

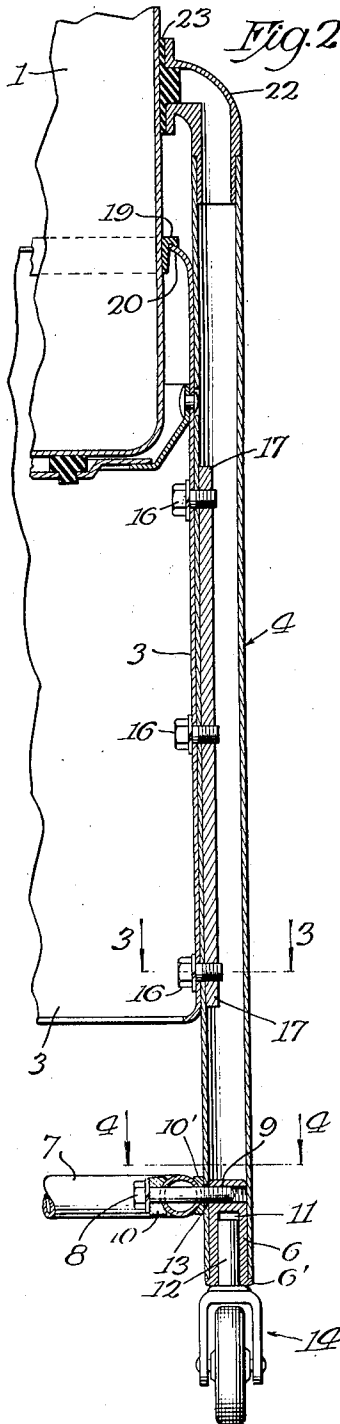
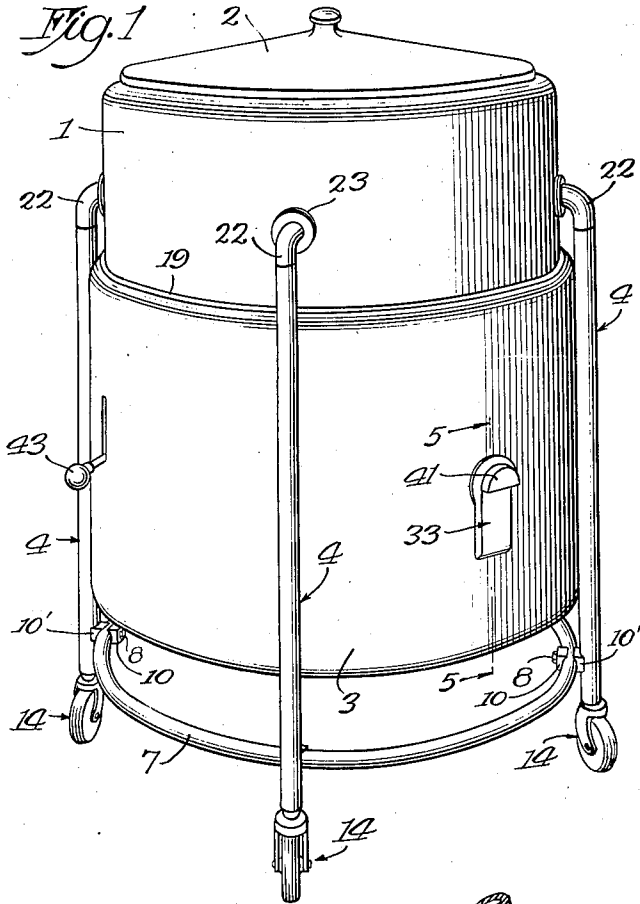
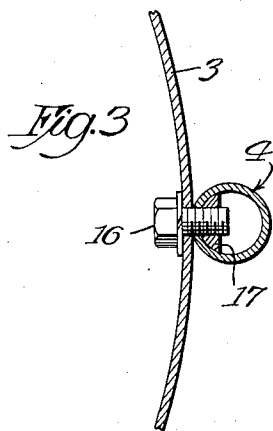
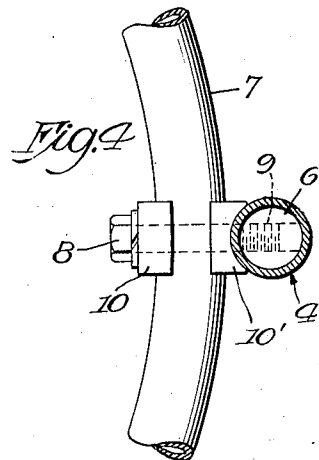
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WASHING MACHINE

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2,233,577

WASHING MACHINE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 248—151)

My invention relates to washing machines, and more particularly to supporting features thereof.

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved support for the tub of a washing machine.

It is another object to provide against vibration and rattling of the tub and the support therefor.

A further object is to provide an efficient concealed mounting for a leg for supporting purposes.

Another object resides in the provision of an improved caster socket construction.

It is another object to provide a simple, effective brace for the supporting legs of a washing machine or the like.

It is also an object to provide a combined leg brace and caster socket construction.

A further object is to provide a washing machine in which all fastening members are substantially shielded, affording a smooth attractive exterior free of projecting parts.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a washing machine constructed in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view through a leg and associated parts of the machine.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken as indicated by the line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken as indicated by the line 4—4 in Fig. 2.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, Fig. 1 shows a washing machine comprising a tub 1 having a cover 2, a motor casing 3 telescoped about and adapted to support the tub, and legs 4 by which the casing is supported from the floor.

