United States Patent [19]

Pampinella

[11] **3,834,782**

[45] **Sept. 10, 1974**

[54] **TOILET ARTICLE CONTAINER**

[76] Inventor: **Albert N. Pampinella,** 38228 Harper Ave., Mt. Clement, Mich.

[22] Filed: **Aug. 9, 1972**

[21] Appl. No.: **279,006**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **312/248,** 312/226, 312/251, 312/302, 312/313

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47b 67/02,** A47f 5/08

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 312/248, 251, 245, 351, 312/302, 313, 315, 325, 329, 226; 248/202, 240, 278, 281; 206/19.5, 45.15, 77.1; 217/60 E; 297/185, 191; 108/26, 28, 44, 45, 42, 139, 140; 4/185 R, 185 A, 185 B

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

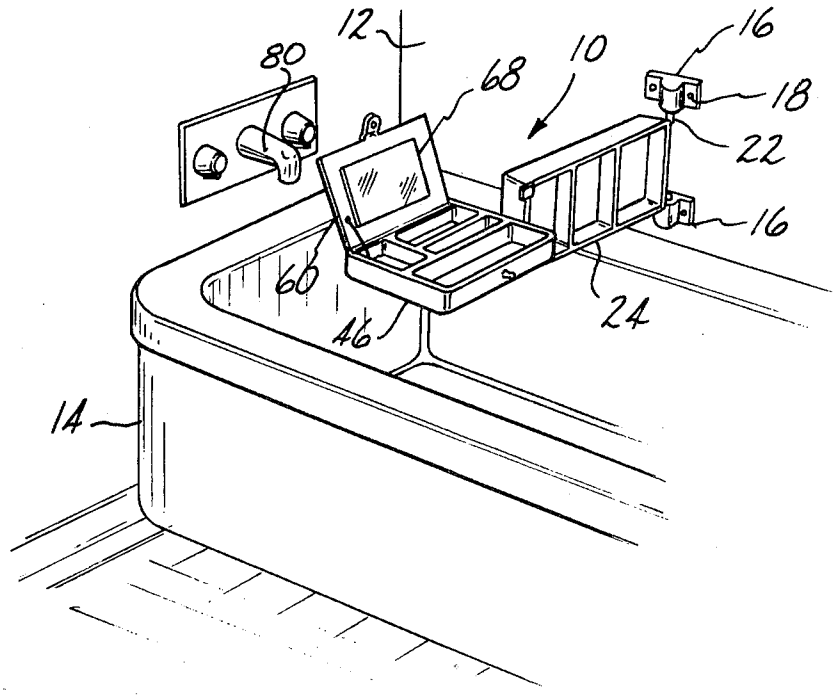
1,360,376	11/1920	Douthit	312/313 X
2,077,337	4/1937	Lifvendahl et al.	248/240
2,596,773	5/1952	Horikawa	312/248 UX
2,863,709	12/1958	Hausman	312/248
2,939,585	6/1960	Burgin	248/278 X
3,070,340	12/1962	Cohn	312/226 UX
3,280,765	10/1966	Storms	108/45
3,428,286	2/1969	Del Pesco	248/278
3,601,598	8/1971	Horn	248/278

Primary Examiner—James T. McCall
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Weiner, Basile and Weintraub

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A rectangularly shaped container having a cover to permit access to its interior which, in turn, has partitions dividing the same into at least one section adapted to hold water, while the other sections thereof are adapted to store toilet articles and the like. A bracket support fixedly attached to a wall paralleling the longitudinal axis of a bathtub is provided with means for pivotally mounting a bracket adapted for movement between a first position wherein the bracket parallels the wall and a second position wherein the bracket extends outwardly from the wall and transversely of the longitudinal axis of the bathtub. The container is carried at the extended other end of the bracket in such a manner that the container is rotatable with respect to the bracket support so that the open face of the container may be rotated between a horizontal position permitting access therein and a vertical position permitting movement of the bracket member to a position parallel to the wall. Means are provided for selectively locking the container in a selected position.

