PAINT ROLLER TRAY ASSEMBLY

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The present invention relates to paint roller trays generally and in particular to an assembly having a disposable roller tray.

An object of the present invention is to provide a tray assembly for use with a paint roller, the tray assembly having disposable means for supporting the roller and also for containing a quantity of paint to be rolled onto a wall surface.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and novel article of manufacture, the article including a base member for supporting a disposable paint roller tray.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a paint roller tray assembly which is economical to manufacture and assemble, one having a disposable tray which may be fabricated of lightweight and inexpensive material such as pulp or cardboard, and one which may be manufactured in quantity at reasonable cost.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be fully apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the annexed drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view in section of the paint roller tray assembly of the present invention, FIGURE 2 is an exploded view in perspective of the assembly shown in FIGURE 1, and FIGURE 3 is a view on an enlarged scale, taken on the line 3--3 of FIGURE 2.

Referring in detail to the drawing in which like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, the disposable paint roller tray as shown in FIGURE 2 comprises a base member 10 having a bottom 12, side walls 14 and 16, and end walls 18 and 20.

The end wall 20 terminates at a height less than the height of the end wall 18 and an upwardly and outwardly sloping tray portion 22 extends from the upper end of the end wall 20. The upper surface of the tray portion 22 is provided with ridges 24 arranged in a criss-cross pattern.

The end of the tray portion 22 remote from the end wall 20 is at a level above the upper end of the end wall 18.

The side walls 14 and 16 of the base member 10 extend to the upper end of the tray portion 22 and are formed integrally with the tray portion 22.

Also formed integrally with the tray portion 22 is an upstanding inverted V-shaped lip 26 having a notch 28 centrally thereof.

Means is provided for supporting the tray assembly on a supporting surface and this means comprises a rigid sheet 30 having an upwardly sloping portion 32 of a size to fit beneath the tray portion 22. The sheet 30 also has a U-shaped portion 34 conformably shaped to fit beneath and support the base member 10. A lip 36 projects upwardly from the upper end of the sheet portion 32 and is also provided with a notch 38 which is in registry with the notch 28 of the tray lip 26.

The sheet 30 is provided with rolled edges, as at 40 in FIGURE 2 with a supporting wire 42 encased therein. The wire 42 is bent to form a first leg portion 44 and a second leg portion 46 depending from the upper end of the portion 32. The legs 44 and 46 may be employed to support the frame wire 42 on any level surface, and the horizontal part 43 of the wire 42 holds the frame level on either the wider top or narrower step of a step ladder, such as the top 45 shown in dotted lines in FIGURE 1.

Both sides of the tray portion 32 of the sheet 30 are provided with the wire 42 and adjacent the upper end of the portion 32 are two U-shaped cup type receptacles 48 depending from the portion 32 and riveted or otherwise secured thereto on each side of the portion 32. Each receptacle 48 is of a size to receive therein a molded cup 50, one of which is shown in FIGURE 2. Each cup 50 is adapted to hold therein the bristle portion of a paint brush with a handle in an upright condition.

An important feature resides in the provision of a wire ball or loop 52 depending from the upper end of the sheet portion 32. This ball or loop 52 provides a means by which the hand 54 of the user may support the tray assembly with the loop 52 receiving therein the wrist of the hand 54, as shown in FIGURE 1.

The sheet portion 34 is provided with inwardly turned tabs 56 which serve to prevent the sliding movement outwardly of the base member 10 when inserted therein.

Similarly, each of the receptacles 48 are provided with tabs 58 which serve to prevent lateral movement of the cup 50 when inserted therein.

It will be seen therefore that the assembly of the present invention provides a disposable tray in the base member 10 and attached tray portion 22. This may be fabricated from paper pulp on conventional molding machines with conventionally formed dies.

Preferably, the support sheet 30 is fabricated of rigid sheet metal and rigid wire and also fabricated on conventional machinery with suitable dies.

In use, each of the cups 50 may hold a paint brush in an erect condition and the base member 10 may contain a quantity of paint with a minimum area of the surface of the paint exposed to evaporation or coagulation. The tray portion 22 lends itself to rolling thereon of a roller when a quantity of paint has been put on the tray portion 22 for absorption or coating of the roller in the conventional fashion.

When the painting operation is completed the tray portion 22 and attached base member 10 may be disposed of crumbling and throwing away or burning as desired.

While only a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, other embodiments are contemplated and numerous changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A paint roller tray assembly comprising a preformed base member having a bottom, side and end walls rising from said bottom, one of said end walls terminating at a height less than the height of the other of said end walls, a preformed upwardly and outwardly sloping tray portion extending from the upper end of said one end wall, the end of said tray portion remote from said one end wall being above the upper end of said other end wall, inverted V-shaped lip extending along and formed integrally with said end of said tray portion, the side walls of said base member extending to said end of said tray portion, a rigid sheet having an upwardly sloping portion conformably shaped to fit beneath said tray portion and having a U-shaped portion conformably shaped to fit beneath said base member, the portion of said sheet adjacent the upper end being upwardly turned and conformably shaped to receive therewith said V-shaped lip when said sheet portion rests upon said sheet upwardly sloping portion, said sheet upwardly turned portion and said lip having notches being in registry when said tray portion rests upon said sheet upwardly sloping portion, said notches being adapted to receive therein the shank of a paint roller when resting upon said tray portion, and a
pair of legs depending from the upper end of said sloping portion.

2. A paint roller tray assembly comprising a preformed base member having a bottom, side and end walls rising from said bottom, one of said end walls terminating at a height less than the height of the other of said end walls, a preformed upwardly and outwardly sloping tray portion extending from the upper end of said one end wall, the end of said tray portion remote from said one end wall being above the upper end of said other end wall, an inverted V-shaped lip extending along and formed integral-ly with said end of said tray portion, the side walls of said base member extending to said end of said tray portion, a rigid sheet having an upwardly sloping portion con-formably shaped to fit beneath said tray portion and having a U-shaped portion conformably shaped to fit beneath said base member, the portion of said sheet adjacent the upper end being upwardly turned and conformably shaped to receive thereover said V-shaped lip when said tray portion rests upon said sheet upwardly sloping portion, said sheet upwardly turned portion and said lip having notches being in registry when said tray portion rest upon

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