Jan. 9, 1945. H. W. WILD 2,367,161

SOAP HOLDER

Filed May 13, 1943

Fig. 1.

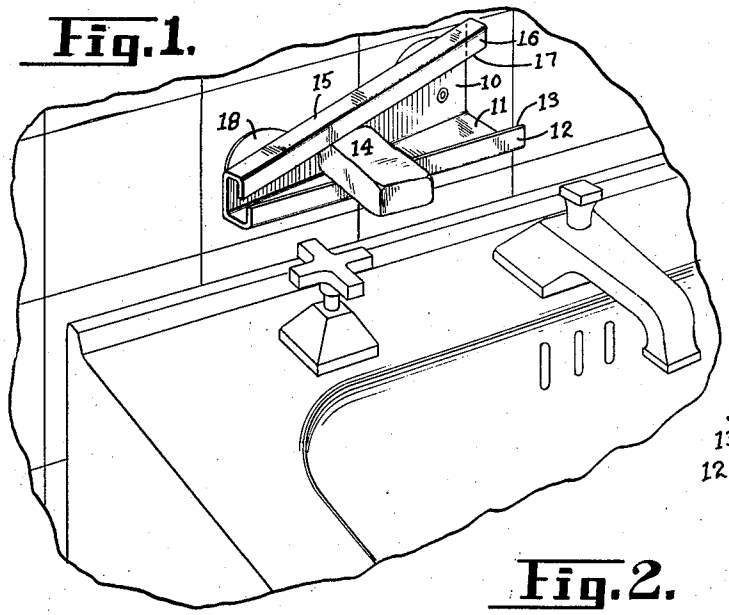


Fig. 4.

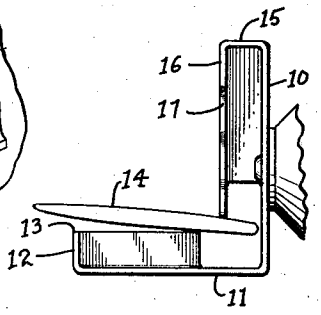


Fig. 2.

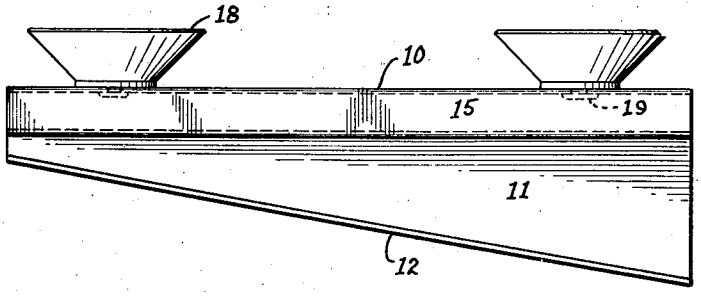


Fig. 3.

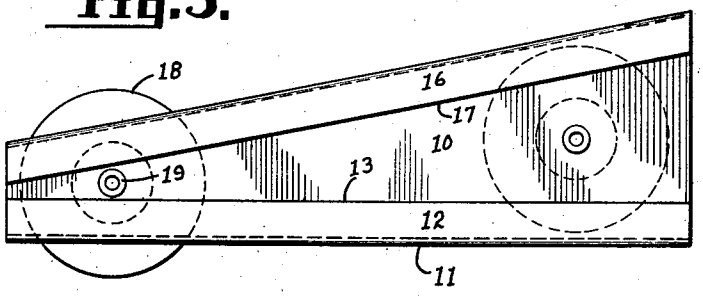
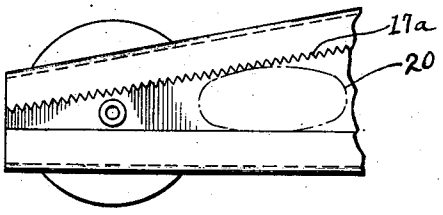


Fig. 5.



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Patented Jan. 9, 1945

2,367,161

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,367,161

SOAP HOLDER

Henry W. Wild, Waterbury, Conn.

