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SUPPORTING STRUCTURE FOR INFANT'S BATHING DEVICE

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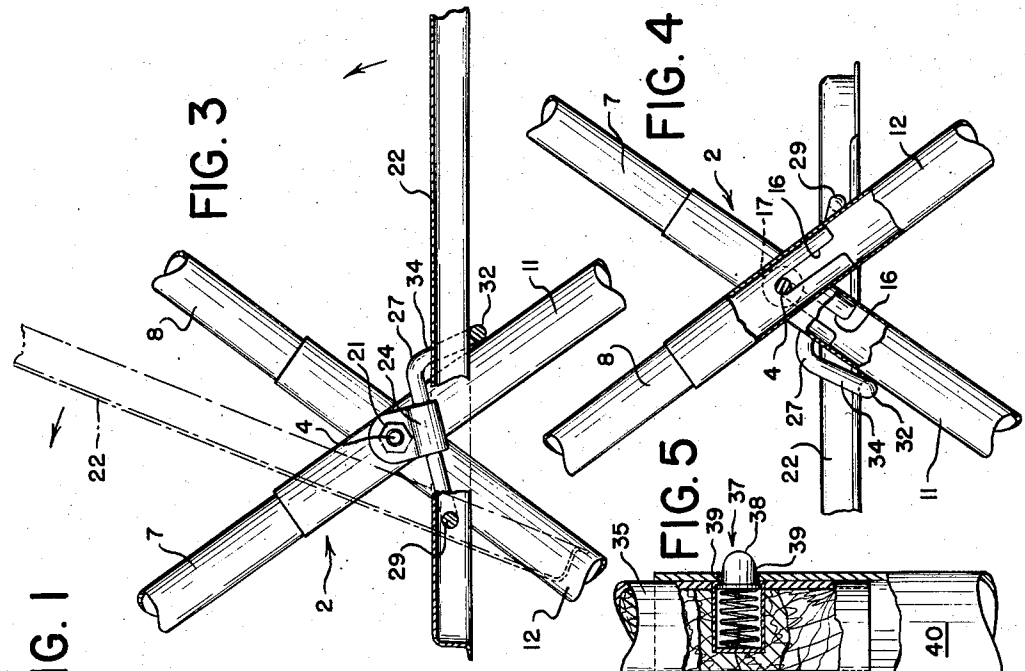


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

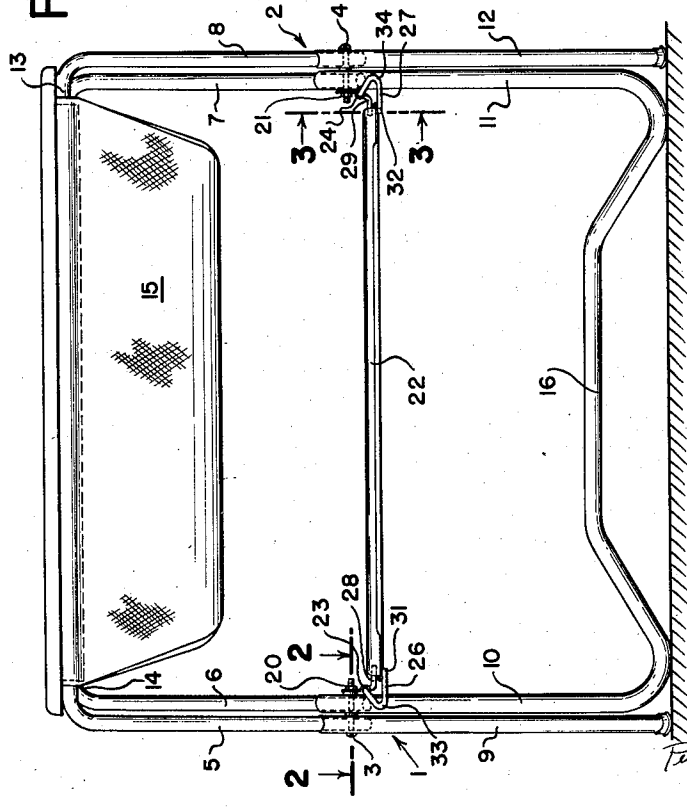


FIG. 1

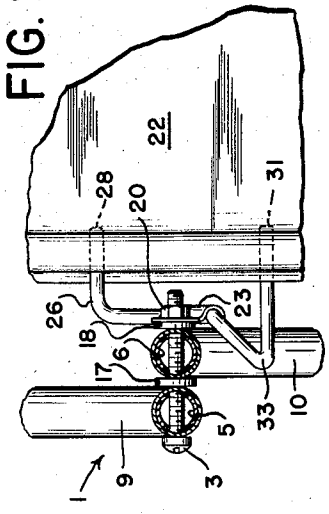


FIG. 2

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SUPPORTING STRUCTURE FOR INFANT'S BATHING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—83)

This invention relates to infant's bathing devices of the type having a frame including two pairs of foldable cross-legs with interconnecting longitudinal rails supporting a flexible tub, a dressing table arranged to assume an operative position overlying the tub and an inoperative upright position at the rear of the tub, and a shelf pivotally connected to the frame beneath the tub, and has for its object the provision of certain improvements in such bathing devices. More particularly, my invention provides improvements in the construction and arrangement of the cross-legs and in the supporting means for the shelf.

The improved infant's device of the invention has cross-legs formed in two parts, the lower parts being pivotally connected together and the upper parts being removably connected to the lower parts at a place above the pivotal connection, the lower parts being connected together and having a shelf mounted on the pivotal connection, and the upper parts being connected together by longitudinal rails which support a flexible tub.

