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Arnold et al.

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[54] **BATHTUB FILLER AND SHOWER APPLIANCE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **4/192**, D23/26, 4/DIG. 7

[51] **Int. Cl.** **E03c 1/042**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 4/173, 145, 146, 1, 183, 4/191–194, DIG. 7; 52/34, 35; D23/25, 26, 34, 35, 57

[56] **References Cited**

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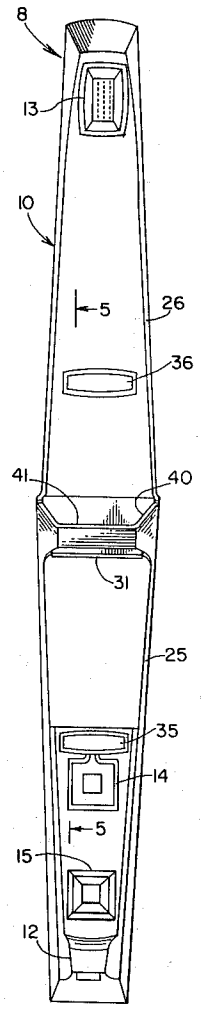
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A bathtub filler and shower appliance adapted to be mounted vertically on a wall adjacent a bathtub, the appliance having a tub filler spout on the lower portion, a shower head on the upper portion and a faucet means and a diverter valve between the spout and shower head. The appliance also has concealed ducts for connection to hot and cold water lines, and concealed ducts within the appliance interconnecting the faucet means, the diverter valve, the spout and the shower head.

