Oct. 20, 1931. J. A. HUNKELE 1,827,985

LAUNDRY SHAKING-OUT TABLE

Filed July 28, 1930

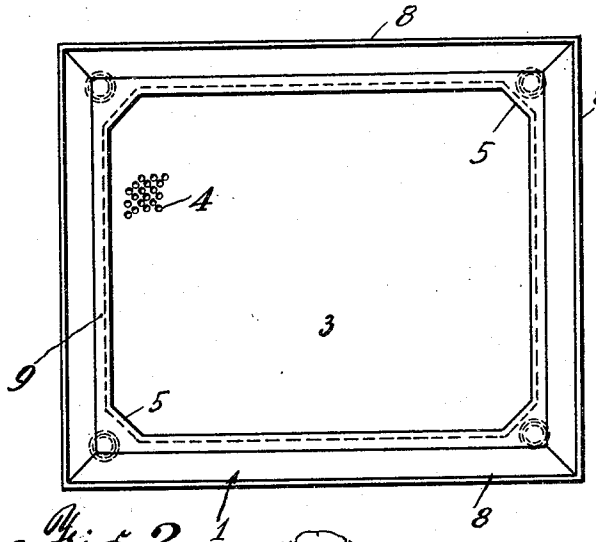


Fig. 2

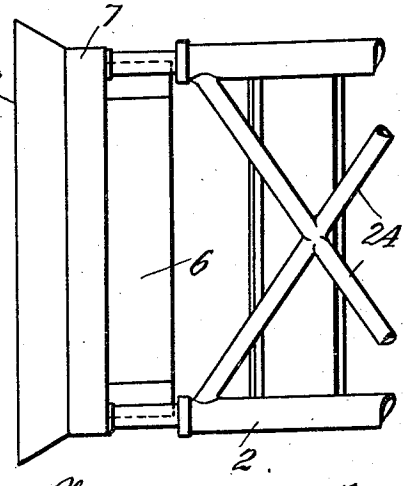


Fig. 3

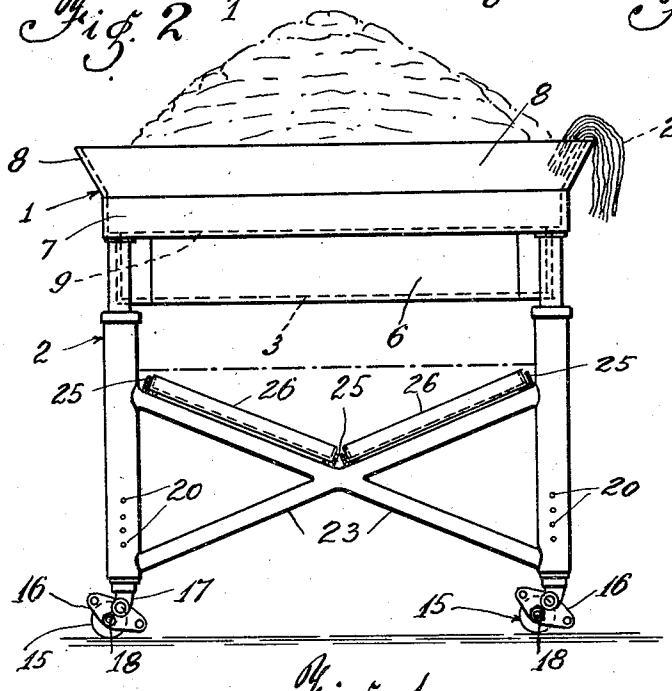


Fig. 1

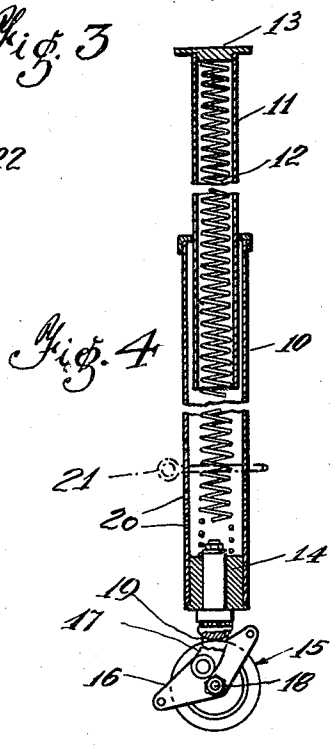


Fig. 4

Jacob A. Hunkele
INVENTOR.
BY Ralph Wentth
Paul Purchard
ATTORNEYS.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JACOB A. HUNKELE, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

LAUNDRY SHAKING OUT TABLE

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This invention relates to laundry appliances and more in particular to so-called "shaking-out tables" used for separating and straightening out the washed goods after they leave the laundry water extractor and the shaker-drums used to loosen up the entangled goods.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a shaking-out table which will maintain a substantially uniform working height for employees, regardless of the amount of goods normally piled on said table. Another object of this invention is to provide a shaking-out table the height of which may be adjusted temporarily or permanently to suit the stature of the employees working thereat, so that they may perform their work under the most favorable conditions. A further object is to provide such a table having suitably shaped sides to facilitate the stacking of the straightened or untangled goods prior to their removal to other processing machines, such as the ironing rolls, etc. Yet another object is to provide a shaking-out table having means for collecting most of the lint released from the washed goods into suitable pans, to prevent said lint from falling on the floor, thus maintaining better sanitary working conditions. Additional features and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the shaking-out table.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary end elevation of the table.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, of one of the telescoping legs of the shaking-out table.

