

Aug. 7, 1934.

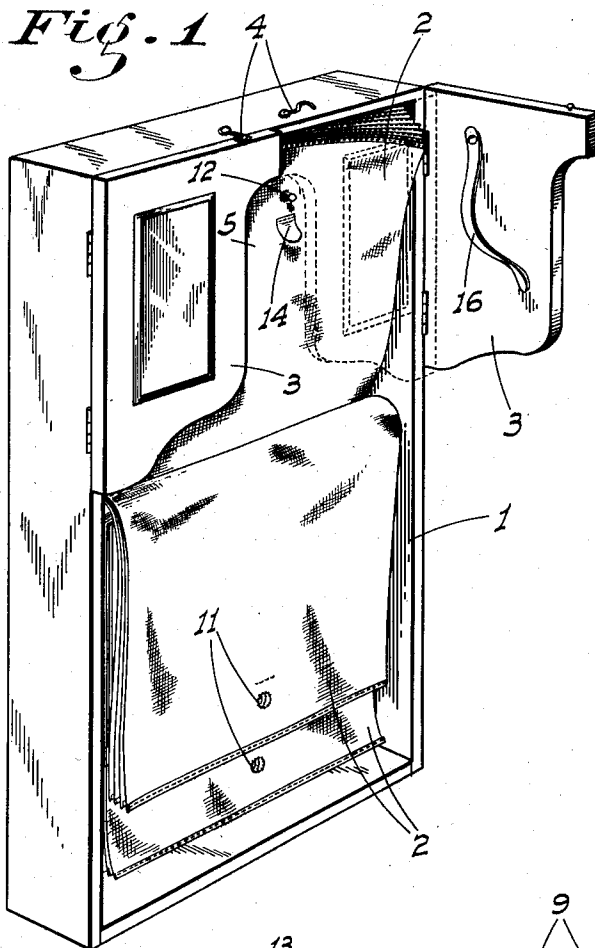
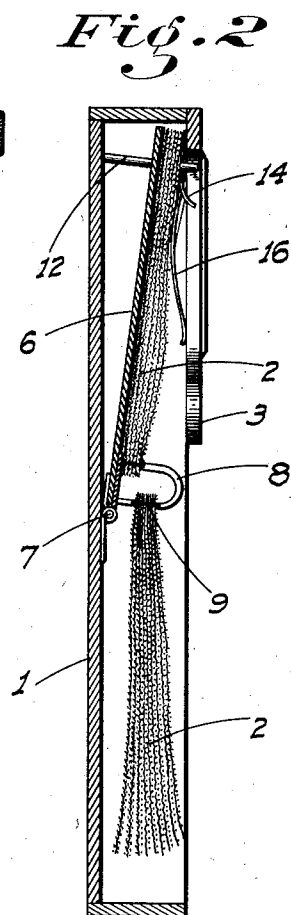
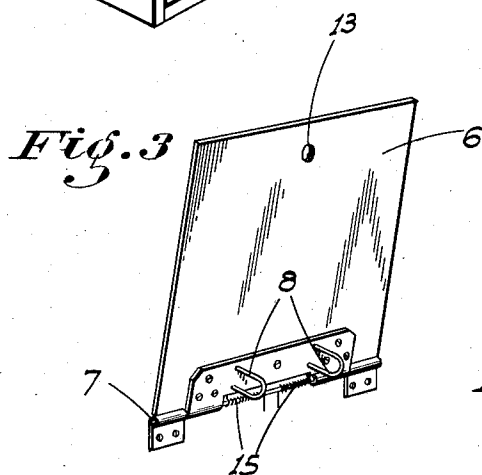
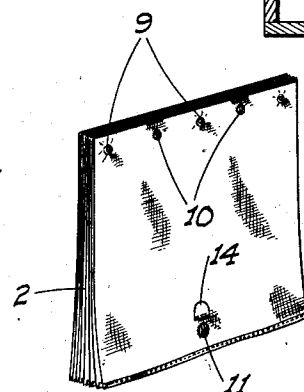
A. I. HONDEVILLE

