Sept. 24, 1957 N. MUSKIN ET AL 2,807,026

WADING POOL

Filed Oct. 19, 1955

Fig. 1.

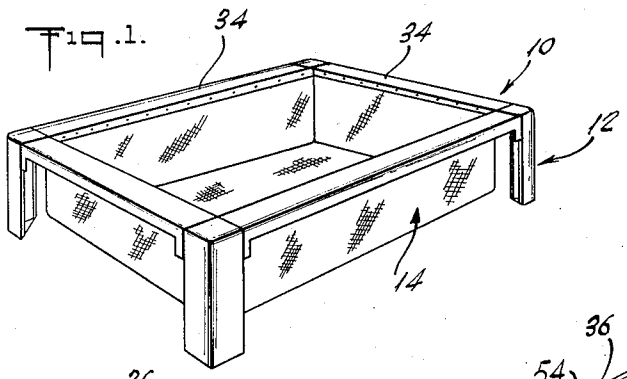


Fig. 2.

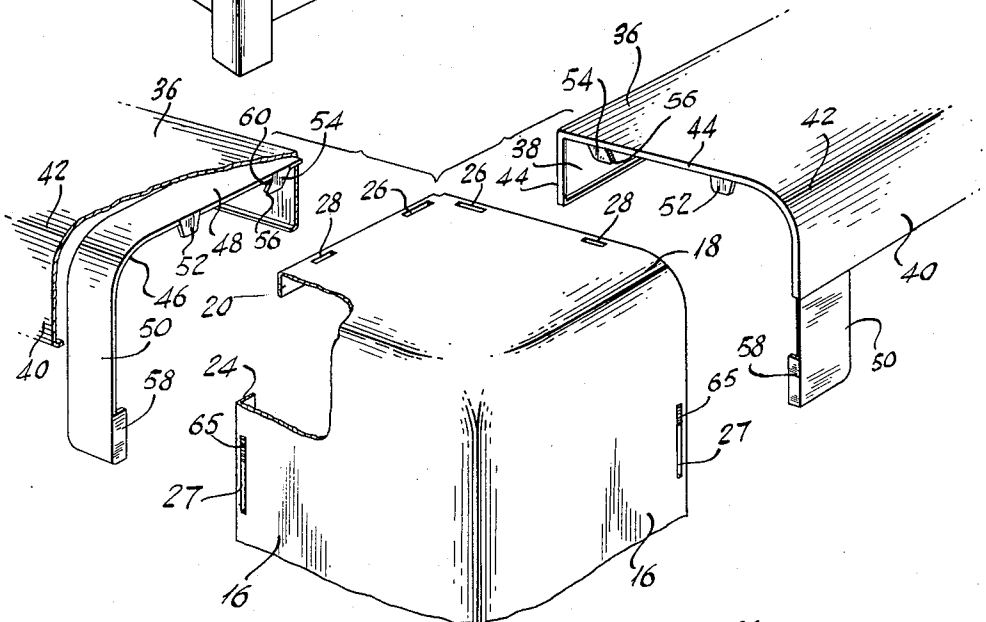
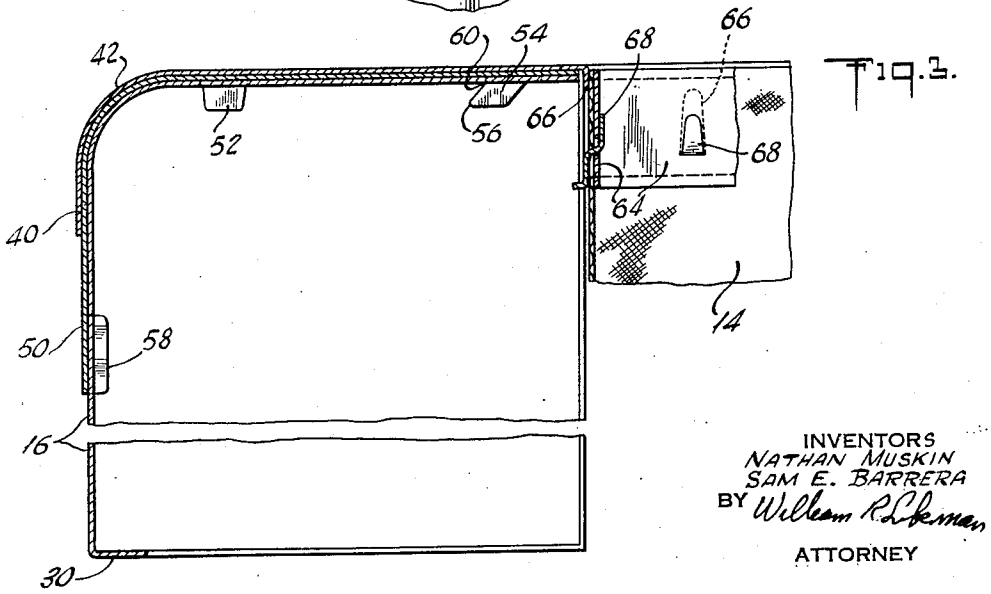


Fig. 3.



