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Cain

[11] **3,771,191**

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[54] **TOOL CADDY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **15/257 A,** 211/86

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47l 9/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 15/257 A, 257 R, 15/323, 4; 211/86, 13; 248/359, 360

[56] **References Cited**

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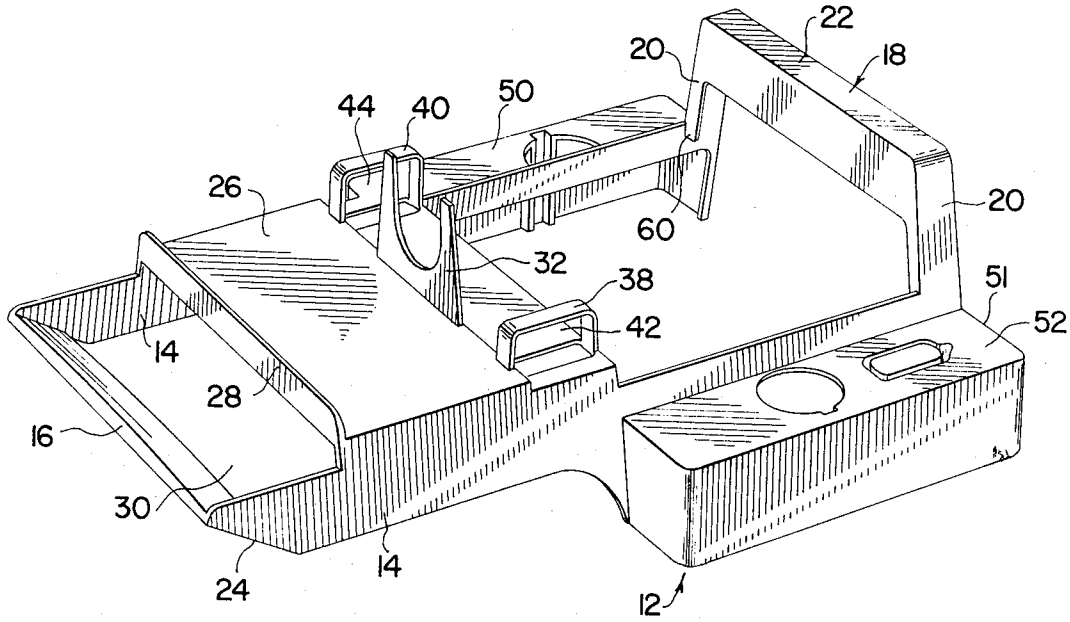
Primary Examiner—Leon G. Machlin

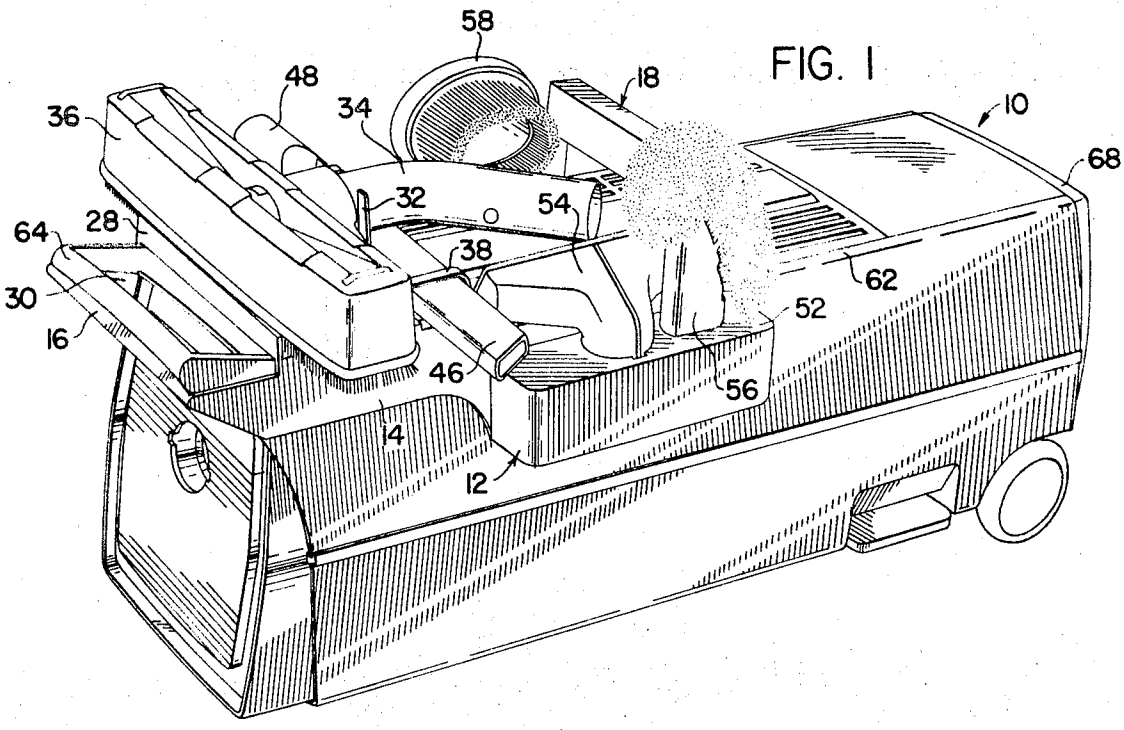
Attorney—Alfred G. Gross et al.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tool caddy attachment for an elongated tank-type suction cleaner is provided to carry tools commonly used by an operator of the suction cleaner. The tool caddy is adapted to be supported by the suction cleaner when the suction cleaner is in its horizontal operating position, and also when it is in its upright or storage position. The tool caddy is also capable of standing in an upright position independent of attachment with the cleaner.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures




