Dec. 24, 1929. M. STERN 1,740,791

BACK REST FOR BATHTUBS

Filed April 13, 1929

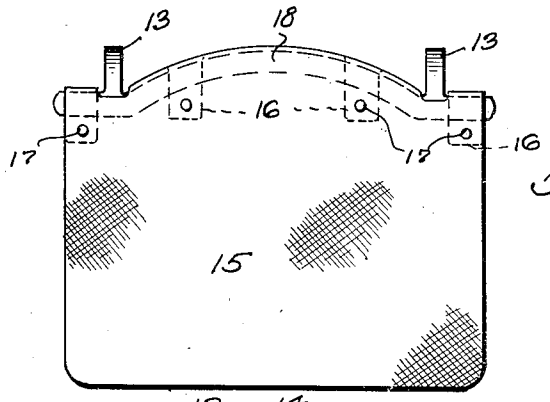


Fig. 1.

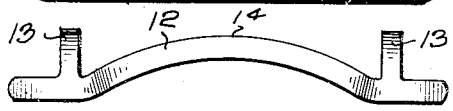


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

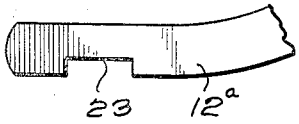




Fig. 4.

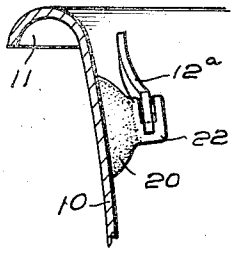


Fig. 5.

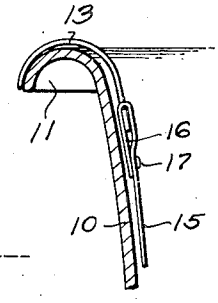


Fig. 9.

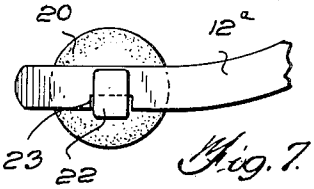


Fig. 7.

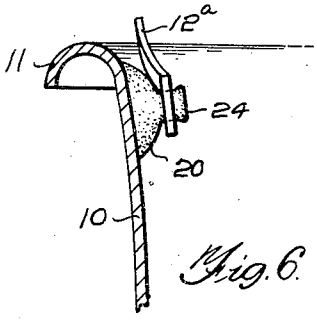


Fig. 6.

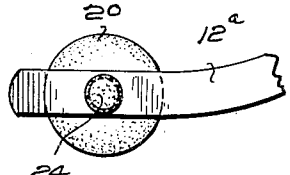


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BACK REST FOR BATHTUBS

Application filed April 13, 1929. Serial No. 354,813.

The invention has for an object to effect improvements in bath-tub back rests of the type illustrated in my Patent No. 1,390,221, September 6, 1921, particularly with the purpose of presenting a device which will be more comfortable for the user, and will have certain other advantages. It is a particular aim to present a construction in one form whereby the device may be mounted without extending over the roll rim of a bath tub in order to obtain support, and where objectionable appearance is minimized. A further purpose is to minimize discomfort incident to encountering supporting parts between the hands or other portions of the body and the tub. A further important aim is to provide a construction in which a head-rest is incorporated in a novel way. Another aim is to provide a novel form of rest adapted to be quickly mounted or dismounted.

Additional objects, advantages and features of invention reside in the construction, arrangement and combination of parts, as will be understood from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein,

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the back rest in place,

Figure 2 is a similar view of the support alone.

Figure 3 is a detail of the cross bar of the detachable element.

Figure 4 is a top view of the lug-engaging support member from above.

Figure 5 is an end view thereof.

Figure 6 is a similar view of a modification.

Figure 7 is a front view of the structure of Figure 5, while

Figure 8 is a similar view of a modification of Figure 6.

Figure 9 is a lateral elevation of the article of Figure 1 applied to a tub shown in section.

