

May 15, 1945.

L COTTON

2,376,036

COLLAPSIBLE COMMODE

Filed May 26, 1944

Fig. 1.

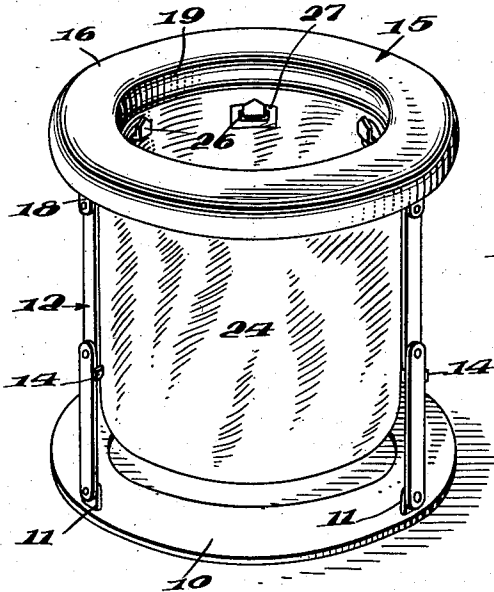


Fig. 2.

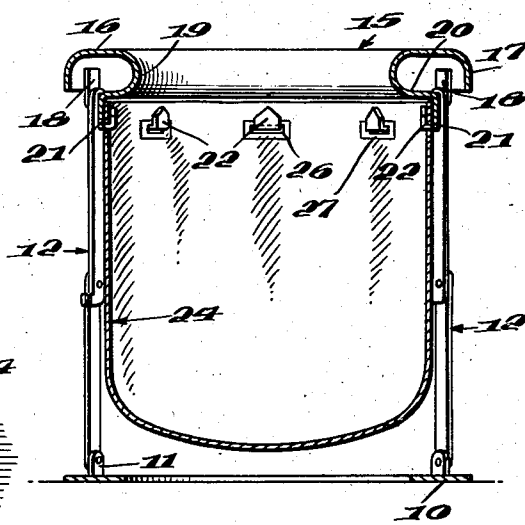


Fig. 3.

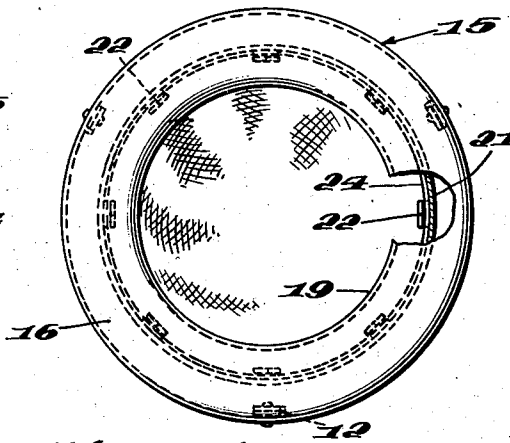
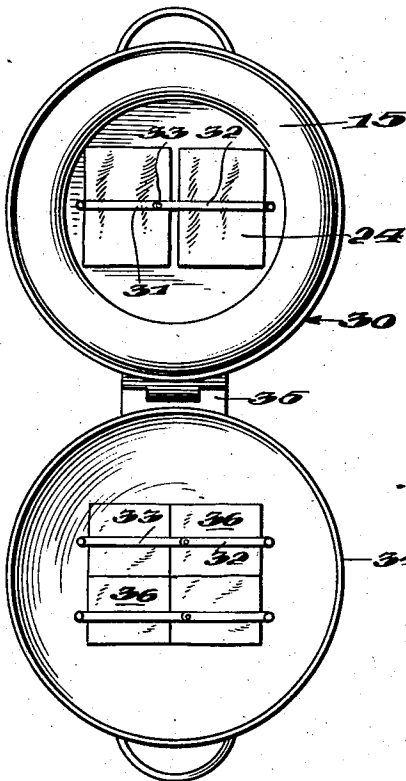


Fig. 4.

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COLLAPSIBLE COMMODE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4-116)

The present invention relates to a commode and more specifically pertains to a device of this character which may be collapsed so as to occupy less space when not in use, and particularly for convenience when traveling.

An object of the invention resides in providing a collapsible commode with a replaceable bag or receptacle for waste materials which may be readily and conveniently detached from the supporting frame whereby the bag and the contents therein may be readily disposed of, thereby facilitating cleanliness of the device, particularly when traveling.

