Aug. 15, 1950 P. W. DOUGLAS 2,518,604

BABY BATHING APPLIANCE

Filed April 6, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

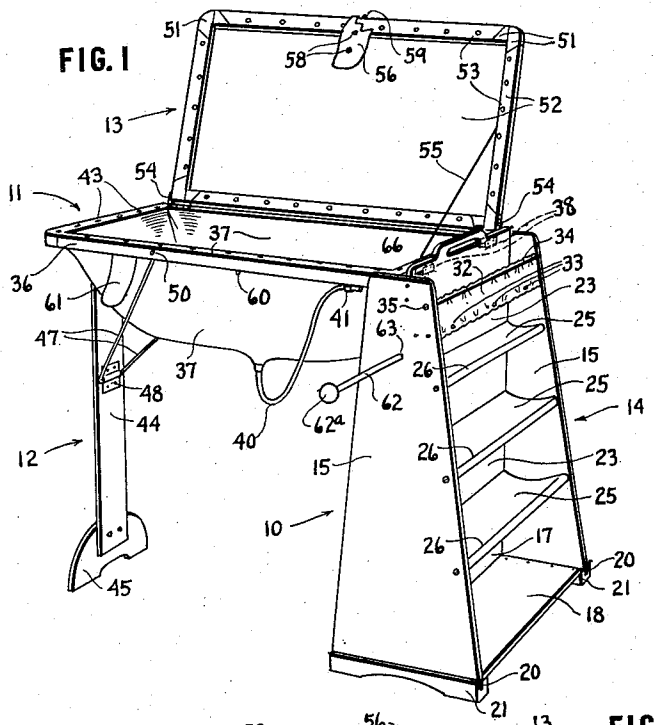


FIG. 2

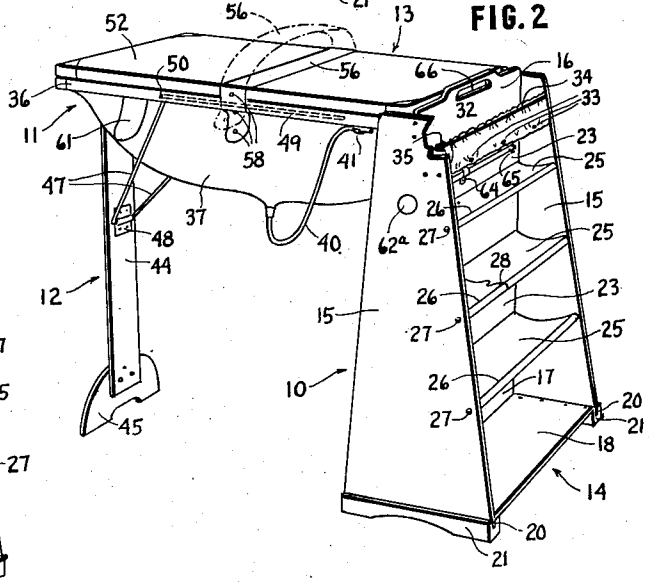
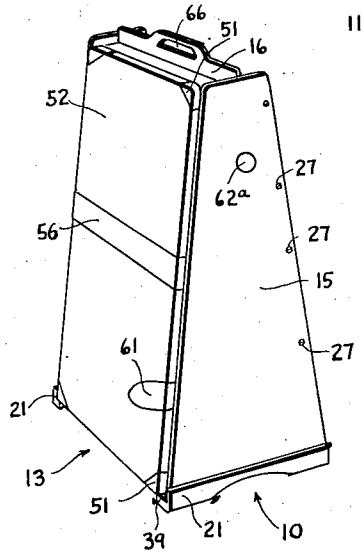


FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

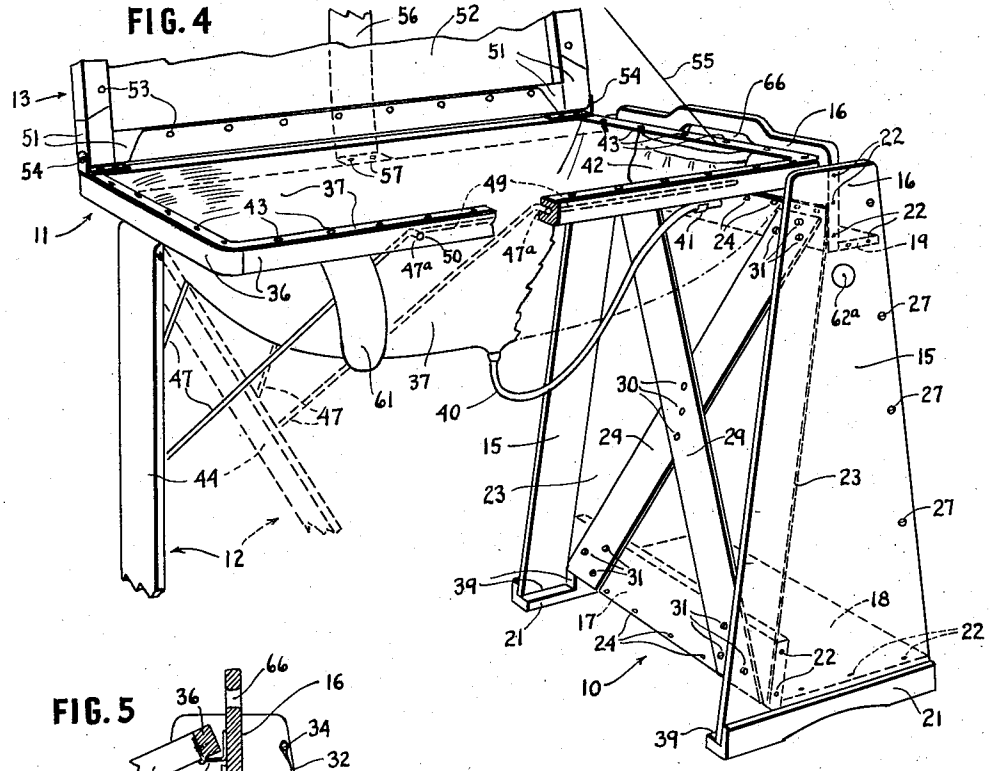


FIG. 5

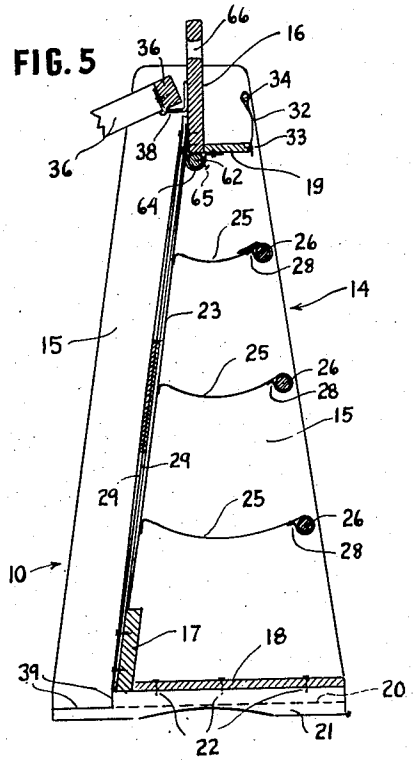
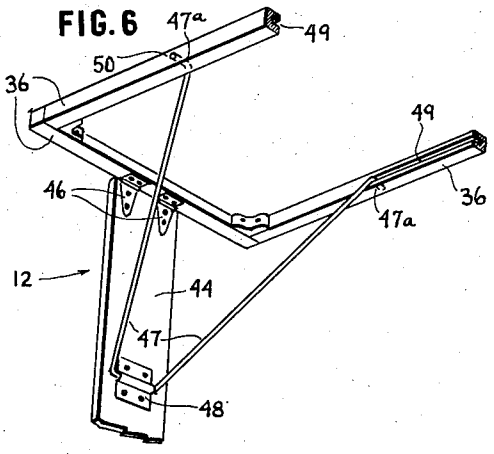


FIG. 6



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BABY BATHING APPLIANCE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 4—177)

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The invention relates to improvements in baby baths and, more particularly, to collapsible appliances furnishing convenient means for bathing and dressing a baby.

