

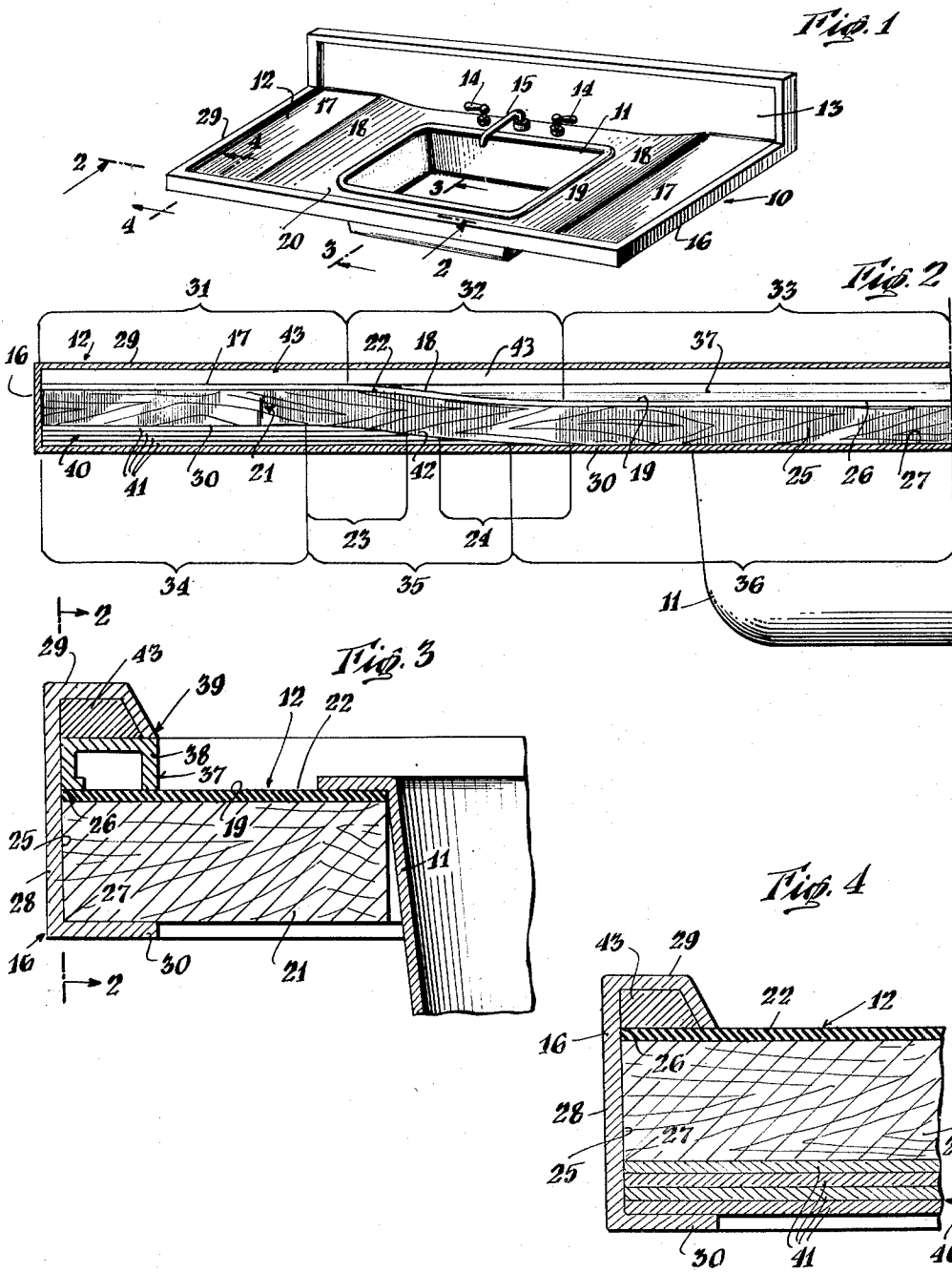
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SLOPING SINK TOP COMBINATION

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SLOPING SINK TOP COMBINATION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 4-189)

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This invention relates to combination sinks and, more particularly, to combination sinks having an integrated sink well and drainboard surface.