Another object of the invention pertains to the provision of a plurality of hooks or the like on the upper supporting rim of a collapsible commode on which a bag is supported for receiving waste matter when the commode is in use whereby the bag may be readily detached from the hooks or detents permitting convenient disposal thereof.

A further and more specific object of the invention relates to the shape of the upper supporting rim of the commode wherein the hooks are positioned under an overhanging portion of the supporting rim whereby the hooks are removed from the presence of waste matter when the commode is in use and providing an assembly whereby the top portion of the bag is positioned under the supporting rim so that the upper portion of the bag is kept clean and free from contamination to thereby facilitate its removal and disposal.

Other objects and features of the invention will be apparent as the disclosure proceeds and from a consideration of the accompanying drawing and the following detailed description whereby an exemplary embodiment of the invention is disclosed.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a collapsible commode embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevational view of the device illustrating the manner in which the bag retaining hooks are positioned under the supporting rim.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the commode.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the commode in a collapsed condition and arranged within a carrying case illustrated in the open position.

The invention is primarily directed to improvements in a collapsible commode wherein a bag or cup is removably supported on the frame of the device so that the receptacle may be readily detached from the device. The bag or receptacle is accordingly formed of some inexpensive material so that a supply of clean fresh bags may be kept available for use in connection with the collapsible frame. The frame, and particularly the upper rim for supporting an indi-

vidual using the commode and supporting the bag, is so designed that the upper portion of the receptacle is shielded and therefore remains uncontaminated in use. Thus the bag may be detached from the supporting rim and the top portion thereof twisted to close the receptacle whereby the bag and its contents may be disposed of in an unobnoxious manner.

Referring to the drawing, there is shown at 10 a base for the device which may be of any suitable shape and is preferably in the form of a ring fabricated of aluminum, or a similar light weight metal alloy. The base member 10 is provided with a plurality of lugs or ears 11 and in the embodiment illustrated, three of such lugs are arranged at spaced intervals around the base or ring 10. These lugs or ears may be formed integrally with the base member 10, or they may be attached thereto in any conventional manner, such as by welding. A plurality of supporting arms 12 are provided which are adapted to be unfolded to support an upper rim of the commode above the base member 10. The arms 12 may be of the type shown and described in patent 1,663,966 granted March 27, 1928, to Lucy Cotton Ament and Clara Hilfiker. The foldable arms 12 are pivotally connected to the lugs 11, and these arms are formed of two parts hinged at the adjacent ends. Thus when the frame is unfolded to the position shown in Fig. 1, the arms 12 provide a support for the upper rim 15. A stop 14 is provided on each of the arms 12 so that the movement of the two parts of each arm will be limited to a position just past dead center and thereby properly support the rim 15 above the base ring 10.

The upper rim 15 provides an important part of the device, and this rim may be formed of any suitable material such as aluminum or any light weight metal alloy. The top portion 16 of the rim is quite wide measured in a radial direction and substantially flat as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The outer marginal or peripheral portion of the rim extends downwardly to provide a depending skirt 17 which overhangs the collapsible arms 12. The top surface 16 is connected to the annular skirt 17 by an arcuate portion of the rim 15, as shown in Fig. 2. The depending skirt 17 is provided with lugs 18 to which the upper ends of the collapsible arms 12 are pivotally connected. The lugs 18 may be formed integrally with the rim member 15, or these lugs may be welded or otherwise secured to the inner surface of the depending skirt 17. Each pair of lugs 18 and 11 are preferably arranged in a plane which is at an angle less than right angles to the radius of the ring 10 and the rim 15 so that when the arms 12 are folded they will remain within the contour of the base and the depending skirt 17.

The upper rim member 15 curves downwardly and inwardly from the relatively flat upper surface 16 to provide an arcuate shaped inner lip 19 which represents the smallest diameter portion of the upper rim member. Thereafter the upper rim member curves outwardly and downwardly as shown in Fig. 2. The upper rim member 15, therefore, viewed in cross section, and considering the depending skirt 17 including the inner edge portion 19, provides a rim member substantially C-shaped in cross section. The peripheral portion of the substantially horizontal section 20 extends approximately vertically downward to provide an inner depending skirt 21 as shown particularly in Fig. 2. The inner annular depending skirt 21 is thus positioned outwardly from the lip 19, as will be apparent from a consideration of Fig. 3.

