April 28, 1936. G. WOLKENHAUER 2,038,698

HAT-CLEANING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 15, 1934

Fig. 1.

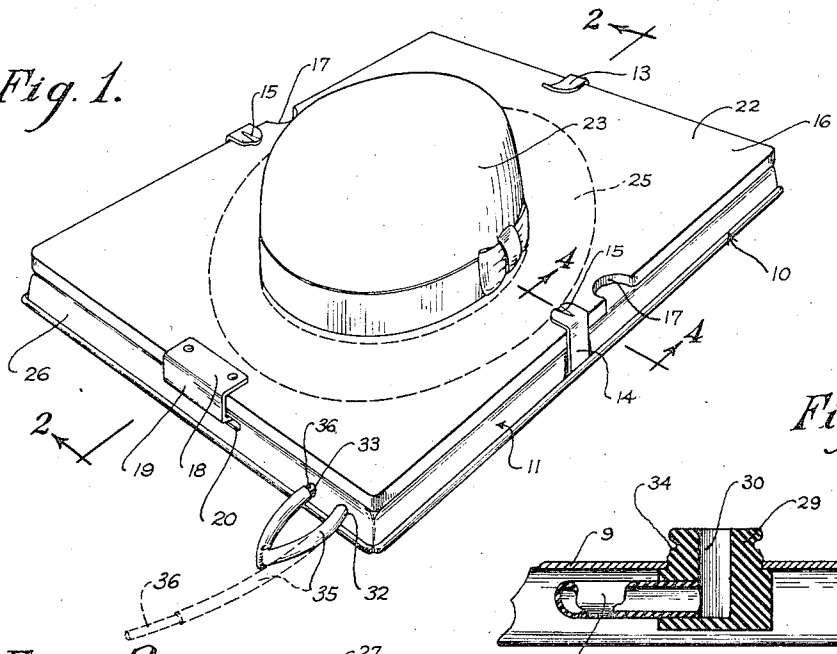


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

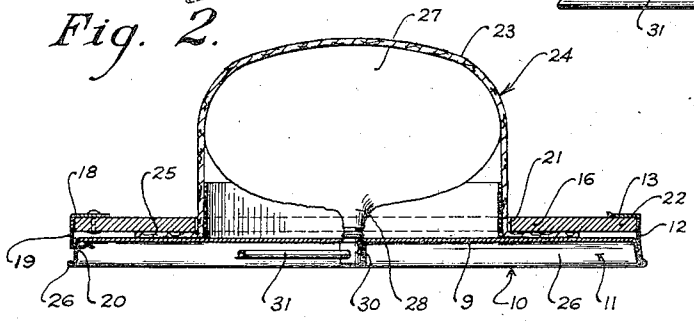


Fig. 4.

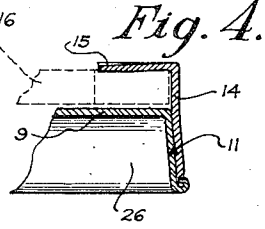
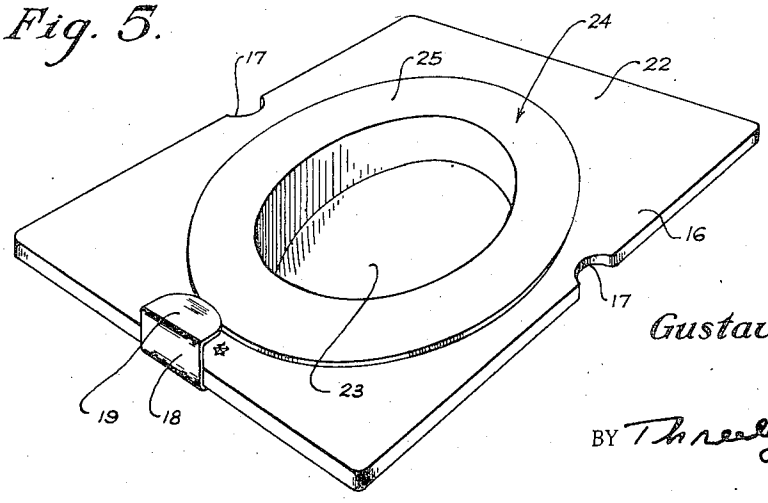


Fig. 5.



