube having a loop portion arranged to extend annularly in said groove and a second portion extending outwardly from the ends of the loop portion, the uncompressed cross section diameter of the tube loop portion being greater than the width of the groove in the duck call, a ring extending annularly around said second portion of the loop adjacent the loop portion to maintain the ends of the loop portion juxtaposed and retain the loop portion in the groove, and means on the second portion for connecting the same to the lanyard.

2. For use with an instrument having an external annular groove, a connecting means comprising a resilient

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tube having a high coefficient of friction, said tube having a loop portion arranged to extend annularly in said groove and a pair of elongated tubular portions extending outwardly one each from opposite ends of the loop portion, the uncompressed cross section diameter of the tube loop portion being greater than the width of the groove in the instrument and a ring extending annularly around said outwardly extending portions adjacent the loop portion to maintain the ends of the loop portion juxtaposed and retain the loop portion in the groove.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein the tube is formed of latex rubber.

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