There is illustrated a bath tub 10 of a familiar type having a roll rim 11, although my invention is applicable also to any other style of bath tub, regardless of the form of the rim. There is mounted upon the inner side of this tub a back rest and head support as in Figures 1 and 2. The back rest comprises a base support 12, in the form of a very thin flat strip of pyroxilene, pyralin or other similar material suitable for the purpose, this strip being planiform but arched at its middle portion, as shown in Figure 2. Adjacent each end there are attached in a suitable manner hook-shaped hangers 13, extended upwardly above the bar 12 a distance and thence outwardly and downwardly over the rolled rim of the tub, in order to support the bar 12. By using an extremely thin, flat material, the objectionable protuberance of the parts of the device is obviated, and when it is being used as a rest, the device will be free from liability of discomfort to the user in case the person rests against the supporting parts. The pyralin material is also very flexible, so that in a tub having curved ends the support will accommodate itself to various curvatures without requiring any special pre-forming of the device in order to adapt it to such curves. The arched portion 14 of the bar 12 will project upwardly a slight distance beside the outwardly curved part of the tub, and owing to the resiliency and flexibility of the material in the bar 12 it will afford a resilient head rest, in conjunction with the pad device, as will be described.

A pad 15 is provided, of a width and length to cover the bar 12 and extend downwardly therefrom a suitable distance for the uses contemplated, the upper edge portions of this pad being slotted adjacent each side so that the hangers 13 may be received in the slots as shown in Figure 1. The parts laterally outward of these slots on each side of the pad comprise securing tongues 16 and are of sufficient length to extend upwardly over and downwardly behind the bar 12 and into overlapped relation with a portion of the pad below the bar. Two-piece separable fasteners 17 have respective parts secured to the extremity of the tongue and to the body portion of the pad, so that the pad may be retained in proper engagement with the bar 12. The central portion of the pad between the slots may be thickened so as to afford a pillow portion 18, but when a suitable material is used of uniform thickness throughout the pad, it affords a sufficient cushion between the head of a person and the upwardly bowed portion

14 of the bar 12 owing to the resilience of the bar. If desired, the outer edge portion of the pillow part may have fasteners thereon as in the case of the tongues 16.

In Figures 4, 5, and 6 a modification of the support is indicated, in which, instead of the hanger hooks 13, suction cups 20 are set upon the inner face of the tub, and the bar 12ª, corresponding to the bar 12, first described, is detachably engaged with the cups. As shown in Figure 5, the suction cup is formed with a bracket arm 22 located near the lower edge of the cup and extending upwardly in close spaced relation to the cup in such manner that the end portion of the bar 12ª may be set in the space between the arm and the cup 20. In order to prevent loose movement of the cross bar, the bar may be made of a thickness to wedge slightly between the arm 22 and the material of the cup, which is ordinarily rubber. In order to prevent casual longitudinal movement of the bar 12ª in the mounting, the lower edge of the bar is notched as at 23 so as to receive the base of the arm 22 therein.

In Figures 6 to 8 a modification of the connection between the suction cup and the bar 12ª is indicated, in this instance a simple cylindrical stud 24 being formed on the suction cup coaxial with the cup, while the bar is formed with a circular aperture to snugly fit the stud.

The cup and stud of the attaching support in Figures 6 and 8 may be formed integrally of rubber, in which case the stud is formed large enough to have a tight pressed fit in the aperture of the cross bar 12ª, whereby its casual disengagement from the lugs is obviated. If desired, the bar 12 may be permanently attached to the tub, as will be appreciated, and the manner of attaching the pad thereto varied as approved practices may indicate to be desirable. The cross bar 12 may be formed of other materials than pyroxalin or such materials, thin non-corrosive or stainless spring steel being also available, as well as other tough and resilient materials.

The pad 15 is preferably formed of sponge rubber sheeting of suitable thickness, and may be integrally moulded in accordance with practices in rubber manufacture. Other materials may be used however, as found desirable.

I claim:—

1. A back rest for bath tubs comprising thin flat cross bar and bath tub engaging support devices therefor, the central part of the bar being arched in its major plane, said bar being flexible and resilient, and a pad device detachably attached thereto.

2. A back rest comprising a thin flat cross bar of flexible resilient material, means to support the bar removably attached to a tub side adjacent the upper edge, said bar having an upwardly bowed portion arranged to extend above the supporting portion of the tub side at an angle thereto and being yieldable to the weight of a human head, and a pad having an upper edge portion conforming to and secured to said bar as a covering therefor, and a lower portion adapted to receive thereagainst the back of a person sitting in the tub.

3. The structure of claim 1 in which the bar has a plurality of laterally spaced tub-engaging members, said pad having slots at its upper edge corresponding in number and spacing to the tub-engaging members, whereby tongue-like portions are formed beside and between the slots, and two-piece separable fasteners having their members engaged respectively with the extremities of the tongue-like portions of the body of the pad inwardly thereof for coengagement to form loops, said bar being engaged therein.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

MITCHEL STERN.