In combination sinks having a sink well surrounded by a drainboard made up of a flat base material covered by a surface layer applied to the flat base material, the deck surface of the drainboard heretofore has been flat. The reason for making the deck surface flat has been that a metal trim is clamped around the edge of the drainboard to cover the joint between the surface layer and the base material. This trim can only be applied in straight, uncurved strips as it is not practicable to shape it to follow anything but a straight line. Consequently, the drainboards have not been sloped to provide drainage toward the sink well.

It is an object of this invention to provide a washing unit made up of a sink well and a surrounding deck surface composed of layers of material, which deck surface slopes toward the sink well.

This purpose will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a sink and unit drainboard;

Fig. 2 is a front section of half of the sink and drainboard unit shown in Fig. 1 taken on line 2-2 in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a lateral section of part of the sink and drainboard unit shown in Fig. 1 taken on line 3-3 in the direction of the arrows; and

Fig. 4 is a detailed lateral section of the edge of the drainboard of the unit shown in Fig. 1 taken on line 4-4 in the direction of the arrows.

In Fig. 1, a kitchen unit 10 is shown having a sink well 11 surrounded by a drainboard 12. Behind the sink well 11 and rising perpendicularly from the drainboard 12, a splashboard 13 provides a back to the kitchen unit. In a narrow strip of the drainboard 12 between the sink well 11 and the splashboard 13, are positioned a pair of handles 14 and a spout 15. A metal trim 16 extends around the side and front edges of the drainboard 12 and up the side edges of the splashboard 13 and across the top of the splashboard 13 to provide a continuous metal edging on the exposed edges of the kitchen unit 10. The drainboard surface is divided into two horizontal side sink surfaces 17 on each side of two intermediate sloping surfaces 18 between which lies a flat central portion 19 in a lower horizontal plane than

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the surfaces 17. The sloping surfaces 18 and the horizontal central surface 19 form a depression 20 in the deck surface of the drainboard 12. In the center of this depression 20 the sink well 11 is sunk into the horizontal surface 19.

As shown in Fig. 2, the drainboard 12 is made up of a base strip 21 generally composed of a plywood or metal material. Laid on the upper surface of this base 21, a surface sheet 22 is composed either of linoleum, stainless steel, plastic material or thermoset plastic laminate. The sheet 22 is veneered to the plywood to form a single piece which remains one piece throughout the manufacturing process. The base layer 21 and the veneer sheet 22, fastened together to form a single piece, are shaped with a pair of double curvatures which provide the sloping surfaces 18 between the two side surfaces 17 and the central surface 19. One of these double curvatures is shown in Fig. 2 and the two curves making up this double curvature are identified by the bracketed areas 23 and 24. The bracketed area 23 delineates the lower curved area. This double curvature causes the horizontal surfaces 17 and 19 to lie in different horizontal planes with the sloping surface 18 connecting the two planes.

As seen in Fig. 1, the metal trim 16 extends around the edge of the unit 10. Referring to Fig. 3, the drainboard 12 is shown to be terminated at its side by a vertical wall 25 forming the outer edge of both the base layer 21 and its surface sheet 22. This vertical wall 25 has an upper edge 26 and a lower edge 27 which with the wall 25 form the periphery of the drainboard 12. The metal trim 16 as shown in Fig. 3 is made up in a channel shape having a vertical central section 28 and two laterally extending horizontal upper and lower flanges 29 and 30, respectively. The upper flange 29 is not perfectly horizontal throughout its entire width but has a downward bend on the inner or free end. A welt 43 is contained beneath the flange 29 as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. This welt 43 is held in by a downward extending lip 44 formed by the above mentioned bend of the flange 29. The vertical central section 28 abuts and covers the vertical wall 25 while the flanges 29 and 30, being part of the metal trim 16, run completely around the unit 10 with the upper flange 29 lying on top of the drainboard 12, and the lower flange 30 underlying the base layer 21. The vertical central section 28 is of sufficient height, and the horizontal flanges 29 and 30 are wide enough apart to accommodate the curvatures of the drainboard 12 within the

