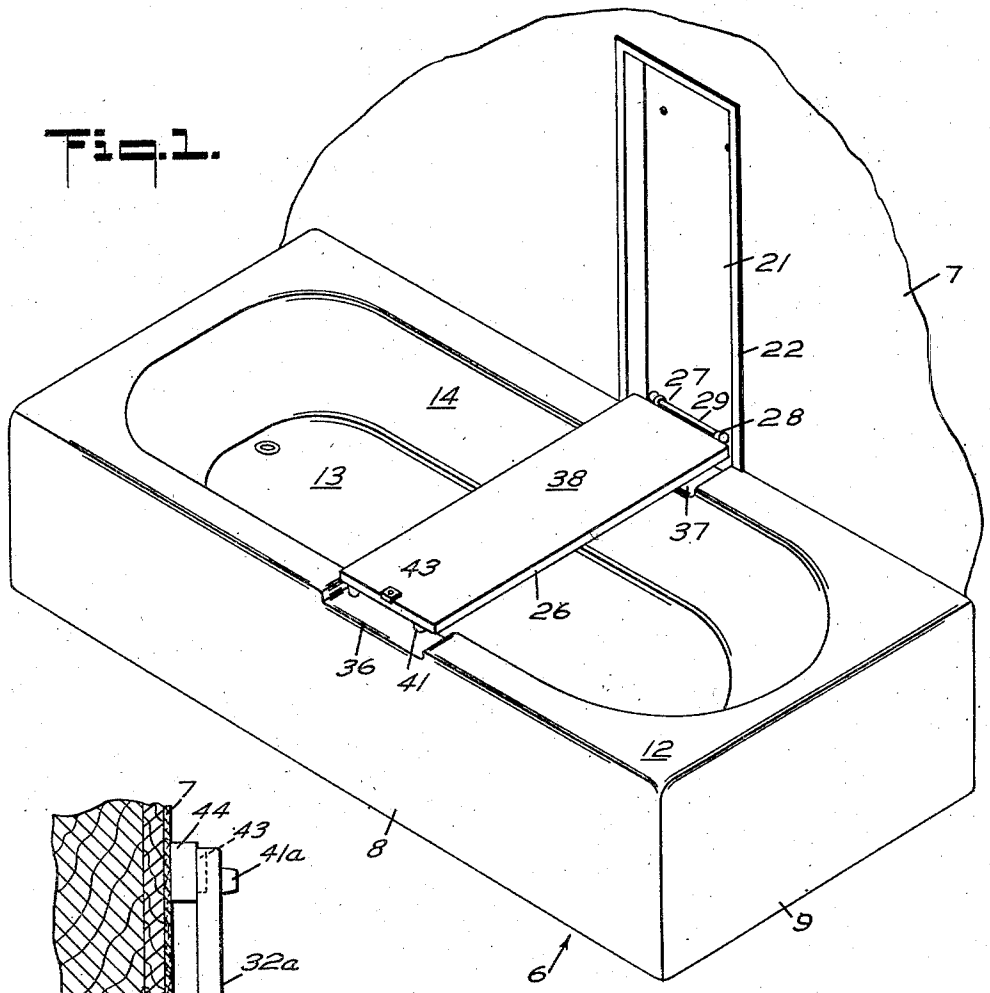
Nov. 19, 1957 R. L. LANZA 2,813,276

BATHTUB SEAT

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Fig. 1.



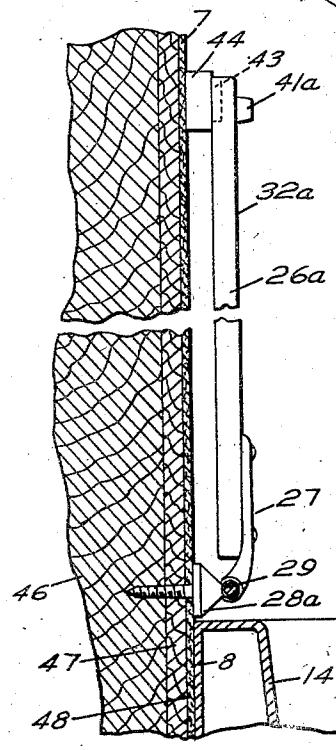
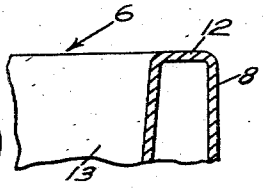


Fig. 4.



