

[54] **PAINT BRUSH STORING SEALABLE PLASTIC BAG**  
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[57] **ABSTRACT**  
A readily openable, closable and sealable plastic bag provides an elongated pouch which enables a user to hang and store a wet paint brush therein for days—weeks if necessary. The mouth of the bag embodies quick separable and connectible top and bottom flaps. The top flap is provided with an elongated pliant male keying rib which snaps into a yieldable female keeper groove. When the rib is snapped into the groove the brush storing pouch is airtight. An eye fixed in one end of the bag permits hanging the bag on a fixed nail. This eye is provided with a brush hanging wire which has a hook to suspend the apertured end of the brush handle. The narrow rib-equipped-flap has a red marker strip bordering its free edge. Lift the “red” flap to open the bag and press the rib into the groove to close and seal the bag. The wet brush is preserved for ready re-use whenever necessary or desired.

5 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

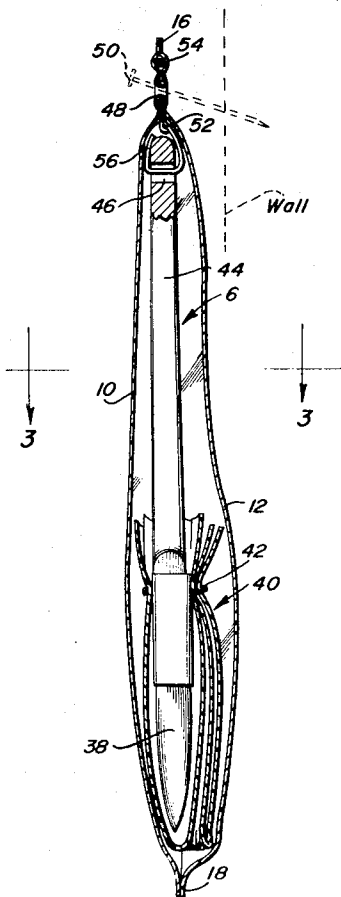


Fig. 1

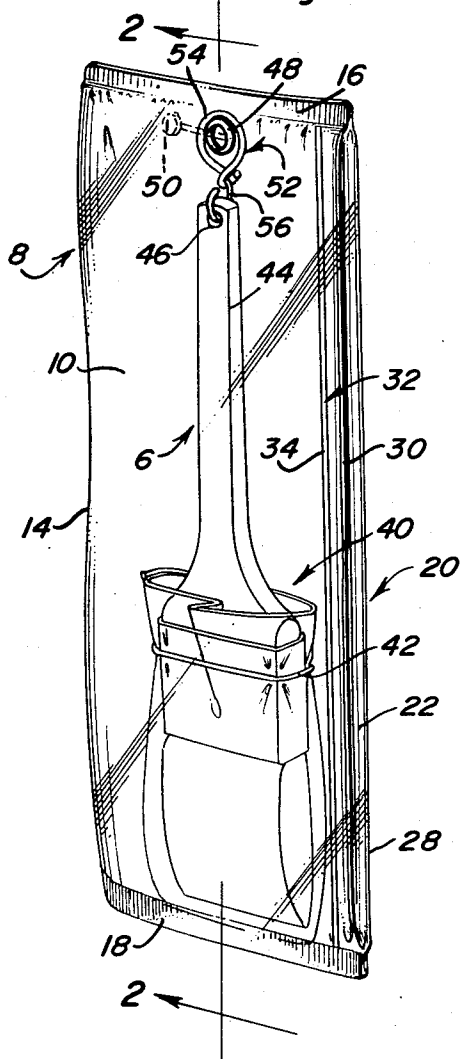


Fig. 2

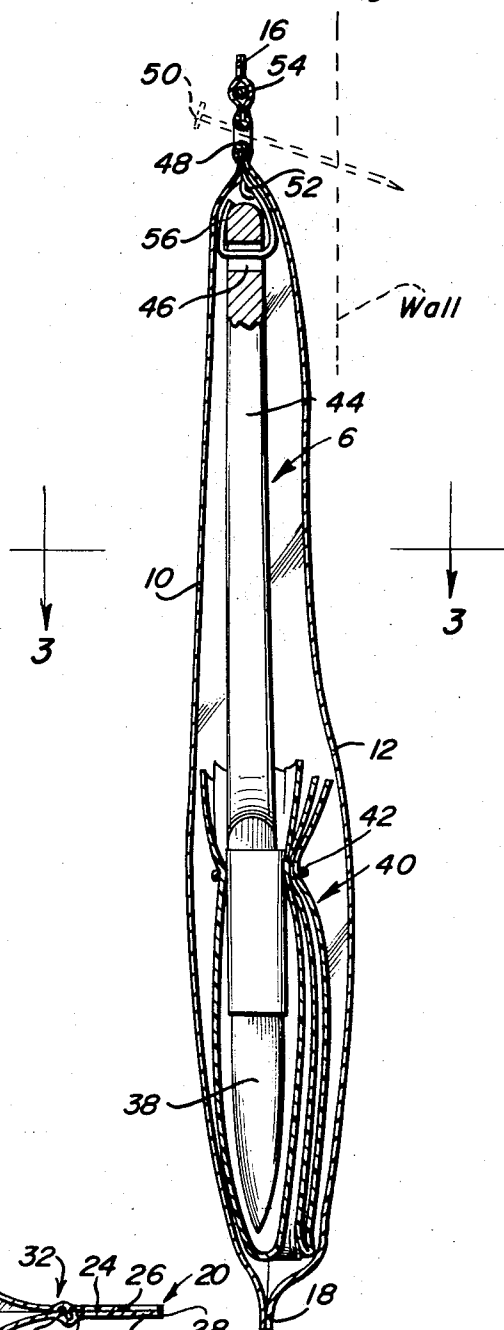
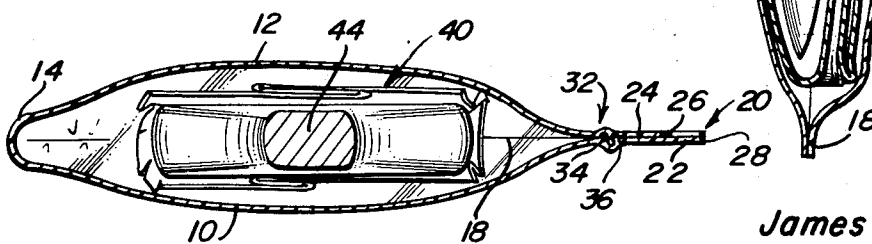


Fig. 3



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## PAINT BRUSH STORING SEALABLE PLASTIC BAG

This invention relates broadly to special receptacles and packages and has to do, more particularly, with a plastic paint brush, storing bag having a manually openable and closable mouth characterized by overlapping flaps whose contacting surfaces are provided with a pressure responsive pliant rib tentatively fitting into an expansible and contractible groove. The rib, when snapped into the mating groove, provides an airtight seal for the pouch portion of the bag.

Procedures for handling a wet paint brush during the interval of time it is not in active use vary. Depending upon the particular user, he may feel called upon to wash and clean the bristles of the brush, may place the paint-laden brush in a bucket having an appropriate liquid cleaner therein or in some other manner according to his particular job requirements. In any event, the procedure which is followed when a wet brush is temporarily set aside poses a problem and, as will be hereinafter more clearly evident, an object of the present invention is to solve the problem in what is believed to be a unique manner and which involves the use of a special brush storing bag, that is, a bag which in and of itself constitutes an innovation and which enables the user thereof to store and hang the wet brush in a convenient and ready-to-use manner whether the brush is set aside over night or whether the user desires to use the bag-enclosed-brush several days or several weeks later. It follows that the concept involves the adoption and use of a quick closable storing bag for a wet paint brush which is such in construction that it enables the user to quickly insert and hang the brush in the pouch of the bag, seal the bag airtight, and preserve the ready-to-use brush for use the next day, or if desired within a period of weeks, as the case may be.

In carrying out the principles of the invention, a brush storing bag is offered which is easy to open and close, permits the user to hang and suspend the brush in the bag on a hook, and hang the stored brush and bag on an accessible wall-supported nail, hook or the like and so that the brush remains ready for unhampered use.