10 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures



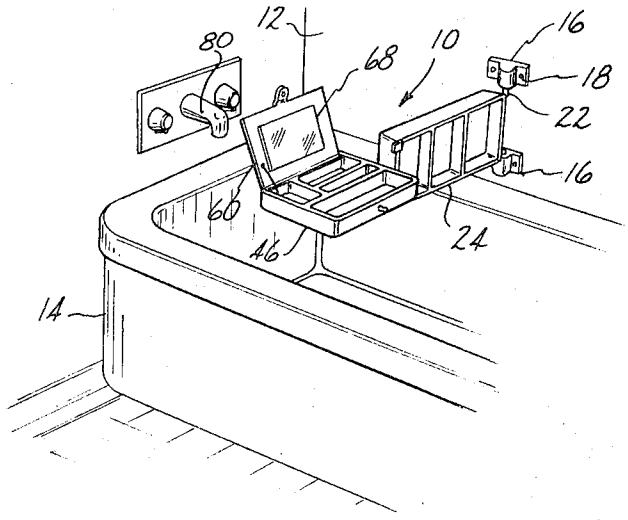


Fig - 1

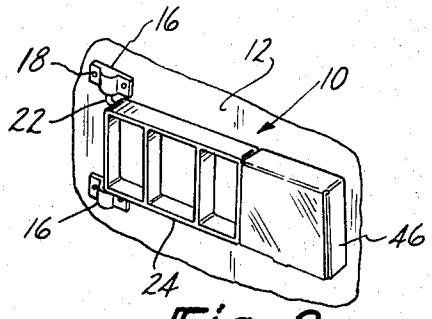


Fig - 2

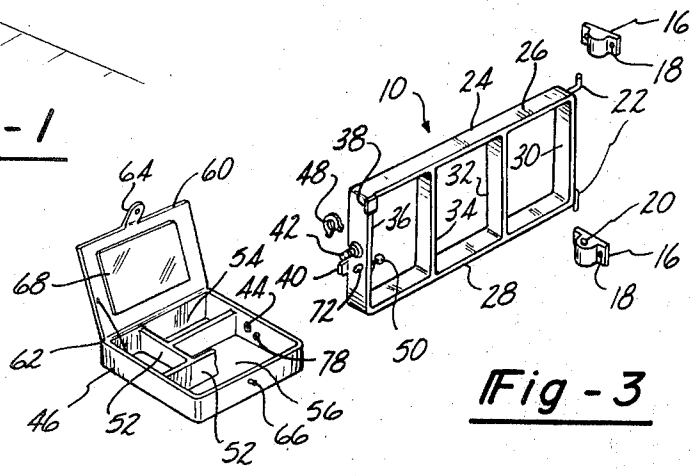


Fig - 3

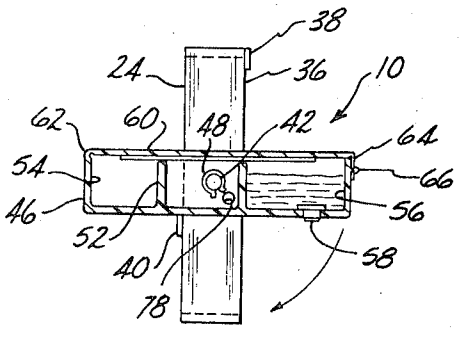


Fig - 4

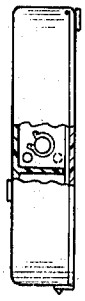


Fig - 5

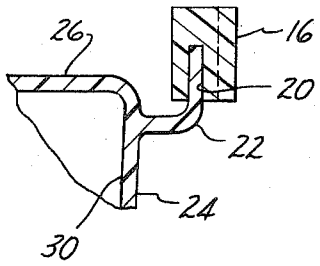


Fig - 6

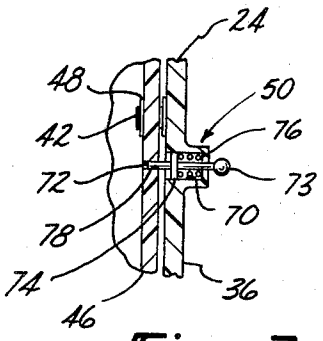


Fig - 7

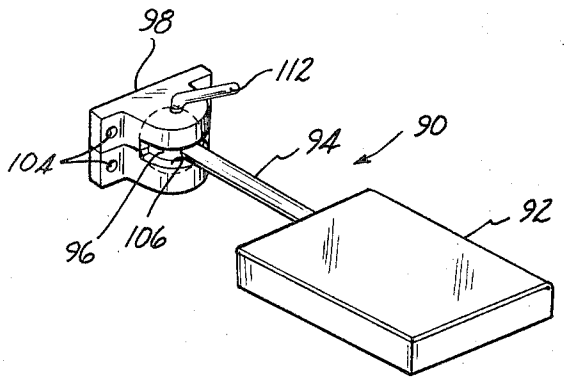


Fig - 8

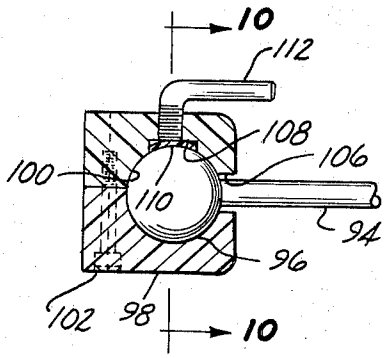


Fig - 9

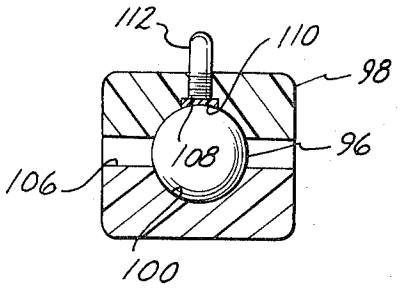


Fig - 10

TOILET ARTICLE CONTAINER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to toilet article container assemblies and, in particular, to a toilet article container adapted to be mounted adjacent a bathtub and swingable from a position paralleling the longitudinal axis of the bathtub to a position extending transversely of the longitudinal axis of the bathtub.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Although numerous toilet article containers, dispensers and the like have heretofore been provided, to the knowledge of the inventor no such toilet article container has been provided which is adapted to be mounted adjacent a bathtub and so designed as to permit the user to utilize the container while bathing with the container being mounted so as to be swingable from a position extending transversely of the longitudinal axis of the bathtub to a position paralleling the wall adjacent the bathtub.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention which will be described subsequently in greater detail comprises a toilet article container mounted by means of bracket to a vertical wall which is adjacent to and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bathtub, the bracket being swingable to and from the wall from a position paralleling the lengthwise edges or longitudinal axis of the bathtub to a position transverse thereto. The article container is rotatable relative to the bracket between a first position wherein the opening to the interior thereof is disposed in a horizontal plane and a second position wherein the opening thereof is disposed in a vertical plane. Means are provided for releasably locking the container in selected planes.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a toilet article container adapted to be employed while the user thereof is bathing in the bathtub.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a toilet article container adapted for the aforementioned use but which is so designed as to be removable from over the bathtub and stored in a fashion not interfering with the user of the tub.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide a toilet article container which is of a simple and inexpensive design yet one which is durable and of a long-lasting construction.

