June 17, 1969 T. E. WATSON 3,449,771

PORTABLE SHAMPOO ASSEMBLY

Filed Aug. 14, 1967

Fig. 1.

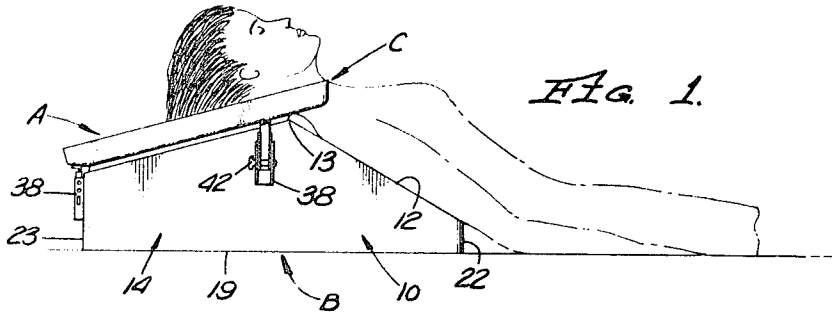


Fig. 2.

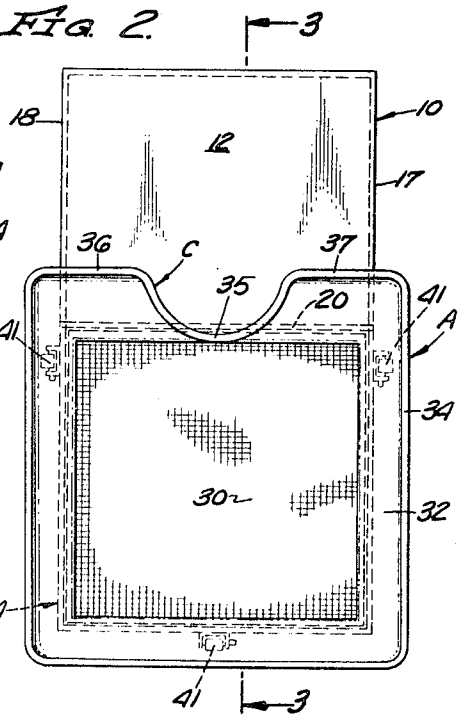


Fig. 4.

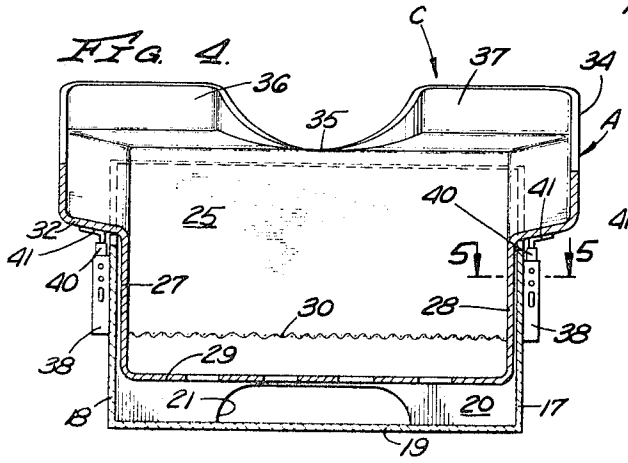


Fig. 3.

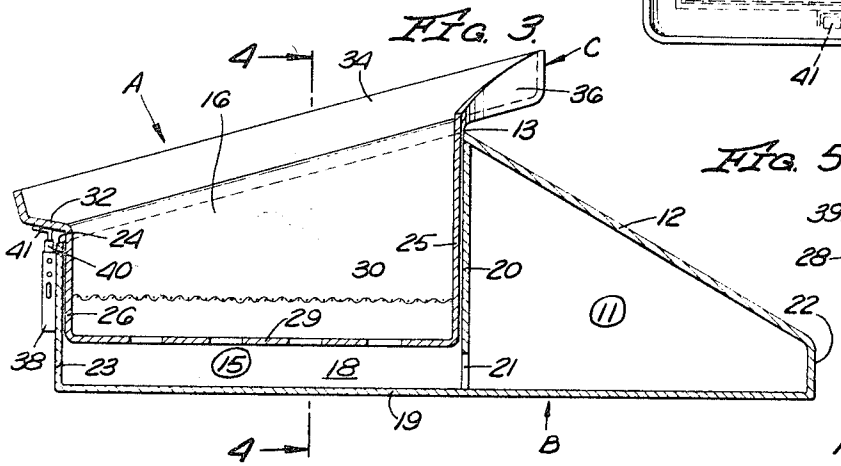
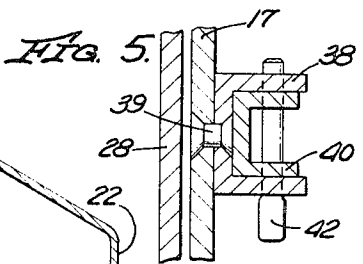


Fig. 5.