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WADING POOL

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6 Claims. (Cl. 4—177)

The present invention relates generally to improvements in support frames, furniture and the like, and in particular it relates to an improved collapsible wading pool.

The conventional children's portable wading pools are generally of collapsible nature to facilitate the handling and storage thereof. These usually include a tank formed of a rubberized fabric or flexible plastic material carried by a leg mounted supporting frame formed of structural or tubular members. The support frame is shipped in an unassembled condition and must be put together by the purchaser who then secures the tank to the support frame. Numerous separable fastening devices, such as screws or nuts and bolts have been required to effect the assembly of the support frame and considerable care and manipulation were required. As a result, considerable time was needed for the assembly. The same drawback accompanied the disassembly of wading pools for storage.

It is thus a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved structural device.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved tank supporting structure.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved portable wading pool.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved portable, collapsible wading pool.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide an improved collapsible wading pool characterized by the ease, rapidity and simplicity of its assembly and disassembly.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved collapsible wading pool characterized by the absence of conventional separable fasteners, such as screws and nuts and bolts.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a simple, rugged, inexpensive, easy to assemble and disassemble, collapsible children's wading pool.

The above and further objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of an improved wading pool embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is an exploded detailed perspective view, partially broken away, of the upper corner construction of the tank supporting frame; and

Figure 3 is an enlarged detailed view, partially in section and partially broken away, illustrating a corner of the support frame in assembled condition and the supported tank.

In a broad sense, the present invention contemplates the provision of an improved wading pool comprising a support frame mounted on and carried by a plurality of spaced legs, stringers extending between said legs to form a closed frame, said legs having horizontal slots formed therein adjacent to the respective edges of said stringers, said stringers being provided with depending tongues releasably engaging said slots, and an open-topped tank releasably suspended from said stringers.

Another feature of the present invention resides in the improved arrangement for supporting the wading tank from the frame member which includes a relatively rigid band located along the upper edge of the tank and having regularly spaced openings formed therein engaging corresponding hook elements formed along the stringer members.

Referring now to the drawing, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral **10** generally designates a frame of rectangular configuration carried upon upright legs **12** and supporting an open-topped tank **14**. Legs **12** are preferably formed of sheet metal, and include upright angle members having outer side walls **16** carrying on their top edges a substantially rectangular plate **18**, preferably formed integral with the side walls **16**. The inner edges of top plate **18** are provided with downturned flanges **20**, and the inner edges of the side walls **16** are provided with inwardly directed flanges **24**. Formed in plate **18** along and parallel to each of the inner edges thereof are a pair of laterally spaced slots **26** and **28** respectively. A vertical slot **27** is formed in each of the side walls **16** along the inner edge thereof and spaced a short distance below the top wall **18**. The corners and edges defined by the junction of the top wall **18** and the side walls **16** are rounded off, as seen in Figure 2. The bottom of the leg side walls **16** are provided with inwardly directed flanges **30**.

Frame **10** is formed of longitudinally and laterally spaced pairs of parallel stringers **34** extending between and carried by the top portions of the legs **12**. Each stringer **34** includes a flat, longitudinally extending plate **36** which may be formed of sheet metal or any other suitable material having a flange **38** depending from its inner edge, and a flange **40** depending from its outer edge and joined to the plate **36** by a large radius arcuate surface, as at **42**. The upper faces of plates **36** define seat or bench surfaces and may be appropriately decorated. Suitable lips **44** are formed along the free edges of the plate **36** and the flanges **38** and **40**.

Each stringer is provided at the ends thereof with a downwardly directed L-shaped reinforcing member **46** having an upper leg **48** abutting the underface of the plate **36** and extending for the width of the plate **36**, and a depending leg **50** abutting the inner face of the flange **40** and depending below the lower edge thereof. The reinforcing member **46** is secured to the plate **36** by spot-welding or other suitable means.