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HAT CLEANING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 223—25)

This invention relates to a hat cleaning device.

It is an object of this invention to provide a new and improved hat cleaning device that is especially adapted for home or domestic use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved hat cleaning device which comprises an inflatable balloon saddle or buck for supporting the crown of a hat in a relatively rigid or stiff but somewhat yieldable condition during the cleaning, and new and improved means for exerting a clamping pressure upon the brim of the hat so as to hold the same during the cleaning operation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a new and improved hat cleaning device which comprises a supporting base and a press board adapted to be arranged upon the supporting base and to hold the hat thereon during the operation of cleaning the hat; the said press board being adapted to be readily removed from the supporting base as a unit with the hat held thereby and inverted so that the operator may clean the brim of the hat by means of a suitable cleaning instrument held in one hand while holding the hat and press board.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a novel and efficient arrangement for preventing the escape of air from the inflatable balloon saddle or buck after the inflating operation.

A still further object of the invention is to provide the hat cleaning device hereinafter described and claimed.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, showing the preferred form of construction and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form of the invention in assembled, operative position;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same on line 2—2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional detail view;

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail view on line 4—4 in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating that the press board and hat held thereby may be removed as a unit from the supporting base and inserted so that the operator may clean the brim of the hat.

A preferred form of the invention is illustrated in the drawing, is generally indicated therein at 10, and includes an inverted pan-like support of base 11 having a horizontal bed portion 9 and a vertical marginal wall 26 depending from the horizontal bed 9 and extending therearound. This base 11 is preferably, but not necessarily, formed from a single sheet of metal, for the sake of economy in manufacture.

Attached to the base 11 at one end thereof is a clip 12 which has at its upper end a lateral extension or arm 13 that projects over and above the bed 9 of the base 11. Likewise attached to the base 11, but at the side edges thereof are clips 14 which are similar to the clip 13 and each of which has a lateral extension or arm 15, the arms 15 projecting laterally over and above the bed 9 of the base 11.

The new device includes a plate or press board 16 which is adapted to be disposed upon the bed 9 of the base 11 and to hold a hat, such as 24, thereon. Provided in each side edge of the press board 16 is a mouth 17 and attached to the press board 16 at one end thereof is a latch member 18 which has a depending latch arm or extension which is adapted to be projected through and into latching engagement into a slot so formed in the vertical wall 26 of the supporting base 11 at the end of the latter opposite the clip 13.

The invention also comprises an inflatable balloon saddle or buck 27, made of rubber or like elastic material, and having a neck portion 28 which is detachably attached, by its own elasticity, to an attaching nipple 29 that is mounted in and arranged centrally of the bed 9 of the base 11; this nipple 29 having an external ovular groove 34 formed therein to facilitate holding the neck 28 of the balloon 27 thereon. Likewise formed in the nipple plug 29 and extending vertically thereinto is a passage 30 which communicates with the balloon saddle 27 when the neck portion 28 of the latter is attached to the nipple plug 29.

Attached at one end to the nipple plug 29 so as to communicate with the passage 30 is a flexible tube that is peferably made of rubber or like material, this tube 31 being extended under the bed 9 of the base 11 and having its outer end portion 35 projected through a hole 32 that extends transversely through the vertical wall 26 of the supporting base 11, at one end of the latter; a second hole 33 being provided in the vertical wall 26 of the base 11 adjacent the hole 32 for a purpose to be explained presently.

Formed in the press board 16 is a centrally disposed opening 21 which is adapted to receive the crown portion 23 of the hat 24.

Operation

In the use of the new device the hat 24 is placed upon the bed 9 of the supporting base 11 so that the brim portion 25 of the hat rests upon the bed 9 of the base 11 and the press board 16 is then placed down upon the bed 9 of the base 11. This is accomplished by registering the notches 17 in the press board 16 with the angled upper end portions 15 of the clips 14 while at the same time projecting the press board 16 down over the crown portion 23 of the hat 24 so that the crown portion 24 of the hat is projected through the opening 21 in the press board 16. The press board 16 and the hat 24 attached thereto are then slid (left to right, Fig. 1) over the bed 9 of the base 11 so as to project the end portion 22 of the press board 16 under the angled upper end portion 13 of the clip 12 while at the same time moving the notched portions 17 of the press board 16 out of registration with the angled upper end portions 15 of the clips 14. The angled latching arm 19 of the latch 18 is then projected through the slot 20 in the vertical wall 26 of the base 11, and the press board 11 and the hat 24 are thus clamped and latched to the base 11.