1,968,833

TOWEL SERVIDOR

Filed Nov. 4, 1932

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 5

Fig. 6

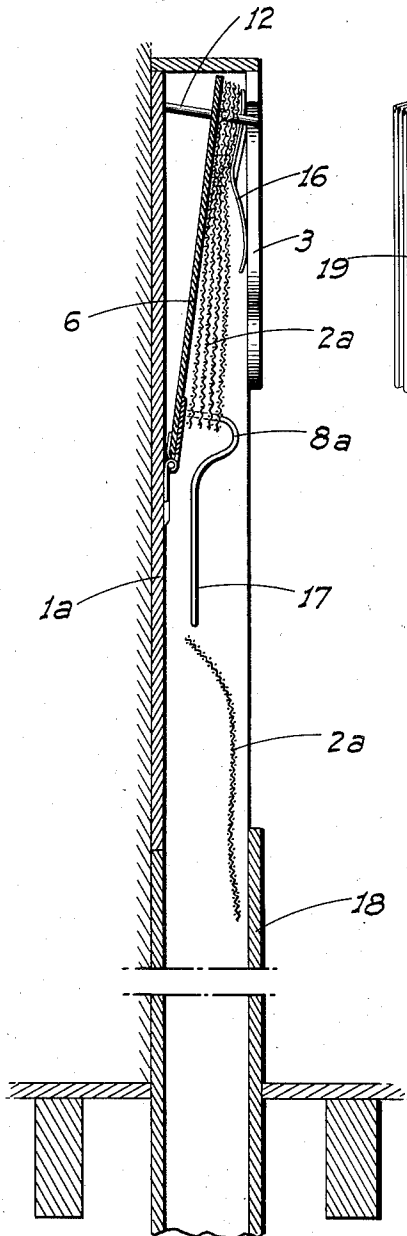
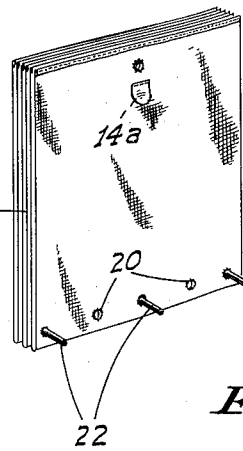


Fig. 7

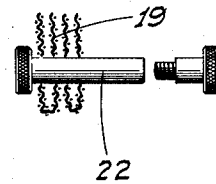
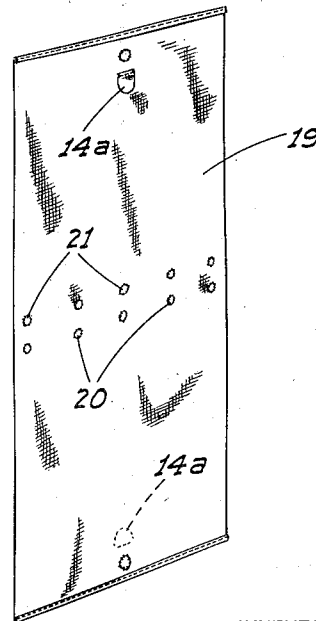


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,968,833

TOWEL SERVIDOR

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Application November 4, 1932, Serial No. 641,183

4 Claims. (Cl. 312—37)

This invention relates to public service towels and a cooperating dispensing apparatus designed to use fabric as distinguished from paper towels. The principal object of my invention is to provide a towel and dispensing arrangement of this general character so constructed that each successive user has an individual towel for his use and it is not necessary for him to have any contact with the towel previously used. Also there is no mechanism to be operated in connection with the dispensing and use of the individual towels and which is liable to get out of order.

My improved servidor therefore is far more sanitary to use than the continuous roller mounted type of towel now commonly installed in public laboratories and the like, in which the soiled portion of the towel must be engaged and pulled by a subsequent user when exposing a clean portion of the towel for his use. Also in connection with such dispensing it is necessary for the user to press the knob which controls the dispensing mechanism and which is handled by everybody using the apparatus—another unsanitary feature which I avoid.

Also, since I have eliminated the necessity of the dispensing mechanism, the dispensing apparatus itself is much simpler and cheaper to manufacture and there is nothing to get out of order.

Further, these continuous long towels are difficult and costly to launder whereas my towel arrangement is such that it may be laundered without any ironing, or the use of any special method or apparatus in connection with such laundering.

A further object of the invention is to produce a simple and inexpensive device and yet one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects I accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved servidor equipped with the towel packages, showing one door open to expose the towel holding spring mounted thereon.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the apparatus.

Fig. 3 is a perspective of the towel supporting and pressing unit of the apparatus detached from the cabinet.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a towel package.

Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation of a modified form of servidor.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a further modified form of towel package.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary enlarged section showing a means for removably attaching the towels of the modified package together.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a towel of said modified package outstretched.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, and particularly at present to Figs. 1 to 4, 1 denotes the cabinet of rectangular form and open on the front. This cabinet is slightly wider than the width of the towels 2 (which is practically square) and is somewhat taller than twice the height of a towel. The upper portion of the front of the cabinet is provided with hinged mirror-doors 3, substantially the height of a towel and normally held closed by suitable catch devices 4. At their upper ends the adjacent edges of the doors meet each other as indicated but for the major portion of their length such adjacent edges are separated to leave a vertical opening as at 5 wide enough to receive the hand.

Disposed in the upper portion of the cabinet is a panel 6 mounted at its lower end on a hinge 7 secured to the back wall of the cabinet on a level slightly more than that of the lower edges of the doors. Rigid U-shaped hangers 8 whose legs are disposed in vertically spaced relation project forwardly from the panel adjacent the bottom in transversely spaced order. These hangers may be of any of the various standard forms such as are used in connection with loose leaf binders of different kinds or so that a towel package may be placed on and removed from the hangers at will.