58
48
18
34
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10
68
32
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64
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38
62
30
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16
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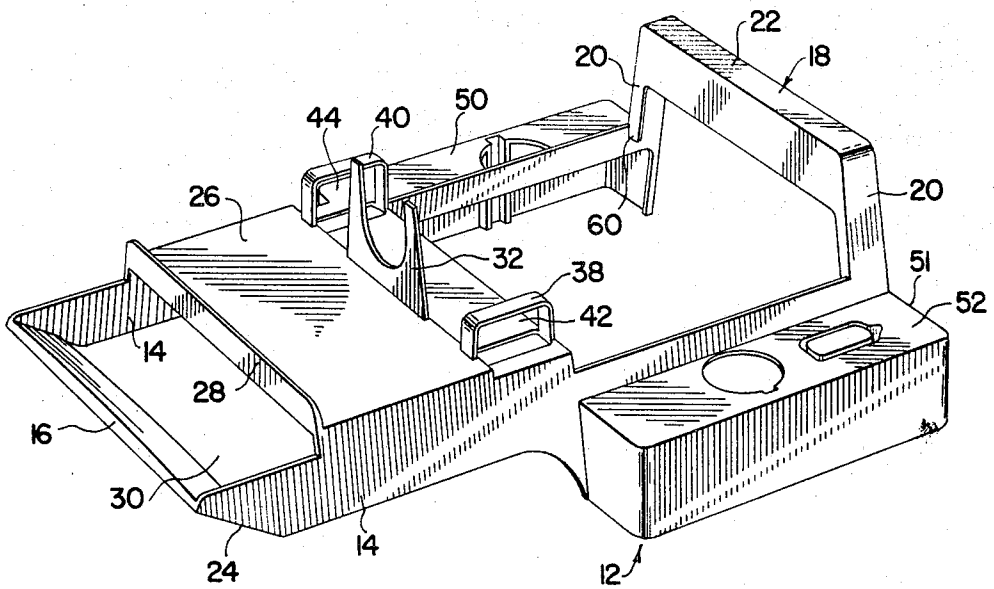
14
12

FIG. 1


22
20
18
44
40
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60
32
38
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12

