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BATHTUB AND SHOWER ENCLOSURES

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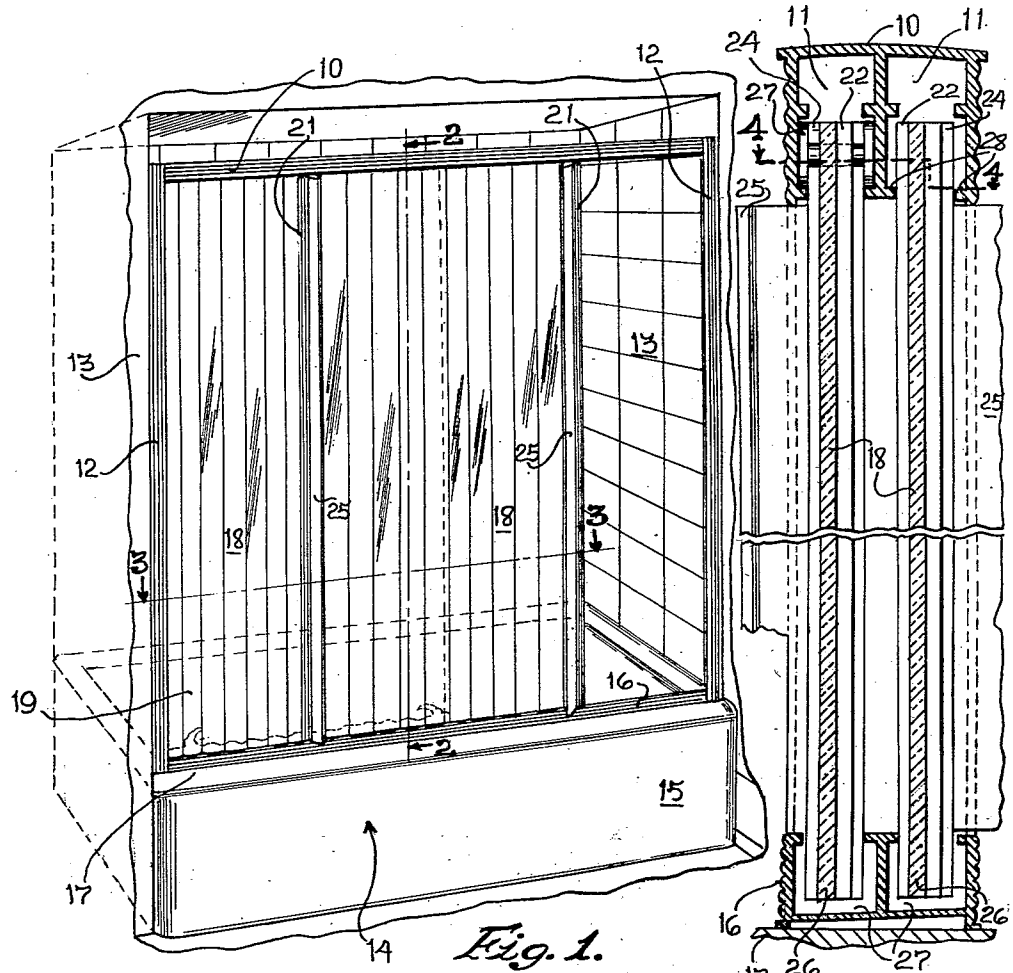


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

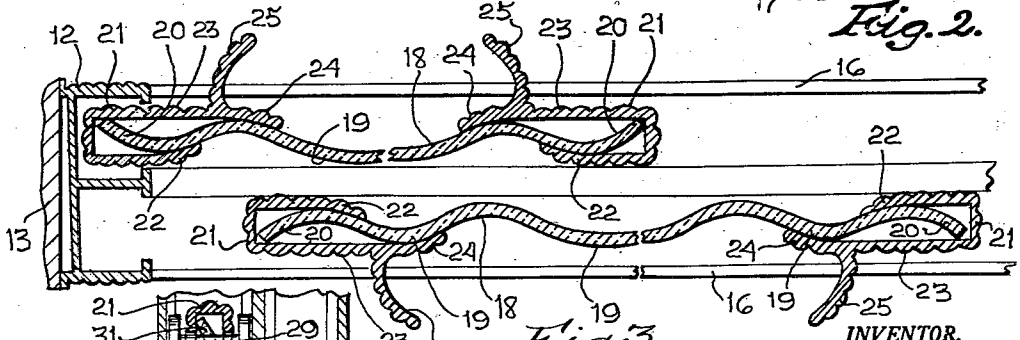


Fig. 3.

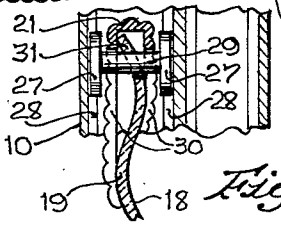


Fig. 4.