The individual towels 2 are permanently bound together along one edge by rivets 9 or the like and are punched with holes 10 between the rivets to receive one leg of the hangers. Adjacent their opposite edges the towels are provided with a single opening 11 to receive a peg 12 which is mounted in the back of the cabinet adjacent top and centrally of its width and projecting freely through an opening 13 in the panel. Just below the opening 11 each towel is provided with a finger tab 14.

The length of the hangers and the depth of the cabinet is sufficient to receive two or more towel packages each one of which is preferably made up of twenty-five towels. In mounting the towel package in place it is engaged with the upper legs of the hanger and extends upwardly therefrom, lying against the panel 6 and disposed between the panel and the doors which are initially

opened but which are closed after the towel package is thus in place. The panel is provided with spring means 15 constantly urging it forward and flat springs 16 are mounted on the backs of the doors and extend at a downward converging angle relative to each other to engage the adjacent portions of the outermost or front towel to the sides of the opening 5.

The towels which even when fresh are limp and unironed are therefore held outstretched and will not tend to slip or sag downwardly or outwardly of themselves into the opening 5. The peg 12 aids in thus supporting the towels and also prevents the entire package of towels as a unit from possibly slipping down from between the panel and springs 16 without necessitating the use of very heavy springs.

In operation it is only necessary for the user to grasp the exposed towel by the tip and pull the same forward. The towel will thus be disengaged from the peg and the springs 16 and will be drawn through the opening 5 between the doors, thus exposing the entire area of the towel, from the top to the hanger, for use. After using the towel it is merely let go and the towel will then drop and hang down in the lower portion of the cabinet and against a previously used towel of the package as indicated in Fig. 1. The next clean towel is then of course partially exposed through the opening 5 for a subsequent user without the latter having to touch a towel previously used. When the last towel of a package has been disengaged from the peg and used the weight of the remaining used towels of the package will cause the package as a whole to slide about the hangers to occupy a position on the lower legs of the hangers as shown in Fig. 2. The package may be easily laundered, it being only necessary to place the same in an ordinary washing machine or tub, and after laundering and dry tumbling them, the towels naturally assume the desired flat outstretched form without ironing.

In Fig. 5 the construction and operation of the servitor is essentially the same as that above described. The towels 2a however may be separated and in connection, together as a package. Also the lower legs of the hangers 8a are in the form of rods 17 which extend some distance below the back panel. This allows the towels as they are used to slide down and off the hangers as indicated. In this case the bottom of the cabinet 1a is opened and is attached to or formed with a depending chute 18 which runs through the floor and is connected to the laundry chute of the building. This structure is particularly adapted for hotel, hospital and similar use. Of course the towel packages first described may also be used in connection with this apparatus if desired.

In Figs. 6 to 8 a modified form of towel package is shown. This is intended for use when it is desired to iron the towels in order that they may present a more attractive appearance, in which case the towels must of course be separated from each other. To facilitate ironing operations if such towel 2a is of double length adapted to be folded centrally of its ends and pro-

vided adjacent the line of fold with matching openings 20 to receive the hangers and, with other openings 21 to receive the detachable fastening means. Such fastening means may be headed bolts of suitable type as indicated at 22 whereby a number of the folded towels may be tied together to form a package. Toward their opposite ends the towels are provided with peg openings and with pull tabs 14a on their opposite sides as indicated so that when each towel is folded the tabs thereon will both face in the same direction.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that I have produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

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

1. A towel servitor comprising an open front cabinet to contain a plurality of individual towels, a panel in the cabinet, hinge means mounting said panel along its lower edge to the back of the cabinet, hanger elements projecting from the panel adjacent its hinged edge, the towels along one edge having openings slidably engaging said elements, means on the cabinet holding the towels in an upstanding position from said edge and exposing a certain portion of the foremost towel for initial hand engagement, and means acting to urge the panel forwardly about its hinge as an axis.

2. A structure as in claim 1, in which said hanger elements comprise U-shaped members transversely spaced and set with their legs in vertically spaced relation; the towels before use being engaged with the upper legs of said elements.

3. A structure as in claim 1, in which said hanger elements comprise rods projecting forwardly from the panel in transversely spaced relation and formed at their forward ends with downward extensions spaced from the back of the cabinet and unattached at their lower ends.

4. A towel servitor comprising a cabinet to contain a plurality of individual towels and having a vertical opening in front to expose a portion of the foremost towel, a panel in the cabinet to engage the rearmost towel, means to urge the panel forwardly against the towels so as to maintain the same in an upstanding position, and hanger elements for the towels projecting forwardly of the panel from adjacent its lower edge and spaced apart transversely; each hanger comprising a U-shaped member disposed with its legs in vertically spaced relation; the towels along their initially lower edges having holes engaging the upper legs of the hanger elements prior to use of the towels.

AUGUST I. HONDEVILLE.