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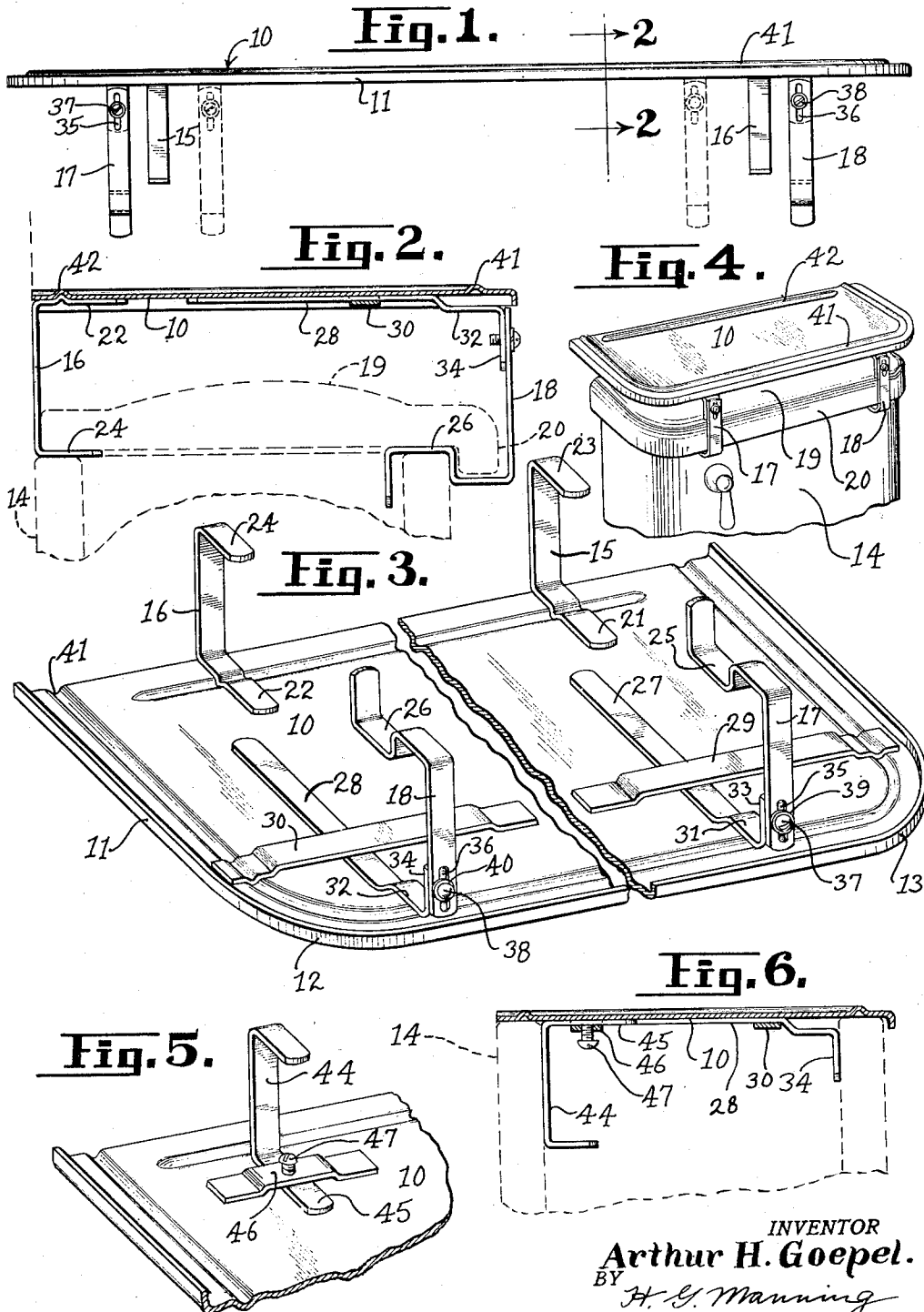
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2,033,629

FLUSH TANK UTILITY SHELF

Filed Oct. 30, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 7.

