

C. E. LOETZER.
BERRY WASHING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 4, 1909.

981,205.

Patented Jan. 10, 1911.

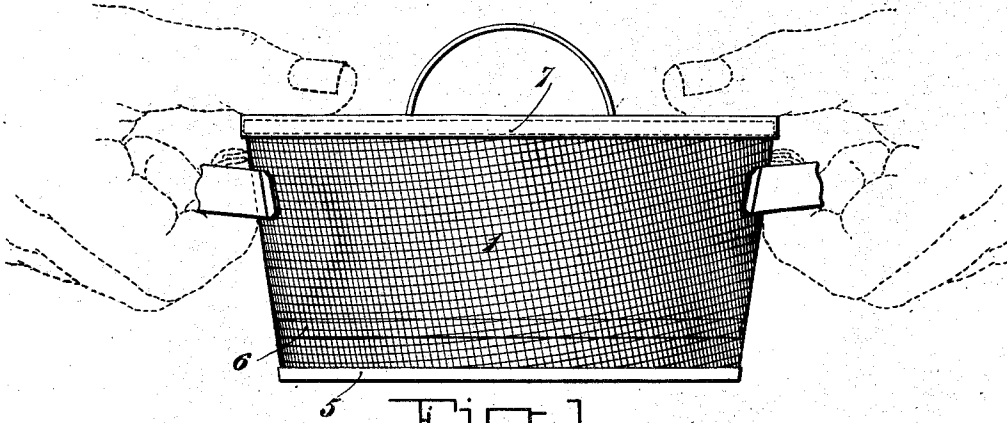


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

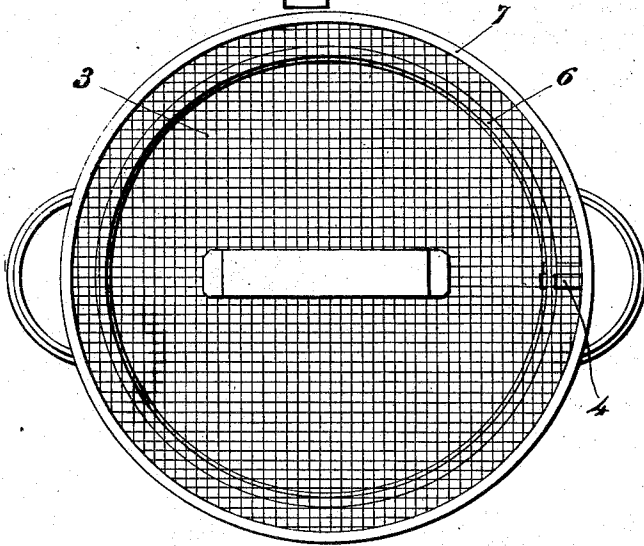


Fig. 3.

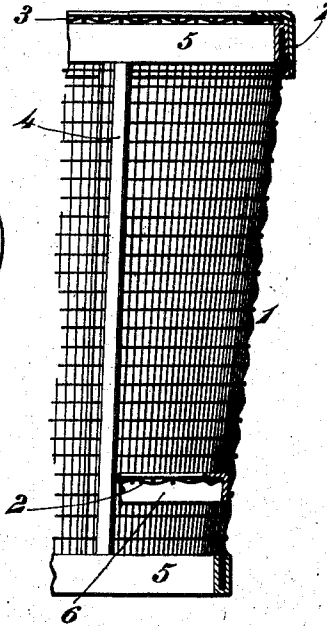
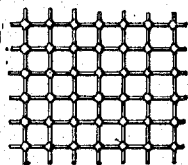


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

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Fig. 5.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN E. LOETZER, OF SAYRE, PENNSYLVANIA.

BERRY-WASHING DEVICE.

981,205.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 10, 1911.

Application filed October 4, 1909. Serial No. 520,853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHRISTIAN E. LOETZER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sayre, in the county of Bradford and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Berry-Washing Devices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to screening receptacles wherein articles of food requiring to be cleansed before use are retained during such cleansing.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a wire-screen vessel that can be used to quickly and thoroughly wash, in a sanitary manner, all kinds of berries, small fruits, small vegetables, dried fruits, etc., preparatory to serving or cooking them.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved construction of wire-screen vessel adapted for the accomplishment of the foregoing object.