The general purpose of the invention is to provide a collapsible appliance for bathing and dressing babies having an improved construction whereby it may be easily and conveniently extended for use either as a bathing appliance or as a dressing appliance and whereby it may easily be collapsed into a compact and self-sustaining condition.

A specific purpose of the invention is to provide a combined baby bathing and dressing appliance which is collapsible and extensible in an improved manner respectively to collapse the applance into a self-sustaining compact form and to extend it into very rigid and stable forms for bathing and for dressing purposes.

A further specific purpose of the invention is to provide a collapsible appliance comprising a baby bath, a baby dressing table, and a support for the usual supplies employed in connection with bathing and dressing babies (such as clothing, toilet articles, towels, etc.), which appliance can readily be extended for bathing and for dressing purposes with the supplies disposed for convenient access and will, when collapsed, provide an attractive and self-sustaining article of furniture with the supplies and their supporting means in accessible condition, the construction being such that collapsing and extension of the appliance will not disturb the supported supplies.

Another purpose of the invention is to provide an appliance of the class set forth so constructed that its utility, convenience and appearance in both its extended and collapsed forms are improved and that the appliance may be constructed at small expense.

Other purposes and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description in detail of a preferred embodiment of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the appliance extended for bathing a baby;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the appliance extended for dressing a baby;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the appliance in compacted condition;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the appliance with certain parts broken away, the view showing the device extended for bathing a baby and indicating in dotted lines the foldable tub supporting means partly folded;

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Figure 5 is a detail vertical sectional view with certain parts omitted and the tub swung partly downward from its position of use, the view being taken on a line extending longitudinally and medially of the tub; and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the appliance extended, many parts being omitted for clarity of illustration of certain features of the appliance.

The appliance shown comprises generally an upstanding and self-sustaining primary support **10**, a bathing tub **11** having a rigid rim and a pliable body, the rim of which tub is hinged at one end of the tub to the primary support adjacent the top of said support to permit the tub to be folded down at one face of the support, a tub support **12** hinged to the tub rim at the other end of the tub to permit it to be folded up under the tub between the tub and said face of the support to collapse the pliable tub body, and a tub cover or dressing table top **13** hinged to the tub at one longitudinal edge of the tub to fold down on and close the top of the tub. By this arrangement, the tub cover or table top, when closed over the tub, is foldable bodily with the tub when the tub is folded down at said one face of the primary support, so that the tub and the folding support are confined and concealed by the cover and the primary support in the compacted condition of the appliance as shown in Figure 3. The primary support sustains all of the other parts of the appliance when the appliance is compacted, and said primary support includes a shelf stack **14** for supplies at the other or outer face of said support, which shelf stack is accessible in both the compacted and extended conditions of the appliance. The shelf stack is at the obverse face of the primary support and the foldable parts are compactible at the reverse face of said primary support.

The appliance shown is constructed substantially entirely of fabric, light wooden elements, and light metal elements, so that it has a very light weight and can be made at small cost, yet the construction is such that the appliance is durable, is highly stable both when compacted and extended, and has an attractive appearance.

The primary support **10** will first be described. The two upstanding wooden end boards or walls **15** are substantially triangular and are arranged in parallel relation with their longitudinal edges converging toward the upper ends of said boards. The boards **15** are tied together by two wooden

boards 16 and 17. The board 16 is diposed vertically edgewise between the upper ends of boards 15 medially of the longitudinal edges of the latter boards. Board 17 is disposed between the lower end portions of boards 15 and lies in an inclined plane passing through the lower edge of board 16, the board 17 being spaced at its respective ends from both longitudinal edges of the adjacent board 15 and being disposed to one side of the vertical plane of board 16. A horizontally disposed wooden board or shelf 18 extends between boards 15 from one face of board 17 at the lower edge of the latter to the longitudinal edges of boards 15 which are farthest from board 17. Above shelf 18 a second wooden board or shelf 19 extends horizontally between boards 15 from one face of board 16 at the lower end of the latter substantially to the adjacent longitudinal edges of the boards 15. The lower ends of the boards 15 are seated in slots 20 in wooden bars or foot pieces 21, and the lower edge of board 17 and lower face of shelf 18 are seated on the top of said foot pieces 21 between boards 15. The above described wooden parts are fastened together by nails 22, although other suitable means may be employed to hold them rigidly assembled.