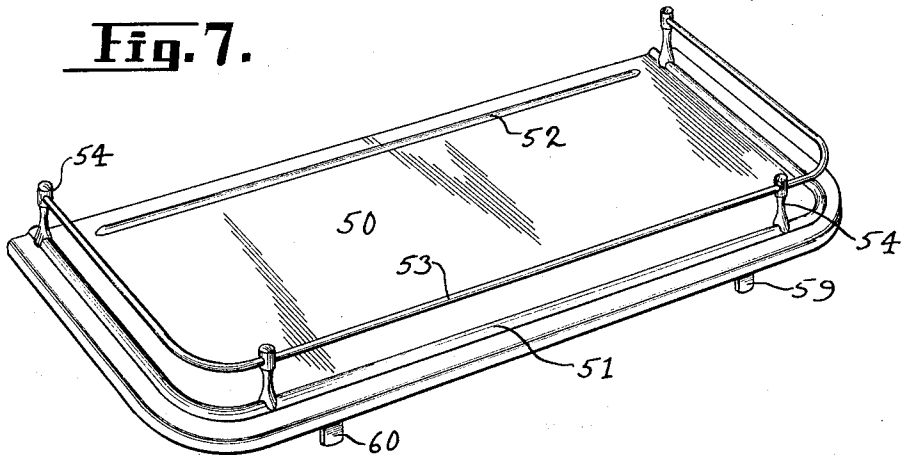


Fig. 8.

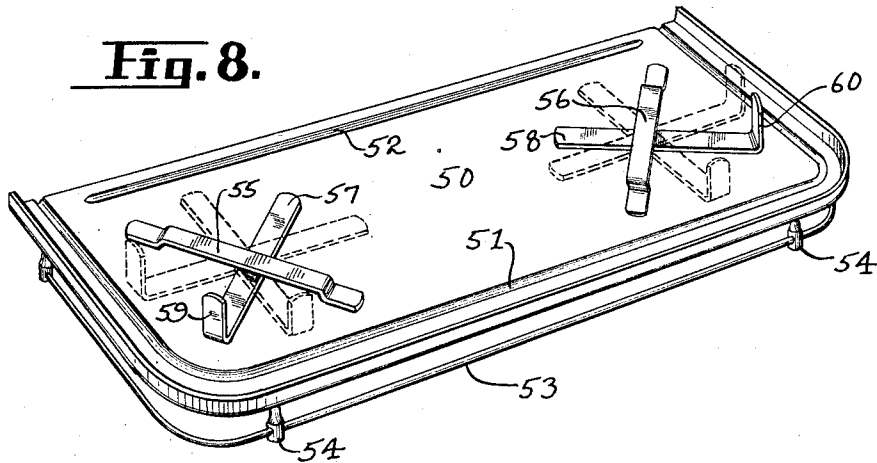
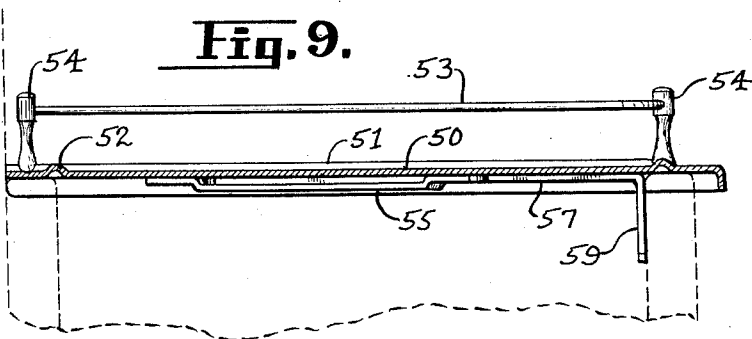


Fig. 9.



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FLUSH TANK UTILITY SHELF

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16 Claims. (Cl. 4—68)

This invention relates to bathroom accessories, and more particularly to a utility shelf or tray adapted to be supported above the cover of a toilet flush tank.

One object of this invention is to provide a utility tray of the above nature having supporting brackets which are readily adjustable to various sizes of flush tanks, and which are adapted to embrace a regular tank cover of porcelain or other material without contacting with the outer surface thereof.