Depending from the outer free edge of the reinforcing member upper leg **48** is an outer downwardly directed tongue **52** having tapered side walls and adapted to engage the slot **28**. A second tongue **54** depends from the outer edge of the member **46** adjacent to the inner end thereof, tongue **54** being of parallelogram configuration having a rearwardly directed corner **56**, this second tongue **54** being adapted to engage the corresponding slot **26**.

The lower outer edge of leg **50** is provided with an inwardly directed tongue **58** adapted to engage the corresponding slot **27**. It should be noted that the spacing between tongues **52** and **54** is such that when the inner corner **60** of tongue **54** substantially abuts the confronting edge of slot **26** the tongue **52** is in full registry with the slot **28**. Furthermore, the member **46** is sufficiently resilient to permit the outward springing of the leg **50** to permit the simple assembly and disassembly of the stringers and legs.

The tank **14** is open-topped and of substantially rectangular configuration and may be formed of a rubberized fabric or a suitable flexible organic plastic material in any well known manner. Relatively rigid bands or strips **64**, preferably formed of a light gauge aluminum or other suitable material, are secured to the upper edge of the tank **14** by sewing, riveting, stapling, or in any

other suitable manner. The strips 64 have formed therein regularly, longitudinally spaced, vertically extending slots 66, preferably of keyhole configuration or of greater width at their base than at their top, as illustrated. Located along the inner face of stringer flange 38 are regularly, longitudinally spaced, upwardly directed hook elements 68 which are preferably integrally formed with the flange 38, being cut and shaped therefrom. Hook elements 68 engage the slots 66 formed in the tank strips 64, thereby to support the tank 14 in a suspended fashion from the frame 44.

In assemblying the improved wading pool of the present invention the end of each of the stringers 34 is secured to the respective leg 12 by aligning the tongues 52 and 54 with the corresponding slots 28 and 26. The stringer 34 is pressed downwardly to effect the engagement between the tongues 52 and 54 and the slots 28 and 26. During the downward movement of the stringer 34 the leg 50 is sprung slightly outwardly and then springs back into position upon the tongue 58 registering with the slot 27 thereby effecting the engagement of the tongue and the slot. The above assembly action is a single step defined by one continuous motion.

After the complete assembly of the frame 10 and legs 12, as aforesaid, the tank 14 is applied to the frame by bringing the slots 66 formed in the tank strip 64 into engagement with the corresponding hook element 68 carried on the flanges 38.

In collapsing the wading pool the assembly operation is reversed. The tank 14 is first removed. The stringers 34 are then separated from the legs 12 by springing the arm 50 outwardly whereby to effect the disengagement between the tongue 58 and slot 27 whereafter the stringer 34 is lifted to remove the tongues 52 and 54 from the slots 28 and 26.

While there has been described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alternations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof. It is important to note that whereas the frame assembly mechanism has been described as applied to a wading pool it may be advantageously applied to other structures such as support frames, furniture, such as tables, chairs and the like, sand boxes, etc.

We claim:

1. An improved device comprising two longitudinally spaced pairs of laterally spaced upright legs formed of angle members having outwardly disposed side walls and horizontal ledges disposed adjacent the upper edges thereof, said ledges having horizontal slots formed therein and said side walls having apertures formed therein below the upper edges thereof, and stringers extending between and carried by the upper portions of said legs and being provided adjacent their free ends with depending tongues releasably engaging said slots and with depending arms having inwardly directed tongues engaging said apertures.

2. An improved device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said arms depending from said stringers are formed of resilient material to permit disengagement between said tongues carried thereby, and said corresponding apertures.

3. An improved device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said horizontal ledges form parts of corresponding plates extending between the upper edges of said respective angle members.

4. An improved device in accordance with claim 1, including a plurality of hook elements carried by and located along the inner edges of said stringers, an open topped tank formed of a flexible material, and a relatively rigid reinforcing band located along and secured to the upper peripheral edge of said tank, said reinforcing band having spaced apertures formed therein releasably engaging said hook elements.

5. An improved device in accordance with claim 1, wherein there are provided at least two of said tongues adjacent each of the free ends of each of said stringers.

6. An improved device comprising two longitudinally spaced pairs of laterally spaced upright legs provided with horizontal ledges disposed adjacent the upper edges thereof, said ledges having upwardly directed top faces and having horizontal slots formed therein, stringers extending between said legs and having undersurfaces resting upon the upwardly directed top faces of said ledges, and tongue elements lepending from said stringers adjacent to the free ends thereof and releasably engaging said horizontal slots.

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