Aug. 22, 1950 M. RONES 2,520,064

CLEANING CABINET FOR GARMENTS

Filed Sept. 15, 1945

FIG. 1.

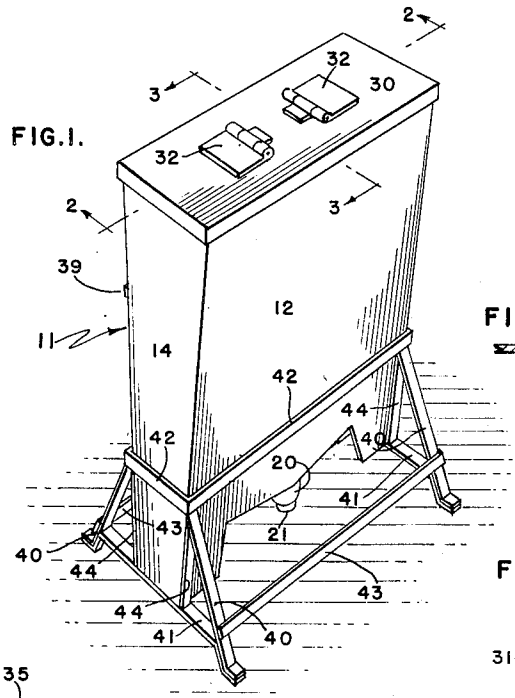


FIG. 3.

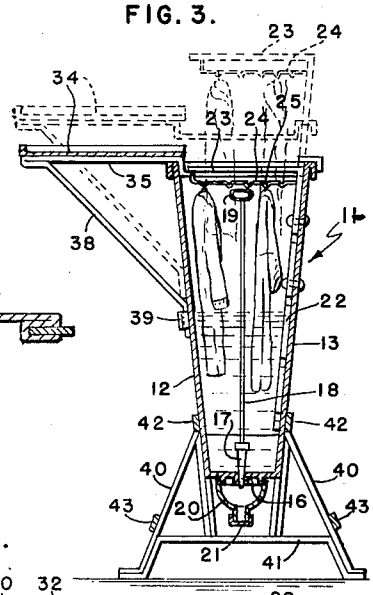


FIG. 8.

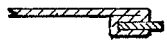
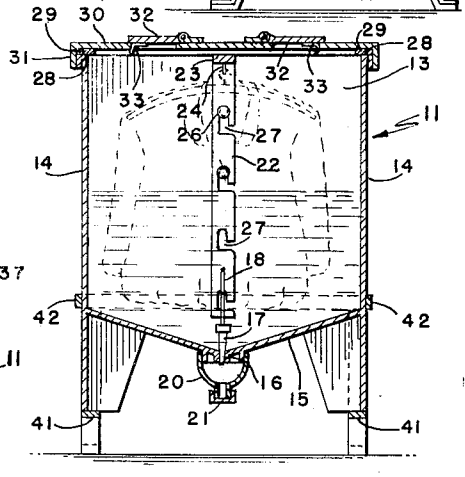


FIG. 2.



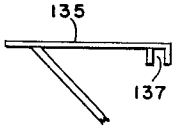


FIG. 9.

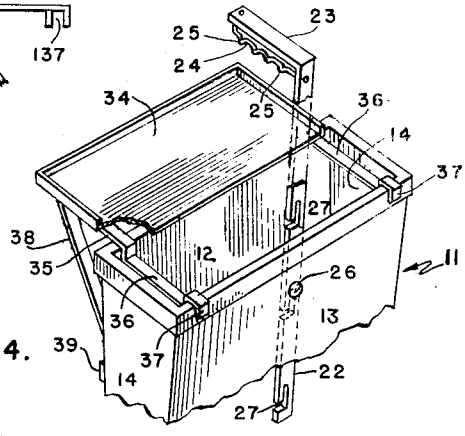


FIG. 4.

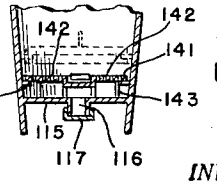


FIG. 6.

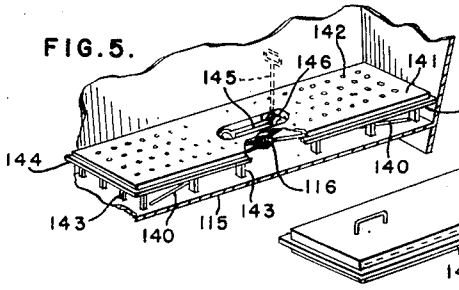


FIG. 5.

