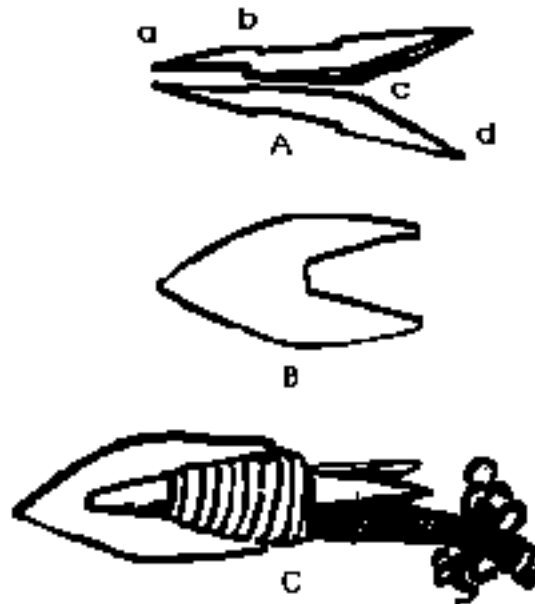
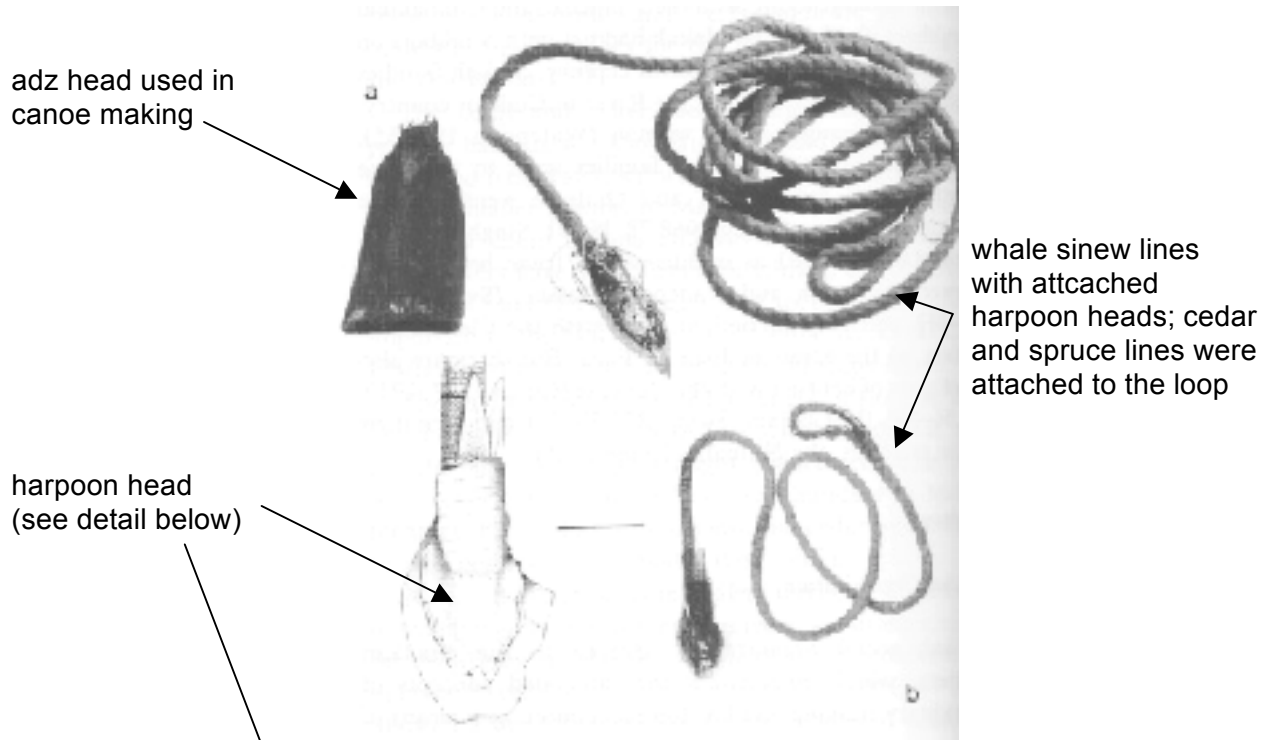


Native American Whaling Tools



The cutting point of the harpoon was of mussel shell, shaped as in sketch b. This could not be socketed to receive the shaft, so it was held on with two pincers of elkhorn, shown at a. These were so shaped that, when brought tight together, they left a gap from a to b, just wide enough to hold the shell point. On their inner sides, from b to c, there was a groove where the handle or shaft would fit. From c to d, they tapered into points or barbs, which would stick into the animal's flesh and prevent the harpoon head from falling out.



Makah line spool with carved whale tail handles.
Used to store cedar shoot or other lines