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2,637,125

STEAM FINISHER FOR FABRICS

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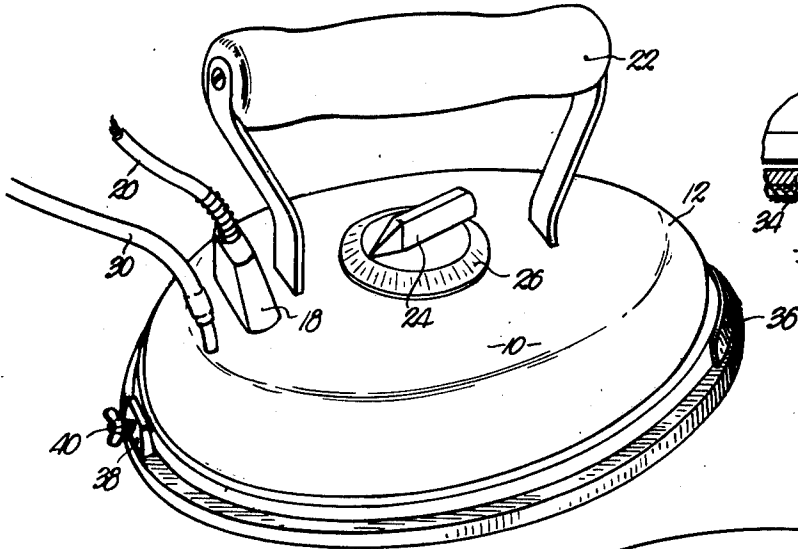


Fig. 1.

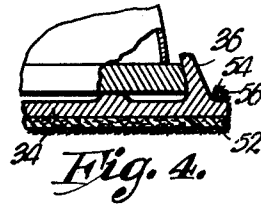


Fig. 4.

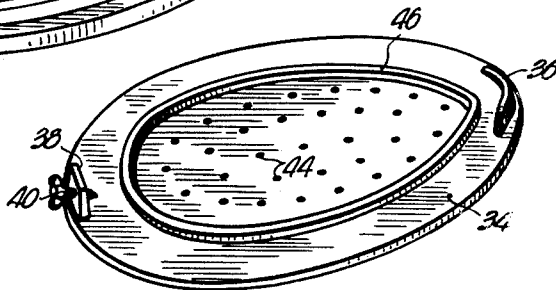


Fig. 3.

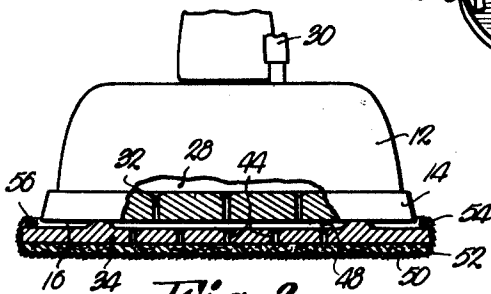


Fig. 2.

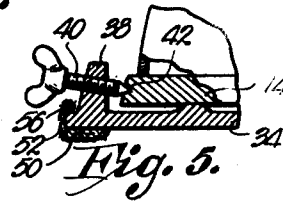


Fig. 5.

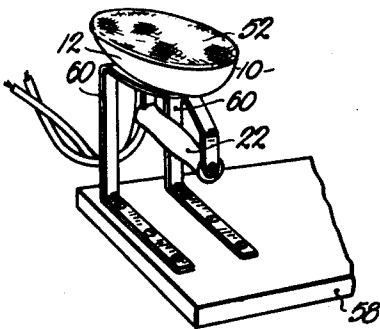


Fig. 6.

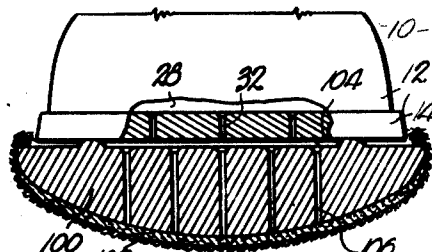


Fig. 7.

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STEAM FINISHER FOR FABRICS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 38-77)

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This invention relates generally to the field of garment finishing and more particularly to steam irons commonly employed in such finishing operations, the primary object being to provide an attachment for conventional steam irons to adapt the same for varied uses that would ordinarily require complicated and expensive machinery and instrumentalities.

Complicated and expensive steam board and pressing machines are commonly used in the more difficult garment finishing operations such as blocking of hats, glazing of fur coats, finishing collars and cuffs of garments generally, pressing pleats and luring leather jackets and the like. While the ordinary steam iron is generally quite universally usable in fulfilling the ordinary relatively simple garment finishing needs, it is not applicable in its common form for use in the more specialized garment finishing fields where expertness is required and special tools are needed.

The most important object of the present invention therefore, is to provide an attachment for steam irons that is capable when placed in use, of performing the above mentioned more specialized garment finishing operations and including as a part thereof, a sole plate that underlies the flat bottom face of the steam iron when attached thereto and is provided with a number of perforations for receiving steam emanating from the iron itself.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide an attachment for steam irons having a flat plate that underlies and is attached to the flat bottom face of the steam iron, the sole plate being provided with an annular rib, presenting a chamber for receiving the steam from the iron and directing the same to the perforations of the sole plate.

Other objects of the invention include the way in which the plate is formed to adapt the same for use with particular types of garments; the way in which a fabric pad is removably provided on the attachment; and the way in which a specially formed rack is provided for the combined finisher to hold the same in an inverted position ready for use.