5 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



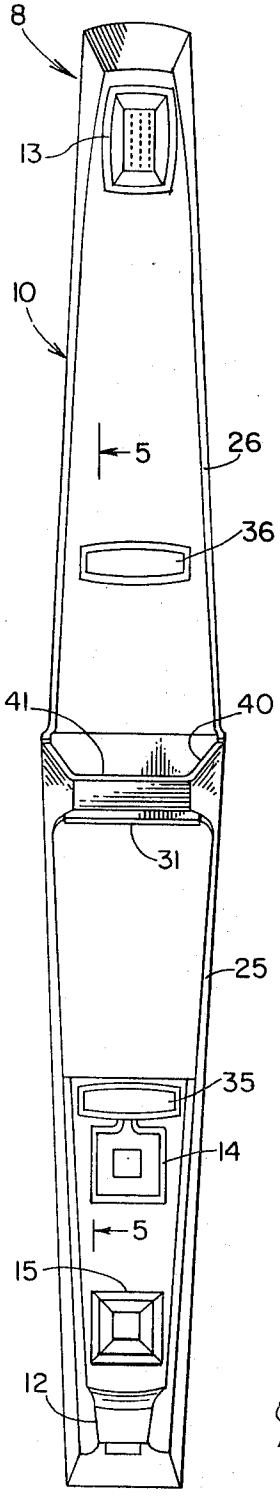


FIG. 1

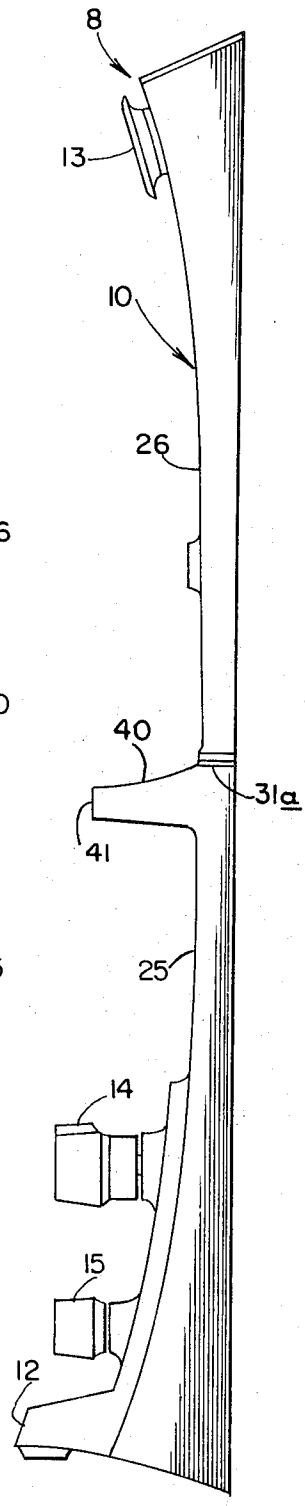


FIG. 2

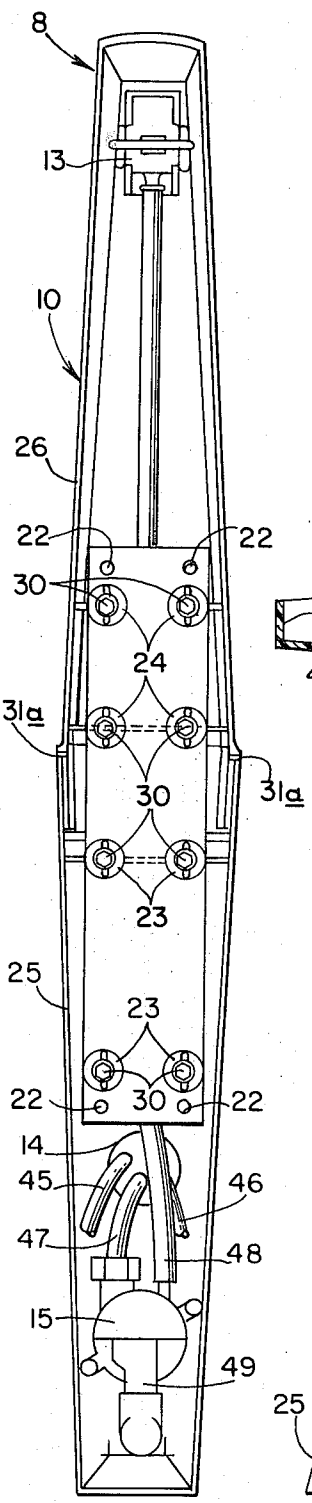


FIG. 3

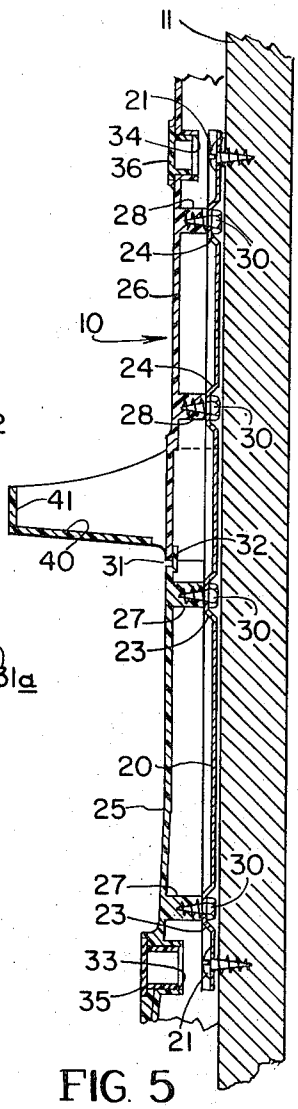


FIG. 5

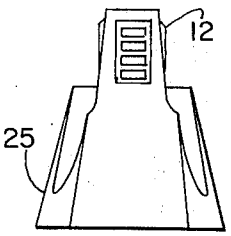


FIG. 4

BATHTUB FILLER AND SHOWER APPLIANCE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a bathtub filler and shower appliance adapted to be mounted vertically on a wall adjacent a bathtub.

Plumbing fixtures associated with a bathtub, such as tub filler spout, shower head, faucet or faucets and diverter valves conventionally are mounted individually on and in a bathroom wall adjacent the bathtub, and ducts interconnecting the aforesaid plumbing fixtures are located within the wall and accessible from the side of the wall opposite the bathtub. Such bathtub fixtures are costly to install, and costly to repair or replace. Further, installation, repair and replacement usually require the services of a professional plumber or other experienced individual.

One object of the invention is to provide a bathtub filler and shower appliance adapted to be mounted on the bathtub side of a wall adjacent the bathtub, the appliance including all necessary plumbing fixtures. The only through-the-wall and behind-the-wall installation procedure required is connection of hot and cold water supply ducts to hot and cold water lines which usually are within or behind the wall. Installation by an unskilled user is accomplished readily.