A further object is to provide a utility shelf of the above nature which may, if desired, be used as a substitute for the regular porcelain tank cover in case the latter should become broken or otherwise unusable.

A further object is to provide a utility shelf or tray for bathrooms which is adapted to be installed in or removed from operating position without marring the woodwork or plaster of the wall or the surface of the flush tank and cover.

A further object is to provide a toilet shelf of the above nature which will be simple in construction, portable, readily attachable and detachable, inexpensive to manufacture, compact, ornamental in appearance, and very efficient and durable in use.

With these and other objects in view, there have been illustrated on the accompanying drawings three forms in which the invention may be conveniently embodied in practice.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 represents a front elevational view of the flush tank shelf.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of the same, taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective fragmentary detail view on an enlarged scale of the underside of the flush tank tray.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the shelf as it appears when in position upon a flush tank.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of the bottom of a modified form of flush tank shelf having an adjustable rear bracket, permitting the shelf to be used in place of a regular flush tank cover.

Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view of the same as it appears when in use.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a further modified form of shelf adapted for use only as a flush tank cover.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the underside of the same.

Fig. 9 is a transverse sectional view through the same.

In many bathrooms of present day small houses, space is at a premium and, consequently, the porcelain cover of the flush tank is often used as a shelf for supporting various toilet accessories. Such flush tank covers commonly have a slippery, highly-glazed surface, rounded edges, and a crowned central portion. As a consequence, such covers are quite unsatisfactory for use as shelves, as the articles placed thereon are apt to easily slide or be knocked off, resulting in breakage or damage to the same. By the use of the present invention, the above and other disadvantages are avoided, and a device is provided which is generally useful in the bathroom and presents a pleasing appearance in association with the regular bathroom accessories.

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 10 indicates a substantially rectangular flat metal shelf having a flange 11 depending from the front and side edges thereof, said shelf being provided with rounded front corners 12 and 13 of pleasing appearance.

The shelf 10 is adapted to be supported in a spaced position above a flush tank 14 by means of a pair of fixed rear brackets 15 and 16, and a pair of adjustable front brackets 17 and 18 to be hereinafter more fully described. The flush tank 14 is provided with the usual form of detachable cover 19 having a depending flange 20 on its front and side edges (see Figs. 2 and 4). The construction of the brackets 15, 16, 17 and 18 are such that the shelf 10 will be supported upon the flush tank 14 without interfering with the cover 19.

The rear brackets 15 and 16 are made U-shaped and the upper legs 21 and 22 thereof are secured to the underside of the shelf 10, as by soldering. The lower legs of the rear brackets form pedestals 23 and 24 which are adapted to rest upon the top rear edge of the flush tank 14 and serve as seats for the rear end of the cover lid, which rests thereupon.

The adjustable front brackets 17 and 18 are provided at their lower ends with integral rearwardly extending S-shaped sections 25 and 26 which are adapted to embrace the upper edge of the front wall of the flush tank 14. The intermediate portion of the S-shaped sections loosely embrace with suitable clearance the depending front flange 20 of the cover 19 (see Figs. 2 and 4).

In order to provide means for adjusting the front brackets 17 and 18 to various angular and longitudinal positions to accommodate different

sizes and shapes of flush tanks, provision is made of a pair of elongated sliding angle bars 27 and 28 adapted to be frictionally held against the underside of the shelf plate 10, as by means of a pair of longitudinal strap members 29 and 30, having offset central sections spaced from the shelf, the ends of said straps being rigidly secured to the underside of the shelf plate 10, as by soldering.

The front ends of the sliding bars 27 and 28 are provided with downwardly offset sections 31 and 32, adapted to clear the shelf flange 11, and said bars terminate in tapped depending lugs 33 and 34. The adjustable front brackets 17 and 18 previously mentioned are provided at their upper ends with longitudinal slots 35 and 36, through which suitable screws 37 and 38 are adapted to be inserted and engaged in the tapped holes in the depending lugs 33 and 34 for connecting said brackets thereto in any desired adjusted position.

