No. 820,081. PATENTED MAY 8, 1906.

E. B. ALLEY & M. J. SOUSA.

PAINT AND VARNISH BRUSH CLEANER.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 11, 1903.

Fig. 1.

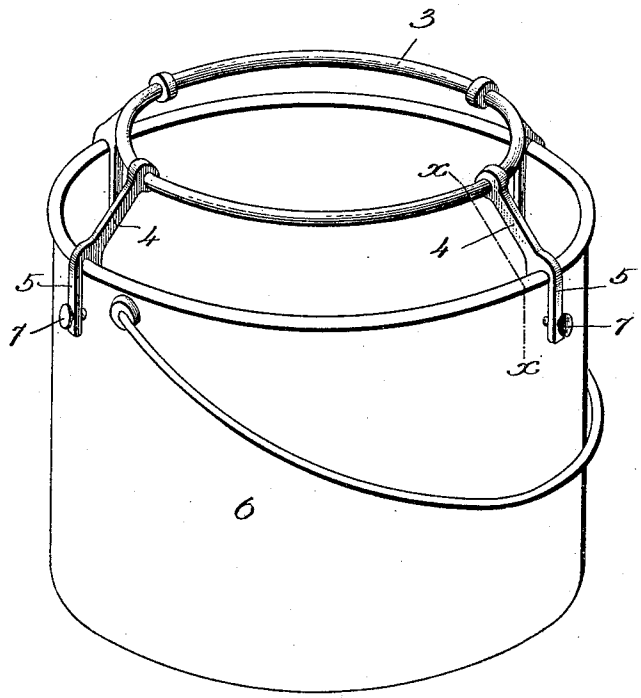
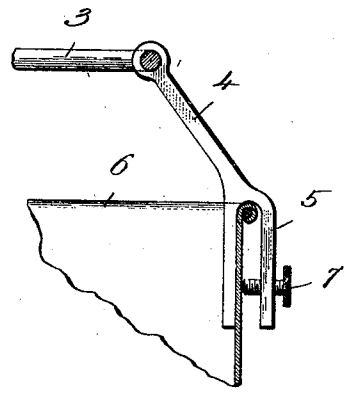


Fig. 2.



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PAINT AND VARNISH BRUSH CLEANER.

No. 820,081. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 8, 1906.

Application filed April 11, 1903. Serial No. 152,170.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EUGENE B. ALLEY, a resident of Watertown, and MANUEL J. SOUSA, a resident of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, citizens of the United States, have invented an Improvement in Paint and Varnish Brush Cleaners, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like figures on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object to provide a novel device for cleaning or wiping brushes, which can be attached to any paint-pail.

It comprises a wiping member, preferably in the form of a ring, and means to support said member above the top of the pail and within the area circumscribed by the rim of the pail, whereby any paint which is wiped out of the brush by the member will drop into the pail.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a paint-pail having our improvements applied thereto; and Fig. 2 is a section on the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

Heretofore paint or varnish pails have been provided with a wiping-wire, which is situated entirely within the pail, said wire being usually soldered across one side of the pail slightly below the rim. With this construction, however, it is almost impossible not to daub the rim of the pail with paint as the brush is wiped across the wire, for the drawing of the brush across the wiping-wire brings the brush against the rim of the pail. After a comparatively short use, therefore, the rim of the pail becomes smeared with paint or varnish, which runs down the outside of the pail, and not only soils whatever the pail is set on, but also causes a great deal of waste. Our invention overcomes these disadvantages, because the wiper is located above the top of the pail and inside of the rim.

In the embodiment of our invention herein illustrated the wiper comprises a ring 3, of wire or other suitable material, which is smaller in diameter than the diameter of the top or mouth of the pail and which is supported above the pail by suitable supports 4. We have herein illustrated these supports or arms 4 as being pivotally mounted upon the ring 3 and as having jaws 5 at their lower ends which set over the rim of the pail 6. With this construction it will be seen that the wiping member or ring is supported above the rim of the pail and yet is within the area bounded by said rim, so that as the brush is wiped across said member for cleaning it any paint which is forced from the brush by the ring will drop into the pail. Furthermore, since the ring is above the rim of the pail it is impossible to bring the brush in contact with said rim, and thus the latter is prevented from being daubed with paint by the brush. The rim and outside of the pail are therefore kept clean, and there is no danger of paint or varnish running down the outside of the pail onto the support on which the pails rest.

We have herein illustrated each jaw 5 as having a clamping-screw 7, by means of which the jaw is clamped to the rim of the pail. This construction, however, is not necessary, as the jaws will hold the wiping-ring in place without such screw. In place of the screw the jaws 5 may be made elastic, so as to clamp the pail between them.

While we have shown our wiping member in the form of a ring, as this is the preferred embodiment of our invention, we do not wish to be limited to a ring, as a wiping member of any shape may be employed so long as means are provided for supporting it above the upper edge of the pail and in such position that the paint will drop from the wiping member into the pail. We do not wish to be limited, therefore, to an annular wiping member. The particular form of supporting member 4 is not essential to our invention, although we have found this form more practical than others.

It will be noted that the device is detachable from the pail, and this we consider as important, because it permits the device to be shifted from one pail to another as desired.

The invention may also be used with any pail containing a material which is to be applied with a brush—such, for instance, as paste, whitewash, &c.—and therefore we do not wish to have our invention limited to use in connection with paint or varnish pails.

One of the main advantages derived from the use of our invention is the great saving in the amount of paint and varnish or other material contained in the pail, because by placing the wiping-wire within and over the area

circumscribed by the rim of the pail all material which is wiped from the brush by said wire drops into the pail.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A cylindrical pail having vertical sides, a wiping-ring having a diameter smaller than that of the pail, and arms or supports adjustably mounted on the wiping-ring and depending therefrom, said arms or supports being detachably secured to the rim of the pail.

2. In a device of the class described, an annular wiping-ring having a diameter smaller than the rim of the pail to which it is attached, and arms adjustably mounted on said ring and provided at their lower ends with jaws to set over the edge of the pail.

3. In a device of the class described, a wiping-ring having a smaller diameter than the rim of the pail, and arms pivoted to said ring and having jaws to set over the rim of the pail.

In testimony whereof we have signed our means to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EUGENE B. ALLEY.
MANUEL J. SOUSA.

Witnesses:
LOUIS C. SMITH,
GEO. H. MAXWELL.