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PORTABLE SHAMPOO ASSEMBLY

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Continuation-in-part of abandoned application Ser. No. 440,365, Mar. 17, 1965. This application Aug. 14, 1967, Ser. No. 660,291

Int. Cl. A61h 35/00; A47k 3/062

U.S. Cl. 4—159 6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Two-piece, detachable, portable shampoo assembly placed on bed for shampooing patient reclining atop of it. Forward, wedge-shaped segment supports shoulders and internally stores rinse water. Separable unit is vertically adjustable neck cradle with peripheral splash guard about top edge of upright walls which telescope base walls surrounding opening to run-off reservoir within wedge-segment. Horizontal cross screen in vertically adjustable unit is support for containers or for long hair, beneath uppermost water level of base.

This is a continuation-in-part of my application Ser. No. 440,365, filed Mar. 17, 1965, now abandoned.

This invention relates to a portable shampoo assembly particularly adapted for use by a bed-ridden patient, or for use by a reclining person for whom it is more convenient to remain on a couch rather than to have to sit or stand over a wash bowl for shampoo and rinsing of the hair. Likewise the present assembly is especially adapted for use where there is no running water and drainage connection; a pitcher or two of water can be brought to the bedside, and the rinse water run-off from the hair collected in the present assembly, and later emptied.

Various constructions have been suggested for this purpose in the past, but have not found wide acceptance because they were unduly complicated or unsatisfactory for other reasons. In some instances they have disposed the person's hair in a relatively shallow container which quickly filled with water, thus preventing further rinsing of the hair with fresh water; in other cases, the patient's head was so elevated that water ran down his neck. Still other constructions support the back of the person's head above the run-off reservoir, thus preventing this area of the scalp from being shampooed or massaged by the operator except upon lifting the head.

The present construction is uniquely effective because it provides (1) an inclined bed-rest back-support segment to angularly support the person's shoulders and upper torso at a comfortable slant, the hollow interior of which wedge-shaped segment also serving as a reservoir to receive run-off water; (2) a vertically adjustable head support which functions by engaging the back of the user's neck below the hair line, so as to suspend the back-tilted head over the run-off receptacle in position that an operator can manually treat the patient's entire scalp, including the back of his head, while from time to time directing rinse water through his hair, which run-off is accumulated in the reservoir of the base without running down the patient's neck; (3) vertical adjustment of the neck cradle to accommodate the individual user, also correspondingly positions a peripheral splash apron which surrounds the rear-segment aperture of the base so as to telescopically raise or lower the upright walls of the splash apron in alignment with the entry mouth of the run-off reservoir. In addition, the vertically adjustable unit carries an internal cross grill or screen which serves to support the long hair of a user, or alternately provides a shelf for containers of shampoo material or the like, at a level somewhat below the top level for rinse water accumulation but which still makes such containers available to the operator; at the same time, it enables the user's long hair to be spread over the screen so as to have rinse water poured through it (until the accumulated water reaches such level).

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, having particular reference to the accompanying drawings which illustrate by way of example, a presently preferred embodiment of my invention wherein

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of my shampoo assembly, showing a reclining person in position to use same.

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the assembly by itself.

FIGURE 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a transverse vertical section on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged, horizontal sectional view of a construction detail, showing the vertical positioning mechanism as viewed along the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4.

As here illustrated, there is provided an elongated or generally rectangular-bottom base B formed of a forward segment **10** of general wedge-shape, with an inclined, more-or-less flat top **12**, supportingly disposable beneath the shoulders and upper back or torso of a reclining person who may be lying on a massage table or the like (FIGURE 1). Rearward of the wedge-segment **10**, is an adjacent segment **14** of the base B, having an open top or mouth **16** with bottom **19** and side walls **17, 18** continuous with the forward segment **10**. The forward segment **10** is hollow, forming a reservoir **11** which receives run-off water from the rear segment, being separated by a cross strut or panel **20** which is open at the bottom area **21**. Upright cross walls **22** and **23** complete the enclosure of the base B, the top edge **24** of the rear wall **23** marking the maximum liquid level for accumulation of rinse water in the base reservoir.

A separable head-support and splash-guard member A is slidably receivable vertically, within the open-top of the rear segment **14**, formed with four upright walls **25, 26, 27, 28** disposed as a rectangular column or chute of slightly less external dimensions than the internal dimensions of the segment walls **17, 18, 20, 23** which thus form its slide-channel or guideway. The member A is thus telescopically disposed or nested within the rear segment **14** of the base B, having an open top and bottom **29** so that liquid can pass downward through it into the receptacle areas **15–11** of the base. The apertured flooring **29**, here illustrated as a cross-brace, can be omitted entirely, if desired. A cross grill or screen **30**, located intermediate the span of the upright walls, allows rinse water to pass through it freely and serves as a surface over which long hair from the user's supported head can be spread out; it also serves as a tray or shelf for standing containers of shampoo material, brushes, combs, etc. which thus remain at a level easily reached by the operator.