Many additional more minor objects will be made clear or become apparent during the course of the following specification, referring to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of an electric steam iron showing the steam finisher attachment forming the subject matter hereof, operably mounted thereon.

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Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, rear elevational view thereof, parts being broken away to reveal details of construction.

Fig. 3 is a top perspective view of one form of sole plate per se.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary, detailed, cross-sectional view showing one end of the sole plate and steam iron.

Fig. 5 is a detailed, fragmentary, sectional view showing the opposite end of the sole plate and steam iron.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing a mounting bracket with the entire finishing assembly mounted thereon; and

Fig. 7 is a view similar to that of Fig. 2 and illustrating a modified form of sole plate.

The conventional electric steam iron chosen for illustration, is broadly designated by the numeral 10 and includes a housing 12 that is closed by a base 14 having a flat, lowermost face 16. Housing 12 is provided with a closed chamber near the top wall thereof for receiving an electric heating element (not shown) that is in turn connected with an electric plug 18 extending into case 12 and forming a part of an electrical conductor 20. A handle 22 is provided for the iron 10 and extends upwardly from case 12.

The aforementioned heating element is controlled through use of a conventional rheostat or the like (not shown) and having a manipulating knob 24 on the outermost face of housing 12 below handle 22. An indicating dial 26 is interposed between knob 24 and housing 12. Steam is directed into a secondary, lowermost chamber 28 within housing 12 directly above base 14 by means of a conduit 30.

A plurality of steam outlet openings 32 are formed in the base 14 of iron 10.

One form of garment finishing attachments of the present invention includes a flat sole plate 34 conforming substantially in shape to the base 14 of iron 10 but having a slightly greater overall circumference. Sole plate 34 is provided with a substantially V-shaped, inwardly and upwardly extending flange 36 at the forwardmost end of plate 34 for overlapping the inclined marginal edge of base 14 in the manner illustrated in Fig. 4 when plate 34 is attached to the iron 10.

An upturned flange 38 at the opposite end of plate 34, receives a setscrew 40 that clamps tightly into a cavity 42 in base 14 for releasably holding plate 34 or iron 10 by forcing base 14 tightly against the flange 36.

The sole plate 34 is provided with a plurality of steam outlet openings 44 disposed entirely

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within an upstanding annular rib 46 that is integral with the uppermost face of plate 34. Rib 46 also encircles the openings 32 of base 14 when plate 34 is on iron 10 and as illustrated in Figs. 2, 4 and 5, the uppermost edge of rib 46 bears directly against the flat face 16 of base 14, presenting a hollow chamber 48 between the proximal faces of base 14 and plate 34 and within the area defined by rib 46.

A pad 50 having a fabric covering 52, covers the entire lowermost face of sole plate 34 and is held in place thereon by piping 54 and a take-up cord 56 that overlies the uppermost marginal edge of plate 34 that extends outwardly beyond the lowermost edge of base 14.

A support for the finisher includes a base board 58 having a pair of spaced U-shaped brackets 60 mounted thereon. Steam iron 10 is placed upon the uppermost legs of the brackets 60 in an inverted position with the handle 22 extending between said legs when the finisher assembly is to be placed in use for such operations as blocking hats.

A modified form of sole plate is illustrated in Fig. 7 of the drawing and is designated by the numeral 100. Plate 100 is essentially the same as plate 34 with the exception that the same is relatively thick and provided with an arcuate, lowermost surface 102.

Plate 100 is mounted upon the iron 10 in the same manner as above described with respect to plate 34 and a chamber 104 between the proximal faces of plate 100 and iron 10, collects steam emanating from iron 10 and directs the same through outlet openings 106 in plate 100.

Through the above described construction, there is presented a relatively inexpensive electric portable puff iron and luring pad that can be placed in use by inexperienced personnel to perform complicated garment finishing operations with speed and dispatch in much the same manner as is now possible through use of more expensive complicated equipment.

When the assembly is mounted as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawing, the same can be effectively used to block hats as well as carrying out many other garment finishing operations. Either wet or dry steam may be caused to pass through the pad 50 and its covering 52 by merely adjusting the rheostat knob 24. All of the steam that

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passes outwardly through openings 32 will be collected in the chamber 48 and distributed evenly into the pad 50 through the outlet perforations 44 or 106 as the case may be. The various types of sole plates may be quickly and easily interchanged to suit the desires and needs of the operator and the attachment has no effect upon use of the iron 10 in the usual manner without the attachments hereof if desired.

Since many details of construction of the attachment may be varied in a number of ways without effecting the overall spirit of the invention, it is desired to be limited only by the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

In a steam finisher for fabrics, a steam iron having a flat, oval base provided with a plurality of steam outlet openings; an oval plate conforming to the oval contour of the base and having a flat top provided with an oval, upstanding rib and conforming to the oval contour of the plate and spaced inwardly from the peripheral edge of the plate, the top surface of the rib and the bottom surface of the base having complementary contours, said plate having a number of steam outlet openings within the confines of said rib; means for releasably attaching the plate to the iron with said base resting snugly on the rib to form a steam-tight contact, with the rib surrounding the steam outlet openings of the base, and with the plate extending outwardly beyond the base throughout the periphery thereof, said plate having a transversely convex bottom face; a pad on said bottom face of the plate; and a covering for said pad extending into overlapping relationship with the marginal edge of said flat top of the plate in spaced relationship to the oval periphery of the base.

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