Title: PAINTBRUSH AND ROLLER HEAD COVER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

Abstract: A painting implement cover appointed for temporarily housing a used paintbrush or paint roller head so that the implement's painting surfaces do not harden after use, thereby enabling the brush or roller to be used at a later time. The painting implement cover includes a container having a first member and a second member removably connected together by way of a connection means to form an air-tight seal in the container. The first member further includes a handle aperture appointed for receiving a handle portion of a painting implement. The handle aperture has a groove with a handle seal member housed therein to form an air-tight seal between the handle portion and the handle aperture when the handle portion of the painting implement is received therein. The paintbrush and/or roller head cover optionally includes an accordion portion so that it is extendable and can accommodate varying sized implements.
PAINTBRUSH AND ROLLER HEAD COVER
AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field Of The Invention

The present invention relates to a paintbrush and / or roller head cover and method for manufacturing the same; and more particularly, to a paintbrush and / or roller head cover appointed for receiving and storing bristles or a roller sleeve having paint thereon, in a sealed environment, that is dry and free of solvents or liquids, so that hardening of the bristles or the roller sleeve surface is mitigated and there is no solvent or liquid commingled with the paint, so that the brush or roller can readily be utilized at a later time with minimal preparation.

2. Description Of The Prior Art

After a paintbrush or paint roller is utilized, there is a significant amount of paint residing on the brush bristles or roller sleeve. Typically, this paint must be removed before storage to maintain the integrity of the brush or roller sleeve, even if the user intends on using the same paint at a later time. Solidification of the bristles or roller sleeve typically ensues as the residual paint begins to dry, causing deformation of the bristles or roller sleeve surface. Generally, removal of residual paint involves washing the brush or roller sleeve in a cleaning fluid, such as a solvent or water mixture. The cleaning fluid readily saturates the bristles or roller sleeve, and the fluid readily becomes retained integrally therein. When the paintbrush or roller head is used at a later time, the residual cleaning fluid has a tendency to mix with the paint to be applied. This thins the paint increasing the tendency for dripping and decreasing coverage. The ability to avoid washing the paintbrush or roller head after each use while preventing solidification of paint on a paintbrush or paint roller head during storage improves painting accuracy and affords time and economic savings.
Various types of paintbrush and roller sleeve (or head) protectors are known in the art, but none of the known storage devices provide a dry, substantially air-tight environment, with a convenient two part construction for storage of a paintbrush or roller sleeve that is wetted with paint or used so that the brush or roller can readily be used at a later time. Moreover, none of the storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized provides the ability to extend in length to accommodate varying sized roller sleeves.

Many of the paintbrush and roller head protectors heretofore disclosed and utilized provide devices wherein the bristles of a paintbrush or the roller sleeve of a paint roller are suspended in a solvent, such as benzene, or water. Consequently, the bristles and / or roller sleeve become saturated with the solvent or water, and the bristles or roller sleeve must be either rinsed before use, further saturating the bristles or roller sleeve with water, or used directly; in any event, the solvent and / or the water from the saturated bristles or roller sleeve deleteriously mixes with the paint to be applied.

Storage devices utilizing solvent or liquid suspension generally include a container body appointed for housing a solvent, and a lid having an aperture for receiving a handle of a paintbrush or paint roller, so that the painting surface (i.e. bristle portion) of the paintbrush or paint roller is suspended in the solvent or liquid. For example, U.S. Patent No. 2,262,753 to T.F. Brennan discloses a container for holding liquids and for retaining a paintbrush. The container has a removable closure provided with an opening for the insertion of a brush handle so that the bristles of the brush are suspended in a liquid. U.S. Patent No. 2,782,909 to P.E. McNamara discloses a paintbrush storage device generally comprising a solvent container and a rubber insert adapted to maintain a paintbrush handle so that the brush is supported and the bristled end of the brush is suspended within the solvent container. U.S. Patent No. 3,262,556 to DJ. Morrison discloses a storage device comprising a container means appointed to receive a solvent and a cap means for receiving a paintbrush's handle to thereby suspend the bristle portion of the brush in the solvent. U.S. Patent No. 5,007,553 to Curtis discloses a container for a paintbrush including a body appointed for housing a solvent, and a lid having an aperture through which a handle of the paintbrush is received. The bristle portion of the paintbrush is suspended
in the solvent (i.e. paint removing liquid). U.S. Patent No. 5,178,274 to Long discloses a paint roller holder generally including a container having a reservoir to receive a paint roller, wet paint, or thinner, and a flat snap-on lid having a slot for accommodate a paint roller handle. These storage devices result in saturation of the bristles or roller sleeve with the liquid in the container. The very use of solvent or water housed within these protective devices nullifies the ability of the user to simply remove their painting tool from the protective device and immediately begin painting, without the necessity for rinsing or cleaning the brush or roller head, and without the risk of commingling the solvent or rinsing solution with the paint to be utilized.

