Oct. 20, 1953 W. TERRY 2,655,970

COLLAPSIBLE BASKET

Filed Sept. 8, 1952

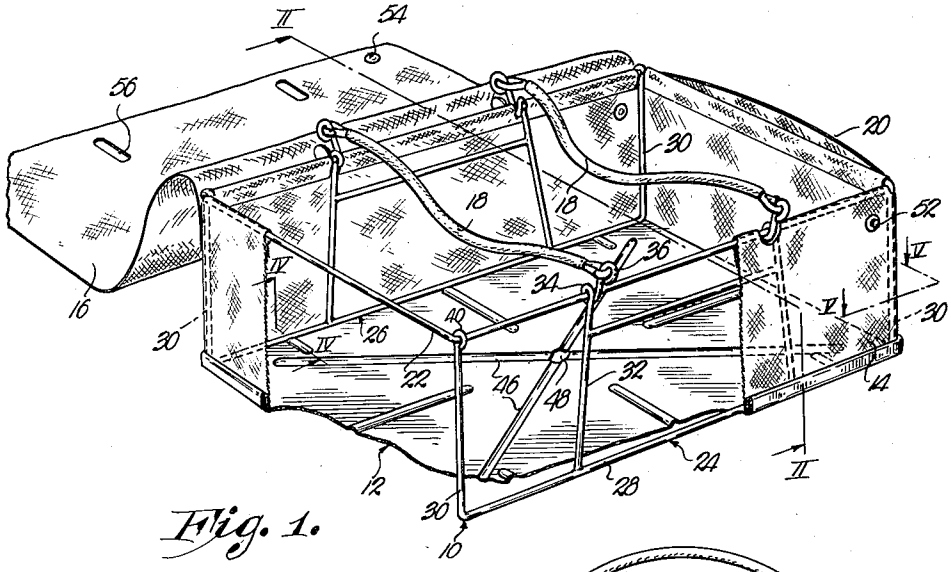


Fig. 1.

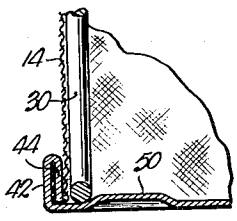


Fig. 4.

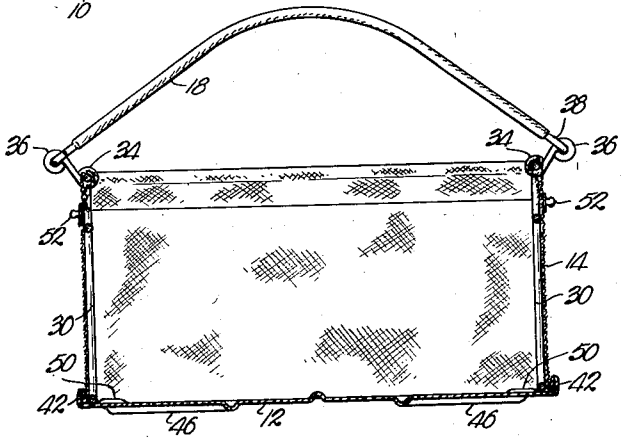


Fig. 2.

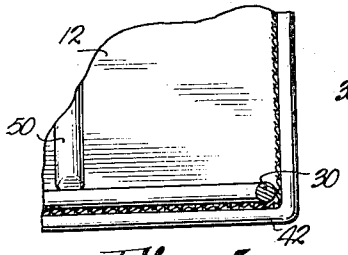


Fig. 5.

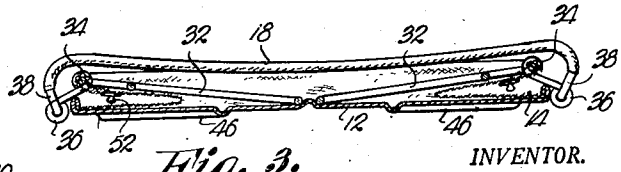


Fig. 3.

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COLLAPSIBLE BASKET

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3 Claims. (Cl. 150—49)

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This invention relates to improvements in collapsible baskets, and has for its primary object to render commercially practical, baskets of the type disclosed in U. S. Letters Patent No. 2,030,204, in the name of Dale B. Gray, dated February 11, 1936.

It is an important object hereof to provide a collapsible basket having framework cooperable with a sheet metal bottom wall and with canvas side walls, as well as a canvas cover to present a container that is easily and inexpensively manufactured and one which will undergo tremendous abuse when used for various and sundry purposes over a relatively long period of time.

An important object hereof is to provide a collapsible basket wherein the sheet metal bottom wall thereof is provided with a continuous bead or overlapping flange structure at the periphery thereof for rigidly securing the canvas sides of the basket thereto, such mounting means cooperating with the collapsible frame in holding the latter in a normally locked position for maintaining the flexible sides of the basket in a taut condition.

Other objects hereof include the way in which the bottom wall of the basket is ribbed throughout for various purposes including the presentation of supporting feet; the draining of moisture from within the basket and the locking of the frame against the continuous flange of the bottom wall; the way in which handles are provided to adapt the basket for use with a canvas cover; and other more minor objects, all of which will be made clear or become apparent as the following specification progresses.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a collapsible basket made according to the present invention, parts being broken away for clearness.

Fig. 2 is a vertical, cross-sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the basket collapsed.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, detailed, cross-sectional view taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged, fragmentary, detailed, cross-sectional view taken on line V—V of Fig. 1.

The basket hereof includes a collapsible framework broadly designated by the numeral 10, a rigid panel 12 preferably of sheet metal and presenting a bottom for the basket, a covering 14 of flexible material presenting the side walls for the basket, and a cover or lid 16 also of flexible material, the side walls 14 and 16 being preferably made from a good grade of canvas.

