May 21, 1968 M. MINASIAN ET AL 3,383,714

TOILET AID FOR CHILDREN

Filed Nov. 29, 1965

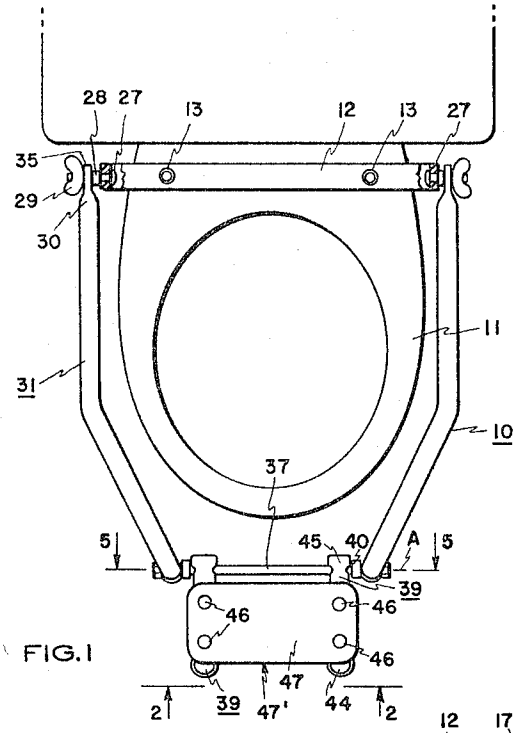


FIG. 1

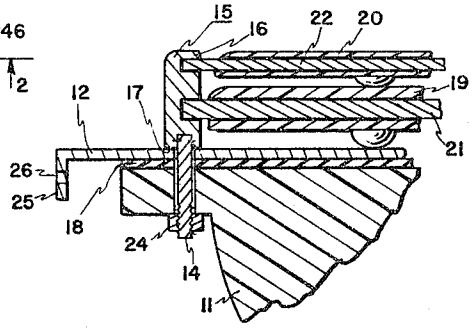


FIG. 4

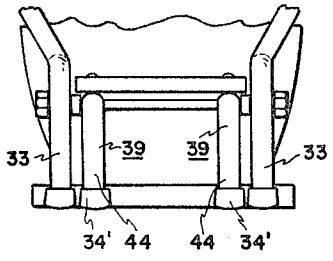


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

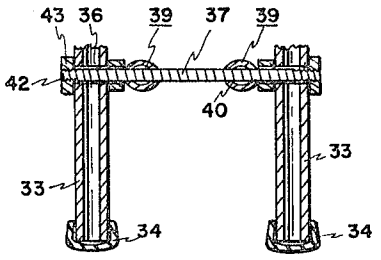


FIG. 5

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United States Patent Office 3,383,714 Patented May 21, 1968

3,383,714

TOILET AID FOR CHILDREN

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Filed Nov. 29, 1965, Ser. No. 510,290
5 Claims. (4—254)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a child's utility device for attachment to toilets and, in particular, provides an extensible and retrievable step by which the child can be elevated when using the toilet. Means are self contained in the structure for supporting the step when in an extended position and also for retrieving the step out of the way for normal adult use of the toilet.

In the preferred form of the invention the step is retrievable or collapsible such that it does not extend more than a negligible amount beyond the supporting structure of the device.

The present invention relates to toilet accommodating structures and, more particularly, to a new and improved utility device for toilet which will make it easy for young children to use small toilets without the aid of their parents.

In the past a number of toilet structures often of reduced size, have been designed specifically for use by children. Some few devices fit over the toilet seat area as well, in order to accommodate young children. With all of the devices presently known there is none that has been designed or currently on the market whereby young children may conveniently use toilet without the aid of mothers and fathers lifting the child. It would, of course, be highly desirable to have a structure whereby a supporting step could be alternatively raised and then placed out of the way, for periodically accommodating small children, this in such a manner that the utility device would not interfere with adult usage.

Accordingly, a principal object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved utility device for toilet structures, which utility device accommodates the toilet practices of small children.

A further object of the invention is to provide a utility device for toilets which can be periodically used by small children, yet may be placed out of the way by children or adults, as desired.

A further object is to provide a utility device structure for toilets of a pivotal nature, readily attachable to the toilet bowl or other structure of the toilet, so as to periodically support a retrievable step.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a toilet incorporating its structure of the present invention, the lid and the seat thereof being removed for purposes of clarity.

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary front elevation, taking along line 2—2 in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a left-side elevation of the structure of FIGURE 1, wherein the step structure has been pivoted in a clockwise direction and dropped downwardly to accommodate adult usage of the toilet.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken along line 4—4 in FIGURE 3, illustrating a representative manner in which the mounting plate of the device may be mounted securely to the porcelain bowl of the toilet, by way of example.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary section taken along the line 5—5, illustrating the means by which the step structure is journaled to the remainder of the utility device.