In order to increase the frictional tension upon the heads of the screws 37 and 38, provision may be made of a pair of split washers 39 and 40 interposed between the adjacent ends of the brackets 21 and 22 and said screw heads.

It will be obvious from the above construction that the sliding bars 27 and 28 and attached front brackets 17 and 18 may be adjusted to many different angular positions, permitting the shelf tray 10 to be fitted to various sizes and constructions of flush tanks.

To prevent the articles placed upon the smooth surface of the shelf 10 from sliding off, provision is made of a U-shaped raised safety rib or ridge 41 positioned adjacent the front and side edges of the shelf 10, and preferably formed out of the body of the plate. A longitudinal raised rib 42 may also be formed adjacent the rear edge of the cover plate, and preferably terminates short of the rear ends of the U-shaped rib 41, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Assembly

In assembling the shelf plate 10 upon the flush tank 14, the cover 19 will first be removed from the tank 14 and then inserted laterally between the shelf 10 and supporting brackets so that the rear portion of said cover 19 will rest upon the pedestals 23 and 24 of the rear brackets 15 and 16. The front brackets 17 and 18 may then be adjusted by merely slipping the sliding bars 27 and 28 underneath the straps 29 and 30 until the forward portions of the S-shaped sections 25 and 26 embrace the depending flange 20 of the flush tank cover 19. The shelf 10 and the cover 19 may then be assembled as a unit upon the flush tank 14. The pedestals 23 and 24 of the rear brackets 15 and 16 will then rest upon the rear wall and the innermost portions of the S-shaped sections 25 and 26 of the front brackets 17 and 18 embracing the top edge of the front flush tank wall. In case it is necessary to level up the shelf, the front bracket screws 37 and 38 may be loosened to permit the shelf to be raised or lowered as desired, and then tightened.

First modified form

In case it is desired to use the shelf plate 10 as a flush tank cover, it will only be necessary to replace the fixed rear brackets 15 and 16 (Figs. 1-3) with adjustable brackets 44, which modified construction is shown in Figs. 5 and 6. In this modified form one of the rear U-shaped supporting brackets 44 is shown, in which the upper leg

45 is frictionally held against the under side of the plate 10 by means of a short offset strap member 46, thus permitting the bracket 44 to be transversely and longitudinally adjusted with respect thereto. If desired, the bracket 44 may be locked in adjusted position by means of a set screw 47 threadedly engaged in a tapped hole in said strap member 46 and binding against the leg 45 of said bracket 44.

In installing the first modified form of shelf 10 as a cover for the tank 14, the rear brackets 44 will first be adjusted so that they will engage the inner surface of the rear wall of the flush tank 14, after which said brackets will be locked in adjusted position by means of the set screws 47. When the shelf tank 10 is thus employed in place of the usual flush tank cover, it will be understood that the front supporting brackets 17 and 18 and the screws 37 and 38 may be removed, and the depending front lugs 33 and 34 will engage the inner surface of the front wall of the flush tank, as clearly shown in Fig. 6.

Second modified form

In the second modified form as illustrated in Figs. 7, 8 and 9, a utility shelf or tray 50 is shown which is constructed to be used as a substitute for the usual flush tank cover, and not as an elevated shelf as in the first two forms of the invention. The tray 50 itself is identical in all respects with the shelf plate 10 of the first form and has raised safety U-shaped ribs 51 and a rear rib 52. An added feature is an elevated U-shaped rail 53 extending parallel to the rib 51 and supported thereabove by means of a plurality of ornamental posts 54, four in this instance (see Fig. 7).

The underside of the tray 50 is provided with a pair of strap members 55 and 56 which are slightly spaced therefrom. The strap members 55 and 56 are positioned diagonally across front corners of the tray 50 and are provided with offset extremities by means of which said straps 55 and 56 may be secured in place to the underside of said tray, as by soldering or welding. A pair of L-shaped brackets 57 and 58 are adjustably and frictionally engaged underneath the straps 55 and 56 and are adapted to be swung to various angular positions, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 8, so as to permit the depending lugs 59 and 60 of said brackets to be abutted against the interior of the front, side or corner walls of the flush tank as desired.

