June 17, 1930. J. P. HOOPER 1,765,074

WADING POOL

Filed June 29, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

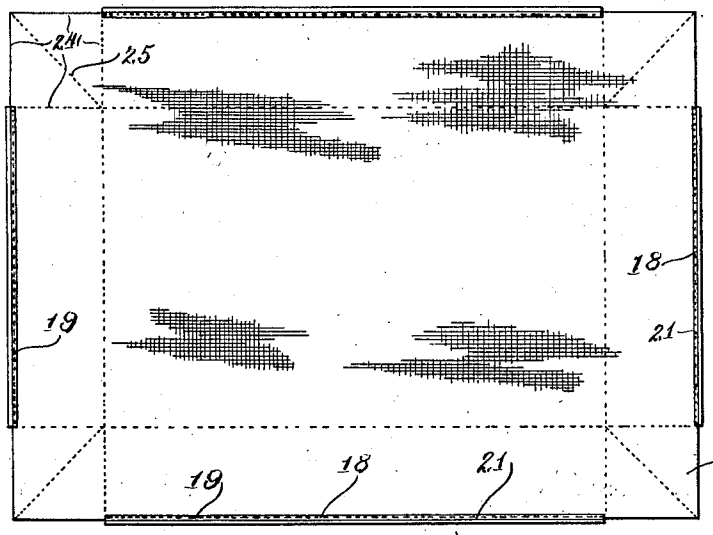


Fig. 1.

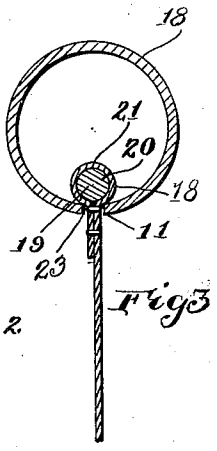


Fig3

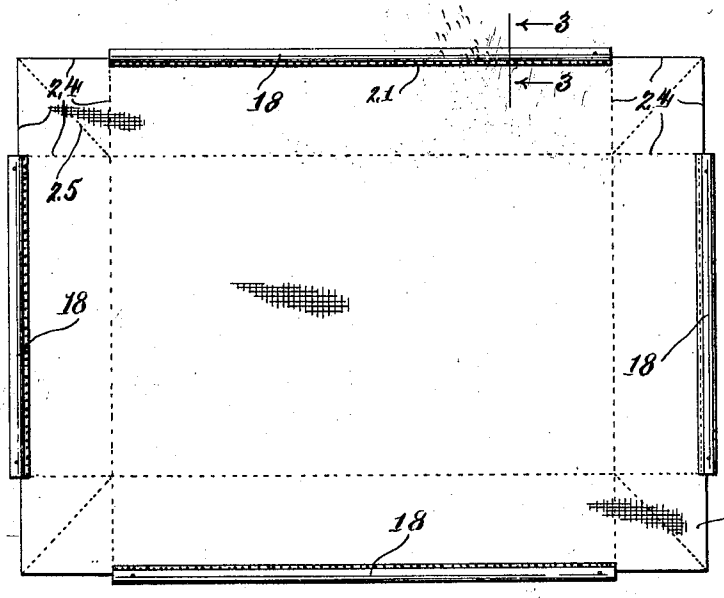


Fig. 2.

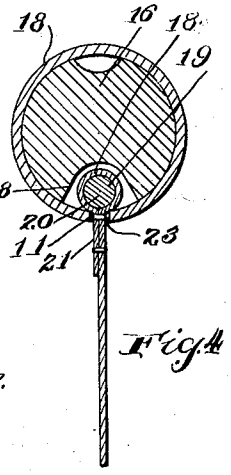


Fig.4

Witnesses

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WADING POOL

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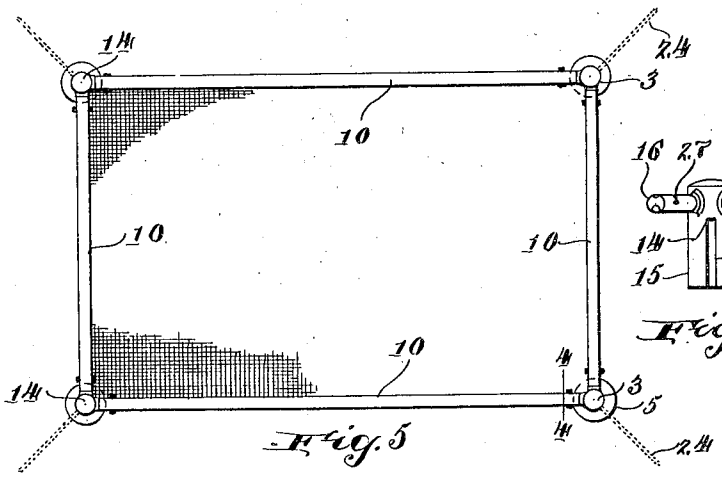