Briefly the bag is of a shape and size that it provides a pouch in which the wet paint brush can be placed and preserved for subsequent use within a reasonable period of time. For best results the bristles of the paint-coated brush are enclosed in a sheet plastic wrapper, that is, a wrapper which can be conveniently cut from a suitable piece of sheet plastic and which is placed in position on the brush and held for removal by a rubber band or the like. The bag is of elongated envelope-like form and, as suggested, provides an enclosing pouch for the wrapped brush. More specifically, the bag comprises complementary front and back walls permanently joined along one longitudinal side of the bag and permanently joined at the respective transverse upper and lower ends of the bag. The remaining longitudinal edges of the two walls of the bag, that is the edges opposite the integral side are provided with overlapping top and bottom flaps. These flaps define an openable and closable mouth. The mouth permits the user to insert and remove the brush at will. The opposed overlapping interior faces of the flaps are adapted to be fastened and optionally closed. To the ends desired, the faces have quick connectible and separable fastening

means which when fastened close the entire mouth of the bag, seal the over-all pouch, and prevent the paint on the wrapped brush from drying out, whereby the wrapped brush is maintained in readiness for use when desired.

The improved bag is equipped with a grommet. This grommet is embedded in the median portions of the front and back walls near the end of the bag and provides an accessible eye which is designed and adapted to enable the bag to be hung or suspended in position from a relatively stationary suitably supported nail or the like.

Another feature of the invention pertains to the utilization of a length of bendable or malleable wire. One end of the wire is looped around the grommet between the aforementioned walls and the other end is fashioned into an enclosed hook which can be passed through an opening in the brush handle so that the brush can be hung and stored in the aforementioned pouch.

In addition to the stated features the fastening means is novel. This is to say, one surface of one flap of the mouth portion is provided with a female expansible and contractible groove. This provides a keeper for a companion pliant retaining rib. This rib is provided on the interior surface of the narrower flap of the mouth portion and the rib is snapped or pressed into the groove and the flaps are closed and the bag remains airtight.

Further, novelty has to do with the utilization along the lengthwise free edge of the narrow flap of a marker band or strip. This easy-to-see strip enables the user to find the openable and closable edge with less difficulty and enables the user to merely lift the red marker strip to open the bag and also to use it as a guide to facilitate lining up the rib with the groove when closing and sealing the mouth of the bag.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a view on perspective of a paint brush storing sealable plastic bag constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention and showing the manner in which the wrapped brush is inserted and hung in the pouch and how the sealable closure means is brought into play to render the bag airtight.

FIG. 2 is a central longitudinal sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 2—2 of FIG. 1 looking in the direction of the indicating arrows.

FIG. 3 is a cross-section on the horizontal line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

The elongated substantially rectangular enclosing, storing and protecting bag for the paint brush 6 is denoted by the numeral 8. The longitudinal side to the left as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 is closed. This is to say the front wall 10 and back wall 12 have their longitudinal edges integrally joined as at 14. The upper transverse edges providing the upper end of the bag are heat-sealed or otherwise joined together as at 16. The lower transverse edges are also heat sealed and similarly joined as at 18. The side or edge opposite the longitudinal side 14 provides the aforementioned

openable and closable mouth by way of which the brush 6 is inserted and removed. This mouth is denoted generally by the numeral 20. More specifically it comprises a comparatively wide elongated flap 22 and a relatively narrow companion flap 24. The free longitudinal edge portion 26 is spaced from the parallel free edge 28 and the edge 26 is provided with a colored marker or indicating band or strip which is denoted at 30. This strip is coextensive with the edge 26. By utilizing a narrow flap 24 and providing it with a delineating and marked edge experience has shown that it is easy to obtain access to the flaps and to separate the same for opening the bag. The means for fastening the flaps is designated as quick connectible and separable means 32. It comprises an elongated male rib 34 which is pliant and which is coextensive with and is adapted to snap into an expansible and contractible keeper groove 36. This type of a fastening is not in and of itself new and is used in other plastic products. Here it will be noted that it well serves the purposes for which it is intended and that it is located in spaced parallelism with respect to the marked edge 26 of the narrow flap 24. Hereagain the marking lip assists in lining up the detent or rib 34 with the groove 36 to facilitate the step of pressing the rib into the groove and closing the flaps in a seemingly self-evident manner.

When and before inserting the brush 6 into the airtight pouch of the bag it is desirable to wrap the bristles 38 of the brush. This is accomplished by using a simple cut-out piece of sheet plastic such as is denoted at 40. The plastic is merely wrapped around the head of the brush and encloses the bristles and a rubber band or the like 42 is placed in position to hold the wrapper in place. The wrapped brush can then be inserted and removed by way of the openable and closable mouth of the bag. It should be noted that the handle portion of the brush is denoted at 44 and is provided at the upper end with the usual nail hole 46 which is customarily employed for hanging up the brush on a nail, hook or the like when the brush is set aside.