Other objects, advantages and applications of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art of toilet article containers when the accompanying description of one example of the best mode contemplated for practicing the invention is read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The description herein makes reference to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views, and in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a toilet article container assembly being employed in conjunction with a bathtub, the container assembly being constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a fragmentary view of FIG. **1** illustrating the container assembly disposed in a stored position;

FIG. **3** is an exploded perspective view of the toilet article container assembly illustrated in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary partially sectioned side elevational view of the container illustrated in FIG. **1**, the container being illustrated in one of its operative positions;

FIG. **5** is a side elevational view of the container illustrated in FIG. **1** showing the container in a second operative position;

FIG. **6** is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view of a bracket support used in mounting the container assembly illustrated in FIG. **1** to a wall;

FIG. **7** is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view of a locking means for selectively maintaining the container in the operative positions illustrated in FIGS. **4** and **5**;

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of a second example of a container assembly constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. **9** is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view of the container assembly illustrated in FIG. **8**; and

FIG. **10** is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of the container assembly taken along line **10—10** of FIG. **9.**

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings and, in particular, to FIGS. **1** through **7** wherein there is illustrated one example of the present invention in the form of a toilet article container assembly **10** mounted to a wall **12** which is adjacent to and parallel to the longitudinal axis of a bathtub **14.** The toilet article container assembly **10** comprises a pair of bracket supports **16** which are adapted to be fastened to the wall **12** by any suitable fastening means such as screws **18.** When fastened to the wall **12,** the bracket supports **16** have aligned apertures **20** (FIG. **6**) which receive the ends of L-shaped flanges **22** carried at one end of a bracket **24** such that the bracket **24** is freely pivotable with respect to the bracket supports **16** for a purpose which will be described hereinafter. The bracket **24** comprises two horizontally disposed and parallel support members **26** and **28** (FIG. **3**) connected by transverse bracket members **30, 32, 34** and **36.** The bracket **24** is preferably of an integral construction and may be fabricated from any suitable material such as a plastic, polyurethane or polyethylene. The L-shaped flanges **22** as can best be seen in FIG. **6** are also integrally formed with the bracket member **30.** The bracket member **36** has integrally formed therewith outwardly extending tabs **38** and **40** which are provided for a purpose to be described.