FIG. 7.

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CLEANING CABINET FOR GARMENTS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 68—175)

1

This invention relates to a new and improved "portable dry" cleaning apparatus for cleaning soiled garments, fabrics and the like and has particular reference to a cleaning cabinet which uses gasoline, naphtha, or other suitable cleaning fluids.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a portable device which is small and compact and is especially adaptable for domestic or household use.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a device by the use of which the time required for the cleansing process is considerably reduced under the time required by any machine now known and in use.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a device by the use of which the loss of cleansing fluid used in the process is reduced to a minimum.

A further object of this invention is the inclusion of a simple adjustable means for holding and suspending the garments to be cleaned.

A further object of said invention is the inclusion of a rack or stand for holding the device upon the floor in a stable and upright position.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a simple means for guarding against excessive damage due to any accidental explosion within the cabinet of the device.

A further object of this invention is the inclusion in same of a working shelf or table, readily adjustable to and detachable from the device.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of an organization in which the constituent elements are so arranged structurally and functionally as to assure improved results with materials and members which may be manufactured at reasonable cost, may be easily assembled and which will be efficient in operation with minimum wear to the parts.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing will be set forth in the following description and in the claim wherein parts will be identified by specific names for convenience, but they are intended to be as generic in their application to similar parts as the art will permit. In the accompanying drawings there has been illustrated the best embodiment of the invention known to me, but such embodiment is to be regarded as typical only of many possible embodiments, and the invention is not to be limited thereto.

2

The novel features considered characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claim. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description of a specific embodiment when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the cleaning device resting within its rack or stand.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 and shows the device without its cover but showing a work shelf or table attached thereto. This view also shows, by dotted lines, the said work shelf raised and away from the top of the table and ready for removal therefrom. This view also shows, by dotted lines, a raised position of the garment suspending rack.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view, in perspective, of the open upper portion of the cabinet and shows the work shelf or table attached thereto.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of the lower portion of the cabinet and shows a modified form of bottom which will be hereinafter fully explained.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary, transverse section of the modified form or Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a closing plate or stopper member to be used in said modified form, and the dotted lines in Fig. 6 show its position in the cabinet when in use.

Fig. 8 is a sectional detail showing the method employed to attach and hold a gasket along the edge of the closing plate or stopper member of Fig. 6.

Fig. 9 is a partial side view of a modified form of bracket to hold the aforesaid work shelf or table.

Referring to the parts in detail, numeral 11 designates a cabinet formed with a front and rear wall, 12 and 13, respectively, converging slightly toward the bottom to form the wedge-shaped cabinet shown.

The side walls 14 are vertical and parallel. The

bottom 15 is beveled or sloped downwardly toward the center and is provided with an outlet or drain 16 which is normally closed by means of a stopper or plug 17 formed of any suitable material. The said stopper is provided with a manipulating rod 18 having a ring or hand hold 19 at its upper end. A pot 20, which is adapted to receive sediment or sludge, is attached to the under side of the bottom 15 and may be held thereto by threaded or other means. The said pot 20 is provided with an outlet and cap 21.

A rack 22 is adjustably attached to the inside of the front wall 12 and is formed, at its upper end, with a hanger arm 23 to which is secured a bar or rod 24 formed with notches 25. Regulation garment hangers, the suspending hooks of which engage the said notches 25, are provided to suspend the articles to be cleaned, as shown by the full lines of Fig. 3 and the dotted lines in Figs. 2 and 3.

Secured to the front wall 12 and extending into the cabinet are headed pins 26 over and around which L slots 27, formed in the said rack, are adapted to engage.

In Figs. 2 and 3 (full lines) the rack 22 is shown in its lowermost position while in Fig. 3 (dotted lines) and Fig. 4 (full lines) the rack is shown in raised position.

The upper rim or edge of the cabinet is folded to form a ledge 28 upon which a gasket 29, of suitable resilient material, is adapted to engage. This said gasket 29 is suitably attached to the under side of a cover 30; the said cover having lapping edges which engage over the upper edge of said cabinet to form a tight closure or seal at 31.

One or more gas pressure relief outlets with pivotally attached closure members 32 are provided in the said cover and are normally held in closed position by gravity or by means of spring clips 33.

The cover 30, it will be noted, rests of its own weight upon the upper rim of the cabinet and is held snugly in place by its snug fit around the rim of the cabinet.