In a preferred embodiment of my invention I provide a frame formed of tubular metal members in which the upper parts of the legs are integral with the rear and front longitudinal rails, and the lower parts of the front legs are preferably integral with a lower front rail. One important feature of the invention is that the cross-legs are detachable at a position above their axes so that when the legs are disconnected they form two half parts which are each about one-half the height of the device. The upper parts of the legs are telescopically connected to the lower parts of the legs and the lower parts of the legs may be connected together with pivot pins which form the axes on which the cross-legs can be opened when the device is to be used or closed when the device is to be stored or shipped. The legs may also be connected with a suitable catch which holds the upper parts of the legs to the lower parts.

The usual bathing devices require a package of considerable volume which is reduced at least one-half in volume for packaging the bathing devices of the invention. This material reduction in the size of the package gives important advantages and these are reflected in the cost of the package, the cost of shipping, the cost of warehouse storage, and the cost of delivery to the customer. All of the parts of the complete bathing device on both the upper and lower leg parts are assembled or attached at the factory, and the purchaser does not have to assemble more than the upper and lower parts.

One important feature of the invention is that the upper parts of the legs, being disconnectable above the pivotal axes, are held together by the integral longitudinal rails and, therefore, the entire upper structure of the device including the tub and table is held together. Also the lower parts of the legs are connected together by the axis pins and are held in proper spaced relation by the lower front rail. One other important feature of the invention is that the lower parts of the cross-legs can be connected together with short bolts which secure the leg parts

together and also provide a pivotal support for the shelf.

These and other novel features of the invention will be better understood after considering the following discussion taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of an infant's bathing device embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view at 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view at 3—3 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 with parts removed, and

Fig. 5 illustrates a modification of leg connecting means.

The infant's bathing device illustrated in Fig. 1 comprises two pairs of cross-legs **1** and **2** pivotally connected together by bolts **3** and **4**. The cross-legs comprise upper parts **5**, **6**, **7** and **8** which are telescopically connected to lower parts **9**, **10**, **11** and **12** respectively. In the construction illustrated, the entire supporting frame is formed of tubular metal, the upper parts **5** and **8** being integral with the longitudinal supporting bar **13** and the upper parts **6** and **7** being integral with the longitudinal supporting bar **14**. These longitudinal bars support a flexible bathing tub **15**. The legs formed of parts **6** and **10** and **7** and **11** will be referred to as the front legs while the legs formed of parts **5** and **9** and **8** and **12** will be referred to as the back legs. The lower parts **10** and **11** are integral with a lower longitudinal rail **16** which is generally U-shaped to provide clearance for one's feet, and rigidity.

The upper leg portions **5** and **6** and **7** and **8** are freely slidable inside the lower portions **9** and **10** and **11** and **12** respectively and when removed the upper leg parts are held in proper spaced position by reason of their connection with the longitudinal rails **13** and **14**. The lower leg parts **9** and **10** and **11** and **12** are also held in proper spaced position by reason of the bolts **3** and **4** and the connection of parts **10** and **11** with the lower longitudinal rail **16**. As best shown in Fig. 4, the upper leg parts have longitudinal slots **16** which straddle the pivot bolts **3** and **4** when the legs are connected together as shown in the drawings. As best shown in Fig. 2, the bolts pass through both leg portions and washers **17** and **18** which are used to provide increased bearing surface and to facilitate the pivotal action of the cross-legs. When the legs are connected together, as shown in the drawings, and the nuts **20** and **21** are tightened the lower leg parts **9** and **10** and **11** and **12** are squeezed into gripping engagement with the upper leg parts **5** and **6** and **7** and **8**. These bolts accordingly not only provide the axes on which the cross-legs are pivoted but a means for securing the upper and lower parts of the legs together.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated, the bolts **3** and **4** advantageously provide means for the pivotal connection of the shelf **22** to the cross-legs. This shelf is suspended on sheet metal brackets **23** and **24** which are bent over the secure the arms **26** and **27**. One end **28** and **29** of each arm is inserted in a hole in the end of the shelf and the other end **31** and **32** is bent under the shelf to support the forward end. This mounting of the shelf permits the shelf to be swung to the position as shown in broken lines in Fig. 3 into substantial parallelism with the cross-legs when they are folded together. When the cross-legs are in their open or operative position, as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4 for the use of the tub, the shelf assumes a horizontal position with the curved parts **33** and **34** of the arms bearing on the front lower leg parts **10** and **11** respectively and the parts **31** and **32** supporting the forward edge of the shelf.

Fig. 5 illustrates another suitable means of connecting

an upper leg part to a lower leg part. The upper leg part **35** includes a wooden plug **36**. A hole is bored through the leg and into the wooden plug into which is securely mounted a ball-type snap fastener **37**. When the legs are connected together the round end **38** enters a hole **39** in the larger diameter lower leg part **40** and the two parts are securely held together. The leg parts can be separated by merely pressing the rounded end **38** inwardly against the spring **41** and the two parts may be pulled apart.

I claim:

An improved infant's bathing device having a tubular supporting frame including two pairs of cross-legs being pivotally connected together, the upper parts of the legs being removable from and telescopically connected to the lower parts of the legs at a place above the pivotal connections, longitudinal rails for supporting a flexible tub connected to the upper parts of the legs, said lower parts of the cross-legs having two front leg parts and a lower rail integral with and connecting the two front leg parts together, means for detachably securing the upper and lower parts of the legs together, and means at the pivot connection for the cross-legs for holding the lower parts of the cross-legs together when the upper parts are removed.

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