United States Patent [19]

Rhodes

[11] **3,748,682**

[45] **July 31, 1973**

[54] **OIL MOP**

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[73] Assignee: **Oil Mop, Inc.,** New Orleans, La.

[22] Filed: **July 27, 1971**

[21] Appl. No.: **166,458**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **15/229 R,** 210/DIG. 21

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47l 13/20,** E02b 15/04

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 15/229 R, 229 A, 15/229 AP, 229 B, 229 BP, 226, 147 R, 147 A, 147 B, 147 C; 28/DIG. 1; 210/DIG. 21

[56] **References Cited**

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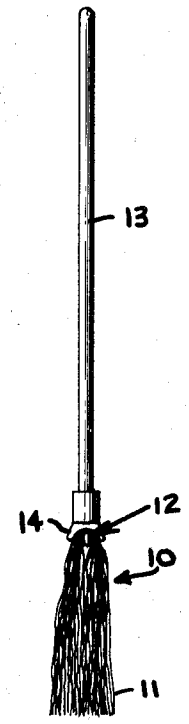
Article Entitled "Yarns from Film Fibrillation," Modern Textile Magazine, July 1967, pp. 29 and 30.

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure is directed to an oil mop for use by an individual person for removing oil from the top of an oil-water mixture and is directed to the use of narrow thin gauge strips of a petrophilic, aerophobic, hydrophobic material such as fibrillated polypropylene which when dipped into oil and water sops up the oil and leaves the water. A mop so constructed is attached to a handle and may be passed over the oil covered surface similar to mopping a floor and the oil wrung out into any container.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Figures



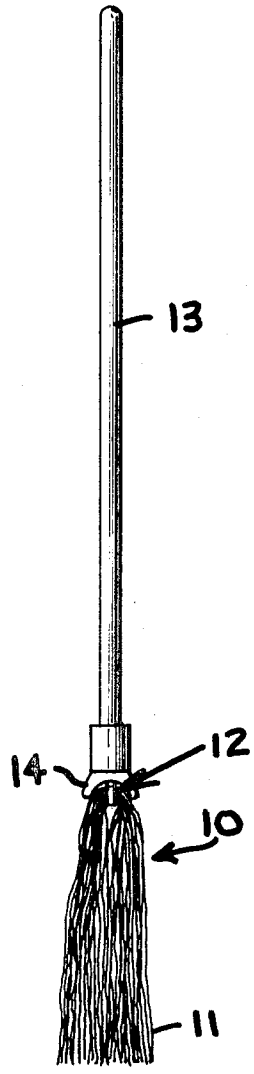


FIG. 1

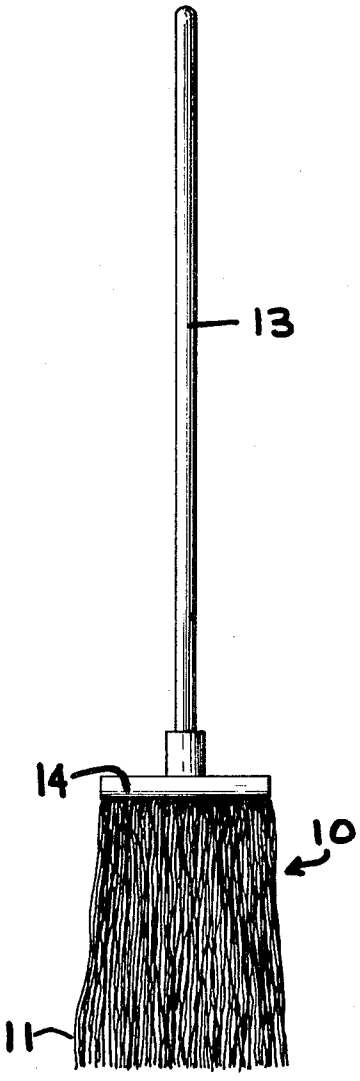


FIG. 2

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OIL MOP

An object of the present invention is the provision of an inexpensive quickly attached mop which may be quickly applied by an individual or group of individuals to quickly protect the shore line from an oil or gas spillage to protect for example a shore line or dock facility.

Another object of the present invention is the application of a mop to oil which will pick up only the oil and leave the water.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the drawings, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts throughout the several views:

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of a mop constructed in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a front elevational view of the mop of FIG. **1**.

Referring now to the drawings, **10** designates a one pound mop head comprised of a large number of thin gauge narrow strips of a petrophilic, aerophobic, hydrophobic material such as polypropylene **11** which have been bent back upon themselves at **12** and joined along their width, as shown by the arrow in FIG. **2**, as by sewing, braiding or welding to join the group into a

wide mop. The properties of the thin gauge narrow strips of polypropylene are shown and described in my copending U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 52,448 filed July 6, 1970, now U.S. Pat. No. 3,668,118 patented June 6, 1972, entitled AN OIL MOP AND METHOD OF USING SAME. An example of the narrow thin gauge strips are polypropylene 2.0 mils thick by ⅛ inch wide by 36 inches long.

The mop head **10** is attached to a handle **13** by clamping at **14** in a conventional manner.

The mop is employed in the same manner as a floor mop in its motion for removing oil from the surface of water. The mop when dipped into oil and water sops the oil and leaves the water. With an ordinary squeezer the mop is wrung out into any container to collect the oil.

What I claim is:

1. An oil mop for removing oil from the surface of water comprising a plurality of lengths of narrow thin gauge strips of polypropylene of the order of 2.0 mils thick by ⅛ inch wide, means joining the lengths of strips of polypropylene in an area proximate the midpoints of their length, and handle means secured to said joined area to fashion same into an oil mop so that only the oil is removed from an oil water mixture.

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