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BATHTUB AND SHOWER ENCLOSURES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 189—46)

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in bath tub and shower enclosures and has for its principal object the provision of an improved construction of this character which will be highly efficient in use and economical in manufacture.

An important feature of this invention is the novel arrangement for attaching a handle bearing trim bar on each of the vertical edges of the sliding panel of the enclosure, without the employment of bolts, screws or any adhesives.

Another and equally important object of the invention is to provide an enclosure of the character hereinafter described which may be installed by the use of ordinary household tools.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings showing the preferred form of construction, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a bath tub stall showing my improved enclosure associated therewith, with one panel thereof in partly open position;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional detail view taken substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional detail view taken substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional detail view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

While I have shown my improved enclosure in association with a bath tub and the stall thereof, it is to be understood that my enclosure may be employed equally as well in connection with a shower stall.

My improved enclosure comprises a top bar **10** which is formed to provide parallel channels **11**. This top bar **10** has its side ends joined to side bars **12**. Such connection may be accomplished in any suitable manner.

The side bars **12** are connected in a conventional manner to the adjacent side walls **13** of the bath tub stall **14** in which stall is arranged a bath tub **15**.

A base or bottom bar **16** is mounted upon the top edge **17** of the outside wall of the bath tub. The ends of such base bar are likewise joined in any suitable manner to the side bars **12**.

The enclosure panels are indicated at **18**. Such panels are of like construction. Preferably each panel is either made of transparent or translucent material and is formed with vertically curved ribs **19**. The opposite vertical edges **20** of each panel project into a trim bar **21**. This trim bar **21** is preferably formed, as are the top bar **10**, side bars **12**, and base bar **16**, of any suitable metal, such as aluminum, stainless steel or the like.

Each trim bar **21** is channel-shaped in cross section with one wall **22** curved inwardly, as shown in Fig. 3, for frictional connection to the adjacent edge portion **20** of the panel with which associated. The wall **23** of the trim bar **21** has its edge portions **24** likewise curved for

frictional connection with the adjacent wall portion of the panel **18**.

By this novel construction, when the edge portion **20** of the panel is forced into the channel, the same flexes the two curved edge portions **22** and **24** of the trim bar outwardly a sufficient distance to permit the edge portion **20** to be positioned in the channel of the trim bar **21** and thereby be frictionally held in the channel of the trim bar **21**. By this arrangement the trim bar **21** is connected to the edge portion of the panel **18** without the use of any bolts, screws or adhesive.

Each of the trim bars **21**, adjacent their edge portions **24**, are provided with hand-gripping rails or aprons **25** formed integral with the trim bar. By grasping such rails the panels may be easily moved.

As shown in Fig. 2, the lower edge portions **26** of the panels extend in channels **27** provided by the base bar **16**.

Each panel is suspended for easy sliding movement with respect to the top bar **10**. This is accomplished by attaching to the upper edge portion of each panel, roller elements **27** which ride upon tracks **28** provided within the channels **11** of the top bar **10**.

These roller elements are mounted upon a shaft **29**. Each trim bar **21** adjacent its upper end portion is provided with an open slot **30**. Each panel, adjacent its upper edge portion, is likewise provided with an open slot **31** opening in a direction opposite to the opening of the slot **30**, whereby when the trim bar is fitted to the panel closed slots will be provided. The shaft **29** projects through such slots and is retained in place by the panel **18** and the frame **21**. By means of these rollers the panels **18** may be conveniently moved relative to the bath tub to provide access from and into the bath tub area. When in closed position, the panels effectively guard against the splashing or spilling of water from the bath tub stall. In their sliding movement, the panels are effectively guided by the engagement of their lower end portions **26** in the channels **27**.

It is intended that the shower enclosure be formed of such material as will be relatively light, thus enabling convenient and economical installation.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A panel for a bath tub enclosure comprising a substantially rectangular sheet of material, a trim bar for the opposite vertical edges of said panel, said trim bar being substantially channel-shaped in cross-section with one end thereof being of a longer length than the other end and having said ends curved inwardly toward each other, said curved ends having frictional engagement with the adjacent edge portions of said panel a hand rail formed integral with one of the walls of said trim bar and extending along its length, the opposite upper corner portion of said trim bar and said panel each providing a pair of reversely extending slots, a shaft mounted in said slots and provided with rollers, and track means for said rollers.

2. A panel for a bath tub enclosure comprising a substantially rectangular sheet of ribbed material, a trim bar for the opposite vertical edges of said panel, said trim bar being substantially channel-shaped in cross-section with one end thereof being of a longer length than the other end and having said ends curved inwardly toward each other, said curved ends having frictional engage-

ment with the ribs of the adjacent edge portions of said panel, a hand rail formed integral with one of the walls of said trim bar and extending along its length, the opposite upper corner portion of said trim bar and said panel each providing a pair of reversely extending slots, a shaft mounted in said slots and provided with rollers, and track means for said rollers.

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