A fabric wall or sheet 23, preferably formed of linen or canvas, extends from one to the other of the end boards 15 behind the shelves 18 and 19, said sheet 23 being secured to the rear faces of boards 16 and 17 by tacks 24 or other suitable means and lying substantially in an inclined plane parallel to that of the rear face of board 17. Between shelves 18 and 19, three superposed fabric shelves 25 are provided, these shelves being stitched or sewn to the inclined fabric wall 23 at their rear edges and being supported at their front edges by wooden rods 26. The rods 26 are detachably secured to boards 15 by screws 27, and the forward edges of the fabric shelves are hemmed at 28 for passage of the detachable rods through the respective hems.

At the opposite face of the fabric wall 23 from that at which the shelves are located, there is provided a detachable X-shaped stiffening brace element of the primary support 10, which brace element also affords a substantial backing for the fabric wall 23. This brace comprises two flat strips 29 of fiber board cross in X-form and riveted together at their intersection by rivets 30. These strips are detachably secured at their ends by screws 31 to boards 16 and 17, the plane of the X-shaped brace being generally parallel to that of wall 23.

It will be noted that the upper wooden shelf provided by boards 16 and 19 is a rigid shelf which is shallow from front to rear and is, therefore, particularly adapted for supporting bottles, jars and cans containing various powders, salves, and liquids ordinarily used in connection with bathing, dressing and other care of babies. To securely retain such supplies, there extends between the walls 15, and upwardly from the outer edge of board 19, a fabric band or retaining strip 32 which is anchored along its lower edge by tacks 33 or the like to the outer edge of board 19. The upper edge of band 32 is hemmed for passage therethrough in well known manner of an elastic element 34 which is detachably anchored at its end by two suitable anchoring means 35 clamping said element 34 at its ends to walls 15. A shelf with elastically expansible front wall of this type is well known and more detailed disclosure is, therefore, unnecessary.

The bathing tub 11 comprises an oblong wood-

en rim 36 and a pliable body 37 of water-impervious sheet material secured to the upper edge of the rim by tacks 43 or other suitable fastening means, the size of the body or sheet 37 being such that it will billow out below the rim, as shown, when the appliance is extended and will form with the rim an elongate tub. One of the short ends of the oblong tub frame is hinged to board 16 at the rear of shelf 16—19 above the X-shaped brace 29 and the fabric wall 23 by a pair of hinges 38, the axial line of these hinges passing through the walls 15 behind board 16 and being so located that the tub may be swung upward only far enough to place its rim in a horizontal plane.

The width of the oblong tub frame is slightly less than the distance between walls 15, and the length of the tub is such that, in folding the appliance to compact condition, the tub swings downward toward the inclined brace 29 and the inclined fabric wall 23 and finally hangs from the board 16 by hinges 38 in an inclined position (as shown in Figure 3) with the free short end of the tub frame slightly above the floor engaging faces of the foot pieces 21, the foot pieces being recessed at 39 to permit the free end of the tub to enter between the lower ends of the walls 15 with the entire tub located finally between the brace 29 and the plane of the adjacent longitudinal edges of walls 15.

The tub has a drain hose 40 attached at one end of the hose to the pliable body 37 of the tub substantially centrally of the body. To permit the tub to be filled with and to retain bath water, there is provided a hook or clip 41 secured to the under face of one longitudinal side element of the tub rim 36 to releasably retain the free end portion of the drain hose substantially at the level of the tub rim.

A fabric bag or pocket 42 for holding soap is secured to the tub rim by some of the tacks 43 employed to secure the pliable tub body to said rim, said soap pocket or bag being secured to the hinged end of the tub rim.