FIG. 2

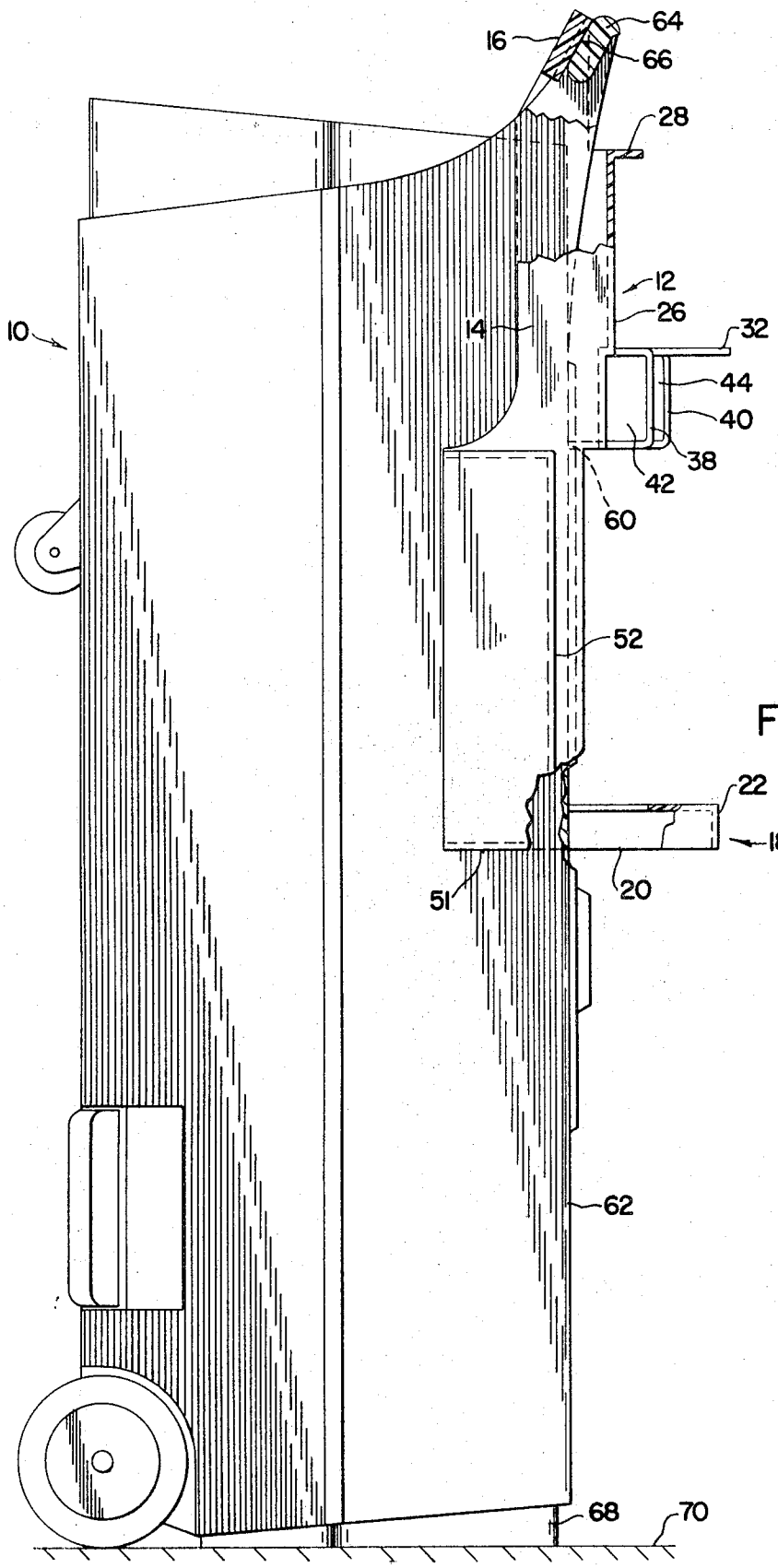

FIG. 3

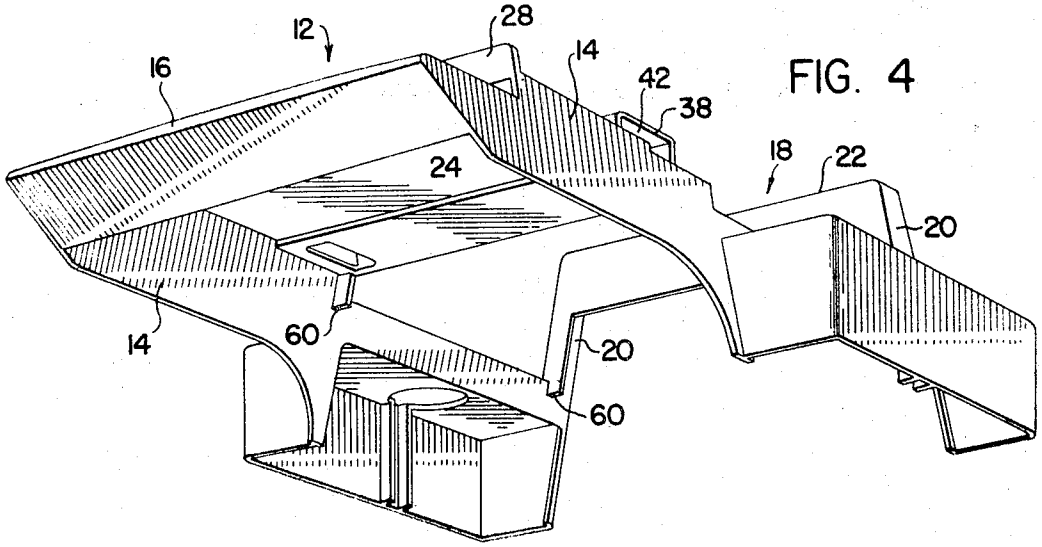
12
28
16
14
42
38
24
18
22
20
14
60
20
60

FIG. 4

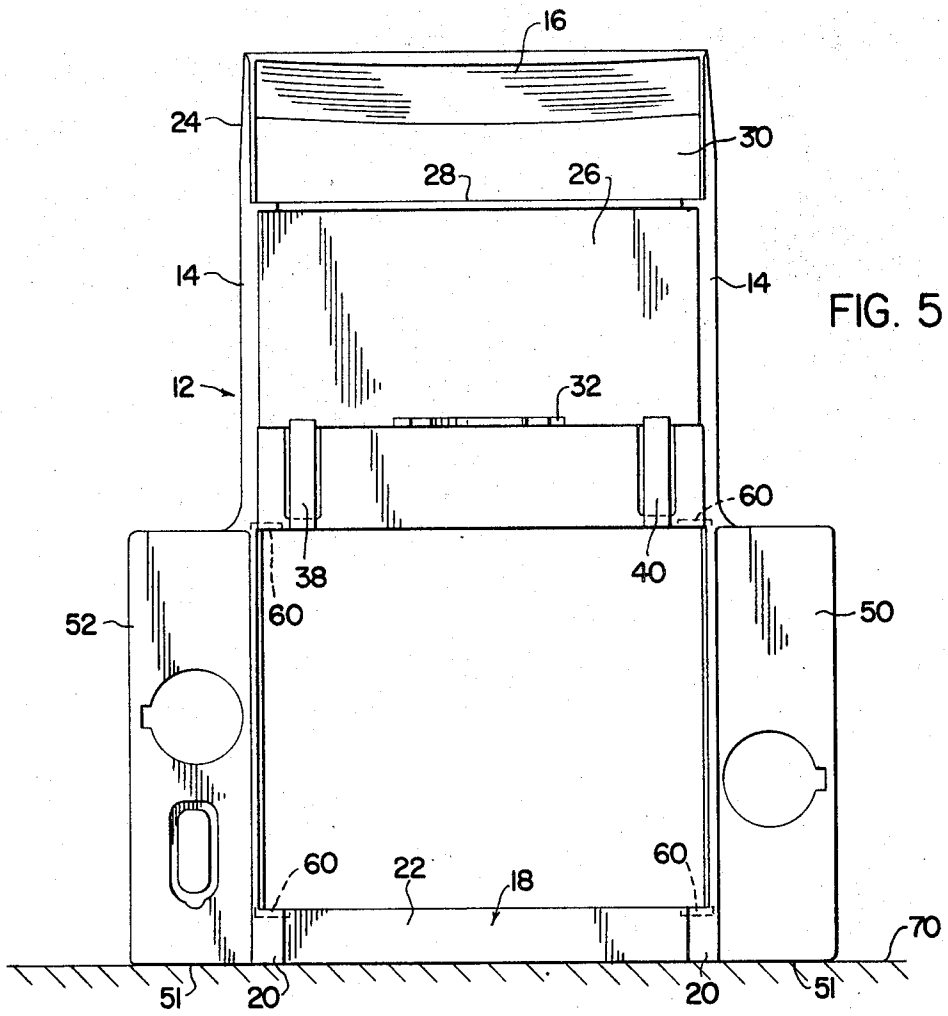
16
24
30
28
26
14
14
12
32
60
38
40
60
52
50
60
22
18
60
70
51
20
20
51

FIG. 5

TOOL CADDY

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A tank-type suction cleaner is used to clean a variety of surfaces and places. In order to be effective throughout its range of cleaning, a number of different nozzles applicable to the different cleaning situations encountered are required to be attached to the end of a flexible hose which connects the tool to the suction-producing means in the suction cleaner.

