

1935 Nelson Automatic Grab Fish Hook

by William Blauser

Although collectors have been aware of the patent papers for William and Bert Nelson's 1935 invention of an "Automatic Grab Fishhook" for many years, none of the actual spring-hooks were known to exist until this example recently came to light.

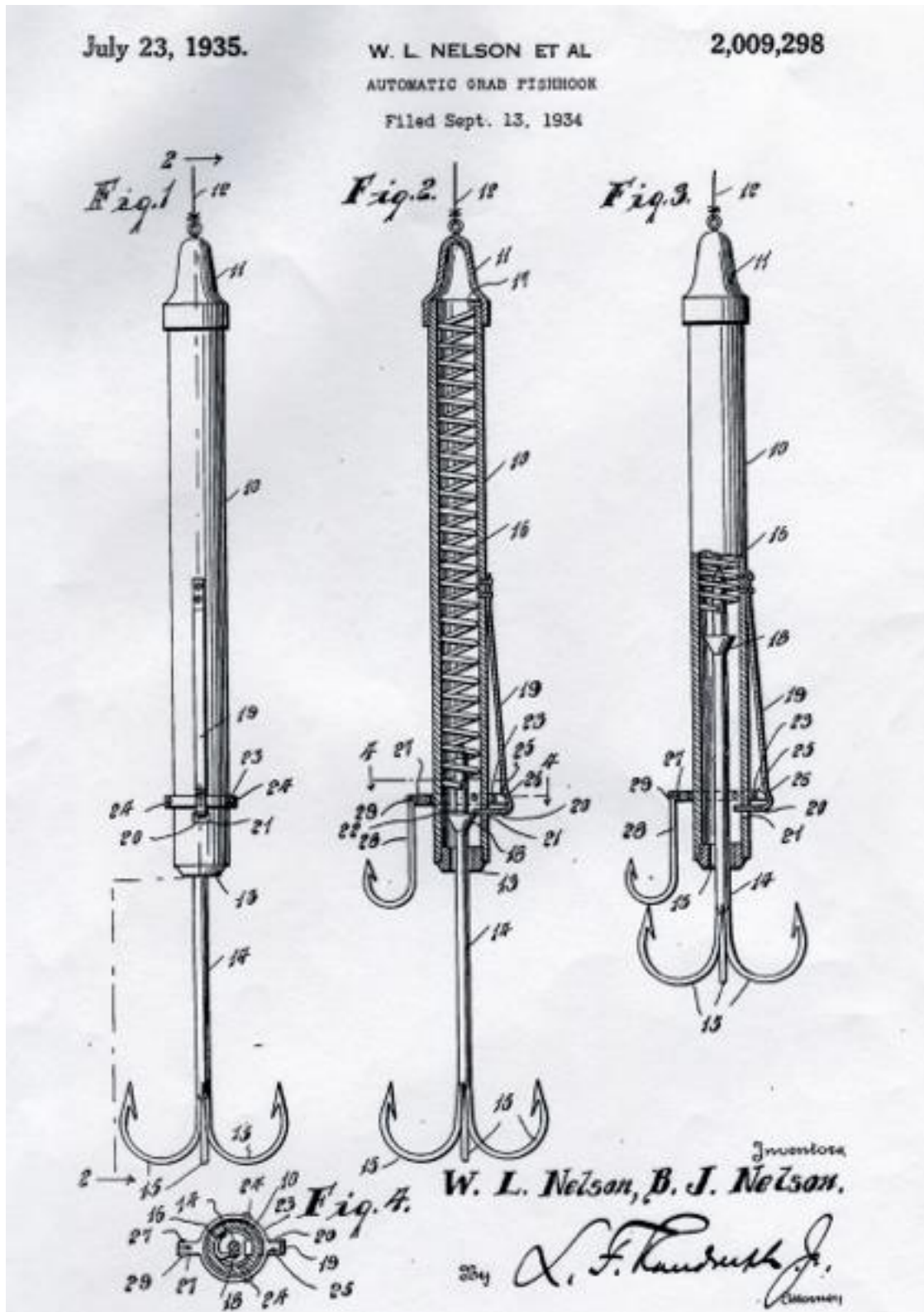
This spring-loaded fish hook is made entirely of brass, with the exception of the bait hook and "grab" hook, which is designed to impale the fish from underneath when the bait hook is pulled upon, both of which are made of steel. This is an uncommon design in that respect, unusual in that the fish would be impaled from below, and odd that 2 of the 3 other spring-hooks which were designed to perform in this manner were invented and patented in Texas, and all in a 13 year span.

It measures 8.5" inches long in the sprung (relaxed) position and 11" inches in length in the set position, with the upper portion of the "tube" having been knurled, which would provide a better grip for the fisherman, and "sets" automatically when the internal rod to which the treble hook is soldered is extended outward (from the collection of William Blauser).

The Letters of Patent for this invention, which were granted to Wm. and Bert Nelson of Waller, Texas on July 23, 1935, being Patent # 2,009,298, state that this spring-hook could be "made of any size and proportion for catching large or small fish as may be desired".

<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/f5/8e/80/615367a625c978/US2009298.pdf>

Patent drawing shown below.



Shown below in the sprung and set positions with \$20 bill (6") and quarter for scale.









Close-up below of the latching mechanism.