Fig. 5

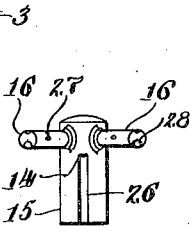


Fig. 11

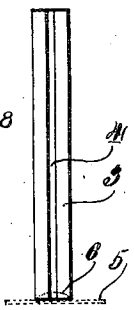


Fig. 8

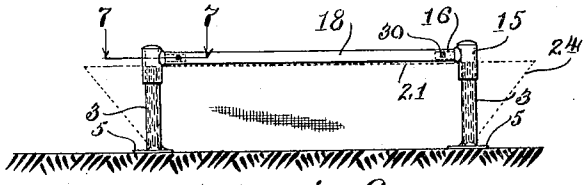


Fig. 6.

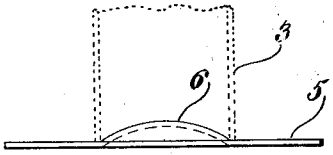


Fig. 9.

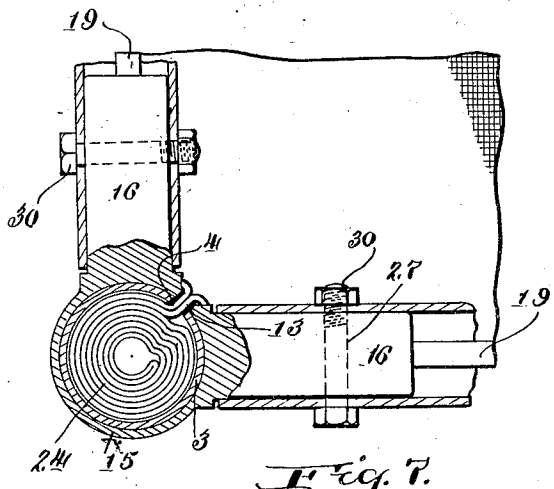


Fig. 7.

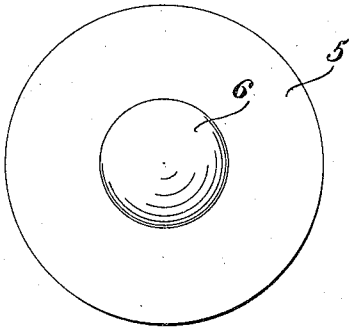


Fig. 10.

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Witnesses

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Patented June 17, 1930 1,765,074

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JAMES P. HOOPER, OF RUXTON, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO WM. E. HOOPER & SONS COMPANY, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, A CORPORATION OF MARYLAND

WADING POOL

Application filed June 29, 1929. Serial No. 374,652.

The wading and swimming pools of the general class to which the invention relates are of the portable type consisting of a knock down frame and a flexible waterproof cover of canvas or equivalent material which is supported on the frame making a watertight bag or container of sufficient dimensions for the purposes in hand. They may be set up on the lawn or back yard, on the porch or in the basement wherever sufficient space is available and suitable conditions prevail.

An important element in its effect on the commercial success of such pools is the facility with which they may be set up, taken down and packed, it being an important requisite that they be not only adapted to be knocked down and set up quickly without the help of a mechanic but that they are adapted to be stowed for shipment or storage quickly, easily and in a small space.

The invention relates particularly to the details of applicant's improved commercial structure in the form in which it is now being manufactured and offered for sale. The improvements contribute to the ease with which the pool structure may be knocked down and set up and to the qualities of the structure which make it possible to pack it conveniently in a reduced space.

These improvements comprise a convenient and effective means for securing the edges of the cover or canvas to the top rails, making it feasible to separate the canvas completely from the frame so that it may be packed in an exceedingly small space, the frame being, in turn, packed in separate pieces, which can be easily handled.

The improvements also relate to the formation of the frame parts so that they cooperate easily and conveniently with the fabric cover, and they include a new support or base for the corner uprights.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated the pool embodying the features of my invention in the preferred form.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the fabric or similar waterproof cover spread out flat and separated from the frame.

Figure 2 is a plan of the cover with the top rail sections attached to it.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 5.

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the pool assembled, portions being broken away and removed for convenience of illustration, the corner folds being shown in dotted lines in the folded position prior to rolling.

Figure 6 is an end elevation of the pool as assembled.

Figure 7 is a section on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a detail view of one of the uprights.

Figure 9 is an elevation of one of the bottom plates for supporting the uprights.

Figure 10 is a top plan view of said plate.

Figure 11 is an elevation of the corner bracket.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, each of which is used to indicate the same or similar parts in the different figures, the construction shown consists of a knock down frame 1, and the waterproof fabric or other suitable flexible cover 2, which is supported on the frame in the form of a flexible bag adapted to contain the water used for wading purposes or swimming.

