Feb. 21, 1967 C. P. HUBERT 3,304,950

WATER CATCHER FOR WASHING MACHINE

Filed Oct. 31, 1963

FIG. 1

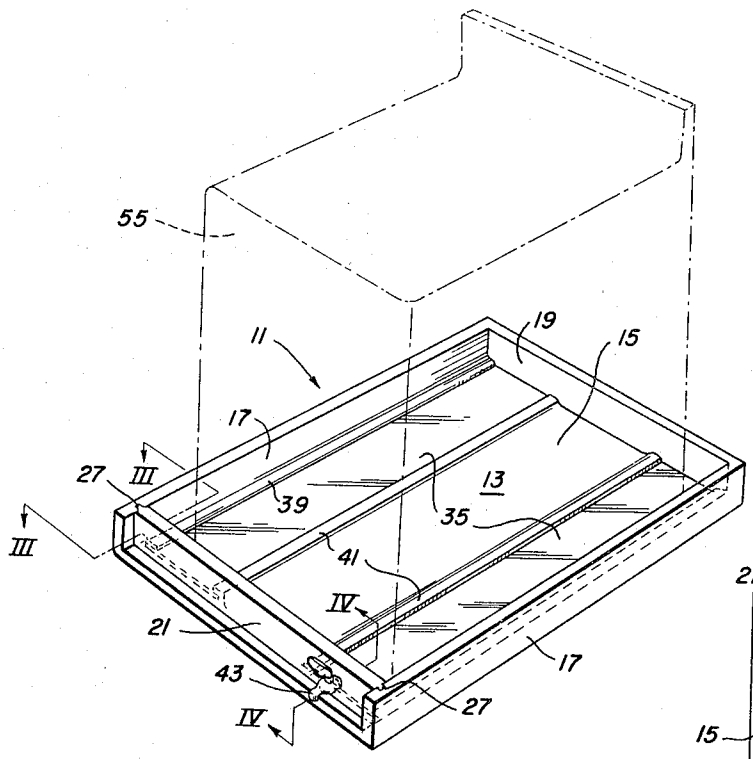


FIG. 3

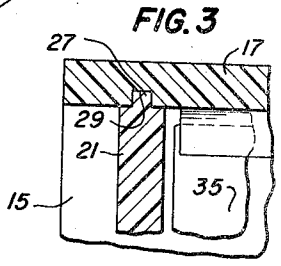


FIG. 2

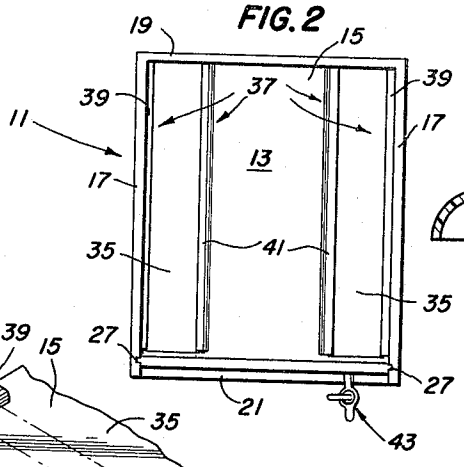


FIG. 4

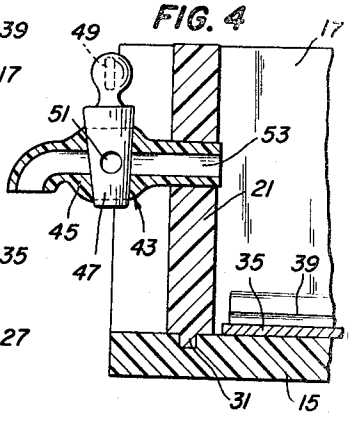
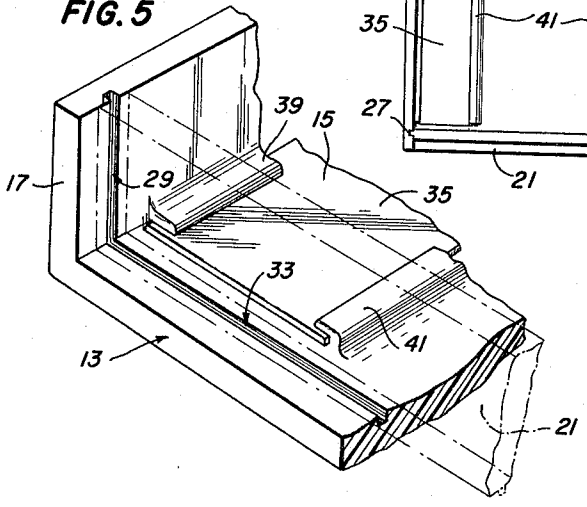


FIG. 5



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WATER CATCHER FOR WASHING MACHINE

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This invention relates to a novel water catcher for a domestic type clothes washing machine.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a water catcher which is adapted to be placed under a washing machine so that, in the event the washing machine becomes defective, the water therefrom will be prevented from leaking onto and damaging the floor, and will serve as a temporary expediency until the washer can be repaired.

A further object is to provide a water catcher having a drain valve or spigot for draining water from the device.

A further object is to provide a water catcher having a removable gate in the forward end thereof, whereby the washer may be easily slid into and out of the device.

A further object is to provide a water catcher which is light-weight yet strong and durable.

A further object is to provide a device of substantially simple and inexpensive construction and, as such, can be marketed at an inexpensive price.

The means by which the foregoing and other objects of the present invention are accomplished and the manner of their accomplishment will be readily understood from the following specification upon reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the device of the present invention illustrated as in use with a washing machine, which is shown in broken lines.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the device of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a horizontal fragmentary sectional view taken as on the line III—III of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a vertical fragmentary sectional view taken as on the line IV—IV of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view of the left front corner of the device as seen in FIG. 1, and with the gate being shown in broken lines for purposes of clarity.

