May 2, 1939. C. GRAHAM 2,156,940

SOAP HOLDER

Filed May 26, 1937

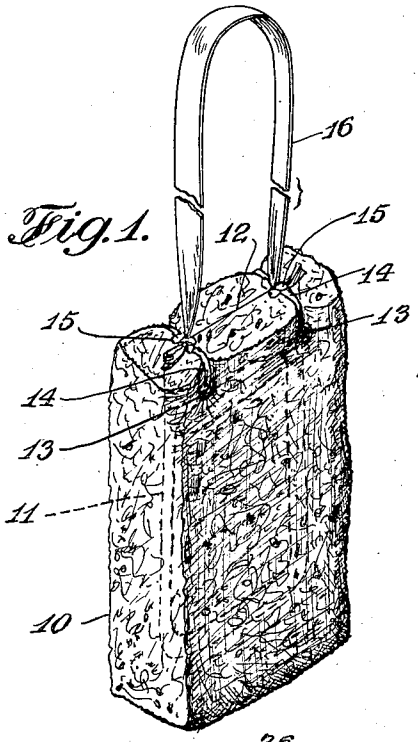


Fig. 1.

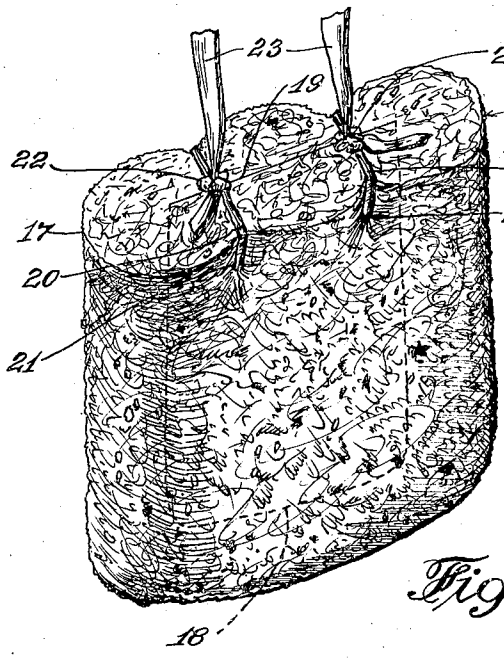


Fig. 2.

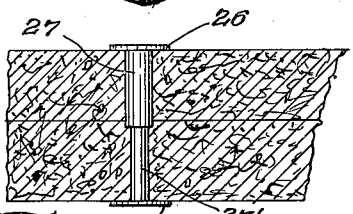


Fig. 6.

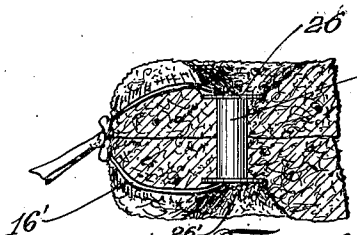


Fig. 4.

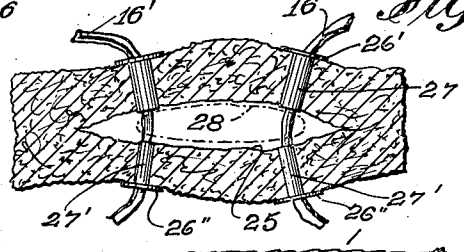


Fig. 5.

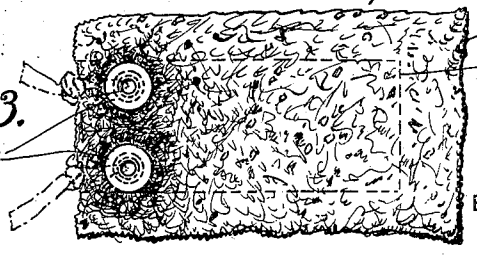


Fig. 3.

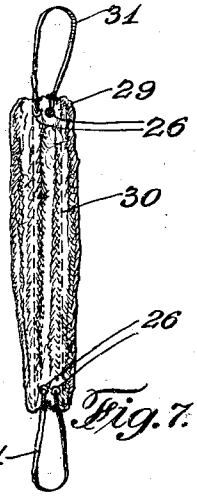


Fig. 7.

INVENTOR
Charlotte Graham
BY
Paul M. Klein
ATTORNEY

Patented May 2, 1939 2,156,940

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,156,940

SOAP HOLDER

Charlotte Graham, New York, N. Y.

Application May 26, 1937, Serial No. 144,802

3 Claims. (Cl. 15—122)

This invention relates to receptacles in general, and particularly to what may be termed porous or spongy receptacles intended for containing soap or other sud-forming material.