Reference being had to the drawings, a shaking-out table built in accordance with my invention comprises, in the main, a box-like top 1 and a supporting structure 2 consisting of four or more legs rigidly held together by any suitable bracing.

The table top consists of a lower box portion having a bottom 3 in which are provided suitable apertures or perforations 4 through which the lint released from the washed goods may fall. The four corners of the bottom are, in the present embodiment, bevelled, as shown at 5, to clear the legs of the table. To the bottom are secured the vertical sides 6 and on top of the latter is built an enlargement consisting of the square cornered side-walls 7 and of the outwardly flaring walls 8, the inclination of which is such as to best facilitate working within the table. The connection between the lower vertical sides 6 and the side-walls 7 is made by means of a frame-like intermediate bottom 9, in the corners of which are secured the legs of the table.

Each table leg consists of a tubular outer sleeve 10 in which is inserted a telescoping post 11 resiliently supported within the sleeve by a coil-spring 12, the upper end of which bears against the bolting-plate 13 of the post, and the lower end of which is normally supported by a bushing 14 secured at the lower end of the sleeve 10.

The legs are preferably provided with large swivel casters of any desired commercial type, so that the shaking-out table may be rolled about easily in the laundry plant, thus eliminating the usual box trucks ordinarily used to convey the laundered goods from the extractors or shaker-drums to a conventional separating and straightening out table.

In Figs. 1 and 4 there is shown the use of ball-bearing swivel casters, each comprising a rubber tired wheel 15 provided with a braking device consisting of two parallel rocker levers 16 hingedly mounted on a fork member 17 the stem of which is supported in the bushing 14 and provided with anti-friction bearings of any desired and suitable commercial type. The wheel runs on an axle 18 carried by both rocker-levers.

When the rocker levers are tilted to the right, as shown in Fig. 1, the curved lower part 19 of the forks clear the wheels so that the table may be rolled about easily, like a truck. On the other hand, when said levers are tilted to the left, Fig. 4, the wheel axles 18 are thrown on a dead center with the fork-stems and the lower parts 19 of the forks engage the tires of the wheels, thus preventing

the latter from rotating and the forks from swiveling; i. e., the shaking out table is locked into position.

The coil springs are so proportioned that the table, when empty, will assume its highest position, and when fully loaded will be at its lowest point. The highest position of the table, for a given set up, is determined by the maximum expansion of the coil-springs 12, and the lowermost position is defined by the lower ends of the posts 11 coming in contact with the supports of the coil-springs. As the laundered goods are removed from the table, the springs gradually expand, thereby maintaining a practically uniform working height, which saves the employees working at the table the fatiguing task of reaching up or bending down unduly to handle the goods.

There are generally two or more employees assigned to each table and the former are grouped according to their height. Thus, two tall employees, of substantially the same stature, will be paired to work together at the same shaking-out table, and two smaller employees will work at another table.

To provide for these variations in the stature of the empoyees, there are provided at the lower ends of the legs vertically spaced apertures 20 at opposite sides of the sleeves, in which apertures are inserted pins 21 upon which the coil-springs 12 may rest.

It will be noted that regardless of the position of the pins 21, the total drop of the table, when fully loaded, will remain the same, this drop being determined as stated before, by the distance between the lower ends of the posts 11 and the pins 21.

As the goods on the table are shaken out and straightened, they are folded over one by one and piled into small stacks on the edges of the flaring sides 8, as indicated at 22, whence said stacks are removed, upon reaching a certain height, for further treatment.

The legs of the table are braced together by cross-members 23, 24, shown of tubular construction in the drawings. Upon two oppositely disposed sets of cross-members are secured in any desired manner angular supporting rails 25 upon which are slidably mounted one or more collecting pans 26 for the purpose of catching the linty matter falling through the perforated bottom 3.

I wish to state in conclusion that while the illustrated example constitutes a practical embodiment of my invention, I do not limit myslf strictly to the mechanical details herein illustrated, since manifestly, the same can be considerably varied without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a shaking-out table of the character described, a table-top; supporting legs therefor; means to automatically vary the effective length of said legs inversely to the load applied on said table-top, and means to limit the variation of said effective length.

2. In a shaking-out table of the character described, a table-top; supporting legs therefor; means to automatically vary the effective length of said legs inversely to the load applied on said table-top, and means to selectively vary the minimum length of said legs.

3. In a shaking-out table of the character described, a table-top; telescoping legs therefor; means to automatically vary the amount of telescoping of said legs inversely to the load applied on said table-top, and means to selectively vary the minimum length of said legs independently of the telescoping thereof.

4. In a shake-out table of the character described, a table top; telescoping legs therefor, each leg comprising an outer sleeve and a post telescopable therein; means to resiliently support said post within the outer sleeve, and means to selectively limit the amount of telescoping of said post within the outer sleeve.

5. In a shake-out table of the character described, a table top; telescoping legs therefor, each leg comprising an outer sleeve and a post telescopable therein; a coil-spring supported within the shell and positioned partly within the post to resiliently support same; said shell having a plurality of transverse holes disposed in spaced longitudinal relation thereon, and a pin insertable within said holes and adapted to support said coil-spring to selectively define the minimum length of each leg.

6. In a shake-up table of the character described, a table top; a top frame for said top having upwardly and outwardly flaring sides; telescoping legs for the table, each leg comprising an outer sleeve and a tubular post telescopable therein; a coil-spring supported within the shell and positioned partly within the post to resiliently support the same; said shell having a plurality of transverse holes disposed in spaced longitudinal relation thereon, and a pin removably insertable within said holes and adapted to support the lower end of said coil-spring whereby the minimum length of each leg may be varied.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JACOB A. HUNKELE.