The invention will first be described with reference to the accompanying drawings and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a side elevation of an embodiment of the invention, illustrating a manner of using it. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the vessel shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged section taken vertically through the side of the vessel. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view of a portion of the wire screen, showing a preferred mesh full size increased one-third to allow reproduction of the drawing to patent size. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section through the upright seam of the side of the vessel.

Referring to the illustrated embodiment of the invention, 1 denotes the body of the vessel having an open mouth and provided with a raised bottom 2; and 3 denotes a removable cover for the mouth of the vessel.

The body, its bottom, and the cover are each formed of wire netting shaped to the desired form and mounted on a metal frame. The wire netting used is formed of comparatively fine wire and of small mesh so that while permitting the free flow of water through the vessel, it will retain the articles being washed, even though they may be small in size, as peas or huckleberries.

To form the body 1, a section of wire net-

ting is bent into a circular form having a smaller bottom than top, and the ends of the section of netting are inserted and suitably secured, as by soldering, in the adjacent folds of a connecting rib 4 formed by doubling a strip of sheet metal twice upon itself, as shown in detail in Fig. 5. The upper and lower edges of the wire netting forming the body 1 are each provided with an annular rim 5 formed of a strip of sheet metal doubled or folded on the edge of the wire netting and secured thereto by crimping, soldering or otherwise. These rims form a frame that aids in maintaining the body in shape; and they also form a binding for the edges; and the rib 4 may be connected to the rims 5, by soldering or otherwise.

The bottom 2 is formed by securing a circular section of wire netting to the horizontal flange of a sheet metal rim or ring 6 of L-shaped cross-section, the vertical flange of the ring being suitably secured to the inside of the body 1 at the desired distance above its lower edge. It will be observed that the rims 5, the strip or rib 4 which extends between them, and the ring 6 form a skeleton frame for the body 1.

The cover 3 is formed similarly to the bottom 2, a circular section of wire netting being suitably secured, as by soldering, to the horizontal flange of a metal rim or ring 7 of L-shaped cross section, the vertical flange of the ring fitting down around the upper edge of the body 1 when in place on the latter. The body 1 is provided with oppositely disposed lateral handles; and the cover is provided with a handle.

In the use of the device, the articles to be washed, berries for example, are placed in the vessel and the cover placed thereon, the vessel is then grasped, a convenient manner being illustrated in Fig. 1. As there shown, one or more fingers are inserted in the opposite handles of the body, and the thumbs are rested upon the cover holding the latter firmly in place. The vessel may be then submerged in water and agitated; or it may be held under a faucet, the water from which will run through the vessel and cleanse the berries, the vessel being shifted and shaken to bring all of the berries under the stream of water thereby insuring their thorough cleansing. The cover prevents the berries from falling out of the mouth of the vessel during the washing operation; and the

raised bottom insures proper drainage when the vessel is placed upon a support for that purpose.

It will be seen that the invention obviates the necessity of touching the cleansed articles with the hands. Therefore by means of its use articles of food are cleansed in a perfectly sanitary manner preparatory to serving or cooking.

Although the use of the invention has been described in connection with water as the cleansing agent, it will be of course understood that the screen-vessel could be immersed and agitated in a prepared solution of a cleansing or germicidal character and the contents of the vessel thus purified.

The invention is particularly adapted for use in washing and cleansing berries of all kinds, as for example, strawberries, raspberries, huckleberries, cranberries, small fruits, as cherries and grapes, dried fruit products as prunes, beans, peas, raisins and

currents, and small vegetables as radishes, etc.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

A device for use in washing berries and other articles of food, comprising a pan-like vessel and a removable wire-screen cover therefor, the vessel consisting of a skeleton frame composed of top and bottom rings and an intermediate ring near the bottom ring and a rib interposed between said rings, a wire-screen band connecting the top and bottom rings and connected to the intermediate ring and constituting the wall of the vessel, and a wire-screen diaphragm secured within the intermediate ring.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

CHRISTIAN E. LOETZER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM T. CAREY,
EDWARD F. MERCEREAU.