

J. O'CONNELL.

FOOT MAT.

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953,224.

Patented Mar. 29, 1910.

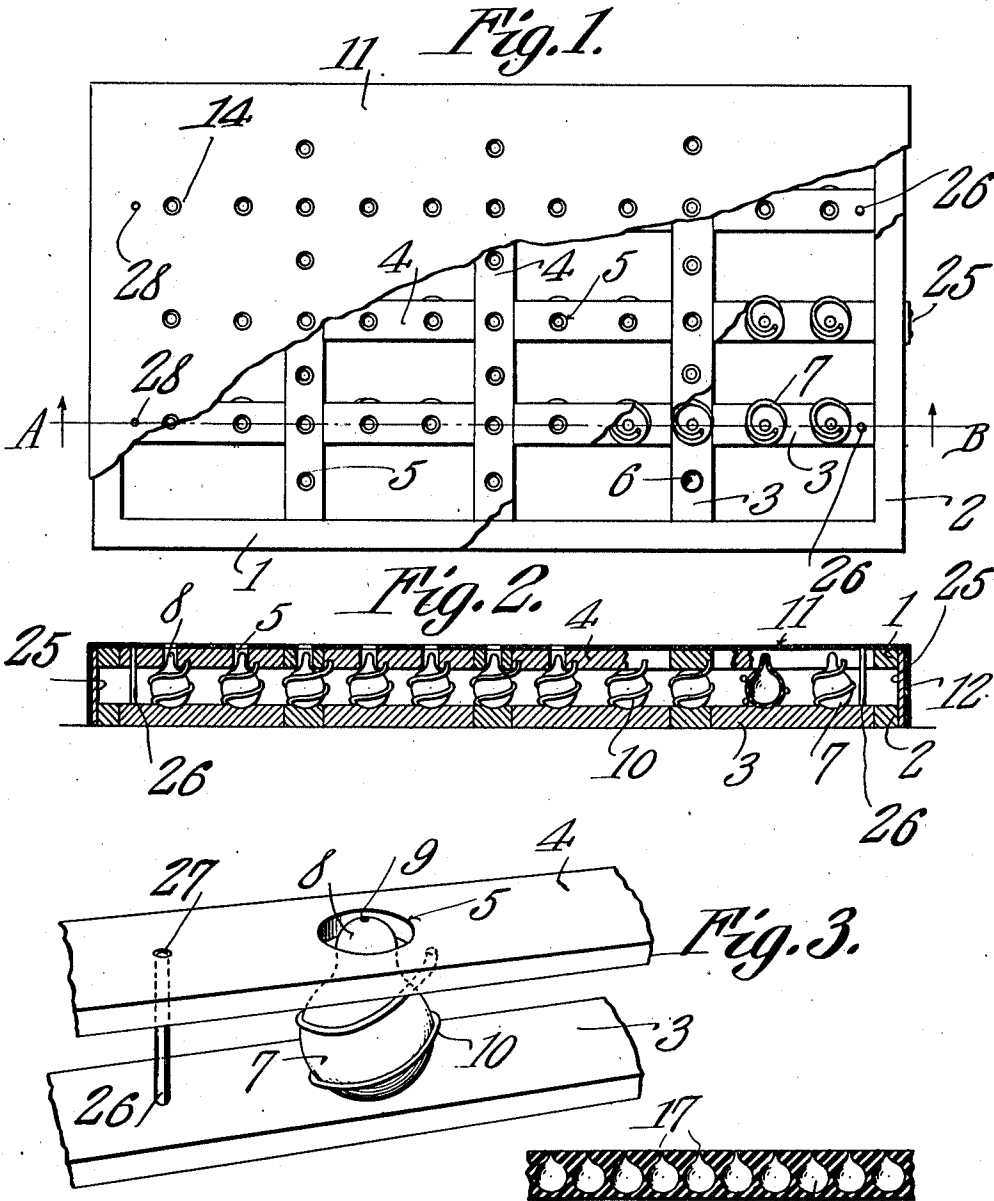


Fig. 4. 15 16
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Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES O'CONNELL, OF BEDFORD, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO JAMES CULHAN AND ONE-FOURTH TO J. FRANK SMITH, BOTH OF BEDFORD, INDIANA.

FOOT-MAT.

953,224.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 29, 1910.

Application filed November 12, 1909. Serial No. 527,700.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES O'CONNELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bedford, in the county of Lawrence and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Foot-Mat, of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of this invention, to provide a compressible foot mat provided with a fluid-ejecting device operable, when the foot mat is trodden upon, to eject a fluid from the mat, directly above the mat, so that the person treading upon the mat, may be so sprinkled with the fluid, that he may subsequently be recognized, either by the sense of smell, or by sight.