Another object is to provide a bathtub filler and shower appliance adapted to be mounted on the wall from the front, facilitating installation. The mechanism provided for mounting the appliance on the wall, following installation, is concealed from view, enhancing the appearance of the installed appliance.

Still another object is to provide a bathtub filler and shower appliance having an integral soap dish located in a position of convenience which tends to conceal a joint between two parts of the appliance.

Another object is to provide on an appliance of the character described a soap dish having a portion adapted to function as a grab bar for the convenience and safety of the user.

Still another object is to provide a bathtub filler and shower appliance having unusually pleasing appearance and structural characteristics affording significant manufacturing economy.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention contemplates a bathtub filler and shower appliance comprising an elongated panel assembly adapted to be mounted vertically on a wall adjacent a bathtub. The appliance has a tub filler spout on the lower portion of the panel assembly, a shower head on the upper portion of the panel assembly, a faucet means and diverter valve on the panel assembly between the spout and shower head, the faucet means having supply ducts adapted to be connected to hot and cold water lines, and ducts behind the front face of the panel assembly interconnecting the faucet means, the diverter valve, the spout and the shower head.

In more detailed aspect, the panel assembly of the appliance includes a mounting plate adapted to be secured to the wall, lower and upper panel parts secured to the mounting plate, the panel parts each having an opening aligned with an adjacent end portion of the mounting plate whereby means securing the mounting plate to the wall may be manipulated from the front of the panel assembly, and removable plug members for

said openings. The plug members, of course, conceal the mechanism which secures the mounting plate, and thus the panel assembly, to the wall.

The adjoining ends of the lower and upper panel parts have an abutting joint, with the end of one of the panel parts being offset rearwardly to provide an overlap of the two panel parts at the joint, giving the joint a water resistant characteristic.

The appliance in preferred form has a soap dish integral with the lower panel part, the soap dish tending to conceal the joint between the upper and lower panel parts.

The soap dish, if used, is so shaped and located on the appliance that the front wall thereof serves as a grab bar for safety and convenience.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. **1** is a front elevational view of a bathtub filler and shower appliance embodying the invention.

FIG. **2** is a side elevational view of the appliance shown in FIG. **1.**

FIG. **3** is a rear elevational view of the appliance shown in FIGS. **1** and **2.**

FIG. **4** is a bottom view of the appliance.

FIG. **5** is a fragmentary sectional view on line **5—5** of FIG. **1.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawing, a bathtub filler and shower appliance embodying the invention is generally designated **8** in FIGS. **1–3.** Appliance **8** is adapted to be mounted vertically on the bathtub side of a wall **11** (FIG. **5**) adjacent the bathtub.

Appliance **8** comprises an elongated panel assembly **10,** later to be described in detail, a tub filler spout **12** on the lower portion of panel assembly **10,** a shower head **13** on the upper portion of assembly **10,** and a faucet means **14** and a diverter valve **15** on assembly **10** between spout **12** and shower head **13.** In the illustrated embodiment, faucet means **14** and diverter valve **15** are closer to spout **12** than shower head **13.**

Diverter valve **15** forms the subject matter of copending U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 308,805, entitled "Diverter Valve for Liquids," filed Nov. 22, 1972.

Elongated panel assembly **10,** as illustrated, includes a mounting plate **20** (FIGS. **3** and **5**), preferably of metal and channel shaped, adapted to be secured to wall **11** by means of mounting screws **21** (FIG. **5**) or the like extending through openings **22** (FIG. **3**) located near the upper and lower ends of plate **20.** The lower half length of plate **20** has two longitudinally spaced pairs of laterally spaced bosses **23** (FIG. **3**) and the upper half length of the plate has two longitudinally spaced pairs of transversely spaced bosses **24,** the bosses being inwardly offset from the face of the plate **20** adjacent wall **11,** as shown in FIG. **5.** Each of the bosses **23** and **24** has an opening for a purpose to be mentioned presently.