The columnar walls of the telescopic portion of the member A are dependent to an outwardly flared, peripheral section C which forms a combination splash guard and neck support. Projecting outward from the top edge of each wall **25, 26, 27, 28** is a slanted ledge **32**, followed by an upward directed rim or collar **36**. The forward, cross span of the wall **34** is centrally recessed or scolloped to form a generally arcuate neck rest **35** which extends rearward to leave forward projections **36, 37** of the cross wall **34**. The neck rest **35** is thus disposed to cradle the back of the user's neck, extending forwardly around each side in a generally elliptical path relative to a theoretical cylindrical configuration of the neck. In use, clearance

between such neck socket **35** and either side of a person's neck can readily be filled temporarily by a small towel or washcloth so as to eliminate any occasional trickle of water down the person's neck. However, this will seldom occur, since the person's head is already tilted back from the apex line **13** of the wedge-segment **10**. It will be apparent also, that in such position all of the person's hair is available to the operator to work on (i.e. the entire scalp can be massaged) without moving the person's head.

Means are provided for locating the telescopic unit A at selected elevations relative to the base B. This is both to adjust the elevation of the patient's head relative to a bed or couch on which he is resting, as well as to accommodate it relative to the thickness of his own shoulders or torso, which dimension varies considerably from one individual to another. On each of the outer faces of the three upright walls **17**, **18**, **23** of the base, is a vertically-directed, U-shaped slide channel **38**, fixedly attached as by rivets **39**. Correspondingly located along the underface of the overhanging ledge **32** are a trio of U-shaped rails **40** which are lengthwise movable within the channels **38**, and are dependently secured to the ledge by brackets **41**. Both the rail **40** and its embracing channel **38** are formed with a vertical series of transversely alignable slots or apertures, through which a spine or locking pin **42** is inserted when the rail is at the desired elevation within the channel. Other known clamping or anchoring mechanisms can of course be used in place of this, depending upon whether a step-wise or a continuous adjustment is desired.

It will be seen however that both the splash-guard, neck-cradle section C and the back rest **12** slant convergingly-upward from opposite sides toward a crest or apical line **13** which is located approximately at the backward bend of the patient's neck. Thus in some instances, even the rear segment **14** may be located on a slanted surface such as the head of a turned-up hospital bed, or in some cases it may be deliberately elevated from a level surface by insertion of objects along the rear margin of bottom wall **19**, in order to retain more run-off water in the forward compartment **11**, without in either event destroying the necessary back-tilt of the patient's head from the crest line **13** which might otherwise direct rinse water down his neck. Such beneficial result is the product of both the inverted-V-shape apical slant of the section C, as well as the vertical adjustability of the nested or telescopic section A.

It will be clear to those skilled in the art that various changes in construction and operation may be made within the scope of the present inventive concept which should not be limited to the precise details illustrated and described by way of example, but it is my intention to claim the invention broadly aside from the necessary limitations of the prior art.

I claim:

1. A portable shampoo assembly comprising in combination:

a generally horizontally disposable base adapted to lie upon a bed or the like and formed of an open-top segment formed with lateral enclosure walls adapted to receive and transiently retain within the enclosure

shampoo rinse water from a person's hair, and an adjacent wedge-shaped segment having a sloping top adapted to support the shoulders of a person reclining thereupon with his head disposed over the open-top in position for his hair to be shampooed; and

a vertically adjustable support member having a marginal portion generally arcuately shaped to cradle the neck of such reclining person so as to dispose his head over said open-top, said support member being formed with open bottom and lateral enclosure walls disposed in juxtaposition with the lateral enclosure walls of said open-top segment and hence telescopically adjustable relative thereto, and means adapted to secure said support member at selected functional positions of vertical adjustment relative to the base.

2. The shampoo assembly of the preceding claim **1** wherein the interior of said wedge-shaped segment is hollow and in fluid communication with the open-top segment so as to form a reservoir for said rinse water entering the base through said open-top.

3. The shampoo assembly of the preceding claim **1** wherein said support member is formed with a peripheral splash-guard comprising outwardly flared walls located atop said lateral enclosure walls and extending forwardly on either side of said arcuately shaped, marginal cradle portion.

4. The shampoo assembly of the preceding claim **3** wherein the interior of said wedge-shaped segment is hollow and in fluid communication with the open-top segment so as to form a reservoir for said rinse water entering the base through said open-top.

5. The shampoo assembly of the preceding claim **4** wherein said support member additionally has an open grill transversely disposed intermediate the height of said lateral enclosure walls and adapted to support objects below the level of the splash guard.

6. The shampoo assembly of the preceding claim **3** wherein said sloping top and said splash guard are each slanted convergingly upward like the arms of an inverted-V, with the apex thereof disposed approximately at said marginal cradle portion which supports the user's neck.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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