Application May 13, 1943, Serial No. 486,797

9 Claims. (Cl. 45—28)

This invention relates to a soap holder or receptacle and particularly to a soap holder for handling soap in the form of a bar or cake.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a soap holding device designed to hold a cake of soap by opposing line or relatively narrow edge contacts whereby air is permitted to circulate around all sides of the soap for purposes of quick drying and hardening the same, thus eliminating undue softening and waste of the soap.

A further object of this invention is to provide a soap receptacle of the above nature in which the soap-supporting opposing line or edge contacts are arranged in a converging manner in different planes for the purpose of evenly supporting a cake of soap during its reduction in size incidental to consumption, until the same has reached the minimum size for practical use. The receptacle is preferably designed to engage the bar of soap adjacent one end and permits the major portion of the bar to overhang its lower line contact fulcrum in the manner similar to a cantilever, and thus dispose the soap bar regardless of size in a position to be grasped readily and convenient to the user.

A further object is to provide a structure which is capable of being readily attached to bath tubs, lavatory bowls, sinks and like devices, and the principle of the invention is such that it readily adapts itself to be built into any such devices with all the inherent advantages designated above.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of a typical construction and application of my invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the soap holder, and showing the holder as it might appear in use in association with a lavatory bowl.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the holder, per se.

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the same.

Fig. 4 is an end view of the same, and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary front view showing a slight modification of the holder.

Referring now to the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown the preferred embodiment of this invention, the holder is made from a single piece of sheet metal formed to provide a back portion 10 of a generally tapering shape, a base 11 perpendicular to and extending outwardly from the lower edge of said back 10 and also of a generally tapering shape, the wider portion of both the base and the back being disposed to the right of the holder as best shown in Figs. 2 and 3. An upstanding integral wall 12 is provided along the front edge of the base 11 and is designed to function in the manner of a support fulcrum, wherein its upper edge 13 forms a line or relatively narrow edge contact for engagement with the underside of a bar of soap 14, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4.

The upper edge of the back portion 10 is inclined relative to the base 11 from which projects a perpendicular wall 15 of uniform width and terminating in a depending flange 16 also of uniform width, the lower edge 17 of which also provides for a line or relatively narrow edge contact opposed to the supporting fulcrum edge 13 and against which the upper surface of the bar of soap engages when assembled into the holder. It is to be noted that the distance that the flange 16 is spaced from the back portion 10 is somewhat less than the minimum distance that the left end of the fulcrum wall 12 is spaced from said back portion 10, such that the upper line contact edge 17 engaging with any bar of soap, regardless of size, will always be closer to the inner end of the bar than the lower fulcrum contact edge 13 when such bar is disposed within the holder.

Due to the general tapering shape of the back portion 10 and the base 11 and their relative arrangement, the fulcrum wall 12 and the flange 16 converge generally toward the left side of the holder, with the fulcrum contact edge 13 of wall 12 disposed in substantially a horizontal plane while the cooperating opposed contact edge 17 of the flange 16 is disposed in a vertical plane. The soap, when assembled into the holder, will be from the right end thereof and moved to the left preferably sliding along the fulcrum wall edge 13 until the upper surface of the soap bar contacts or more or less jams against the flange edge 17 wherein the soap bar will be embraced on opposite sides only by line contacts with the greater portion of the soap bar projecting beyond the fulcrum wall 12, thus making use of the force of gravity to maintain the bar against the flange edge 17 without having it tip into the holder to contact the base with a resulting messy, obnoxious and wasteful condition. With the converging arrangement of the edges 13 and 17 the bars of soap will be held in a substantially identical manner regardless of its original size or its gradually diminishing size contingent upon its use.

As a convenient means of supporting the holder device upon or adjacent the various bathroom or laundry accessories, a pair of spaced rubber suction cups 18 are secured to the rear wall of the

back portion 10 of the device as by means of eyelet 19 or any suitable attaching fasteners. With the suction cups 18 attached to the back portion 10 the intent is to secure the holder device upon any vertical wall surface, and if desired to manufacture the device so as to arrange it upon a horizontal surface, the suction cups can as easily be attached to the base 11 of the device.