The foldable supporting means 12 for the free end of the hinged tub 11 comprises a hinged leg in the form of a wooden board 44 having nailed or otherwise fixed to one face thereof a foot board 45 elongated transversely of the tub. The leg board 44 has the end thereof which is opposite said foot board hinged by means of a pair of hinges 46 to the under side of the free end of the tub frame to permit swinging or folding of the parts 44—45 flatwise up under the pliable tub body to collapse said body and to permit the relatively folded tub and parts 44—45 to thereupon be swung downward as a unit until arrested in the inclined position of Figure 3 by the X-shaped brace 29 and the ends of recesses 39 in foot pieces 21.

When the appliance is fully compacted, as shown in Figure 3, the hinged tub leg 44—45 extends up from its hinges 46 between the X-shaped brace 29 and the tub, and the weight of the tub and other parts to be later described, together with the inclined position in which the tub and said other parts are arrested when the appliance is compacted, prevents accidental unfolding of the leg, since gravitational force acts to keep the appliance fully compacted until a lifting or unfolding force is applied to the tub.

To prevent accidental folding movement of the tub leg while the appliance is extended, as shown either in Figure 2 or in Figures 1 and 4, there is provided a U-shaped metal brace and leg lock

47 formed of slightly resilient metal rod stock. The cross-bar of this brace and lock is hinged to the tub leg by a metal strap 48 fastened to the inner face of leg board 44. The free ends of the legs of the brace and lock are bent outward at 47*a* to provide projections which are slidable in longitudinal grooves 49 formed in the inner faces of the longitudinal sides of the tub frame. Adjacent the hinged end of the tub leg 44—45, the grooves 49 terminate in holes 50 into which the ends 47*a* of the slightly springy brace and lock snap when the leg 44—45 is unfolded far enough to be perpendicular to the plane of the tub frame. By pressing the legs of the combined leg brace and lock 47 slightly toward each other, the hinged tub leg may be released for collapsing the appliance into the condition shown in Figure 3. The length of the hinged tub leg 44—45 is such that it reaches the floor upon which the primary and self-sustaining support 10 stands when the appliance is extended to either the condition of Figure 1 or Figure 2. It will be noted that the appliance is supported in a very stable manner both when compacted and variably extended, and that, as will be apparent from the foregoing and following description, the support 10 sustains all of the other parts of the appliance in the fully compacted condition of the device shown in Figure 3.

The oblong tub cover or dressing table top 13 is of the same external size or surface area as the tub rim and comprises an oblong wooden frame 51 over the outer face of which is tightly stretched a fabric or other pliable sheet 52 which is secured to the frame at the inner side of the framework by tacks 53 as shown. Sheet 52 is preferably formed of linen or canvas. The cover or table top is hinged to the tub frame or rim by a pair of hinges 54 to swing about an axis which extends along and closely adjacent one longitudinal edge of the tub frame and a corresponding longitudinal edge of the cover in such manner that the cover, when closed, rests on the tub rim and closes the tub. When the appliance is extended as shown in Figure 2, with the cover closed, the extended appliance provides a stable dressing table. By thereafter opening the cover, as shown in Figures 1 and 4, the appliance affords a stable bathing means. A flexible cord 55 is attached to the rims or frames of the tub and cover to arrest opening movement of the cover after the cover has been opened slightly more than 90 degrees, as shown more clearly in Figure 1.

A flexible strap 56, preferably formed of fabric such as linen or canvas, has one end thereof anchored by tacks 57 to and medially of the ends of that longitudinal side of the tub rim or frame to which the cover or table top 13 is hinged. This strap is provided adjacent its free end with three snap fastener socket elements 58. The table top 13 carries medially of the free longitudinal edge of said cover the stud element 59 of a snap fastener which may be engaged with any one of the fastener socket elements 58, when the device is extended with the cover open, to hold strap 56 adjacent its free end as shown (for example) in Figure 1. The tub 11 carries, medially of its ends at that longitudinal edge thereof which is opposite the hinged edge of the cover, the stud element 60 of a snap fastener, which element may be engaged by either of the three socket elements 58 carried by strap 56. By the provision of the snap fastener means described, the strap may be fastened to the tub with the strap tightened over the tub cover to hold the

cover firmly closed over the tub, as shown in Figure 3 and in full lines in Figure 2, or the strap may be fastened to the tub over the cover with variable amounts of slack (as shown in one case in dotted lines in Figure 2) to strap a baby down on the covered tub or dressing table.