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straight uncurved structure of the metal trim 16. Across the front of the unit 10 the vertical wall 25 is curved coincidental with the curvatures of the drainboard 12. As the edges 26 and 27 extend transversely across the front of the drainboard 12 following the curvature thereof described above, these edges are also curved. The vertical wall 25 and edges 26 and 27 thus curved lie within the flanges 29 and 30.

Referring to Fig. 2, the effect of the curves 23 and 24 in the drainboard 12 are shown upon that section of the edges 26 and 27 seen therein. The curves 23 and 24 of the drainboard 12 divide the top surface of the drainboard into the horizontal plane surfaces 17 and 19 and the medial plane surface 18. The curves 23 and 24 also divide each of the transverse extending edges 26 and 27 into three segments, and each of these segments correspond with one of the three surfaces 17, 18 and 19. In the portion of the unit 10 shown in Fig. 2, the edge 26 is divided into an upper segment 31 defining the edge of the plane surface 17, a medial segment 32 defining the edge of the sloping surface 18, and a lower segment 33 defining the edge of the horizontal plane surface 19. These segments are indicated by brackets. Correspondingly, the lower edge 27 is divided into segments 34, 35 and 36, correlated to the surfaces 17, 18 and 19, respectively. Because of the disconformity between the horizontal surfaces 17 and 19, there is a discontinuity between segments 31 and 33 and between segments 34 and 36. As the flanges 29 and 30 are straight or horizontal with relation to the unit 10, they do not follow this discontinuity in the edges 26 and 27. Consequently, in embracing the vertical peripheral wall 25 of the drainboard 12, these horizontal flanges 29 and 30 are spaced away from their respective edges 26 and 27 along some part of the periphery of the drainboard 12. In the case of the upper flange 29, this separation from the upper edge 26 occurs across the center of the front of the drainboard 12 as partially shown in Fig. 2. In the case of the lower flange 30, this disconformity occurs at the sides of the front of the drainboard 12 and along the sides of the drainboard 12. This spacing of the flanges 29 and 30 away from the edges 26 and 27 of drainboard 12 is accommodated by applicant's invention.

An elongated bar 37 is positioned across the front of the depression 20. As shown in Fig. 3, this bar 37 fits beneath the flange 29 and the surface 19. A wall 38 of the bar 37 is even with the inner end of the flange 29 to provide a flush inner surface. The combination of the elongated bar 37 and the coterminous flange 29 forms a rail 39 extending across the front of the unit 10 and more particularly the depression 20. The bar 37 may be shaped at each end to match the sloping surfaces 18 or it may be countersunk into the sloping surfaces 18.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, a pier 40 is supported on the flange 30 in the space beneath the base layer 21 between the flange 30 and the lower edge 27. This pier 40 is built up to form a footing supporting the drainboard 12 and it is made to have a contour fitting the underside of the drainboard 12 or it may be countersunk into the sloping surfaces 18 and horizontal surface 19. A sloping surface 42 may be provided at one end of the pier 40 to fit the underside of the base layer 21 in the area of the sloping surface 18. The pier 40 is thus made up of filler

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strips 41 to be wedge-like in shape and supported on the flange 30 provides a structural piece of contiguity with the portion of the drainboard 12 which does not rest upon the flange 30. Thus the section of the drainboard 12 which curves up and away from the lower central section of the drainboard 12 is held structurally secure with relation to the drainboard 12 as a whole. An identical pier is provided on the other side of the kitchen unit not shown. The piers are inserted between the flange 30 and that part of the drainboard which is raised so that a strong structural unit is achieved. In effect, the piers 40 based on the flange 30 and in supporting contact with the raised portion of the drainboard 12 brace the various sections of the drainboard with relation to each other so as to prevent disfiguring warpage.