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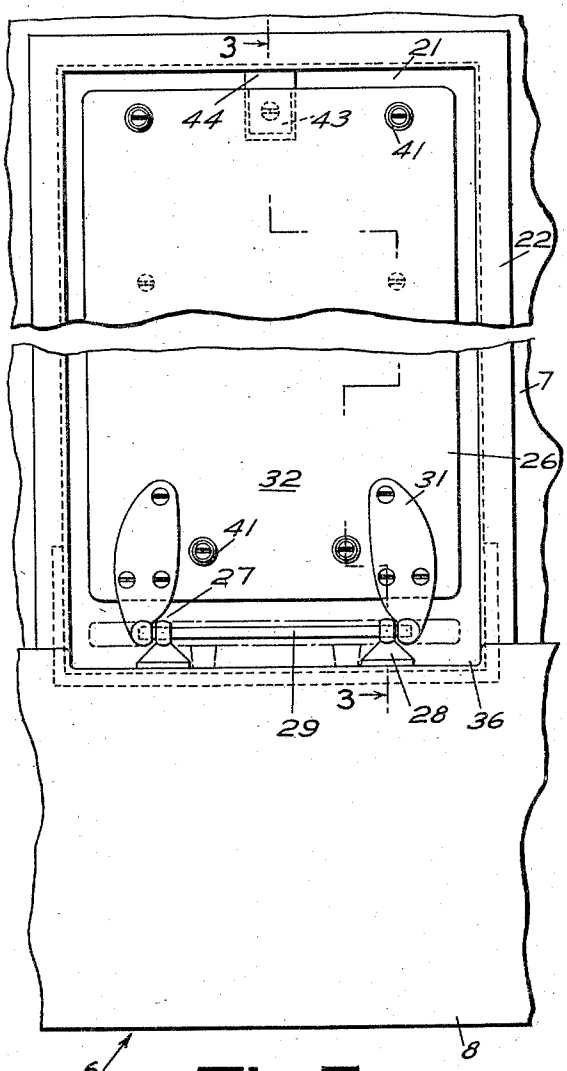


Fig. 2.

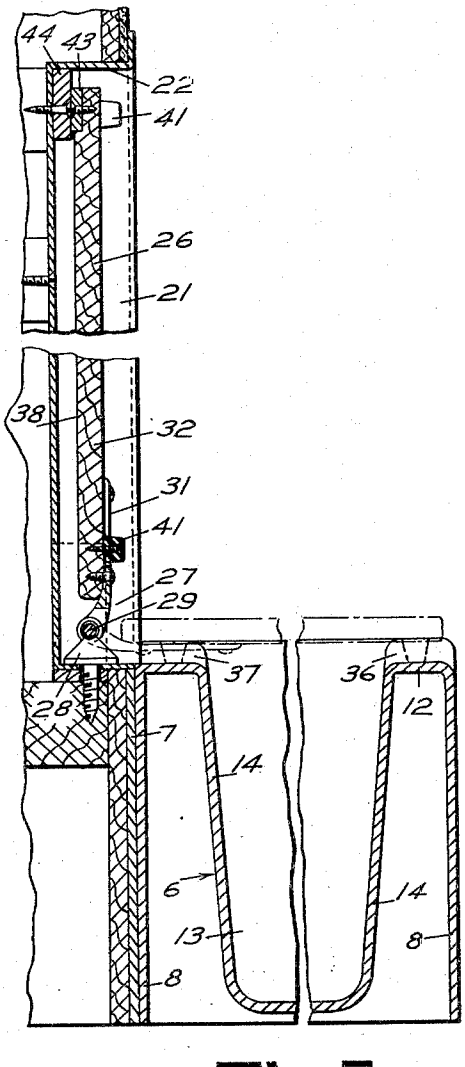


Fig. 3.

