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BATHTUB APRON CONSTRUCTION

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FIG. 1

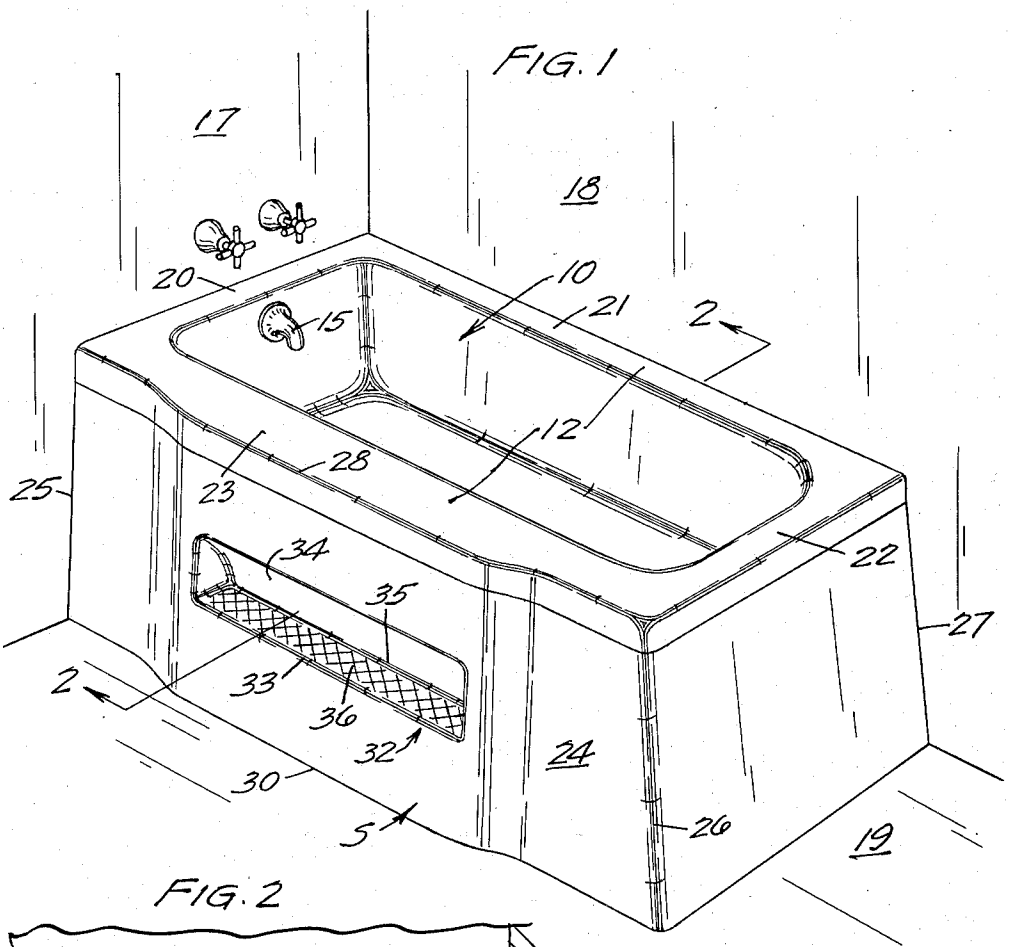
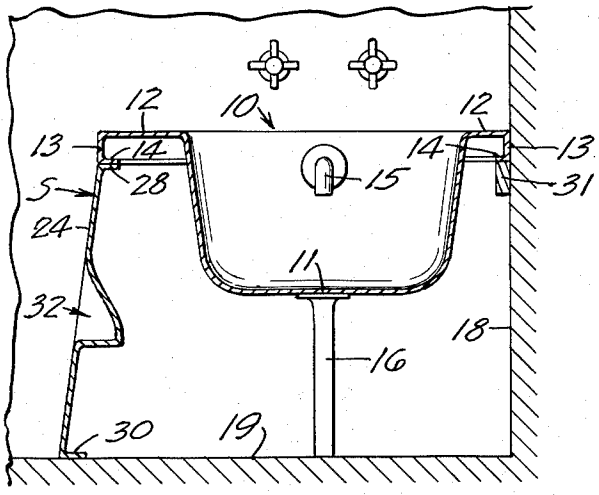


FIG. 2



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BATHTUB APRON CONSTRUCTION

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4 Claims. (Cl. 4—173)

This invention relates to bathtubs, and more particularly to a bathtub apron construction to be used with conventional plumbed bathtubs.

