

# 1872 Pitcher Fish Trap

by William Blausen

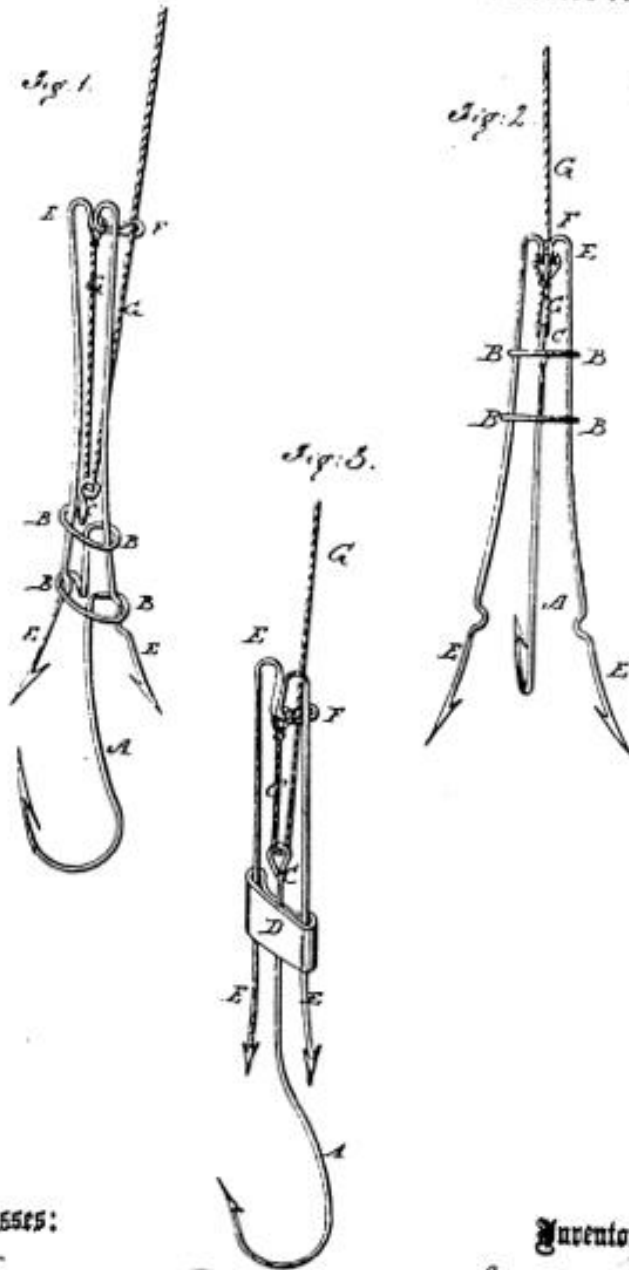
Pitcher Fish Hook.....Patented by Edward Pitcher on July  
16,1872.....Brooklyn, New York.....U. S. Patent # 129,053

E. PITCHER.

Improvement in Fish-Hooks.

No. 129,053.

Patented July 16, 1872.



Witnesses:

*Chas. Nida*  
*W. O. Graham*

Inventor:

*Edward Pitcher*

PER

*Munnell*  
Attorneys.

The fishhook invented by Edward Pitcher is of the type that relies upon the configuration of the fishing line and the way that it is attached to the fishhook to operate the mechanism. This fishhook is designed so that as the fish pulls on the central bait hook, and thus exerts pressure on the fishing line, two barbed spears are drawn downward and expand slightly, impaling the fish and holding it fast, thus preventing its escape.

From the patent text: "As the fish, in taking the hook, draws upon it, the spear is drawn down, piercing him and rendering it impossible for him to get away from the hook".

When Tim Mierzwa and I wrote our book 13 years, there was only one 1872 Pitcher Fish Hook known to exist in the hands of collector's and it was over 10" in length, and is shown actual size on pg. 37 of that book.....and was erroneously assumed (by me at least), to be the only size that it had come in. Then, about 6 years ago, I came across this much smaller version.

This is the largest disparity in trap sizes that I have ever seen.....Fish or Animal.....(From the collection of William Blauser)

<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/41/68/b3/23b1366aafb563/US129053.pdf>

Showing both sizes side by side below for comparison, with quarter for scale. Note that even the thickness and mass of all the components are proportionately sized. Both are beautifully japanned and appear unfished.



Small size shown in the set position, with quarter for scale.



Small size shown below in the set position hanging pendant as it would in the water... measuring 5.25" in total length as shown.



Shown below in the sprung position, measuring 3.5" in total length as shown.....note the quality of the black-japanning.