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BATHTUB SEAT

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Application October 10, 1955, Serial No. 539,409

4 Claims. (Cl. 4—185)

This invention generally relates to bathtubs, and is more specifically directed towards a seat adapted to be placed in operative position in or on the bathtub.

In many instances, it is desirable for a person to sit with the major portion of his body overlying a bathtub such as for soaking one's feet, washing hair or the like. Heretofore, such an arrangement was impossible as it was necessary for any person not desiring to be completely disposed within the bathtub to sit on a side thereof which is uncomfortable, causes water to drip onto the surrounding floor area, and likewise presents the possibility of injury.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a seat which is adapted to be operatively positioned transversely of a bathtub and at an elevation substantially at the level of the upper rim surface of the tub.

Another object of the invention is to provide a seat of the character described which may be readily placed into operative position and which likewise may be moved to an inoperative position wherein there is no interference with the normal use of the tub.

A further object of the invention is to provide apparatus of the character described which may be incorporated on existing bathtub constructions or alternatively may be used with slight modifications on new tub installations.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood, however, that variations in the showing made by the said drawings and description may be adopted within the scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to said drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bathtub showing the seat of the present invention in operative position thereon.

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the seat in its inoperative position.

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially in the plane indicated by line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 but showing a modified form of construction for use on existing bathtub construction.

As hereinabove mentioned, the present invention relates to a seat which is adapted to be supported on the longitudinally extending opposed upper rim surfaces of a bathtub and substantially medially of the bathtub length whereby a person may sit on such seat in relative comfort and safety while soaking his feet, or may use the seat in conjunction with a shower, such as for shampooing his hair and the like, or for any other desired reason. Obviously, when the bathtub is to be used in a more conventional manner, it is necessary that the seat be removed with a minimum of difficulty to an inoperative

and non-interfering position, and in accordance with the teachings of the present invention the seat may be readily moved and maintained in either its operative or inoperative position.

With particular reference to Figure 1 of the drawings, a bathtub generally indicated by the numeral 6 is disclosed. The tub, as in conventional construction, has a pair of longitudinally extending side walls 8, one of such walls being substantially flush with a wall 7 of the bathroom and the outermost wall 8 exposed to the room. Also, end walls 9 are provided which likewise are generally flush with one or both of bathroom wall portions. The end and side walls 8 and 9 all are provided with a substantially coplanar rim 12 extending completely around the tub and within the rim is the bowl 13 which is of a size sufficient to receive the body of the bather. The bowl 13 is defined by a continuous vertical surface 14 which is disposed in generally parallel relationship to the side and end walls or outer surfaces of the tub.

The foregoing type of construction is generally conventional in the art and no further detailed consideration is believed necessary for an understanding of the present invention. In accordance with the teachings of this invention, I provide in the room wall 7 a generally rectangular recess 21 which may be defined by a suitable framework 22 of chrome or similar material. Recess 21 extends vertically upward from a point substantially medially of the end walls 9 of the tub and for a conventional tub size may be approximately 10 inches wide by about 30 inches high and a little over 1 inch in depth.

Recess 21 is adapted to receive the seat of the present invention as shown in solid lines in Figure 3 of the drawing when the latter is in its inoperative or folded position. As best seen in Figures 2 and 3, the seat, generally indicated by the numeral 26, is of generally rectangular and plank-like configuration and may be suitably padded or quilted with a waterproof material (not shown) to provide more comfort to a person using the same. Adjacent one end of the seat I provide a suitable hinge 27 which may include a pair of apertured members 28 bolted or otherwise secured to the wall or a stud therein and a pivot pin or bolt 29 extending therebetween. Carried on the distal ends of the pin are a pair of plates 31 which are suitably screwed or bolted to the lower surface 32 of the seat 26. In this manner, the seat may be moved from the solid line position shown in Figure 3 to the broken line position shown in the same figure so as to move from its inoperative position within recess 21 to its operative position traversing the bathtub and adapted to rest on or adjacent the rim 12 thereof. In new construction, I prefer to provide notches or recesses 36 and 37 at opposed portions of the rim 12 so that when the seat is in its horizontal operative position it will be disposed within said recesses and have the upper surface 38 thereof substantially coplanar with the upper surface of the rim 12. However, for existing constructions, such as is shown in Figure 4, it would be difficult if not impossible to provide such notches or recesses, and therefore in the latter instances, the seat will merely rest on the upper surface of the rim 12. Suitable rubber bumpers 41 are provided on the lower surface of the seat at the points of engagement of the seat with any portion of the bathtub in order to protect the latter against chipping or cracking when engaged by the seat.