The specific objects of the invention are to provide a compressible foot mat of novel and improved construction; to provide a fluid-ejecting device operable by the compression of the mat; and to provide novel means whereby the mat may return to its original contour after the compressive effort has been removed therefrom.

It is to be understood that the drawings show preferred embodiments merely, and changes, properly falling within the scope of what is claimed, may be made, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to denote corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings, wherein;—

Figure 1 shows the invention in top plan, parts being broken away better to reveal the structure; Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section upon the line A—B of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a fragmental detail perspective; and Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section of a modification of the device.

The foot mat proper may be of any desired construction, provided that it is yieldable. In order, however, to present a concrete embodiment, I have shown the foot mat as comprising an upper frame 1 and a lower frame 2, the component members of the upper frame 1 being connected by crossed slats 4, and the component members of the lower frame 2 being connected by crossed slats 3.

The upper slats 4 are provided with a series of openings 5, and these openings 5 are alined, vertically, with seats 6, located in the lower slats 3. The seats 6 serve to receive the lower extremities of compressible

bulbs 7, fashioned from india-rubber or the like, and provided with reduced nozzles 8, terminating in a small opening 9, the nozzles being arranged to extend upwardly into the openings 5 in the upper slats 4.

Spiral springs 10 are made to engage the bulbs 7, the upper extremities of the springs being mounted in the upper slats 4, and the lower extremities of the springs being mounted in the lower slats 3. The upper frame 1 may be provided with a covering 11, of such a construction as to simulate closely, an ordinary foot mat, the edges 12 of the covering 11 being curved downwardly, so that the foot mat may not by any peculiarity in appearance, excite the suspicion of the person about to tread upon the same. The covering 11 is provided with a plurality of openings 14 through which the bulbs 7 are adapted to discharge.

Fixed in, and rising from the lower frame 2 at suitable points, are pins 26 adapted to reciprocate in openings 27 in the upper frame 1, and in openings 28 in the covering 11, the said pins acting as guides to direct the movement of the upper frame 1 upon the lower frame 2. Flexible members 25, straps or the like, connect the upper frame 1 with the lower frame 2 within the covering 11, and serve to limit the upward movement of the upper frame 1, under the action of the springs 10 and the bulbs 7.

It is obvious that the construction hereinbefore described may readily be departed from. For instance, as shown in Fig. 4, the foot-mat may be fashioned entirely from rubber or other compressible, resilient material as denoted by the numeral 15, there being, within the body of the foot mat, a plurality of chambers 16, having reduced upper ends 17, the chambers 16 being, if desired, of substantially the same outline as the bulbs 7.

In practical operation, the bulbs 7, or the chambers 16, are filled with a brilliantly colored liquid, or, if desired, with a liquid adapted to give off an offensive stench. The foot mat when thus charged, may be placed across a door-way, or in other locality which is subject to trespass. When the foot-mat is trodden upon, the contents of the bulbs 7 will be discharged upwardly, through the covering 11, tinting the garments of the person who has trodden upon the mat, in a

brilliant hue, or imparting to the garments of the person, a pungent or offensive odor.

A burglar or other trespasser who has trodden upon a mat constructed in accordance with the invention, may subsequently be recognized, readily, either by the appearance, or by the odor of his garments.

The bulbs 7 are preferably fashioned from resilient material, such for instance, as rubber, and, owing to the resiliency of the bulbs, it is obvious, that, if desired, the springs 10 may be dispensed with, the bulbs 7 serving to actuate the upper frame 1 away from the lower frame 2, the pins 26 serving to direct the movement of the upper frame, and the members 25 serving to limit the movement of the upper frame.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:—

20 1. A compressible foot-mat provided with a fluid-ejecting device operable by the compression of the mat, and housed within the contour of the mat.

2. A compressible foot-mat provided with a fluid-ejecting device operable by the compression of the mat, and housed within the contour of the mat; the fluid-ejecting device being arranged to discharge upwardly, directly above the mat. 25

3. A resilient foot-mat provided with a fluid-ejecting device operable by the compression of the mat, and housed within the contour of the mat. 30

4. A resilient foot-mat provided with a fluid-ejecting device operable by the compression of the mat, and housed within the contour of the mat, the fluid-ejecting device being arranged to discharge upwardly directly above the mat. 35

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses. 40

JAMES O'CONNELL.

Witnesses:

ROSCOE WHITE,
CASH O'DONALD.