In ordinary bathtub structures, the tub itself is placed upon or in close proximity to the floor, and in some instances, the tub is placed in a depression or opening formed in the floor. The tub may or may not be provided with a short side panel which is designed to make the tub neat and pleasing in appearance. Unfortunately, the ordinary bathtub, regardless of its construction, is not easy for the user to clean because the lower, side and bottom portions are quite near the floor and require the user to bend down and to reach out in uncomfortable and awkward manner. This difficulty is further aggravated when the tub is recessed in the floor.

It has been customary in prior art to consider the ease of getting in and out of a bathtub as the most important factor in the design and installation thereof, and substantially no attention has been directed to the problem of cleaning and wiping the interior of the tub after use.

It is an important object of this invention to overcome the above noted difficulties and to provide a novel apron structure which will be usable to raise a conventional or special bathtub to a higher level and thereby render it easier to clean.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apron structure which will assist in supporting the weight of a bathtub and, further, has means facilitating the user's entrance and exit from the tub.

A further object is the provision of a neat and harmonious apron structure for a bathtub which will inexpensively and efficiently improve a bathtub assembly and installation.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the several views and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my bathtub apron supporting a bathtub in conjunction with a floor and wall structure; and

Figure 2 is a vertical section of the apron and tub structure in mounted relation taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

With continued reference to the drawing, it is contemplated that my invention be used in conjunction with a more or less conventional bathtub structure, such as the tub generally indicated at **10**. The tub has the usual concave wall structure **11** which terminates upwardly in a margin 12 which extends all the way around the tub. Margin 12 then continues downwardly at 13 and terminates in an inturned flange **14**, as shown in Figure 2. Tub **10** may be of cast iron or steel structure and may be coated or treated with a hard finish such as porcelain or glass. The tub may be provided with fixtures such as the inlet faucet **15** and drain conduit **16**.

The bathtub **10** is adapted to be mounted in a room so as to sit cornerwise between two walls **17** and **18**, as

shown in Figure 1. The floor **19** is the reference plane with which we are concerned and it is understood that, in some instances, the bathtub **10** may interfit with wall structure at three sides so that the head portion **20** of margin **12**, as well as the rear **21** and the foot **22**, may be in contact with wall structure. In the form shown however, only the head and rear portions **20** and **21** are in contact with walls **17** and **18** to show the more complicated situation to which my invention can be adapted. The forward portion **23** of margin **12** is always free and clear of wall surfaces.

An important feature of my invention is the apron structure indicated generally at S which is preferably formed from sheet steel and coated with porcelain or enamel to closely match or complement the color scheme of the tub **10**. The apron S has a generally vertical sheet body **24** which extends from the end **25** to the corner **26** and thence around to terminate at end **27** in contact with wall **18** unless tub **10** is surrounded at three sides by wall structure, as previously noted, in which case the portion of the sheet body extending from corner **26** to end **27** becomes unessential. Sheet body **24** has a horizontal upper supporting edge **28** which comprises an inturned flange adapted to contact the inturned flange **14** of margin **12** at its forward portion **23**, as shown. Flange **28** is intended to support the marginal flange **14** along the forward portion and to follow the contours thereof to render a pleasing appearance as well as to supply a continuous area which can be easily cleaned and which will not provide crevices or recesses for dirt to collect. For additional rigidity, the end **25** may be provided with an inturned flange formed integrally with the upper supporting edge **28** or independently thereof.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 1, the upper supporting edge **28** continues around the body to support the foot portion **22** of margin **12** and to terminate at the end **27** in contact with wall **18**, as shown.

The sheet body **24** also has a lower horizontal edge **30** which rests upon the floor **19** beneath the edge margins **12** of tub **10**, which lower horizontal edge **30** may comprise an inturned flange similar to that at the upper edge **28**. As previously noted, the lower horizontal flange **30** may extend around corner **26** to wall **18**, remaining in contact with floor **19** all the while. The sheet body **24** may be normal to the floor **19** or may slope gently outwardly from the upper edge **28** down to the lower edge **30**, as shown in the drawing.

An important feature of my invention resides in the height of the apron S which will position the tub **10** at a height substantially above the floor **19**. Such arrangement is, of course, in contradistinction to the conventional positioning of tub **10** in which the concave bottom structure **11** is normally adjacent the level of floor **19** or may even be recessed therebelow. The present invention contemplates that tub **10** be positioned at a height such that a normal user can easily reach all portions thereof when cleaning and wiping the exposed surfaces thereof after use. Support bar means **31** are secured in horizontal position so as to support the inturned flange **14** of rear margin portion **21**, as shown in Figure 2.