In assembling this form of the invention, it will be understood that the usual flush tank cover is discarded and that it is only necessary to slidably adjust the brackets 57 and 58 as indicated above and to then drop the tray 50 into position upon the top of the flush tank 14, as shown in Fig. 9.

While there have been disclosed in this specification three forms in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that these forms are shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosures but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all the modifications and embodiments coming within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent, is:

1. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank having a cover, a tray, and bracket means secured to the underside of said tray and shaped to en-

gage upon the top of said tank and support said tray in an elevated position above the flush tank cover.

2. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank having a cover, a tray, and bracket means adjustably secured to the underside of said tray and shaped to engage upon the top of said tank and support said tray in an elevated position above the flush tank cover.

3. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear brackets having means for engaging the top edge of the rear wall of said flush tank, and a pair of front brackets having means for clipping over the top edge of the front wall of said flush tank.

4. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear brackets having means for engaging the top edge of the rear wall of said flush tank, and a pair of front brackets having means for clipping over the top edge of the front wall of said flush tank, said front brackets having adjustable engagement with the underside of said tray.

5. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a pair of rear brackets rigidly secured to the underside of said tray, a pair of front brackets having S-shaped extremities for embracing the top edge of the front wall of the flush tank, and means for adjustably securing said front brackets to the underside of said tray.

6. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear brackets having means for engaging the top edge of the rear wall of said flush tank, and a pair of front brackets having means for engaging the top edge of the front wall of said flush tank.

7. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a pair of rear brackets rigidly secured to the underside of said tray, a pair of front brackets having S-shaped extremities for embracing the front edge of the top wall of the flush tank, and a pair of offset straps for adjustably securing said front brackets to the underside of said tray.

8. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear brackets for engaging the rear wall of said flush tank, and a pair of adjustable front brackets for engaging the front wall of said tank, said brackets serving to hold said tray above said flush tank.

9. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear brackets adjustably secured to said tray and adapted to engage the rear wall of said tank, and a pair of front brackets secured to said tray for engaging the front wall of said tank, said brackets serving to hold said tray above said flush tank.

10. In a shelf for selective attachment to a flush tank either in elevated position above the top of said tank or resting directly upon said top as a cover, a tray, a pair of U-shaped rear brackets adjustably secured to said tray and adapted to engage the top of the rear wall of said tank or the inside of said wall, and a pair of front brackets adjustably secured to said tray, said front brackets having detachable sections adapted to engage the top of the front wall of said tank, said front brackets having other sections adapted to engage the inside of the front wall of said tank respectively in the two selective positions of said tray.

11. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear pedestal brackets, a pair of adjustable bars having slidable engagement with the underside of said tray adjacent the front corners, and a pair of front brackets adjustably secured to the front ends of said adjustable bars.

12. In a shelf for attachment to a flush tank, a tray, a pair of rear pedestal brackets, a pair of adjustable bars having slidable engagement with the underside of said tray, said bars having depending lugs formed integrally at the front extremities, and a pair of front brackets adjustably secured to said lugs.

13. In a cover for a flush tank, a tray, and a pair of adjustable depending brackets having angular and slidable engagement with the underside of said tray, whereby said brackets may be adjusted to engage either the side, front or corner walls of the flush tank as the situation may demand.

14. In a cover for a flush tank, a tray, a pair of adjustable brackets having means for angular and slidable engagement with the underside of said tray for assuming various angular positions as desired, and depending lug means on the forward end of said brackets for engaging the interior wall of said flush tank.

15. In a cover for attachment to a flush tank, a tray having a raised section positioned adjacent the edges thereof, a rail supported above said tray in parallel relation to the front and sides thereof, and a pair of adjustable brackets slidably and swingably fitted to the underside of said tray for detachably holding said tray above said flush tank.

16. In a cover for attachment to a flush tank, a tray having a raised section positioned adjacent the edges thereof, and a pair of adjustable brackets slidably and swingably fitted to the underside of said tray for detachably holding said tray above said flush tank.

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