The legs are hollow and within the open bottom of each, a flanged caster socket member 6 is fitted, the flange 6' abutting the bottom of the leg. The legs are connected to a horizontal circular brace rod 7, insuring maximum rigidity, said rod being fastened to each leg as by a bolt or screw 8 extending through the rod 7 and through the adjacent inner wall portion of the leg and threaded at 9 into the socket member 6. The screws 8 also extend through blocks 10 and 10' which grip opposite sides of the rod 7, the blocks 10' serving as a buffer between the rod 7 and legs 4. Thus a single fastening element,

shielded from the outside, serves at once to fasten together the leg, brace and socket member. The socket 11 is of greater depth than the caster stem 12, and clearance for the screw is provided in the leg 4 at 13, so that all of the weight of the machine is shouldered by the casters 14, thereby relieving the fastening elements 9. The weight of the brace rod and fastening means is also carried by the casters independently of the legs.

The casing 3 is provided with vertically aligned holes registering with corresponding holes in the inner wall portion of each leg 4, and screws 16 having their heads within the casing are threaded through the holes into an anchor strip 17 within the leg, the strip having a curved surface conforming to the interior surface of the leg. The strip is preferred because it lends itself to quick assembly with the screws. In addition, the strip reinforces the leg and the casing so that relatively light material for such parts may be employed, and it also assists the screws in supporting the weight of the casing, tub and associated structure.

A band 19 on the outside of the tub overlies and shields the inturned upper edge 20 of the casing 3, providing a molding trim which imparts a neat appearance at the juncture of the tub and casing.

Each leg member 4 is open at its top where it receives by a swiveled connection a reduced end of an elbow 22 which is preferably of the same diameter as the leg member to form a smooth continuation thereof. The elbow is turned toward the tub and carries a cushion pad insert 23 of sponge rubber or other suitable buffering material which engages the tub and prevents metal-to-metal contact between the tub and the elbow.

The construction makes for quick assembly. Before the tub is placed in position, the legs are fastened to the casing. The reinforcing strip or bar may be held suitably with its holes in register with the corresponding holes in the casing and leg while the screws 16 are applied. Before the tub is placed in position, the elbows 22 are mounted on the tops of the legs and arranged with the pads radially innermost. Then the tub is slid within the confines of the pads as it is moved into the casing. The pads are thereupon retained in place solely by virtue of their engagement with the tub. The brace bar 7 and casters 14 may be applied at any time.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that

I have provided a construction in which novel fastening means is employed to such advantage as to eliminate protruding parts and permit the use of lighter material for construction of the casing and legs, and which embodies a readily manipulated simple drain mechanism which is entirely shielded when not in use, thus presenting an attractive appearance.

A drainage gutter 33 provided with a convenient handle 41 may be swingably mounted to be moved to an operative and inoperative position, the same being shown in the latter position in Fig. 1.

A clutch lever 43 and timing assembly 45 may also be provided.

I am aware that many changes may be made and numerous details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and I therefore do not purpose limiting the patent granted hereon otherwise than necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a washing machine tub, a casing on which the tub is mounted, and means for supporting the casing and tub, said means comprising hollow legs extending along the outside of and below the casing, fastening means located entirely within the casing and legs for rigidly securing them together, a tub vibration dampening member swivelled on each leg and engaging circumferentially spaced portions of the tub, an annular brace bar disposed at the inner sides of the legs below the casing, and means disposed substantially entirely inwardly of the outer sides of the legs for fastening the legs to the brace bar, the last mentioned means including a caster socket member arranged in the lower end of each leg.

2. In combination with a washing machine tub, legs supporting the tub in elevated position, and cushion means interposed between the tub and legs for dampening vibration.

3. In combination with a tub for an apparatus of the class described, means providing lateral

support for the tub, said means comprising swivelly mounted cushion members engaging horizontally spaced portions of the tub.

4. A casing part having an upstanding wall, a hollow leg part extending alongside said wall, a reinforcing bar within one of said parts, and a plurality of securing elements carried by one of said parts and extending through the adjacent wall portions of the casing and leg parts and interlocking with said bar so as to clamp the casing and leg parts together and be concealed from the outside of the casing part.

5. A supporting structure comprising a plurality of hollow legs in spaced relation to one another, a ring-like brace bar arranged transversely of said legs at the inner side thereof, fastening means passing through said bar and terminating in each leg, and an anchoring element in each leg and connected with the fastening means, said element comprising a caster socket member disposed in the end of the leg and having a flange abutting said end of the leg for transmitting weight to be supported from said leg to a caster, said leg having an enlarged opening to provide clearance for the fastening means so that the latter is relieved of said weight.

6. In combination with a tub, a casing on which the tub rests, a plurality of legs secured to said casing, and a member swiveled to each of said legs and engaging the outside of said tub for dampening vibration thereof.

7. In combination with a tub, a casing on which the tub rests, a plurality of tubular legs secured to said casing, and a tubular extension swiveled to each of said legs and having a buffer element engaging the outside of said tub for dampening vibration thereof.

8. In combination with a washing machine or the like tub, a motor casing supporting said tub, legs secured to said motor casing, and vibration dampening means between said motor casing and tub and between said legs and tub.

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