In Fig. 5 is shown a modified construction, which may be employed to advantage where soap bars of various shapes are to be used, and is identical in all respects to the preceding form described except that the upper flange contact edge 17*a* is in the form of relatively fine teeth or serrations throughout its entire length. This type of edge is suggested particularly for use where soap bars of elongated oval shape or round oval shape, as indicated at 20, are to be supported, as it has been determined that soap bars of such shapes are liable to slip and possibly pivot upon the supporting edge 13 unless means are provided to assure a better gripping action than merely straight contact edges against the relatively small surface of the oval soap bars that would be engaged. The serrated edge 17*a* will, of course, assure such a gripping edge and function equally as well upon the rectangular soap bars as the oval bars.

The device as herein set forth is described as an independent and portable one made of sheet metal, however, it is to be understood that the same may be made of other materials, such as ceramics, plastics, rubber or similar materials, and likewise the principle of the device is capable of being built in as a fixture or as an integral part of the various lavatory services.

From the above it will be seen that a soap holder is provided which will support the soap in a position where air may circulate around the bar at all times to assure that it will quickly dry, thereby preventing softening of the soap and consequent loss. In actual practise it has been observed that, when a bar of soap is assembled into this holder, there is no drainage that runs off into the base, but rather the soap bar dries uniformly and quickly over the entire area except for the line contacts.

While I have shown the device as a right handed device, in that the soap has to be assembled generally from the right side of the device and moved to the left, it is within the purview of this invention to make it also serve as a left-handed holder, by merely having the line contacts converge to the right rather than to the left. In this manner two supports could be supplied to be attached to the wall either side of a lavatory bowl or incorporated into various lavatory facilities to give proper balance and pleasing appearance.

Having described two forms and applications of the invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific forms and applications herein set forth, but wish to reserve any modifications or variations that appear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A soap holder formed up from a single sheet of material and comprising a back having a base extending from the lower edge thereof and terminating in an upstanding flanged portion arranged at an angle to said back, and the upper edge of said back formed into an inverted channel section with a flanged portion uniformly spaced from said back and arranged at an angle relative to said base, the two flanged portions generally converging at one end of said holder.

2. A soap holder as defined by claim 1 wherein means is provided for detachably securing said holder to a flat supporting surface.

3. A soap holder as defined by claim 1 wherein a pair of suction cups are secured to the rear face of said back.

4. A soap holder comprising a general tapering shaped support back, a base projecting from the lower edge of said back also of general tapering shape and terminating in an upstanding flange or lower support, the tapering back and base converging at a common end, and the upper edge of said back having a projecting portion terminating in a depending flange or upper support uniformly spaced from said back.

5. A soap holder as defined by claim 4 wherein the supports are arranged in a generally converging manner at a common end with that portion of the lower support closest to the back being spaced a distance greater than the upper support.

6. A soap holder comprising a mounting structure presenting a back wall, a pair of opposed upper and lower supporting members having soap engaging terminal edges, means supporting the upper member in spaced relation and parallel to the back wall, means supporting the lower member in spaced relation and biased to the back wall and forwardly of the upper member, the soap engaging edge of the upper member being inclined relative to the lower support means, and the upper and lower soap engaging edges mutually converging toward a common end.

7. A soap holder as defined by claim 6 wherein one of the terminal edges of the support members is provided with serrations or teeth-like projections.

8. A soap holder as defined by claim 6 wherein the terminal edge of the upper support member is provided with serrations or teeth-like projections.

9. A soap holder comprising a mounting structure having opposed forwardly projecting portions terminating in laterally disposed support members, one member disposed forwardly of and parallel to said mounting structure, and the other member disposed forwardly of said mounting structure and also said first named member and biased relative to said mounting structure, said members having soap engaging terminal edges mutually converging toward a common end.

HENRY W. WILD.