The metal trim 16 is, in effect, clamped over the edge of the drainboard 12. The piers 40 and the elongated bars 37 are inserted within the enclosing flanges 29 and 30 of the trim 16. Thus, enclosed piers 40 and bar 37 are structural units serving to brace the curved drainboard 12 within the metal trim 16. The drainboard 12 thus braced is held in position and shape by the surfaces of the bar and piers which bear upon it.

As shown in Fig. 3, the elongated bar 37 may be made up of a hollow member. The elongated bar 37 may also be made of solid material or laminated material. The wall 27 may be either vertical or be modified to provide an inward sliding or curved surface on the inside of the rail 28. The elongated bar 37 is preferably countersunk into the sloping surface 18, but is shown in Fig. 2 in a modified structure conforming to the surface 18 for the purpose of simplicity in the drawings.

Applicant by his invention provides a drainboard in a combination kitchen unit which has inwardly sloping surfaces as well as all the other features and components of a combination unit. The bond between the surface material and the base material is protected by a straight strip of metal trim. The metal trim is of the simplest structure to prevent expensive forming and, at the same time, a conformity is obtained between the curved drainboard and the straight trim to provide an adequate and acceptable finished structure having a combination of desirable features. Applicant also provides a peripheral rail around the sink well depression in the top of the drainboard 12. This rail serves as a water retaining barrier and prevents the splashing of water within depression 20 from running off the drainboard 12.

A further advantage of the sink top combination of this invention arises from the use of such sink tops in combination with kitchen cabinets. The kitchen cabinets are of a standard construction having straight horizontal top surfaces. By means of this invention, it is possible to provide a sink top combination having a sloping surface on a surface which changes in horizontal plane without alteration of the cabinets. This is particularly advantageous in sink combinations with metal cabinets as the metal cabinets have frames or reinforcing sections in stock sizes and cannot be readily altered to fit a sink top which has other than a level horizontal surface.

It will be apparent from the above description that the structure embodied in the drawings and described above is for the purpose of illustration

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and various modifications therein may be made without departing from the spirit of the confirmation which is defined in scope by the following claim.

I claim:

In a combined sink and drainboard unit, the combination of a sink well having an upper edge intersecting a horizontal plane, a drainboard contiguous with said sink well and extending laterally therefrom adjacent said upper edge, a base layer forming the main body of said drainboard, a sheet adhered on said base layer forming a top layer on said drainboard, a surface of said drainboard formed on said sheet, a first portion of said drainboard adjacent said sink well with its upper surface substantially parallel to said horizontal plane of said sink well upper edge, a second portion of said drainboard raised above said first portion with its upper surface substantially parallel to and raised above said horizontal plane of said sink well edge, a sloping central portion of said drainboard intermediate and adjoining said first and second portions with its surface contiguous with the surfaces of said first and second portions whereby said surface of said drainboard is continuous throughout said first, central and second portions, a peripheral edge of said drainboard and said base and top layers, an under surface of said drainboard having a contour the reverse of the contour of said top surface of said drainboard, a straight strip mounted on said peripheral edge, a first horizontal flange of said

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strip overlying said peripheral edge and the top surface of said drainboard and contiguous with the upper surface of said second portion of said drainboard, a second horizontal flange underlying the under surface of said drainboard and contiguous with the under surface of said first portion of said drainboard, a pier positioned on said second horizontal flange and braced against the under surfaces of said central and second portions of said drainboard and a bar seating on the upper surfaces of said first and central portions of said drainboard and braced against said first horizontal flange whereby said base layer and top layer of said drainboard are braced together by said flanges, the bar and the pier so that said bar and said pier prevent separation of said layers and provide said horizontal flanges with a continuous abutment against a surface which is parallel to the upper edge of the sink well.

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