The bracket member **36** further carries a cylindrically shaped post **42** that extends outwardly from the outer surface thereof and is adapted to extend through a bore **44** formed in the sidewall of a container **46** with a snap ring **48** engaging the post **42** to securely fasten the container **46** to the post **42** while permitting free relative pivotable or rotational movement of the container **46** with respect to the bracket **24.** The bracket member **36** further carries a container positional lock-

ing member or detent **50** (FIG. 7) for releasably locking the container against movement from out of one of the planes. The detent **50** will be described in greater detail hereinafter.

The container **46,** which can best be seen in FIG. **3,** is generally rectangular in shape having four sidewalls connected by a bottom wall with the interior thereof being divided by partitiions **52** into a plurality of compartments or sections **54** and **56** with the compartment **56** being adapted to hold water and having a plug **58** (FIG. 4) extending through the bottom wall of the container **46** and adapted to be removed to permit the removable of the water therefrom. The remainder of the compartments **54** are adapted to hold various toilet articles such as shaving cream, razor blades and the like. The container **46** is further provided with a cover **60** pivotally mounted along the edge of the container at **62** such that the same may be opened and closed to expose and permit access to the interior of the container **46.** A suitable latching mechanism, such as the tab **64,** is adapted to engage a snap **66** formed on a sidewall of the container **46** to permit a latching of the cover **60** when the container **46** is not in use and to prevent the removal of the articles being stored within the container **46.** A mirror **68** is carried on the inside wall surface of the cover **60** for a purpose to be described hereinafter.

The container **46** when pivotally attached to the bracket **24** is movable to a first position as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **4** wherein the bottom side of the container **46** is abutting the lower tab **40** which, in addition to functioning to support the container, limits its rotational or pivotal movement to a 90° arc between the vertical and horizontal planes and maintains the container **46** in a generally horizontal plane. The container **46** is rotatable upwardly, that is, in a clockwise direction as viewed in FIG. **4** and **5,** to the position illustrated in FIG. **5** wherein it is generally disposed in a vertical plane with the upper tab **38** limiting the rotational movement of the container beyond the vertical plane.

The positional locking mechanism **50,** as can best be seen in FIG. **7,** comprises an enlarged cavity **70** formed in the bracket member **36** and housing a detent **72** with an enlarged flange portion **74** that has one end of a coil spring **76** bearing there against while the other end of the spring **76** bears against the blind end of the cavity **70.** The detent has a rod portion that extends outwardly through the blind end of the cavity **70** with a spherically shaped end **73** formed thereon to enable the user manually to grasp the rod and retract the same inwardly into the cavity. The detent end **72** of the locking mechanism **50** is adapted to engage an aperture **78** extending into the sidewall of the container on which the support post **42** is pivotally attached. As can best be seen in FIG. **4,** when the container **46** is in the horizontal position, the detent **72** engages the aperture **78** and prevents any rotational movement of the container with respect to the bracket **24.** As the container is rotated to the vertical position illustrated in FIG. **5,** the detent biases the sidewall of the container **46** and the spring **76** causes the detent to exert a sufficient pressure against the sidewall to prevent the container from rotating clockwise. However, the container **46** may be provided with an aperture at that position to ensure a positive hold.

In a storage mode the container **46** is normally disposed in a vertical position as shown in FIG. **2** and the bracket is swung in a position adjacent to parallel to the wall **12.** When use of the container **24** is desired, such as when an individual is bathing and desires to shave, the bracket **24** is rotated outwardly to the position illustrated in FIG. **1** where it extends outwardly from the wall **12** and transversely of the longitudinal axis of the bathtub **14.** The bracket is of such a length that in this position the container lies between the lengthwise edges of the bathtub. The cover **60** is then open and the bracket is further rotated so that the compartment **56** is in a position under the water faucet **80** and the compartment may be filled with water. The bracket **24** is then rotated back to the transverse position illustrated in FIG. **1** and the individual may employ the container **24** to shave using the mirror **68** in a conventional manner while removing soap suds and the like from his razor blade by means of the water in the compartment **56.** When the individual has finished bathing and has removed himself from the tub, the water in the compartment **56** may be removed by means of the plug **58.** By pulling on the spherical end **73** the detent **72** may be disengaged from the aperture **78** and the container **46** may be rotated back to its vertical position with the bracket **24** being placed in a position parallel to the wall for storage as illustrated in FIG. **2.**

