March 2, 1971 M. BASNER 3,566,414

TOILET ENCLOSURE

Filed Feb. 24, 1969 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

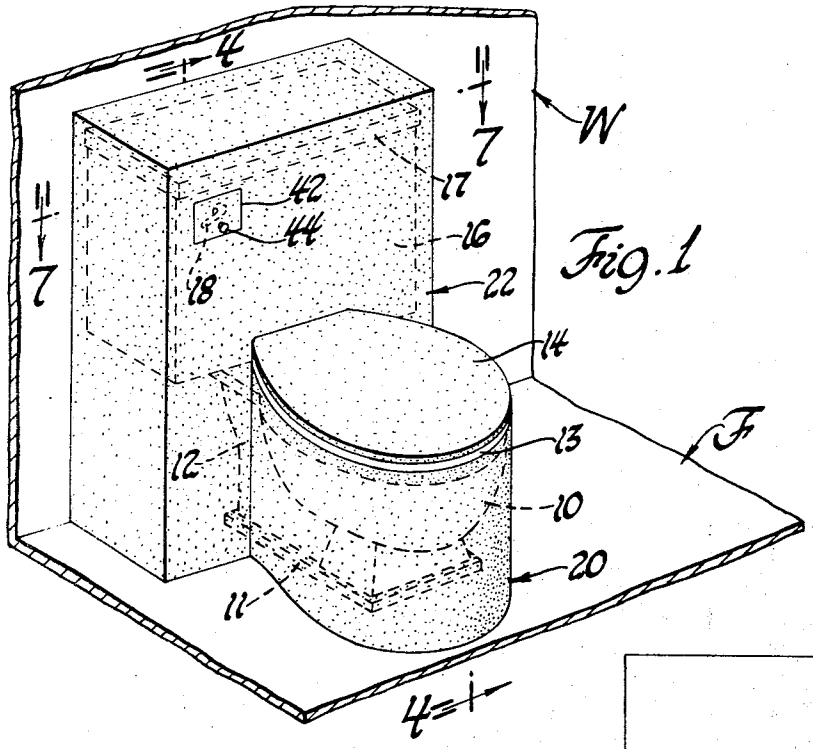


Fig. 1

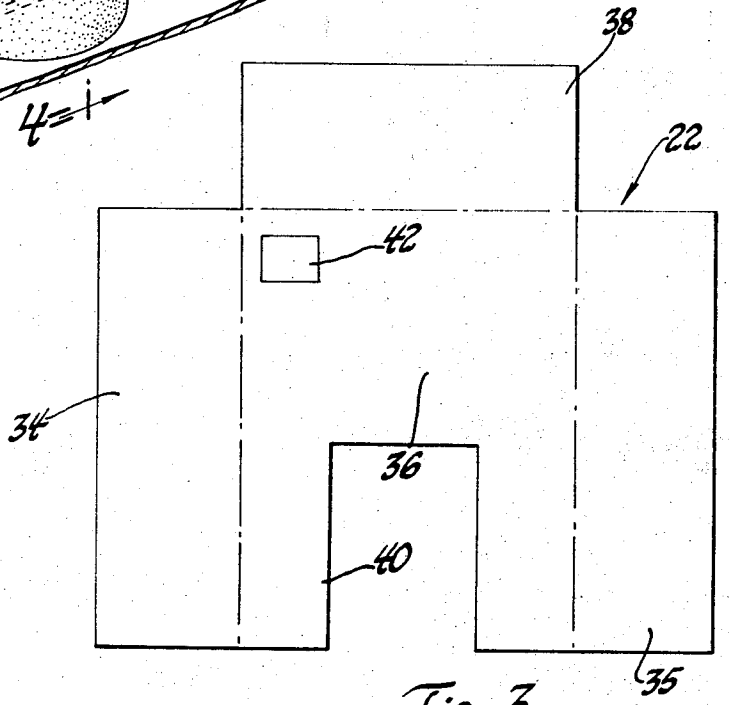


Fig. 3

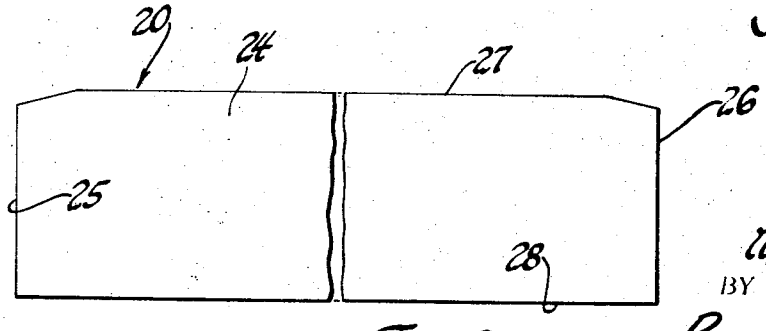


Fig. 2

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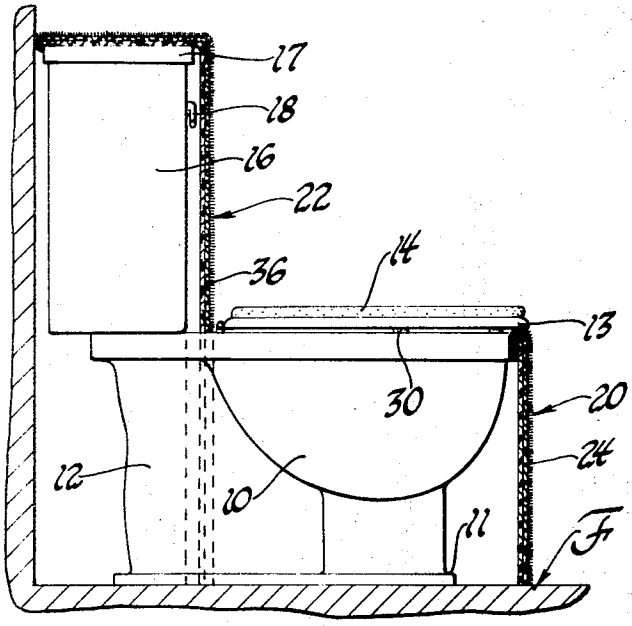