In FIGURE 1 the utility device **10** of the present invention is shown to be mounted upon toilet bowl **11** of a conventional toilet by means of mounting plate **12** of the device. Mounting plate **12** includes a pair of apertures **13** which receive threaded shanks **14**, see FIGURE 4, of studs **15**. The head **16** of each stud **15** provides a shoulder **17** for securing the mounting plate **12** in position over a preferably included, resilient pad **18**.

The toilet seat **19** and lid **20** may take any desired, conventional form and are journaled by suitable means **21** and **22** to the pair of conventional studs **15**, one only being shown for convenience of illustration. Plural nuts, one being shown, secure the respective mounting post to the toilet bowl **11** in a conventional manner.

FIGURES 1 and 4 indicate that mounting plate **12** includes a pair of depending ears **25**, each having apertures **26** receiving screws or other elongated attachments **27**. Washers **28** and thumb-screws **25** may be utilized to secure the apertured ends **30** of elongate, configured arms **21** to the plate **12** at opposite extremities of the latter.

Arms **31** include elongate portions **32** and also leg support portions **33** as indicated in FIGURE 3. Each of the support portions is provided with a resilient cap **34** as indicated. The arms **31**, in addition to being supplied with end apertures **35**, also include apertures **36** which receive pivot rod **37**. Inverted-L-configured step portion members **39** include apertures **40** which are journaling apertures to permit the plural members **39** illustrated, see FIGURE 1, to rotate about axis A. Pivot rod **37** may be threaded at its ends at its respective, opposite ends **42** for the reception of nuts **43**. Members **39** each include a respective leg portion **44** and a support portion **45** integral therewith. Attachments **46** secure step **47** to support portions **45** in a manner indicated. Caps **34** are inserted over the ends of leg portions **44** as illustrated, see FIGURE 2.

The structure shown in the drawings operates as follows:

For the accommodation of small children intending to use the toilet, the utility device **10** may be easily disposed in the condition shown in FIGURES 1 and 2. The ends **30** of arms **31** in FIGURE 1 are illustrated as being pivotal about the axis of elongate attachment screw **27**. Hence, a child may easily lift up the arms **31** as indicated in FIGURE 3 and, subsequently, lift up the step structure so that the leg portions **44** are vertical as shown in FIGURE 2. When the child has finished his or her use of the toilet, then the step may be easily returned to its initial position, see FIGURE 3, from that shown in FIGURE 1. The arms **31** may be sufficiently short, see FIGURE 3, so that the inclusion of the structure will in no way interfere with adult use.

Accordingly, it is seen that the present structure provides a means by which young children may be accommodated in their use of bathroom toilet facilities.

It is thus seen that the step structure **47** comprising step **47** and members **39**, may be easily erected for child use and, alternately, retracted as desired, as illustrated in FIGURE 3.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from this invention in its broader aspect, and, therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modification as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

We claim:

1. A child's utility device for toilets including, in combination, mounting means transversely fastenable to a toilet; a pair of arms pivotally secured to opposite extremities of said mounting means, said arms each including a depending, floor-contacting support portion; and an integral step structure disposed between said arms, pivoted thereto proximate said support portions, and including support means constructed for floor load bearing contact when said step structure is in load supporting position and for movement away from said load supporting position.

2. Structure according to claim 1 wherein said utility device includes a horizontal pivot rod secured to and between said arms proximate said arm support portions, said step structure being secured to said pivot rod.

3. Structure according to claim 2 wherein said step structure comprises a step, a pair of inverted-L-configured support members secured to said step and including depending leg portions, said inverted-L-configured support members being rearwardly journaled to said pivot rod.

4. A child's utility device for toilets including, in combination, mounting means transversely fastenable to a toilet; a pair of arms pivotally secured to opposite extremities of said mounting means, said arms each including a depending, floor-contacting support portion; and a step structure disposed between said arms, pivoted thereto proximate said support portions, and including support means constructed for floor contact when said step structure is in load supporting position, and wherein said utility device includes a horizontal pivot rod secured to and between said arms proximate said arm support portions, said step structure being secured to said pivot rod, and wherein said step structure comprises a step, a pair of inverted-L-configured support members secured to said step and including depending leg portions, said inverted-L-configured support members being rearwardly journaled to said pivot rod, and wherein said step, when in depending condition, extends downwardly a distance not greater than that of said arm support portions, thereby not interfering with contact of the latter with the floor.

5. A child's utility device for toilets including, in combination, mounting means transversely fastenable to a toilet; a pair of arms pivotally secured to opposite extremities of said mounting means, said arms each including a depending, floor-contacting support portion; and an integral step structure disposed between said arms and pivoted thereto proximate said support portions, said step structure being constructed and arranged to be positioned in extended, horizontal, load bearing position and also in retrieved position, and means for load-supporting said step structure when in the said extended position.

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