

M. A. MORSE.
WASHBOARD.
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1,043,623.

Patented Nov. 5, 1912.

Fig 1

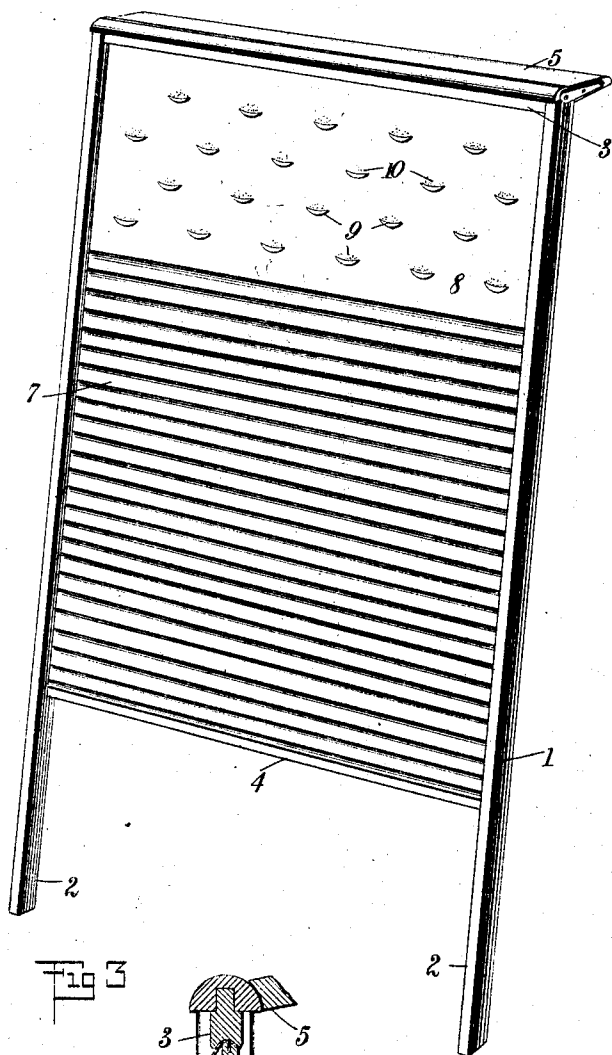


Fig 2

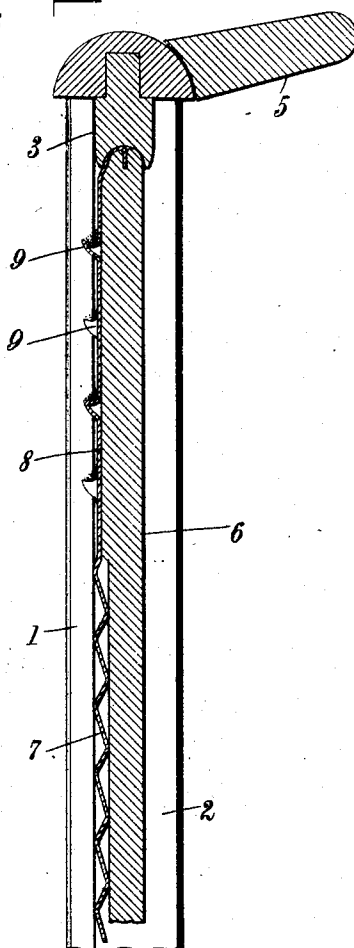
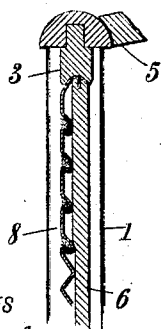


Fig 3



WITNESSES

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MARTHA A. MORSE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

WASHBOARD.

1,043,623.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTHA A. MORSE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, (borough of Brooklyn,) in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Washboard, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to washboards, and the object thereof is to provide a construction of this sort having improved means for retaining the soap or other cleaning agent that may be used, in convenient position, with a view to its ready application by the user to the cloth which is being rubbed upon the board for the purpose of cleaning the same.

To this end it comprises a washboard having the usual corrugated portion surmounted by a section of any suitable material, which is provided with a plurality of pockets in which the soap or other cleaning agent is placed. The pockets or the like each hold a given quantity of the cleaning agent, and they are arranged across the top portion of the board, so that the user can apply the soap to the cloth in the course of the operation of washing, by merely raising the cloth above the corrugated portion of the washboard and rubbing it once or twice over the soap-holding section at the top of the board, with the result that when the cloth is passed over the soap-holding section in this way, as much soap is taken up by the folds of the cloth as they pass across the pockets as is required by the particular garment that is being washed out.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which the same characters of reference indicate the same parts in all the views.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved washboard; Fig. 2 represents a vertical longitudinal section therethrough; and Fig. 3 represents a detail view of a modification.