With the cover 30 removed from the cabinet, a work shelf or table 34 may be attached to the cabinet by means of a bracket member having arms 35 secured to the underside of said work shelf 34 and which extends over and across top edge or rim of said cabinet. The said arms 35 are depressed as at 36 and fit within the cabinet between the front and rear walls thereof and are formed with hook member 37 at the outer end. The said hook member 37 is adapted to engage over the rear wall 13. The said bracket member is further provided with a downwardly extending brace or leg 38, the lower end of which engages and rests within a socket formation 39 upon the front wall 12.

The work shelf may be easily removed as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 3.

In the modified form shown in Fig. 9 the upper supporting member is shown shortened as 135 and is provided with a hook member 137 which is adapted to engage over the upper rim of the front wall 12 of the container.

The modification of Fig. 5 shows a bottom member 115 which is practically flat in form but is graded downwardly toward a central outlet 116 and is provided with radiating grooves or gutters 140. Resting upon the said bottom 115 is a plate 141 having numerous perforations 142 through which the cleaning fluid and sediment may seep. The said perforated plate 141 is provided with short legs or spacers 143 adapted to keep said perforated plate a short distance above said bottom. To ensure a tight seal between the edges of said perforated plate 141 and the walls of said container or cabinet, a gasket 144 of suitable flexible material is secured to the four edges of said perforated plate to form a snug contact with said walls of cabinet.

A handle 145, pivotally attached to said perforated plate at 146 affords a means for lifting the said perforated plate out of the container or resetting it therein.

A closure plate 147 having handles 148 and rimmed with a flexible gasket 149 is adapted to rest snugly within the container in the position indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 6. The said closure plate when placed as described, acts to cut off the liquid from the space below it for the purpose as hereinafter described.

The central outlet 116 is provided with a capping member 117 which may be readily removed to open the said outlet.

Fig. 8 shows a method of attaching the edging gaskets to the plates 141 and 147.

To provide stability to the cabinet when in use the same is set in a frame or rack comprising leg members 40 connected by the transverse supporting members 41 near the lower ends of said legs, the upper band or strap 42 encircling the cabinet at the top of the legs, longitudinal bars 43 near the lower end of the legs and stiffening struts 44 all welded or otherwise fastened together.

Preliminarily to operating the device, the cover 30 is removed from the cabinet and the work shelf 34 attached thereto as shown and described. The rack 22 is then raised and the cabinet filled, to approximately the half way level, with gasoline, naphtha or other suitable cleansing fluid. The garments to be cleaned are then dipped into the cleansing fluid in the cabinet; stubborn spots upon the garments may be worked out by rubbing upon the work shelf or the garments may be repeatedly dipped in the cleansing fluid. After the dipping and rubbing is completed, the garments are hung over ordinary hangers and then suspended upon the rack. The rack may then be lowered and the cover set in place over the top of the cabinet. If a further application of the cleansing fluid is desired, the fluid within the container may be agitated in any suitable manner.

If, during the process of cleansing, an undue gas pressure builds up within the container, the parts in the cover will be forced open and the gas under pressure released. Should the gas within the cabinet be accidentally exploded, the cover will fly off to relieve the pressure, and prevent the fragmentary destruction of the cabinet.

After one or more cleansing operations, a sediment or sludge deposit will accumulate in the bottom of the container. By releasing the stopper or drain plug this sludge with some of the cleansing fluid will flow into the pot. The drain plug is then replaced, stopping the flow. The sludge is then removed from the pot which may in turn be released from the bottom of the container.

In the modified form shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, the sediment collects upon the bottom 115 and drains through the outlet into the pot 116. The stopping plate 147 is set into the cabinet just above the perforated plate 141 and cuts off the fluid from the bottom portion of the cabinet. The cap 117 is then removed and the sediment

allowed to drain out, some of the cleaning fluid flowing out at the same time.

I claim:

A portable household cabinet for dry cleaning garments and the like, comprising a container for holding a volatile cleansing fluid, a weighted cover upon the said container having pressure relief outlets therein adapted to automatically open when the volatile fluid within the said container is unduly expanded, a supporting frame removably attached to said container, a capped outlet upon the said container for drawing off the said volatile fluid and sediment collected therein, a removable screen within the container spaced above the bottom of same and a rack for suspending garments to be cleaned, removably attached within said container.

MAE RONES.

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