It is important that the tools be kept in a place where they are readily accessible by the cleaner operator in order to allow the operator to have at hand the proper tool for a particular cleaning situation. It is common to have the tools stored in cavities formed within the suction cleaner body. It is also common to store tools on an auxiliary device which is affixed to the outside of a suction cleaner. However, the majority of the latter devices are not readily removable from the cleaner and they do not lend themselves to use when the cleaner is both in an operating position and in a storage position. Furthermore, these devices are difficult to store when they are removed from the suction cleaner.

The instant invention is adapted to be supported by the suction cleaner when the latter is in its normal operating position and also when it is placed in its upright or storage position. The invention is also capable of standing in an upright position independently of attachment with the cleaner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an elongated tank-type suction cleaner in its normal operating position having a tool caddy attachment complete with tools mounted thereon.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a tool caddy attachment detached from the suction cleaner without showing any tools mounted thereon.

FIG. **3** is a side view of a tank-type suction cleaner in its vertical or storage position with an empty tool caddy attachment affixed thereto.

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the bottom surface of an empty tool caddy attachment.

FIG. **5** is a view of the top surface of a tool caddy with the tool caddy shown standing in an upright position independent of attachment with a suction cleaner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

An elongated tank-type suction cleaner **10** is shown in FIG. **1** in its horizontal or operating position. Affixed to the top surface of the suction cleaner **10** is a tool caddy **12** having a number of different cleaning tools mounted thereon. The tool caddy **12** is formed with a pair of elongated side members **14** extending in a generally longitudinal direction with respect to the suction cleaner **10.**

A handle **16** extends transversely of the elongated side members **14** and connects one end of each of the elongated side members **14** together. The opposite ends of the elongated side members **14** are joined together by a base member **18.** The base member **18** has a pair of feet **20,** one of said feet being affixed to each of said elongated side members **14.** The opposite ends of said feet are connected by a rib **22** which extends in a direction parallel to that of the handle **16.**

As can be seen in FIG. **2,** the feet **20** project upwardly from and perpendicular to the top surfaces of the elongated side members **14.** Thus, the rib **22** is displaced upward from the plane of the top surface of the tool caddy **12.** The purpose for having the rib **22** displaced upwardly is to provide a stable base which allows the tool caddy to stand in a vertical position when it is not supported by the suction cleaner.

A supporting surface **26** extends transversely of the elongated side members **14** and connects the two at a point between the handle **16** and the base member **18.** A lip **28** adjacent the end of the supporting surface **26,** nearest the handle **16,** also extends between the elongated side members **14.** As can be seen in FIG. **2,** an aperture **30** in the tool caddy **12** is formed between the lip **28,** the handle **16** and the elongated side members **14.** The purpose of this aperture **30** will be discussed in detail hereinafter.

Adjacent the supporting surface **26,** at its end facing the base member **18,** is an upwardly facing U-shaped collar **32** which receives therein the swiveled elbow portion **34** of a rug and floor nozzle **36.** The nozzle portion of the rug and floor nozzle **36** rests on the supporting surface **26.**

Adjacent the collar **32** is a pair of bridges **38** and **40,** which bridges respectively form rectangular apertures **42** and **44.** The rectangular nose **46** of a crevice tool **48** is wedged within the apertures **42** and **44** for storage therein.

