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2,125,603

PADDING FOR PRESSING DEVICES

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Fig. 1.

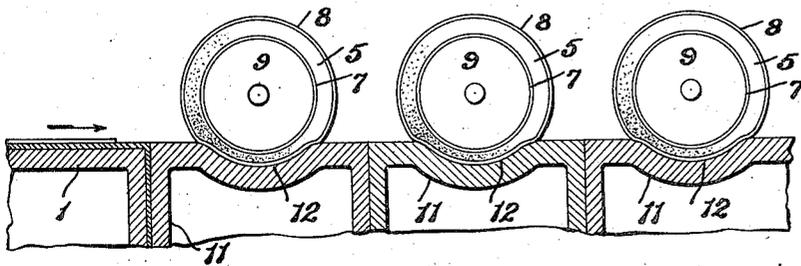


Fig. 2.

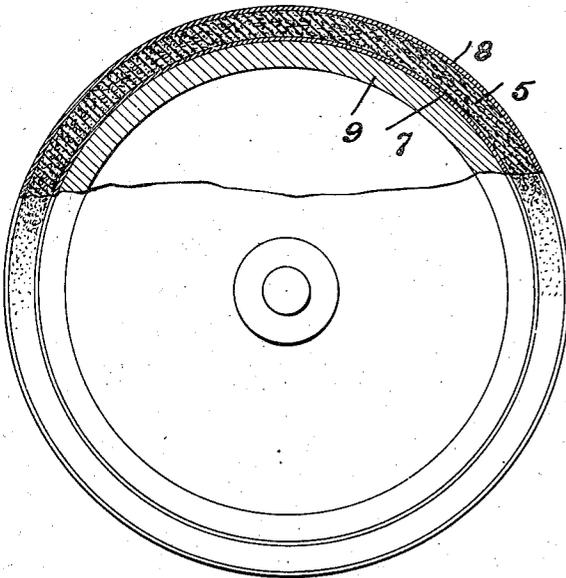


Fig. 4.

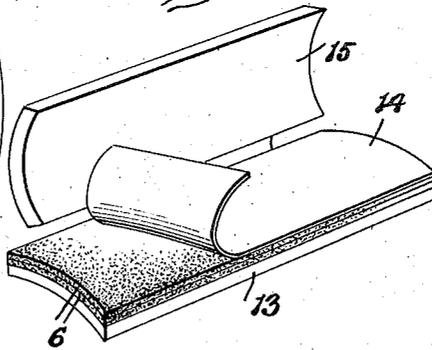
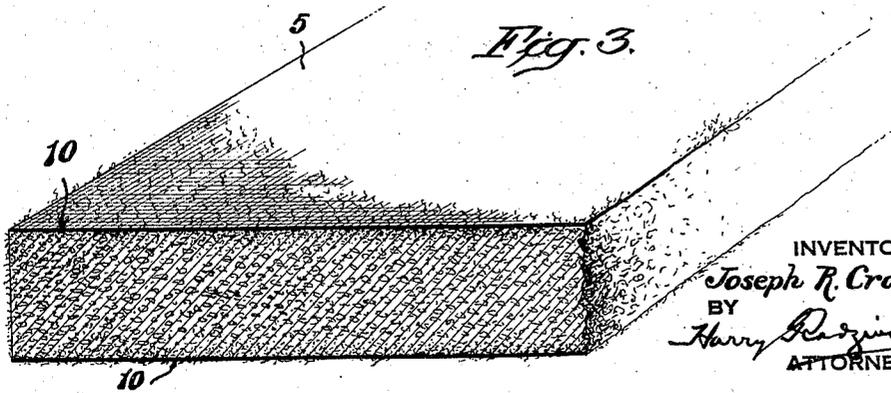


Fig. 3.



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PADDING FOR PRESSING DEVICES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 38-65)

This invention relates to an improvement in paddings for laundry pressers, ironers and other similar devices, and has for its main object the provision of a serviceable, efficient and highly satisfactory padding of this character.

The required desirable characteristics of a padding of the kind referred to are, among others, long life, porosity, moisture absorption, and resiliency without distortion or flow. Efforts have been made in the past to secure these desirable characteristics by the selection of numerous available materials and substances such as various textile fabrics, cork, rubber of different kinds and degrees of softness, and the like, and for numerous reasons a fully satisfactory, lasting padding has not been produced.