Fig. 4

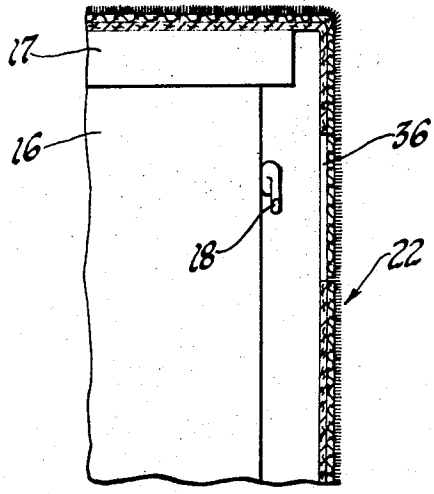


Fig. 5

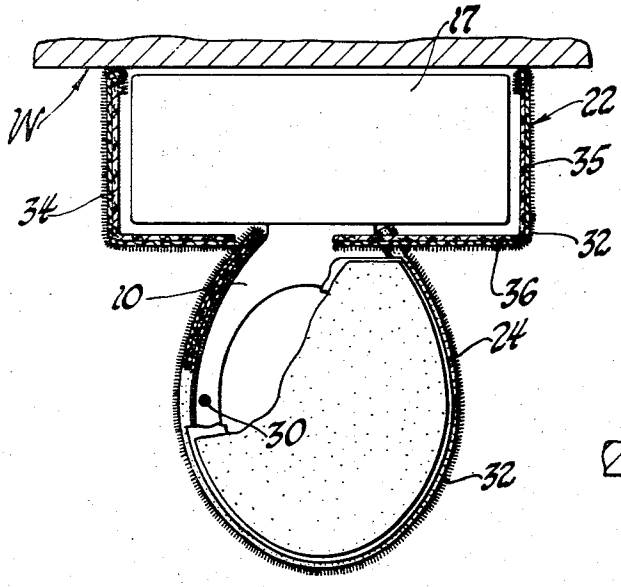


Fig. 7

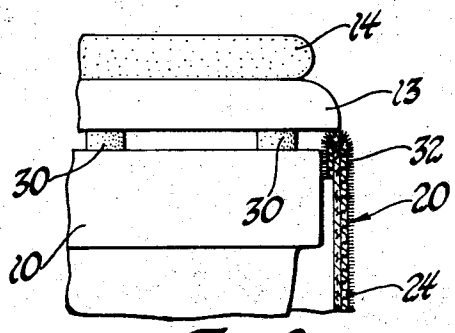


Fig. 6

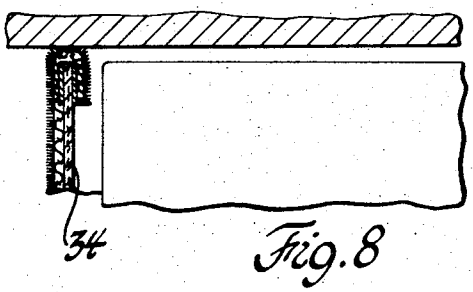


Fig. 8

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TOILET ENCLOSURE

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U.S. Cl. 4—1 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An enclosure for water closets of the type including a floor mounted bowl and a water tank disposed rearwardly of the bowl comprising a free-standing semielliptical frame enclosing the bowl and a free-standing generally rectangular frame enclosing the tank, the frames combining to produce a unitary appearance. A decorative material covers the frames.

This invention relates to toilet enclosures and more particularly to a means for decoratively enclosing both the bowl and tank portions of a toilet or water closet in such a manner as to produce a unitary appearance.

Various schemes have been disclosed in the prior art for enclosing toilet apparatus for both decorative and functional purposes. The most common of the schemes involves a soft, pliable jacket of decorative material having elastic retaining means for securingly stretching the jacket over the geometry of the water tank, for example. Such coverings are generally thought to improve the appearance of the water closet, to mitigate the effects of condensation and to muffle the sound produced by flushing the bowl and filling the water tank. However, the prior art covers in conforming to the geometry of the toilet apparatus or in leaving a substantial portion of the apparatus exposed neither provide an attractive unitary appearance nor do they change the geometrical appearance of the toilet apparatus.

In accordance with the present invention an enclosure is provided for water closets of the type having a floor mounted bowl and a water tank disposed rearwardly of the bowl such that when properly installed the enclosure provides an attractive unitary appearance. In general, this is accomplished by providing a first frame having an upstanding wall for enclosing the bowl and a second free-standing frame for enclosing the tank and combining with the first frame in such a fashion as to produce the unitary appearance.

In accordance with a specific embodiment of the invention the attractive appearance of the water closet enclosure is enhanced by covering the frames with a decorative material in such a fashion as to permit the material to be removed for laundering purposes.

Further features and advantages of the invention will became apparent upon reading the following specification which describes a specific embodiment of the invention. This specification is to be taken with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a water closet which is enclosed in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a developed view of a suitable tank frame;