On the drawings the numeral 1 represents the sides or legs of the washboard frame, which are united at the top and adjacent the bottom by transverse strips 3 and 4. Pivoted to the top of the board is a guard 5, this guard normally projecting forward when the board is in use, to prevent soap

and water from being splashed against the user.

The frame of the board is filled with a body or web 6, which serves as a support or brace for the sheet of zinc or other suitable metal in which are stamped corrugations 7, against which the clothes or other garments are rubbed. The corrugated portion may have transverse corrugations stamped therein of any ordinary shape, and this corrugated portion is surmounted by means of a section 8 having a number of transverse rows of projections 9. The section 8 may have the projections 9 stamped therefrom, and the top of these projections are depressed slightly so as to form pockets, as shown particularly in Fig. 2, these pockets each receiving a small quantity of soap 10. In the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the corrugated portion 7 and the upper section 8 are shown as being stamped out of a single sheet of metal, but it is obvious that I may make the two parts separate if desired, or that I may even employ wood or some other material for the section 8, so long as this section is formed with the pockets shown at 9, as described.

The edges of the pockets 9 will of course be rounded off so that they will not tear the folds of the cloth that come in contact with the same; and the pockets themselves may be filled with soap shavings, or they may be loaded by simply rubbing a bar of soap across them, in which operation the edges of each of the projections 9 in which the pockets are formed will peel off as much soap as their capacity permits.

The utility of my improved washboard will now be apparent. When clothes are to be washed the pockets are filled with soap in the manner above described, and whenever soap is to be applied to the garment that is being rubbed on the corrugated portions 7, the operator merely raises the wet folds of cloth high enough to enable them to be rubbed once or twice across the face of the section 8: In passing across the section 8, the cloth will wipe off as much of the cleaning agent in the pockets 9 as conditions require, and the result is that the operation of washing can be carried through with the saving of a great deal of the labor that must be expended when using washboards of ordinary construction.

In practice, I have found it is very often

unnecessary after the section 8 has once been wiped over with a wet garment for the purpose of soaping the same, to rub the folds of the garments that are subsequently washed, over the face of the section 8. This is because, when the surface of the board 8 has once been made wet, the water dissolves some of the soap in the pockets 9 and causes it to flow down upon the corrugated portion 7. As a result, the soap or other cleaning agent is applied to the garment that is being washed on this part of the board while the garment is being rubbed over the corrugations, and is automatically distributed over the cloth during the rubbing process.

Fig. 3 represents a modification in which the pockets are depressed inward from the front face of the board 8 instead of outward, as shown in the other views, but the principle and purpose of this construction are the same.

In both forms of board shown on the drawings, I make the sheet of zinc or other suitable metal having the corrugations, and the projections or depressions formed thereon over the portion not occupied by the corrugations, in a single piece to form the face of the washboard. In making this piece the die is so formed as to stamp the sheet of metal so as to give it its final shape in one operation; that is to say, the corrugations and the projections or depressions are stamped therein simultaneously, and when the sheet is removed from the machine it is ready to be applied to the board at once.

In practice I may make the section 8 slightly concave, but I prefer the form shown in the figures wherein it is made flat.

I may apply it to a washboard of any construction or form, as it will be understood that my invention relates to the means for soaping the garments, herein shown and described, without the necessity of rubbing the garments that are being washed, by hand, these means being shown embodied in the form of the section 8 which has the soap-holding and retaining devices in the form of pockets, as set forth; and I wish to have it understood that I reserve to myself the right to make whatever small changes in the shape, size and arrangement of the parts fairly fall within the scope and spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

An improved washboard having a plurality of pockets formed on the front face of the same above the corrugations against which the article to be washed is rubbed, the edges of said pockets being acute to enable them to engage a bar of soap and shave off particles therefrom when the soap is rubbed over the edges of said pockets, whereby the said pockets may be filled with said particles, the said edges being blunted to a sufficient extent to enable them to avoid tearing the article to be washed when the same is rubbed over the pockets to apply the soap to the same.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MARTHA A. MORSE.

Witnesses:

CHARLES F. MORSE,
LOUIS T. MORSE.