Of the various materials heretofore utilized as a padding for laundry pressers, ironers and other like devices, sponge rubber has been tried with a small degree of success. Sponge rubber when used alone, while possessing certain desirable characteristics which would appear to have value as far as a padding of this kind is concerned, nevertheless possesses certain objectionable characteristics in its makeup, which predominate and render sponge rubber padding quite unsatisfactory, causing the trade to seek a material of greater durability, greater efficiency and of more lasting satisfaction. Sponge rubber when used alone is relatively non-absorbent; to possess any material degree of absorbency the "skin" or surfacing of sponge rubber must be removed thus greatly reducing the structural strength of the rubber mass and causing the eventual and inevitable breaking down of the cell structure, resulting in the compaction of the padding and causing a reduction in thickness thereof, and thereby requiring an adjustment of pressure of the pressing rollers or a re-building up of the padding. Also, sponge rubber when not reinforced by its conventional "skin" or surfacing, exhibits a tendency to distortionally shift or "flow", thus causing rough drying or "crows feet" in the ironed article, and particularly in an area surrounding a button or other projection on the garment or other article.

In the accompanying drawing, Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a multi-roll flat work ironer showing the rolls thereof covered with the improved padding; Fig. 2 is an enlarged end elevation, partly in section of one of the rolls of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a section of the padding; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the head and buck of a press.

The improved padding to which the invention

relates is shown at 5 in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, and at 6 in Fig. 4. In the use shown in Figs. 1 to 3, it forms a central layer, being located between an outer textile fabric covering or ply 8 and an inner fabric layer 7, on the roll 9. The padding 5 is composed of an elastic, yieldable cellular material provided with a fibrous, absorbent constituent. I prefer to make said layer of a mixture of sponge rubber or other cellular types of rubber and long wool fibres. In such mixture the rubber predominates, there being approximately 65% rubber in the mix and 35% fibre. It will of course be understood that these quantities are merely approximate and may be varied considerably without destroying the efficiency of the padding. It will also be understood that the fibres employed need not necessarily be wool fibres as various other fibrous materials, and particularly those of absorbent characteristics can undoubtedly be used in the mixture to procure results entirely satisfactory.

The layer of padding thus produced is provided with the conventional surfacing or skin 10 which adds strength and stability to the mixture. The fibrous material incorporated in the padding penetrates through this skin or surfacing so that absorbency is present at the very surface of the padding, such absorbency thereat being afforded by the highly absorbent fibrous material penetrating through the skin and extending throughout the body of the padding. By the maintenance of the skin surfacing on the padding, the structural strength thereof is obtained and there is less tendency for the padding to break down, or diminish in thickness and cause ineffective pressing. By lightly abrading both faces of the padding, the amount of fibres exposed at these surfaces can be materially increased without removing any appreciable amount of the skin or surfacing. Where increased absorbency is required, abrading in the manner described is recommended.

The mixture produced, namely of sponge rubber and a fibrous material, produces a padding possessing a high degree of yieldability or resiliency and at the same time one whose body does not distortionally shift or flow during the pressing operation, and particularly when projections such as buttons on a garment or the like pass between the pressing surfaces. This results in a very effective pressing or ironing action, particularly in the area of the article being ironed surrounding the button or projection thereon.

The use of wool fibres as part of the mixture in the padding produces a highly satisfactory degree of absorbency, the moisture thereby ab-

sorbed being easily dissipated by the heat, so that the retention of excess moisture in the padding does not occur. Starch in the articles being pressed or ironed will not adhere to wool fibres and this characteristic renders such fibres very

5 satisfactory for the purpose herein described.
While I have specifically stated herein that the fibrous material which I propose incorporating with sponge rubber shall be long wool fibres, it
10 will be obvious that I do not limit myself to this precise mixture of sponge rubber and wool fibre, since the fibrous material therein incorporated might well be animal fibre, vegetable, mineral or synthetic fibres, having the desired resiliency and
15 absorbent characteristics.

The padding thus described may be used for various ironing and pressing devices. In Fig. 1 the padding extends around the body of the rolls, 9
20 between the textile fabric layers 7 and 8, as clearly disclosed. The rolls are mounted above the steam chests 11 in the conventional manner and the peripheries of the rolls bear against the concave surfaces 12 of said chests with considerable pressure. In the press shown in Fig. 4,
25 the buck 13 forms the supporting body of the device and the upper face thereof receives one or

more layers 6 of the padding material made as herein specified, the upper layer being preferably covered by textile covering or strip 14. The movable heated head 15 is pressed on to the garments or other articles to be pressed, the same being placed upon the padded buck during the pressing operation. The padding described may be used in various other pressing devices without departing from the spirit of this invention.

What I claim is:

1. A padding for pressing and ironing devices comprising a sheet of sponge rubber in which is incorporated a quantity of wool fibres, said sheet having its faces formed with the conventional "skin" or surfacing, the wool fibres penetrating
15 said "skin".

2. A padding for pressing and ironing devices comprising a sheet composed of sponge rubber with fibres mixed therewith and extending in all directions throughout the body of the sheet, said
20 sheet having abraded surfaces to expose the fibres at said surfaces without materially removing an appreciable quantity of the "skin" or surfacing on the sheet.

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