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A pair of flexible handles 18 extend across the top of the basket and a pocket on at least one end of the basket is presented through the medium of a canvas strip 20 secured directly thereto.

The collapsible framework 10 comprises a continuous, polygonal wire rim 22 and a pair of U-shaped side members 24 and 26, swingably secured to the rim 22. Each U-shaped side member 24—26 has an elongated base portion 28 extending along the bottom of panel 12 in engagement therewith, a pair of upstanding legs 30 at the corners of the basket, and an H-shaped tie member 32 each having a pair of legs as shown secured to the base member 28 and a pair of legs having a coil 34 therein pivotally surrounding the rim 22. The uppermost ends of the legs of tie member 32, terminate in eyelets 36 that releasably receive snap fasteners 38 on the handles 18. Legs 30 of the side members 24 and 26 terminate in eyelets 40 that surround the rim 22 for pivotal movement thereon.

The bottom panel 12 is turned upwardly at its periphery in a continuous outermost flange 42 and thence downwardly and inwardly in an innermost flange 44 for attaching the bottom 12 to the fabric side covering 14. As shown most clearly in Fig. 4 of the drawing, the lowermost marginal edge of the covering 14, extends downwardly along the innermost face of flange 44 and thence upwardly between the flanges 42 and 44 where the same is gripped tightly therebetween. The panel 12 is reinforced throughout by a plurality of ribs.

A pair of crossed ribs 46 present supporting feet for the basket and channels within the uppermost surface of the panel 12 that serve to drain moisture and condensate from the basket into an opening 48 at the point of crossing of ribs 46. There is provided additionally, a number of upturned ribs 50 that are substantially perpendicular to the flanges 42 and 44, and spaced therefrom as shown in Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawing. Each of the ribs 50 therefore, cooperate with the base portion 28 of the side members 24 in holding such base members 28 tightly against the flexible covering 14 to in turn press the same against the innermost face of flange 44. By virtue of the fact that the uppermost ends of the legs of tie member 32 having eyelets 36 thereon extend outwardly from the rim 22, lifting of the basket through use of the flexible handles 18, tends to force the base members 28 against the canvas covering 14 and thereby, there is a cooperation with the ribs 50 in maintaining the entire basket in a normally open condition.

When it is desired to collapse the basket in the

manner shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing, the base members 28 will readily slip from place between the ribs 50 and the flange members 42 and 44. The covering or lid 16 may be attached in any suitable manner and to this end there is provided a plurality of snap fasteners that include buttons 52 and cooperating elements 54 on the covering 14 and lid 16 respectively. Slots 56 in the lid 16 clear the upwardly projecting portions of the tie member 32 when the cover 16 is stretched across the open top of the basket. The handles 18 may be disposed within the basket when the cover is in place or by virtue of the releasable snaps 38 the same can be removed at any time.

A basket of the type herein set forth is adapted for many uses and through provision of a bottom wall of sheet metal or the like, deterioration by moisture collection will have little deleterious effect thereupon. The user need not be concerned in storing or stacking a plurality of baskets of this type either from the standpoint of crushing or damage when placed on moist surfaces.

Details of construction may, of course, vary, but it is desired to be limited only by the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. In a collapsible basket of the kind described, a collapsible framework; a covering of flexible material for the framework; a rigid panel forming the bottom of said basket and having a continuous, upstanding flange portion secured to the covering; and a pair of flexible handles extending across the top of said basket, the framework comprising a polygonal rim, a pair of U-shaped side members having the ends of their legs swingably secured to the said rim at opposite corners thereof and their base portions extending along the bottom of said panel in engagement therewith, an H-shaped tie member on each side member respectively having a pair of legs secured to the base of the side member and a pair of legs coiled about the said rim, extending thereabove, and terminating in a pair of eyelets, said handles joining opposed pairs of eyelets, said panel having a number of upstanding ribs bearing against said base portions to hold the side members against the flexible covering.

2. In a collapsible basket of the kind described, a collapsible framework; a covering of flexible material for the framework; a rigid panel forming the bottom of said basket; and a pair of flexible handles extending across the top of said basket, the framework comprising a polygonal rim, a pair of U-shaped side members having the ends of their legs swingably secured to the said rim at opposite corners thereof and their base portions extending along the bottom of said panel in engagement therewith, an H-shaped tie member on each side member respectively having a pair of legs secured to the base of the side member and a pair of legs coiled about the said rim, extending thereabove, and terminating in a pair of eyelets, said handles joining opposed pairs of eyelets, said panel having a continuous, upstanding flange portion and a number of upstanding ribs, the base portions being wedged between the ribs and the flange portion.

3. In a collapsible basket of the kind described, a collapsible framework; a covering of flexible material for the framework; a rigid panel forming the bottom of said basket; and a pair of flexible handles extending across the top of said basket, the framework comprising a polygonal rim, a pair of U-shaped side members having the ends of their legs swingably secured to the said rim at opposite corners thereof and their base portions extending along the bottom of said panel in engagement therewith, an H-shaped tie member on each side member respectively having a pair of legs secured to the base of the side member and a pair of legs coiled about the said rim, extending thereabove, and terminating in a pair of eyelets, said handles joining opposed pairs of eyelets, said panel having a continuous, upstanding flange portion coiled about the marginal edge of the flexible covering, and a number of upstanding ribs bearing against the base portions to hold the flexible covering gripped between the flange portion and the base portions.

WARREN TERRY.

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