The outer end portion 35 of the tube 31 is provided with a mouthpiece 36 and normally this outer end portion 35 of the tube is doubled back upon itself and the mouthpiece 36 projected into the hole 33 in the vertical wall 26 of the base 11.

The hat 24 and the press board 16 being thus arranged upon the base 11, the mouthpiece 36 is withdrawn from the opening 33 in the wall 26 and applied to the mouth of the operator whereupon the operator inflates the balloon saddle 27 into expanded position wherein it serves as a relatively rigid, but somewhat yieldable support for the crown portion 23 of the hat during the cleaning operation.

To hold the air in the balloon saddle 27 after the inflating operation, the operator bends the outer end portion 35 of the tube 31 back upon itself, as shown in full line, Fig. 1, and projects the mouthpiece 36 into its socket or opening 33, thereby retaining the tube 35 in its thus folded or bent back position wherein it acts as a valve to prevent the escape of air from the inflated balloon saddle 27.

It will be noted that when the balloon saddle or buck 27 is inflated, it exerts an upward pressure upon the hat 24 and the press board or plate 16 tending to dislodge the same from the base 11, but that this action is resisted by the clamping or holding means 12—13—14—15—18—19—20.

To release the air from the saddle 27 and collapse the same after the cleaning operations it is merely necessary to remove the mouthpiece 36 of the tube 31 from its socket 33 and allow the outer end portion 35 of the tube to straighten itself out, whereupon the air escapes from the balloon saddle 27 and the latter collapses. The press board 16 and the hat 24 may then be removed from the base 11 by releasing the latch arm 19 of the latch 18 from the slot 20 and sliding the press board 16 and the hat 24 (right to left, Fig. 1), thus registering the notches 17 with the angled upper end portion 15 of the clips 14 and at the same time removing the end edge portion 22 of the press board 16 from under the angled upper end portion 13 of the clip 12, whereupon the press board 16 and the hat 24 may be removed together as a unit from the base 11.

The press board 16 and the hat 24 held thereby may then be inserted into the position of Fig. 5 so that the operation may clean the brim portion 25 of the hat.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification, without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of: a supporting base for the brim portion of a hat; a plate slidably arranged upon said base; said plate having notches formed in parallel edges thereof and having an opening formed therein for the reception of the crown portion of said hat; an inflatable saddle mounted upon said base and expansible into the said crown portion of said hat; a tubular member having connection with said saddle for inflating the same; and means for detachably clamping said plate upon said base; said clamping means including clip members attached to said base and having angled upper end portions projecting over said base above the latter; certain of said angled end portions being registerable with said notches so that said plate may be attached to and removed from said base.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of: a supporting base; a flat clamping plate having an opening formed therein adapted to receive the crown portion of a hat in inverted position and the said plate having a portion defining the marginal edges of said opening providing a support for the brim portion of a hat when the crown portion of the latter is inserted into said opening in inverted position; said supporting base being adapted to receive the said clamping plate with the brim portion of the said hat resting thereon between the said base and the said plate; an inflatable saddle mounted upon said supporting base and expansible into the said crown portion of said hat when the latter is disposed in upright position upon said supporting base; and means for attaching said clamping plate to said supporting base.

3. A hat cleaning device comprising a support, a plate having an opening for the passage therethrough of the crown of a hat, said plate adapted to lie upon said support, means for removably attaching said plate to said support, a detachable inflatable member attached to and passing through said support and through the opening of said plate into the crown of said hat, an air inlet and outlet tube for inflating and deflating said inflatable member, said tube leading at its open end through one opening in said support and adapted to be bent back upon itself to fit into and be held by a second opening in said support and act as a valve to prevent the escape of air from the said inflated member, said inflatable member adapted upon being inflated to substantially fill the crown of said hat and support the same in position and condition so that all parts of the same may be exposed for cleaning by direct contact.

GUSTAV WOLKENHAUER.