The frame in the preferred form illustrated includes four tubular uprights 3, slotted longitudinally at 4, each having a suitable base plate 5 for supporting the upright at the bottom. In the form of the invention shown, these base plates are cupped at the center at 6 as illustrated, the cups being convex upwards forming hollow knobs at the centers of the base plates, which knobs serve to position the bottom ends of the tubular uprights 3, each of which is centered on its corresponding plate by means of the knob or cup which enters and occupies the corresponding end of the tube. In other words, the bottom end of the tube fits over the cup or knob and is positioned thereby bearing on the plate around the knob.

The tubular uprights 3 are connected and supported laterally at the top by means of

the top rails 10 which are also preferably formed of tubes being slotted longitudinally at 11 throughout their length. The top rails or tubular top rails are connected at their ends to the top ends of the uprights in any suitable manner as by means of top rail brackets 14, which are formed with a shank 15 to fit down over the corner uprights 3 at the top. These brackets have lateral arms or shanks 16 which fit in the top rail tubes 10 at the ends.

An important feature of the invention resides in the manner of connecting the waterproof covering to the top rails. To this end, the waterproof covering which is preferably flat when released and separate from the frame and spread, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, is provided along the edges 18 where it is desired to secure it to the respective top rails with a heavy binding of considerable thickness laterally of the cloth, which binding 19, Figure 4, may be formed in any suitable manner, consisting in the form shown and preferably of a rope 20, enclosed within a hem 21 extending along the corresponding edges of the fabric or cover.

To assemble the pool, the fabric is spread out in any convenient manner, as illustrated in Figure 1, and the edges of the fabric carrying the rope are inserted in the longitudinal slots 11 in the respective top rails, the binding or rope 19 being led inside the tube, the portion of the hem 21 below said rope at 23 being passed through the slot 11. The rope is thus passed inside the tube as shown in section in Figure 3. The portions of fabric at the corners between the ends of the top rail sections, said corner portions being indicated by reference character 24, are folded flat on the diagonal 25 and rolled tightly so that they can be inserted in the uprights, the portion of the fabric immediately adjacent the roll at 13 being passed through the slot 4. Each upright is supported at the bottom on a corresponding base plate 5, the cup or knob 6 being encircled by the bottom end of the tube which is positioned thereby. The brackets 14 which are slotted vertically parallel to the axis of the shank at 26 are then seated on the tops of the uprights, the slot 26 registering with the slots 4 in the uprights and the portion of the cloth immediately adjacent the corner at 13 being passed through the slot 26, the upper portion of the roll of the corner fabric being enclosed within the shank 15 as well as within the upright, it being understood that each shank 15 encloses the top of the corresponding upright which is inserted into the shank. The arms 16 of the corner bracket 14 are then inserted in the ends of the top rails. The top rails may then be fastened to the corner brackets 15 by means of suitable bolts 30 passed through holes 27 in the arms 16 and through suitable holes in the tubular uprights.

As already pointed out, Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 5, i. e., through one of the top rails and the bracket arm 16 inserted therein. This arm 16, to admit the bead 20 or bead core 19, is grooved longitudinally, as shown at 28, which groove prevents rotation of the top rails and permits the parts to maintain their intended relation.

In the previous structures, the edges of the fabric have been more or less permanently secured to the top rails but with the present arrangement it is more convenient, though not necessary, in knocking down the pool, to detach the fabric completely from the top rail so that it can be folded separately instead of requiring that the fabric and top rails are made into a single package. This latter arrangement also requires a special proportioning of the top rails as to their relative lengths.

The manner of supporting the uprights on the plate 5 and positioning them by means of the knobs 6 is new and of importance in that it prevents the uprights from sinking into the lawn or other soft earth where the pool may be located, and also prevents displacement laterally of the bottom ends of the uprights.

I have thus described specifically and in detail a pool structure embodying the feature of my invention in the preferred form in order that the manner of operating, constructing and using the same may be clearly understood. However, the specific terms herein are used descriptively rather than in a limiting sense, the scope of the invention being defined in the claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A swimming pool having a flexible water proof cover and a knock down frame on which the cover is supported by the edges in the form of a bag, the frame consisting of corner uprights and tubular top rails, the cover having an edge bead and the top rails being slotted to receive portions of the fabric adjacent the bead, the slots being narrower than the bead and the bead being located inside the top rail in the assembled position of the pool, means for securing the top rails to the uprights comprising arms secured to the uprights and adapted to be inserted inside the top rails at the ends, said arms being grooved to admit the bead.

2. A swimming pool having a flexible water-proof cover and a knock down frame on which the cover is supported at the edges in the form of a bag, the frame consisting of corner uprights and tubular top rails, and means for supporting the uprights consisting of a base plate corresponding to each

upright, the base plates having positioning means to engage the corresponding uprights, arms to be inserted inside the top rails at the corners to hold the same in position, said arms being grooved to admit the bead.

Signed by me at Baltimore, Maryland, this 25 day of June, 1929.

JAMES P. HOOPER.