To facilitate extension of the appliance from its fully compacted condition shown in Figure 3, there is provided a tab or short pliable strap 61, preferably formed of linen or canvas, said strap or tab being anchored to the tub frame at that longitudinal side of the frame opposite the one at which the tub cover is hinged. The tab 61 is anchored to the tub frame by some of the tacks employed to secure the tub body to the frame, and said tab is preferably located adjacent the free end of the hinged tub as shown.

The primary support 10 carries a slidable supporting rod 62 for temporary support of towels, said rod being preferably formed of wood and having a handle knob 62*a* at its outer end. This rod slides through an aperture 63 in one of the walls 15 (that one farthest from the hinged side of the cover), and through a bent metal strap 64 secured to boards 16 and 19 adjacent the junction of these boards. A stop screw or stud 65 is held to the rod near its inner end to engage the strap to limit projecting movement of the rod. The knob 62*a* limits compacting movement of the rod.

The board 16 of the primary support is provided, medially of its ends and adjacent its upper edge, with a longitudinally extending hand-hold slot 66 so located that, at least when the appliance is fully compacted, said hand-hold slot is freely accessible to permit convenient grasping of the appliance to carry it, or to slide it, as may be desired.

The construction is such that the fabric wall 23 and shelves 25 may readily be replaced as a unit by first detaching the brace 29 and rods 26 and tacks 24, and is also such that the fabric wall 32 and its elastic element 34 also may be readily replaced. The pliable sheets constituting parts of the tub and its cover may also readily be replaced. Ordinary upholstery tacks are preferably used to secure the fabric parts.

I claim:

1. A compactible baby bathing appliance comprising a depthwise collapsible bathing tub having a rigid rim with shorter ends than sides and a pliable body which is attached to and is extensible from said rim to hold water and is collapsible toward said rim to compactively flatten the tub depthwise of the tub, an article-holding shelf stack adapted to stand upright alone and to which one end of the rim of said tub is hinged for downward and inward swinging of the tub against the rear of said shelf stack and a support hingedly connected to the other end of said tub rim for folding of said support upward and inward between the tub and said shelf stack into substantial parallelism with the tub rim to collapse the tub body between said rim and said support and permit the collapsed tub and support to be folded against the rear of said stack with said support extending upward toward the hinge connection of the tub rim with said shelf stack.

2. A compactible baby bathing appliance, as claimed in claim 1, wherein a tub cover is hinged to one side of the tub rim to swing transversely of the tub to close and open the top of the tub and to seat on the tub when in tub closing posi-

tion, and means are provided for releasably holding said cover in tub closing position.

3. A compactible baby bathing appliance comprising a depthwise collapsible bathing tub having a rigid rim and a pliable body which is attached to and is extensible from said rim to hold water and is collapsible toward said rim to compactively flatten the tub depthwise of the tub, a tub closing cover hinged to said tub rim, means for releasably holding said tub cover in closed position, a self-sustaining support seatable on a floor or the like in upstanding position and to which said tub is hinged adjacent the upper end of said support to swing downward and inward toward the lower end of said support, and a second support connected to the rim of said tub for folding thereof between the tub and the self-sustaining support into close parallelism with the tub rim from an extended limit in which said two supports will, when seated upright upon a floor or the like, support the tub horizontally with the top of the tub uppermost.

4. A compactible baby bathing appliance, as claimed in claim 3, wherein said self-sustaining support has an upstanding wall downward and inward toward one face of which said tub is swingable in compacting the tub, wherein the tub is substantially entirely enclosed and concealed by said tub cover and said self-sustaining support while the appliance is in compacted condition, and wherein said self-sustaining support has superposed shelves extending outward from the other face of said wall for convenient access to said shelves while the appliance is in its compacted and extended conditions.

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