Referring now to FIGS. **8, 9** and **10** for an aid in the description of another example of the present invention in the form of a toilet article container assembly **90** comprising a container **92** which is identical to the container **46** aforementioned, and thus a further detailed description of the same is not necessary. The container **92** is fixedly attached to a bracket which is in the form of an elongated rod **94** such that the container **92** is not pivotal with respect to the rod **94.** The rod **94** as well as the container **92** may be fabricated from any suitable material such as plastic, polyurethane, polyethylene or the like. The opposite end of the rod **94** has an enlarged spherically shaped member **96** which is housed in a split wall bracket **98,** the components of which when brought together define a spherical bore **100** adapted to receive the spherical end **96** such that the spherical end **96** is freely movable or pivotable therewithin. The mating ends of the wall bracket **98** are attached to one another by any suitable means such as a fastener or screw **102** (FIG. **9**) while the brackets themselves are attached to the wall **12** by any suitable screw **104** or the like. The wall brackets **98** define an arcuate slots or groove **106** through which the rod extends with the groove being disposed in a horizontal plane such that the rod is freely movable within the groove **106** in a horizontal plane but because of the abutment of the rod with the upper and lower edges of the groove **106,** the rod and thus the container **92** is not movable out of the horizontal plane. Since the ball **96** can rotate freely within the bore **100,** the rod **94** and thus the container **92** can be rotated such that the container **92** can be positioned selectively either in a vertical or a horizontal plane in the same manner as the container **46.** The rod **94** may be positioned so that it extends transversely of longitudinal axis of the bathtub **14** or positioned so that it is parallel to the wall **12** in the same manner as the assembly **10** is operational and as illustrated in FIG. **1** and **2** of the drawings. The upper of the two wall bracket **98** is provided with a recess **108** housing a friction member **110** such as a rubber disk or the like

which is engaged by an L-shaped member **112** having a threaded surface engaging a threaded bore in the upper bracket member **98** such that as the member **112** is rotated into the bracket **98** engaging the friction member **110,** the same engages the spherical end **96** so as to fixedly secure the same and prevent further relative rotational movement with respect to the bracket **98** thereby locking the container **92** in any desired plane in a manner similar to the aforementioned toilet article container assembly **10.** The container **92** is used in the same manner and functions in the same way as the aforementioned article container **10** and a further description thereof is not necessary.

It can thus be seen that the present invention has provided a toilet article container assembly adapted to be used in conjunction with a bathtub to permit an individual bathing therein to conveniently shave while at the same time the article container assembly may be removed from over the bathtub and conveniently stored adjacent thereto.

What is claimed is as follows:

1. A toilet article container assembly mountable on a vertical wall adjacent a bathtub and parallel to the lengthwise edges of said bathtub, said assembly comprising a bracket support fastened to said wall; a bracket pivotally carried at one end by said bracket support, a container being attached to the other end of said bracket, said bracket being movable between a first position adjacent to and parallel to said wall and a second position extending outwardly from said wall and transversely of said bathtub lengthwise edges said bracket being of such a length that said container lies between the lengthwise edges of said bathtub when said bracket and said container is moved to said second position; said container having an opening to permit access to the interior thereof, said interior having partition means for dividing said interior into different separated sections, one of said sections being adapted to hold water therewithin, the other of said sections being adapted to store selected toilet articles; said container being rotatable relative to said bracket support between a first position wherein said opening is disposed in a horizontal plane and a second position wherein said opening is disposed in a vertical plane.

2. The assembly defined in claim **1** wherein said container is pivotally carried at the other end of said bracket.

3. The assembly defined in claim **2** further comprising means carried by said bracket for limiting said pivotal movement of said container to a 90° arc between said vertical and horizontal planes.

4. The assembly defined in claim **2** further comprising means for releasably locking said container against movement from out of one of said planes.

5. The assembly defined in claim **4** wherein said lacking means comprises a detent carried at said other end of said bracket and biased into engagement with the adjacent sidewall of said container and adapted to be manually removable from said engagement to permit pivotal movement of said container with respect to said other end of said bracket.

6. The assembly defined in claim **1** wherein said bracket comprises an elongated connecting rod having said other end fixedly attached to said container, said one end thereof having a spherically shaped end, said bracket support having a spherically shaped bore adapted to receive and permit relative pivotal movement of said spherically shaped end therewithin, said bracket support having an arcuate slot through which said rod extends and so sized that it permits said rod to move only in a horizontal plane.

7. The assembly defined in claim **6** further comprising means carried by said bracket support for locking said spherically shaped end in any desired position relative to said spherical bore whereby said container may be oriented in any desired plane.

8. The assembly defined in claim **1** wherein said container interior has partition means dividing said interior into different separated sections, one of said sections being adapted to hold water, the other of said sections being adapted to store selected toilet articles.

9. The assembly defined in claim **8** further comprising a cover pivotally mounted along an edge of said container and adapted to open to permit access to said interior.

10. The toilet article defined in claim **9** further comprising a mirror means carried on the inside wall of said cover.

* * * * *