

Hand-Forged Fish Trap with Dual Spikes

By William Blauser

This is a very early killer fish trap from Austria, possibly dating back into the 1700's. It uses a certain type of antiquated spring which is referred to as a "flat" spring, which was last used commercially in the U.S. for a spring-hook in 1875. This hand-forged trap, which is known to have been made in a larger size (see photo at bottom), does not use a single-spiked striking arm to kill its victim, but rather an arm which has dual spikes. It is crudely made from steel and spring-steel and genius in design. This is possibly the earliest style of a metal killer trap for fish ever made., and is extremely rare....(from the collection of William Blauser).

Shown below in the sprung position. Measures 4 inches by 4 inches.



Shown below with Chap Stick for scale, which measures 2.5" inches.



To set the trap as shown below, the spring is first compressed, which allows the striking arm to rotate upon its pin, so that the L-shaped extension opposite the dual spikes is able to latch into the notch on the piece attached to the S-shaped line-tie, which spins around its own pin and serves as the “dog” of this trap.



In the photo below, looking down the striking arm.



As these traps are hand-forged by individual blacksmiths, there would have been naturally size variations, with a skilled blacksmith being able to produce this in any size he wanted or was paid to make.

This trap shown below next to a larger one.

