

(No Model.)

E. W. SMITH & H. E. MITCHELL.
BUCKET OR BASKET.

No. 577,118.

Patented Feb. 16, 1897.

Fig. 1.

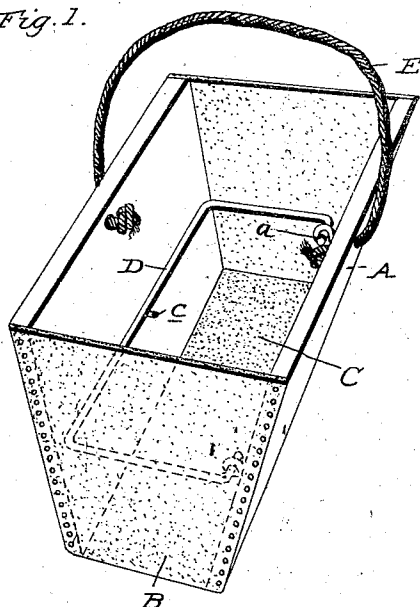


Fig. 2.

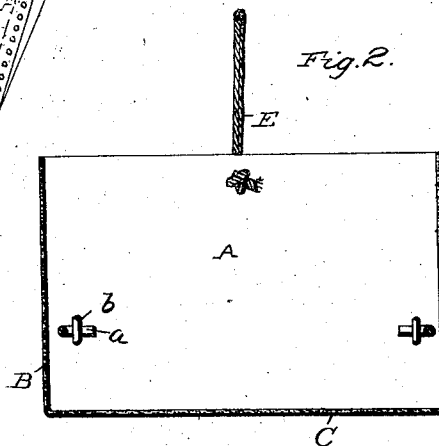
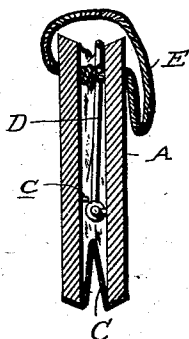


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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EDWARD W. SMITH AND HOWARD E. MITCHELL, OF WINNIPEG, CANADA.

BUCKET OR BASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 577,118, dated February 16, 1897.

Application filed November 28, 1896. Serial No. 613,815. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EDWARD W. SMITH and HOWARD E. MITCHELL, subjects of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, Dominion of Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckets or Baskets; and we do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

Our invention relates to folding or collapsible buckets and baskets, and its novelty and advantages will be fully understood from the following description and claim, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bucket or basket ready for use. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the same, and Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the bucket or basket folded or collapsed.

Referring by letter to the said drawings, A indicates the stiff and rigid side walls of the bucket or basket, which for the sake of lightness are preferably formed of wood, although they may be of other suitable material.

B indicates the flexible end walls, and C indicates the flexible bottom.

The end walls B and bottom C may be formed of any suitable flexible material, such as canvas. We prefer, however, to form them of waterproof canvas, rubber, or other waterproof material, so as to enable the bucket to hold water and other liquids. We also prefer to form the end walls B and bottom C of one continuous piece of material, which is connected by rivets or other suitable means to the lower edges and ends of the side walls A and preferably in a water-tight manner.

In virtue of the construction thus far described it will be observed that the bucket or basket may be compactly folded or collapsed, so as to take up but a minimum amount of space and so as to permit of a large number of the buckets or baskets being packed in a small receptacle.

In order to hold the bucket or basket open ready for use and enable it to stand alone, we provide the bail D, which has the inwardly-directed branches *a* at its ends journaled in eyes *b* or other suitable bearings arranged

upon the inner side of one of the side walls A. This bail D, when swung down into the horizontal position shown in Fig. 1, is designed to spread the walls A apart and thereby hold the bucket or basket open and stiff and rigid; and in order to limit such downward movement of the bail a lug *c* is provided upon the inner side of one of the side walls A, as shown in Fig. 1.

When it is desired to fold or collapse the bucket or basket, it is simply necessary to swing the bail D upwardly into the position shown in Fig. 3, when the side walls A may be pressed together, with the flexible bottom and end walls folded between them, as shown.

E indicates the flexible handle of the bucket or basket, which is preferably of rope and is connected to the side walls A by having its ends passed through apertures *d* therein and provided with knots, as shown. It is obvious, however, that the flexible handle E may be connected with the side walls A in any suitable manner.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, it will be observed that while very cheap, simple, and easily made our improved bucket or basket is adapted to be very compactly folded or collapsed and is also adapted when opened to form an efficient bucket or basket and one which may be as conveniently handled as the ordinary bucket or basket.

Having described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The collapsible bucket or basket described comprising stiff and rigid side walls, a bottom of flexible material and end walls also of flexible material interposed between and connected to the side walls, a bail pivotally connected to the inner side of one of the side walls and adapted to assume a horizontal position between the side walls, and a flexible handle connected at its ends to the said side walls substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD W. SMITH.
HOWARD E. MITCHELL.

Witnesses:

R. MASSON SMITH,
WALTER CHESTERTON.