The prime object of this invention is to provide a porous spongy receptacle, the body of which is internally severed, cut or slit so as to form a yieldable container into which is placed either a cake of soap or partially used up soap chips, or any other sud-producing material, and which receptacle is provided with a suitable handle, the latter simultaneously serving as closing means for the receptacle so as to prevent the soap or sud-forming means placed within from inadvertently falling out, or leaving the receptacle in any other form except in that of produced sud, and exclusively through the pores of the receptacle material.

Another object of this invention is to provide in connection with the receptacle and the handle forming instrumentality, used also for closing the receptacle, suitable means for reinforcing that portion of the receptacle material through which the handle instrumentality is attached, which means simultaneously serve as guides for those portions of the handle instrumentality which pass through the receptacle material, while preventing possible injury to the latter by the said through-passing portions.

The foregoing and still further important objects and advantages of my invention will become more fully apparent from the ensuing description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, which latter, although illustrating specific forms of my disclosure, are by no means intended to limit me to the actual showing, and in which:

Fig. 1 represents one of the embodiments of my receptacle intended for use in applying sud to the body;

Fig. 2 illustrates another form of my invention intended for use in cleansing dishes or other utensils;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a modified form of my device, similar to that shown in Fig. 1, and including added features;

Fig. 4 is a typical longitudinal, fragmental section through my device showing reinforcements and guides for the handle;

Fig. 5 is a typical transverse cross-sectional view showing the arrangement of the reinforcing guides for the handle before the latter is drawn together, and with the pocket formed in the body in open position;

Fig. 6 is another cross-sectional view through my device showing the reinforcing guides in their initial, co-acting position; and

Fig. 7 illustrates a receptacle made from loofah, embodying the basic idea of my invention.

Referring now specifically to Fig. 1, numeral 10 denotes a block of spongy material, such as natural sponge, rubber sponge, or any other suitable material which is porous and capable of absorbing water and of permitting sud to penetrate to its outer surface. The body of the spongy material is cut, slit or otherwise severed interiorly, as indicated by dotted lines 11 and the exterior slot 12, for the purpose of forming a pocket within the spongy body whereby a container with yielding walls is produced. In the form shown in Fig. 1, the lower end of the interior pocket terminates short of the bottom of the container material, whereas the top end thereof, indicated by line 12, forms an opening or mouth through which soap may be inserted.

In order to keep the pocket tightly closed, I pierce the container material transversely in at least two places, as indicated at 13, to form passages wherethrough I pass my handle instrumentality, such as a cord or ribbon, indicated at 14, which I tie together at 15. From tie points 15, the ribbon extends in the form of a loop or handle 16, adapted to be slung about the wrist, or to serve otherwise for suspending the device, as the case may be. By drawing together the pieces of the ribbon passing through the sponge material at 13, slot or opening 12 is tightly held together, so as to prevent the soap inserted into the pocket from leaving the body, even though it may be used up to very small dimensions.

The device, such as shown in Fig. 1, is used by dipping it into water and rubbing the surface thereof, through which operation the soap inserted within produces lather or sud, which penetrates through the pores of the body of the sponge to without, thereby permitting the application of the sud to the body or to any other object. It is to be noted that I prefer to hold the upper opening together at at least two individual points which are closely spaced from one another in such a manner as to hold the faces of the severed material tightly united. This is important not only for preventing the slipping out of the soap held within, but also for preventing an inadvertent tearing or enlargement of the top opening made in the device.

Referring now to Fig. 2, in this illustration is shown a spongy receptacle, similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1, but of relatively larger dimensions, which is especially adapted for use in connection with dish-washing and for cleansing utensils of different kinds. In this case the body of the sponge is large and has rounded sides, as at 17, and is adapted to contain a relatively large cake of soap in the extra large pocket, marked in dotted lines at 18, which pocket terminates in an outer slot or opening 19. The latter is again held together by a ribbon 20, which is looped through suitable apertures at 21, made through the material at the upper end of pocket 18, and which ribbon is associated with the body

by knotting it together at 22, from which knots extends a loop-shaped ribbon handle 23, which latter is not shown in full in this figure. The general arrangement of this modified form is very similar to that described in connection with Fig. 1.

In Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6, modified arrangements of my device are illustrated. In Fig. 3 there is shown a spongy body 24, provided with the usual pocket 25, the upper or outer opening of which is held together by a ribbon, indicated in broken lines, in the same manner as described in connection with Figs. 1 and 2. However, the ribbon passes through specially designed telescoping nipples 26, which are shown in greater detail in Figs. 4, 5 and 6. These nipples serve for a double purpose. Firstly, they are intended to form a guide for the ribbon 16', and furthermore, they serve for the purpose of reinforcing the passages pierced through the material of the sponge and prevent the cutting or tearing of the pierced portion thereof by the ribbon. These nipples actually consist of two individual members and preferably have the shapes of hollow rivets provided with flanges 26' and 26'' and hollow bodies 27 and 27'. The inner diameter of bodies 27 is sufficiently large to slidably accommodate bodies 27' of the smaller nipples so that when these nipples are set together, they can compress the sponge material by their flanges to about one-half of its original thickness. If need be, the nipples may be shortened to allow a still further compression of the sponge material in case the material should be too readily compressible. The adequate compression of the material is essential in order to tightly close the opening of the pocket formed in the material.

The nipples are preferably inserted into the material, as shown in Fig. 6, and are so arranged that their extreme ends partially telescope with one another. Then the cord or ribbon is passed through the nipples and is tied about the sponge material as shown in Fig. 4. The tying of the cord causes the movement of the two nipples towards each other whereby the sponge material becomes compressed. When it is desired to insert or remove a piece of soap, such as indicated in broken lines at 28 in Fig. 5, and assuming the soap piece is too large to pass between the telescoping nipples, the opening is widened in the manner shown in Fig. 5, so that the nipples are forced apart, but are held within the sponge material. At such position the cord or ribbon 16', while remaining within the nipples, will permit the passage of the soap by bending outwards.

In Fig. 7 there is illustrated a piece of loofah in order to demonstrate that natural spongy or fibrous material may be employed as well as artificial sponges, such as made from rubber. In this case it is preferable to form in the loofah material 29 a through-passage, indicated at 30, which, of course, necessitates the closing of the loofah sponge at both ends. For this purpose I provide two narrowly spaced perforations, near the ends of the through-passage, for accommodating ribbons 31. Suitable telescoping, reinforcing nipples 26 may be employed in the perforations for preventing tearing of the material and for guiding the ribbons. These ribbons are again shaped into handles, which may be advantageously employed in using the soap-filled sponge for bathing and washing purposes.

As handle instrumentality there may be used any pliable binder, such as cord, ribbon, a plurality of cords or ribbons made of either textile material, rubber or any other suitable matter, as long as it remains pliable, and is unaffected by the exposure to moisture and soap. The reinforcing guide nipples may be also of any desired material, but are preferably non-metallic, or are made of metal with a protective covering so as to preclude corrosion or other chemical reactions caused by moisture or the alkalies used within the body of the sponge.

While I have illustrated and described specific forms of the material used for the body of my device, it is self-understood that any spongy, natural or artificial material may be employed, and that I shall not be restricted to the formation of a soap-holding pocket within the material as illustrated and described, and that the formation of the pocket may be changed to suit particular conditions. It is also obvious that I shall likewise not be restricted to the use of reinforcing guide nipples for the handle-forming ribbons or cords, inasmuch as such handle forming material may directly pass through the material. It is essential, however, that the handle-forming material be passed through the sponge material at the mouth of the formed pocket, or through-slot, in such a manner as to securely hold the two lips of the mouth tightly together for positively preventing an inadvertent discharge of the soap cake or soap pieces contained within the pocket, unless it is desired to remove the soap therefrom. It is further obvious that I shall not be restricted to the shapes and forms of the embodiments illustrated in the drawing, and I therefore reserve for myself the right to make changes and improvements in the construction of my device, without departing from the broad scope thereof, as defined in the annexed claims.

I claim:

1. In a receptacle, a body of porous, spongy material, severed interiorly to form a yieldable container having at least one exteriorly communicating passage, handle-forming means in the form of a pliable binder transversing with both of its ends the material adjacent to said passage at least at two spaced points, each of said binder ends forming removable, but completely closed, loops which fully encircle and immovably hold, the material portions engaged by them, thereby drawing together and closing the ends of said passage.

2. In a receptacle, as set forth in claim 1, telescoping guide means provided for said handle-forming means in the receptacle material for preventing injury to the latter by said handle-forming means.

3. In a receptacle, a body of porous, spongy material, cut interiorly to form a yieldable, pocket-like container with one exteriorly communicating passage, pliable handle-forming means transversing the material adjacent to said passage at two spaced points and removably secured to, and drawing together the material, a pair of telescoping guide means secured within the material at the points said handle-forming means pass through the material, the exterior ends of the guide means being flanged.

CHARLOTTE GRAHAM.