Intermediate the upper and lower edges **28** and **30** respectively, I provide a step shown generally at **32**, which step is inwardly offset from the general plane of the sheet body **24**. The step is provided with a tread **33** which extends horizontally inward from the sheet body **24** and a riser **34** which joins with rear edge **35** of the tread **33** and extends upwardly to join again with the general plane of sheet body **24**. An abrasive or roughened surface **36** may be provided on the tread **33** so that it will not be slippery even when wet. The entire step **32** can be formed by stamping the step from the one piece sheet body **24** which will maintain the continuity of the entire

apron to create a pleasing appearance as well as sanitary conditions. As shown, the step 32 lies intermediate the upper and lower edges 28 and 30 and permits a user to step thereon when getting into and out of the tub 10. The lower edge 30 of the sheet body 24 is not outwardly of the forward margin 20 to such an extent as will render difficult standing in front of the apron while cleaning out the tub 10.

It will be observed that my apron structure makes it possible for a user to easily clean a tub structure without bending or reaching in awkward positions and, at the same time, provides means for getting into and out of the tub easily. Still further, my apron structure provides secure support for the tub and adapts itself to a variety of architectural installations. In all cases, the apron is of pleasing appearance and, itself, sanitary and easily cleaned.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details and arrangement of the parts without departing from the scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a bathtub assemblage utilizing a conventional bathtub having a basin and an upper side edge located approximately at knee height when the basin rests upon a floor, a supporting apron adapted to be secured edgewise at the side of said bathtub positioned in spaced relation above a supporting floor, said apron having a generally vertical sheet body, a horizontal upper supporting edge on said sheet for positioning underneath a side edge of the bathtub, a lower horizontal edge on the sheet for resting upon a floor beneath the side edge, and a step inwardly offset from the sheet medially of the upper and lower edges, said apron being of such height as to raise the upper side edge of the tub a distance above the floor approximating waist height.

2. In a bathtub assemblage utilizing a conventional bathtub having a basin and an upper side edge located approximately at knee height when the basin rests upon a floor, a supporting apron adapted to be secured edgewise at the side of said bathtub positioned in spaced relation above a supporting floor, said apron having a generally vertical sheet body, an inturned flange horizontally formed at the upper edge of said sheet and defining a support for the underside of a bathtub at the edge portion thereof, an inturned flange horizontally formed at the lower edge of said sheet and defining a bearing support for contact with a floor beneath the edge portions of said tub, and a step inwardly offset from the sheet medially of the upper and lower edges, said apron being

of such height as to raise the upper side edge of the tub a distance above the floor approximating waist height.

3. In a bathtub assemblage utilizing a conventional bathtub having a basin and an upper side edge located approximately at knee height when the basin rests upon a floor, a supporting apron adapted to be secured edgewise at the side of said bathtub positioned in spaced relation above a supporting floor, said apron having an upstanding sheet body, a horizontal upper supporting edge on said sheet for positioning underneath a side edge of the bathtub, a lower horizontal edge on the sheet for resting upon a floor beneath the side edge, said sheet body sloping downwardly and outwardly from the upper to the lower edge thereof, a step having a horizontal tread extending inwardly toward a bathtub when supported on said apron, said step further having a reversely bent riser standing outwardly to join a sheet body, said step being positioned medially of the upper and lower edges of said sheet body, the vertical distance between said upper and lower edges being such as to raise the upper side edge of the tub a distance above the floor approximating waist height.

4. In a bathtub assemblage utilizing a conventional bathtub haivng a basin and an upper side edge located approximately at knee height when the basin rests upon a floor, a supporting apron adapted to be secured edgewise at the side of said bathtub positioned in spaced relation above a supporting floor, said apron having a generally vertical sheet body, a horizontal upper supporting edge formed integrally with said sheet for positioning underneath a side edge of the bathtub, a lower horizontal edge formed integrally with said sheet body for resting upon a floor beneath the side edge and somewhat outwardly therefrom, said sheet body being adapted to continuously coextend between exposed bathtub side margins to the floor and in wall-to-wall relation, a step having a horizontal tread and upwardly extending risers integrally stamped in said sheet body at a position medially of the upper and lower edges thereof, the total height of the apron being such as to raise the upper side edge of the tub a distance above the floor approximating waist height.

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