In carrying out the invention, the removable or replaceable bag or cup is supported on the upper rim member 15. Any suitable means may be provided for detachably securing the bag or receptacle to the supporting rim, and in the embodiment illustrated a plurality of hooks or detents are carried by the inner depending skirt 21. These hooks 22 may be struck from the material forming the skirt portion 21, or may be welded or soldered to this part of the rim. The hooks or detents 22 are circumferentially spaced around the device so as to provide appropriate support for the removable bag. In the embodiment shown in the drawing eight of these hooks are provided. It will be observed the innermost portion 19 of the top rim member overlies the hooks 22, and the hooks are thus in positions to be shielded from the deposit of waste materials into the cup or bag through the central opening in the supporting rim.

The commode includes a removable or replaceable bag supported by the hooks 22. The bag is illustrated at 24 and may be cup-shaped or closed at the bottom. The bag may be formed of suitable waterproof material such as "Cellophane," or any other material that may be economically manufactured and suitable for retaining the waste matter therein. The top portion of the bag is provided with a plurality of eyelets or apertures 26 for receiving the hooks 22. The bag adjacent the eyelets may be provided with reinforcements such as additional layers of the material of which the bag is formed adhesively joined to the bag adjacent the aperture 26. The reinforcing means is illustrated at 27 in the drawing. The bag 24 is preferably of such length as to extend downwardly to a position short of the base member 10 and to thereby be entirely supported from the rim member 15. It will be observed that the top portion of the bag attached to the hooks 22 is entirely positioned under the lip portion 19 of the rim member 15, as will be apparent from Fig. 3. Thus the top portion of the bag and the hooks 22 are so shielded as to prevent contamination thereof in use of the device whereby the bag may be readily removed and disposed of along with its contents and the rim portion of the device remain in a sanitary condition.

The frame of the commode may be collapsed and the depending skirt 17 in cooperation with the base member 10 substantially encloses the folded arms 12 so that the device then presents the appearance as shown in Fig. 4. A carrying case may be provided for the collapsed frame, and

an appropriate case is shown at 30. The case is of arcuate shape so that the collapsed frame lies in the outer portion of the case. The inner portion of the case thus provides space for receiving a supply of bags 24 folded in a compact manner. The folded bags may be arranged within the annular portion of the collapsed frame of the commode as shown in Fig. 4. Any suitable means may be provided for holding the bags in place and in the embodiment illustrated two straps 31 and 32 are secured to the side wall of the case. The inner ends of the straps are detachably joined in any suitable manner such as by means of a snap assembly 33.

The case is preferably formed of two parts including a cover portion 34 suitably hinged to the other part of the case by means of any type of conventional hinge structure shown at 35. The cover portion 34 of the casing is provided with a plurality of compartments and in the arrangement shown four compartments 36 are provided in the central portion and arranged so that the corners of these compartments lie within the central opening of the collapsed frame of the commode. These compartments 36 are adapted for storing folded bags or toilet paper. The case includes additional straps 32 and 33 in association with the compartments 36 for preventing the articles stored therein from inadvertent dislodgment from these compartments.

While the invention has been shown and described with regard to specific structural details of a collapsible commode, it is to be understood that various changes may be made in the device. Such modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a commode, an annular rim member having an upper surface, said rim member curving downwardly and inwardly from said upper surface and thereafter curving downwardly and outwardly to provide an annular lip of smaller diameter than any other portion of the rim member, an annular substantially horizontal portion extending outwardly from the lip to provide a substantially C-shaped rim member, an annular skirt depending substantially vertically from the periphery of said horizontal portion, and means carried by the depending skirt for attaching the top of a bag to the skirt whereby the top portion of the bag is shielded during use of the commode by the annular lip of smaller diameter than said skirt.

2. In a commode, an annular rim member having a substantially flat upper surface, said rim member curving downwardly and inwardly from said upper surface and thereafter curving downwardly and outwardly to provide an annular arcuate lip of smaller diameter than any other portion of the rim member, an annular substantially horizontal portion extending outwardly from the arcuate lip, an annular skirt depending substantially vertically from the periphery of said horizontal portion, a plurality of hooks carried by the inner surface of said skirt and circumferentially spaced therearound, and a bag having eyelets in the top portion thereof corresponding to the spacing of said hooks for receiving the hooks and supporting the bag with all annular parts of the top of the bag positioned radially outward with respect to said annular lip.

LUCY COTTON.