In keeping with the principles of the present invention the median portions of the walls of the top of the bag are secured together by an embedded grommet 48 which provides an eye and by way of which the bag can be hung up on a nail or the like 50 shown in dotted lines. It should be noted too that a bendable short length of malleable wire 52 is provided and this has a looped portion 54 which is sandwiched between the plies of plastic and is wrapped around the grommet and anchored in place. A free end of the wire is fashioned into an appropriate hook 56 on which the apertured end of the brush handle can be hung in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. Thus the brush is not only placed in the bag, it is also hung or suspended in the pouch portion of the bag and the bag in turn is hung on a support nail or the like 50. It follows that the procedural steps of inserting, removing and sealing the brush are unique and that when the disclosed bag is properly used it adequately fulfills the specific purposes for which it has been evolved and perfected for use.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and

described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. For use when one desires to retentively enclose a wet paint brush and preserve the same ready for use the next following day or, if desired, within a reasonable time period of 5 or 6 weeks, a quick closable airtight brush storing device comprising an envelope-like bag providing an enclosing pouch for said brush and having complementary front and back walls permanently joined along one longitudinal side and permanently joined at their respective transverse ends, the remaining longitudinal edges of the walls opposite said longitudinal side being provided with overlapping top and bottom flaps defining an openable and closable mouth for said bag, said mouth permitting the user to insert and remove the brush at will, the opposed overlapping interior faces of said flaps being adapted to be fastened and optionally closed, said faces having quick connectible and separable fastening means which when fastened closes the entire mouth of the bag, seals the over all pouch, prevents the paint brush from drying out, and maintains it in readiness for use when desired, and, in combination, retaining means carried by and provided interiorly at one end of said bag for detachably connecting the customarily apertured end of the brush handle to said bag, whereby to facilitate retaining the brush in its stored position in the pouch portion of said bag, said bag being provided at said one end with a grommet, said grommet providing an accessible eye which is designed and adapted to hang the bag in a suspended position from a relatively stationary suitably supported bag hanging nail or the like, the aforementioned retaining means comprising a flexible element having a first end portion encircling and connected to said grommet and a second end portion which is formed with a hook passed through the aperture in the brush handle in a manner to hang the brush in said bag after the bag has been conveniently and accessibly hung on said nail.

2. The airtight brush storing device defined in and according to claim 1, and wherein said bag is elongated and substantially rectangular in plan and made of transparent sheet plastic material, said material being transparent, whereby the paint brush and the aforementioned retaining means is viewable to an observer.

3. The brush storing device defined in claim 1, and wherein said quick connectible and separable means comprises an elongated snap type keying rib which is formed integrally with a coacting lengthwise interior surface of one flap, and a rib-receiving groove which is formed as an integral part of the opposed interior surface of the other flap, said keying rib being cooperatively alignable with said groove and commensurate in length and cross-section with said groove, said rib providing a male-type detent and said groove being yieldingly expansible and contractible and providing a female-type receiver and keeper for said rib, whereby said rib in conjunction with said keeper groove constitute a manually openable and closable zipper-like airtight bag closer.

4. The brush storing device defined in and according to claim 3, and wherein said overlapping top flap is of a width less than the width of the underlying bottom flap and has a free marginal edge which is spaced inwardly

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from the adjacent free marginal edge of the bottom flap and is provided with a distinctively colored, red for example, longitudinal edge-indicating marker strip, said marker strip serving to clearly delineate and mark the oriented marginal edge in a manner to assist a user in closing said fastening means and subsequently locating and opening said fastening means.

5. An elongated storage bag for storing a wet paint brush, said bag having complemental front and back walls and peripherally extending marginal portions, one of said marginal portions being open for insertion of a brush into said bag and provided with releasable means for closing said one marginal portion, the other mar-

ginal portions of said bag being closed, one of said other marginal portions of said bag, at one end of the latter, including a grommet secured through said front and back walls, said grommet providing an accessible eye which is designed and adapted to hang the bag in a suspended position from a relatively stationary suitably supported bag hanging nail or the like, and an elongated hook member within said bag having one end encircling said grommet and hook means on its other end for engagement with the conventional aperture in the handle of a paint brush in order to support the paint brush within the bag from the hook member.

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