Referring now to the drawings in which the various parts are indicated by numerals, the water catcher of the present invention, designated at **11**, comprises wall means defining a base structure **13**, which base structure includes a bottom wall **15**, side walls **17**, and a back wall **19**. The bottom, side and back walls are preferably molded of plastic material and define substantially a generally rectangular scoop-like structure, with the side and back walls upstanding from the bottom wall adjacent the side and back edges thereof.

An elongated and vertical gate **21** is slidably attached at the front of base structure **13** oppositely disposed from back wall **19**. Gate **21** is of plastic material, as is base structure **13**, and extends transversely between side walls **17**.

Corresponding tongue and groove means respectively integrally formed of base structure **13** and gate **21** sealingly and slidably secure the gate **21** to base structure **13**. The tongue and groove means preferably includes tongue means, which extend along the bottom and side edges of elongated gate **21**, and corresponding groove means formed along the front inside portions of bottom wall **15** and side walls **17** of base structure **13**. Thus, oppositely disposed end tongues **27** are disposed vertically along the opposite ends of gate **21**, and corresponding grooves **29** in the side walls **17** provide oppositely disposed sliding joints to removably secure gate **21** to

base structure **13**. Tongue **31**, extending along the bottom of gate **21**, receivably engages groove **33** in bottom wall **15** of base structure **13**. The tongue and groove portions of gate **21** and base structure **13**, respectively, should be close-fitting so as to provide a water-tight seal between these parts, but not so close as to hinder the sliding removal of gate **21** from base structure **13**.

Runner means of substantially heavy gauge sheet metal material is provided and preferably includes a pair of spaced parallel and elongated runner plates **35** disposed in flat engagement on the top surface of bottom wall **15** and along respective side walls **17**. Cleat means **37** attach runner plates **35** to bottom wall **15**, and thus each of plates **35** is preferably attached by a wall cleat **39** and a bottom cleat **41**. Cleat means **37** are formed integrally with base structure **13**, with wall cleat **39** and bottom cleat **41** projecting respectively from the bottom and side walls of base structure **13**. Each of wall cleats **39** extend inwardly from a respective wall **17** and a short distance over the outer edge portion of a respective runner plate **35**. Each of bottom cleats **41** is L-shaped and extends upwardly and engageably over the respective inner edge portion of a respective plate **35**. Cleats **39**, **41** preferably extend the whole length of the respective runner plates **35**.

A hand-operable valve **43**, preferably of plastic material, is provided and is preferably fitted in gate **21**. Valve **43** is of the usual spigot type and includes a body **45**, a barrel **47** turnably fitted in body **45**, and a handle **49** attached to barrel **47**. Turning handle **49** covers or uncovers port **51** in barrel **47** to respectively close or open passageway **53** in body **45**.

To use water catcher **11**, gate **21** is first slidingly removed from base structure **13**. The washer, as washer **55** in FIG. 1, is then slid over runner plates **35** and onto base structure **13**. The washer is then positioned in the device, and gate **21** is installed. After the washer has run for some time, the water which has been caught by water catcher **11** may be drained into a container by opening valve **43**, so that continued use of the washer is permitted if repair is delayed.

From the foregoing, it is readily seen that the present invention provides an inexpensive and practical device that may be quickly placed under a faulty washing machine, thereby eliminating the messy and damaging effect of water leaking and standing on the floor. It will be understood that the present device may be made in different sizes to handle all machines.

Although the present invention has been described and illustrated with respect to a preferred embodiment thereof, it is to be understood that it is not to be so limited since changes and modifications may be made therein which are within the full intended scope of this invention as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A water catcher for a domestic type clothes washer comprising wall means including a rectangular horizontally disposed substantially flat bottom wall and three side walls attached to and extending a short distance upwardly from three respective sides of said bottom wall, an elongated gate, means removably and sealingly securing said gate across the remaining and fourth side of said bottom wall and between the parallel spaced side walls of said three side walls, said wall means and said gate being of substantially rigid plastic material and with said wall means being integrally formed, runner means of substantially heavy gauge sheet metal, and attachment means attaching said runner means on said bottom wall with said runner means being in flat engagement with said bottom wall; said water catcher being adapted to be placed on the floor with said gate removed, a washer to be slid along said sheet metal runner means, and then

with said gate installed being adapted to catch water leaking from a washer.

2. The device of claim 1 in which said means removably and sealingly securing said gate comprises mating tongue and groove means respectively integrally formed of said gate and in said wall means.

3. The device of claim 1 in which said attachment means attaching said sheet metal runner means on said bottom wall comprises cleat means integrally formed with and projecting from said wall means and extending engagingly over said sheet metal runner means.

4. The device of claim 1 in which said sheet metal runner means includes two separate elongated sheet metal glide members, with each of said glide members being attached to said bottom wall along a respective side of said parallel spaced side walls.

5. The device of claim 1 which includes a hand operable valve installed in said gate for draining water from the device.

6. A water catcher for use with a domestic type clothes washer comprising a base structure including a bottom wall and wall means upstanding around at least a portion of said bottom wall, upstanding gate means provided across the remaining portion around said bottom wall to complete the surrounding of said bottom wall to establish means for catching and holding water which might leak from a clothes washer, means removably and sealingly securing said gate means to said wall means to provide a watertight seal, said gate means being removable for allowing a washer to be placed in said water catcher and removed therefrom, and runner means on said bottom wall for providing the means on which a washer is adapted to move in being placed and removed from said water catcher.

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