FIG. 3 is a developed view of a suitable bowl frame;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of the FIG. 1 enclosure taken along a line 4—4;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged view of a portion of the FIG. 4 drawing;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged sectional view of another portion of the FIG. 4 drawing;

FIG. 7 is a top view partly in section of the FIG. 1 drawing; and,

FIG. 8 is an enlarged view of a portion of the FIG. 7 drawing.

FIG. 1 illustrates the embodiment of the invention as applied to the enclosure of a typical water closet including a floor mounted bowl **10** having a pedestal base **11**, a rearwardly disposed support portion **12**, and a combination pivotal seat **13** and lid **14**. The water closet further includes a water tank **16** disposed rearwardly and above the bowl **10** and having a lid **17** and front mounted flushing handle **18**. The tank **16** rests upon support portion **12** and is interconnected with the bowl **10** by means of conventional plumbing not shown.

The embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIG. 1 includes a first free-standing frame **20** for enclosing the bowl **10** and a second free-standing frame **22** for enclosing the water tank **16**. Frame **20** fits into frame **22** in a manner described hereinafter to produce a unitary overall appearance.

Referring to FIG. 2 the first frame **20** comprises an upstanding wall surface **24** constructed of a semi-resilient self-supporting material such as corrugated cardboard with an inner coating of a moisture resistant material such as plastic or paraffin. In the developed state the wall **24** is generally rectangular having terminal side edges **25** and **26** and upper nad lower edges **27** and **28**, respectively. The upper edge **27** may be tapered slightly toward the side edges **25** and **26** as shown. Wall **24**, as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 7, is formed into a semielliptical shape to conform to the geometry of bowl **10**, the terminal side edges **25** and **26** being disposed toward the rear of bowl **10**, the bottom edge **28** resting on the floor F and the upper edge **27** being adjacent the rim portion of bowl **10**. As best shown in FIGS. 4, 6, and 7, the upper edge **27** extends above the rim of bowl **10** by a distance approximately equal to the vertical height to seat bumper buttons **30**. Thus, the frame **20** extends to the lower surface of seat **13** when lowered to enhance the unitary appearance of the completed arrangement. By constructing the wall **24** of the first frame **20** of a light material such as cardboard, the lower edge of the wall **24** may be trimmed easily to adjust the vertical dimension thereof to an individual bowl to produce the dimensional relationship described above.