Adjacent the outside surfaces of the elongated side members **14** and extending between the midpoint thereof and the base member **18** is a pair of tool support flanges **50** and **52.** The tool flanges have openings for receiving the collars of various nozzles **54, 56** and **58.** The nozzles thus rest in a vertical position with respect to the tool support flanges **50** and **52.** The tool support flanges **50, 52** give a saddle-shaped appearance to the tool caddy **12.**

The tool caddy **12** has a plurality of feet **60** which engage the top surface **62** of the suction cleaner **10** for support thereon. The aforementioned feet **60** are best seen in FIG. **4.** If the tool caddy **12** is placed on the elongated suction cleaner **10,** when the latter is in its horizontal or operating position, the tool caddy feet **60** engage the cleaner top surface **62.** As can be seen in FIG. **1,** the cleaner handle **64** projects through the aperture **30** in the tool caddy **12** such that the transversely extending grip portion **66** of the handle **64** is closely adjacent, and generally coextensive with, the tool caddy handle **16.**

The aperture **30** is proportioned such that an operator can insert his hand therein when the cleaner handle grip portion **66** and the tool caddy handle **16** are in nested relationship. Thus, the cleaner handle grip portion **66** and the tool caddy handle **16** may be grasped together by an operator for transporting purposes.

When the suction cleaner **10** is in its storage or vertical position as shown in FIG. **3,** the cleaner end portion **68,** opposite the handle **16,** rests on a floor surface **70.** The tool caddy **12** remains affixed to the suction cleaner when in a vertical or upright position since the caddy handle **16** is interengaged with the cleaner handle **64.**

If it is desired to remove the tool caddy **12** from a suction cleaner **10,** when the latter is in its storage position, the operator need only grasp the caddy handle **16** and lift the tool caddy **12** vertically upward. This will

cause the cleaner handle **64** to pass out of the aperture **30** in the tool caddy **12.**

The tool caddy **12** can then rest on a surface apart from the suction cleaner **10** in a vertical position by engaging the surface with its base member **18** and the ends **51** of its tool support flanges **50** and **52.** As can be seen in FIG. **5,** when standing in a vertical position unsupported by the suction cleaner **10,** the tool caddy **12** stands with its handle **16** projecting upwardly. The tool support flange ends **51** and the bottom of the rib **22** provide a base for supporting the tool caddy in the upright position. The tool caddy **12** can be supported by a suction cleaner **10** in either its horizontal position or its upright or storage position. The cleaner can also be supported on a surface in a vertical position independent of engagement with the cleaner.

In view of the foregoing, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal object of my invention and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiment herein described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, and that the invention is capable of uses and has advantages not herein specifically described, hence it will be appreciated that the hereindisclosed embodiment is illustrative only and that my invention is not limited thereto.

I claim:

1. A tool caddy attachment for an elongated tank-type suction cleaner normally operated in a horizontal position, said cleaner having a handle means adjacent one end and adapted to be stored in an upright position on its opposite end, which attachment comprises:

a frame formed of a pair of elongated members having means for supporting cleaner tools;

a handle extending transversely of and connecting said elongated members at one end thereof;

said frame being adapted to receive said cleaner handle means between said elongated members with said caddy handle interengageable with said cleaner handle means to restrict relative longitudinal movement between said caddy and said cleaner when the latter is in either its operating or its storage position.

2. A tool caddy attachment as described in claim **1** wherein; said cleaner handle includes a transversely extending grip portion located adjacent said caddy handle when the latter is interengaged with said cleaner handle so that said cleaner handle grip portion and said caddy handle may be grasped together by an operator for transport purposes.

3. A tool caddy attachment as described in claim **1** wherein; said frame includes a transverse member adjacent said frame handle to form an opening in said frame through which said suction cleaner handle projects when said cleaner handle is interengaged with said frame handle.

4. A tool caddy attachment as described in claim **3** wherein; said suction cleaner includes a horizontal top surface and vertically extending side walls and said frame is generally saddle-shaped and a portion of said elongated members extend over and closely embrace a portion of said suction cleaner side walls.

5. A tool caddy attachment as described in claim **4** wherein; said frame includes a transverse member extending between and connecting the ends of said elongated members opposite said frame handle.

6. A tool caddy attachment for a tank-type suction cleaner having a pair of elongated members; said elongated members extending longitudinally relative to the axis of said tank-type suction cleaner and providing tool-holding means; a handle extending transversely of and connecting one end of each of said elongated members; said caddy being adapted to rest upon and to be supported by said tank-type suction cleaner when horizontally disposed; base means formed at and extending transversely between the ends of said elongated members opposite said handle and connecting the ends thereof; said base means including at least one offset portion, offset relative generally to the remainder of said base means so that said caddy may stand upright and unassisted when separated from said tank-type suction cleaner with said handle located uppermost in this position.

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