Panel assembly **10** also includes a lower panel part **25** and an upper panel part **26,** preferably of molded plastic material, the two panel parts respectively having rearwardly extending bosses **27** and **28** (FIG. **5**) adapted to align with bosses **23** and **24** of mounting plate **20.** Suitable means such as screws **30** firmly se-

cure lower and upper panel parts **25** and **26** to mounting plate **20,** as best shown in FIG. **5.**

Lower and upper panel parts **25** and **26** have an overlapping abutting relationship, there being an abutting joint **31** (FIGS. **1** and **5**) visible from the front and abutting joints **31***a* (FIGS. **2** and **3**) visible from the side. As best shown in FIG. **5,** lower panel part **25** at the top has a rearward offset **32** which overlaps the rear of the lower end of upper panel part **26,** providing joint **31** with a water resistant characteristic.

Still referring to FIG. **5,** and secondarily to FIG. **1,** lower panel part **25** has a transversely elongated opening **33,** and upper panel part **26** has a similar transversely elongated opening **34.** Openings **33** and **34,** when the panel parts are mounted on plage **20,** are in alignment with mounting openings **22** at the ends of plate **20.** Accordingly, mounting screws **21** for plate openings **22** are easily manipulated through panel part openings **33** and **34** from the front of panel assembly **10.**

Removable plug members **35** and **36,** respectively, are provided to close openings **33** and **34** following manipulation of the mounting screws, thereby concealing the mounting mechanism and giving the appliance a finished appearance.

Appliance **8** optionally may have a soap dish **40** located in convenient position intermediate the length of panel assembly **10.** As illustrated, soap dish **40** is integral with lower panel part **25,** and is so located adjacent joint **31** between lower and upper panel parts **25** and **26** that from most points of view soap dish **40** conceals joint **31,** enhancing the appearance of the appliance. Forward wall **41** of soap dish **40** by reason of shape and location functions as an effective grab bar for the user, providing a safety feature of significance.

Referring to FIG. **3,** faucet means **14** has rearwardly extending supply ducts **45** and **46** adapted to be connected to hot and cold water lines normally present within or behind wall **11,** these two water connections being the only ones which need to be made on installation. The other ducts which interconnect the fixtures of the appliance are factory installed and are located within the confines of panel assembly **10.** Thus, duct **47** extends from faucet means **14** to diverter valve **15** and duct **48** extends from diverter valve **15** to shower head **13.** Diverter valve **15** has an outlet duct **49** leading directly to tub filler spout **12.**

From the above description it is thought that the construction and advantages of this invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Various changes in detail may be made without departing from the spirit or losing the advantages of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A bathtub filler and shower appliance, comprising:

an elongated panel assembly adapted to be mounted vertically on a wall adjacent a bathtub, said panel assembly having a front face portion and marginal flanges extending rearwardly therefrom to engage the wall and define a space sufficiently large to enclose the portions of the following elements disposed behind said front face portion;

a tub filler spout on the lower portion of said panel assembly;

a shower head on the upper portion of said panel assembly;

a faucet means and diverter valve on said panel assembly between said spout and said shower head, said faucet means having supply ducts behind said front face portion adapted to be connected to hot and cold water lines; and

ducts behind said front face portion of said panel assembly interconnecting said faucet means, said diverter valve, said spout and said shower head;

whereby the appliance is mountable on a wall without breaking into the wall except for an opening for said supply ducts.

2. The bathtub filler and shower appliance of claim **1** wherein said panel assembly includes a mounting plate adapted to be secured to the wall, lower and upper panel parts secured to said mounting plate, said panel parts each spaced forwardly of said mounting plate a non-adjustable distance and having an opening aligned with an adjacent end portion of said mounting plate whereby means securing said mounting plate to the wall may be manipulated from the front of said panel assembly, and removable plug members for said openings.

3. The bathtub filler and shower appliance of claim **2** wherein the adjoining ends of said lower and upper panel parts have an abutting joint, the end of one of said panel parts being offset rearwardly to provide an overlap.

4. The bathtub filler and shower appliance of claim **3** with the addition of a soap dish integral with the upper end portion of said lower panel part, said soap dish substantially concealing the joint between said upper and lower panel parts.

5. The bathtub filler and shower appliance of claim **1** with the addition of a combined soap dish and grab bar centrally located on said panel assembly, said combined soap dish and grab bar projecting forwardly of said panel assembly and said grab bar constituting the front wall of said soap dish.

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