The outer surface of wall **24** is covered with a decorative material **32** such as a nylon of medium pile depth. In application, material **32** is cut approximately to the form shown in FIG. 2 leaving enough excess material around the borders or edges to be wrapped around the edges as shown. A two-sided tape of a commercially available type may be used to secure the material **32** to the wall **24** adjacent the edges thereof. The use of such tape permits the material **32** to be removed for laundering. Material of a matching color may also be employed to cover lid **14** as indicated in the drawings to combine with the material **32** covering wall **24** to further promote the unitary appearance of the arrangement.

Referring first to FIG. 3, the second frame **22** may also be formed of a semi-resilient self-supporting material such as moisture-proof cardboard, plastic, or light wood. As shown in the developed view of FIG. 3, frame **22** includes upstanding side walls **34** and **34** joined to a front surface **36** and a top surface **38**. In the installed condition the top surface engagingly overlies the top of tank lid **17** as best shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. The front surface **36** of second frame **22** is provided with a generally rectangular opening **40** which is adapted to straddle the support portion **12** to permit the bottom edge to rest on the floor F and also to receive the terminal side edges **25** and **26** of wall **24**.

As shown in the drawings, particularly FIGS. 7 and 8, the frame **22** is also covered with decorative material **32**

to enhance the unitary appearance of the assembled frames **20** and **22**. The decorative material **32** is preferably wrapped around the lateral edges of side surfaces **34** and **35** which as shown in FIG. 7 are adjacent the wall. To secure material **32** to frame **22** a two-sided tape may also be wrapped around the vertical terminal edges of side surfaces **34** and **35** and optionally along the edge of top surface **38** which abuts wall W to adhesively engage the material **32** around the terminal portions of the surfaces. It may be desirable to sew the edges which meet at the intersections of the side and top surface planes. The frame **22** is dimensioned so as to be outwardly spaced from the exterior surface of tank **16** as best shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 so as to avoid direct contact with the tank thereby to reduce the possibility of moisture damage.

To provide access to the flushing handle **18** mounted on the front surface of tank **16**, a rectangular flap **42** is cut through the front surface **36** of frame **22** as well as the decorative material **32** which covers the surface. The flap is formed by cutting through three sides of the rectangle and leaving the top side of the rectangle intact to serve as a pivotal connection between the flap **42** and the balance of surface **36**. A small knob **44** or the like is fastened to the front of the flap **42** through the material **32** to assist in opening the flap **42** to provide access to the handle **18**. The flap **42** is obviously placed in the frame **22** and the decorative material **32** in accordance with the particular location of the handle **18** which may, for example, be on the side of the tank. Alternatively, the frame material may be completely removed to form an opening which is concealed by the flap in the material **32**.

For installation, frame **22** is lowered over the tank **17** until the side surfaces **34** and **35** and the front surface **36** rest on the floor F and the vertical terminal edges rest against the wall W. The bowl frame **20** is placed in position such that the tapered top edge portions are received in the rectangular opening **40** of tank frame **22**. The decorative material **32** covering both the tank frame **22** and the bowl frame **20** tends to merge and hide the intersection where the bowl frame **20** and the tank frame **22** meet.

It is to be understood that the foregoing description is illustrative in nature and is not to be construed in a limiting sense.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An enclosure for water closets of the type including a floor-mounted bowl having a rim and a water tank disposed rearwardly of the bowl comprising: a first free-standing frame of thin, flexible material for enclosing the bowl, said first frame being of a height substantially equal to that of the rim, said first frame being open at the rearward end to permit placement about the bowl, a second free-standing frame of thin, flexible material for enclosing the tank and being of a height substantially equal to the distance between the floor and the tank, said second frame being generally rectangular in configuration and including a front wall, a rectangular opening in the front wall to permit the second frame to be placed over the tank in said free standing position and to receive the rearward ends of the first frame therein to produce a unitary appearance, the second frame having door means for access to a flushing handle on the tank, and a decorative covering on the first and second frames.

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