If the seat were merely freely pivoted as indicated at 27, there would be no difficulty in having the same maintain itself in its horizontal operative position but would be difficult to hold the seat in its inoperative folded position within the recess 21. Accordingly, means must be provided to insure retention of the seat in its vertical inoperative position. Although numerous fastening means could be utilized I prefer to use some means which are

reliable in holding the seat in its vertical position without requiring undue work or strain on the part of the user. Accordingly, at the distal end of the seat **26** I provide a small magnet **43** which is adapted to be attracted by a similar magnet **44** attached to the upper portion of the recess frame **22**. In this manner, when the seat is manually moved towards its vertical position the magnets will form an attraction for each other and insure the completion of the swinging of the seat about its hinge to its vertical position, and will positively retain the seat in such position until a deliberate force is used to separate the two magnets from each other. This force is not an extremely great one and even persons with impaired physical qualifications will have little difficulty in performing this operation.

In Figure 4 there is disclosed a slightly modified form of construction which may be utilized for existing bathtubs wherein it would not only be difficult to provide the notches **36** and **37** but it would likewise be difficult to provide the recess **21** in the wall **7**. Thus, instead of providing the recessed frame **22** I mount the seat **26*a*** on the outer surface of the wall **7** and instead of attaching the hinge members **28*a*** to a horizontally disposed frame member I secure the same to a vertical stud **46**, conventional lath **47** and plaster **48** being shown on the outer surface of the stud. In this manner the seat **26*a*** is somewhat exposed at all times but as the distance between the outer surface of the wall **7** and the bottom surface **32*a*** of the seat is less than the width of the rim **12**, the seat will still not interfere with the normal use of the bathtub. The same magnetic means **43** and **44** may be used for maintaining the seat in its inoperative position and when moved downwardly to its operative position, the seat will merely have the bumpers **41*a*** disposed on the upper rim surface **12**, the hinge providing the other support for the opposing rim surface.

From the foregoing description it will be appreciated that while the seat of the present invention is extremely simple in construction and operation it fulfills a definite need in providing a seat which may be moved without difficulty into and out of position on a bathtub so as to provide improved safety and comfort for the occupant.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a bathtub having a longitudinally extending side disposed adjacent a wall, means

defining a vertically extending recess in said wall, the lower portion of said recess being substantially coterminous with the upper surface of said side, a longitudinally extending seat member normally disposed substantially entirely within said recess, means pivotally attaching the lower end of said seat member to structural portions of the wall adjacent the lower portion of said recess, the other end of said seat member overlying and being supported on the opposite upper surface of said bathtub when said seat member is moved about its pivot to a horizontally disposed position traversing the width of said bathtub, and means for releasably securing said seat in its vertical inoperative position.

2. Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 in which said securing means includes a magnet disposed adjacent the distal end portion of said seat member.

3. A seat adapted for use with a bathtub having longitudinally extending rim portions comprising: a generally rectangular member of a length sufficient to traverse and overlie said spaced rim portions, means pivotally mounting said seat about a horizontal axis adjacent one of said rim portions for movement from an inoperative vertical position to an operative horizontal position wherein the distal end of said member is supported on the other of said rims, and means for releasably securing said distal end in said inoperative position.

4. Apparatus as set forth in claim 3 in which said seat in its inoperative position is disposed substantially immediately adjacent and parallel to a wall generally coplanar with a longitudinally extending wall of said bathtub, and said pivotally mounting means being operatively connected to said wall and to the under surface of said seat for permitting movement of the latter from said vertical to said horizontal position.

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