Other types of solvent containing paintbrush and / roller sleeve holders include a lid having an aperture for receiving a handle of a paintbrush or paint roller, wherein the lid is appointed to fit a standard size paint can, so that the bristle portion of the paint-brush (or roller sleeve portion of a paint roller) is suspended in paint, solvents, or other liquids housed within the can. For example, U.S. Patent No. 2,533,355 to J. Comfort discloses a paint-brush holder generally including a cover that fits a standard paint can. The cover is appointed with notches adapted to receive a paintbrush handle while the bristle portion of paintbrush is suspended in the can containing paint, or other liquids. U.S. Patent No. 3,955,670 to Buslik discloses a paintbrush holder generally comprising a lid having an opening to accommodate a handle of a paintbrush. The lid is appointed to tightly fit a can adapted to hold a liquid, so that the bristle's of the paintbrush are suspended in the liquid. U.S. Patent No. 6,041,919 to Adams discloses a lid sized to fit standard size containers (preferably paint cans) and a lid system for suspending implements in a container. The lid generally comprises a rim engage-able with a container, and including a central portion circumscribed by the rim having at least one opening defined therein for receiving the handle of a painting implement. U.S. Patent No. 6,213,329 to Dobson discloses a container lid adapted to fit over the opening of a standard paint container in place of an original lid, wherein the lid includes a container engaging periphery and a handle receiving aperture. U.S. Patent No. 6,494,315 to Frisk discloses a paintbrush storage lid having a flat portion sized to cover a top portion of a liquid container. A hollow tapered neck portion projects above a flat portion, which is sized to receive a paintbrush handle portion therein, so that the bristles are suspended in the liquid in the container.
Additionally, U.S. Patent No. 5,992,617 to Couch et al. discloses a paint implement storage device that acts in combination with a container, such as a paint can. The device generally comprises an insert of cellular material having an opening for receiving a handle of a painting implement. A cover extends upwardly from the insert and includes a foam sleeve for fitting around a handle of a painting implement. U.S. Patent No. 6,012,576 to Onodera discloses a method of storing a brush used in substrate surface treatment. The method comprises the steps of (i) removing a brush from a scrubbing apparatus, and (ii) sealing the brush in a container so that the fibrous or spongy member of the brush is maintained in a wet and disinfectant condition. U.S. Patent No. 3,918,582 to Wallace discloses a cylindrical container appointed for housing paint dissolving and cleaning fluids. The container is adapted to receive a paintbrush or paint roller sleeve for soaking and preserving the same. Lastly, U.S. Patent No. 4,865,188 to Custeau discloses a paintbrush cleaning assembly for cleaning the bristles of a paintbrush, generally comprising a container for receiving a solvent, and a cover appointed for receiving a paintbrush handle and being interconnected via releasable sealing with the container so that the paintbrush is contained by the cover, and the bristles of the brush are suspended in the solvent. Like the container and solvent storage devices, these storage devices result in saturation of the bristles or roller sleeve with the liquid in the container upon which the disclosed lid assemblies are placed. This nullifies the ability of the user to simply remove the painting tool from the protective device and immediately begin painting, without the necessity for rinsing or cleaning the brush or roller head, and contamination of the paint when applied.

Still another type of solvent containing paintbrush and / roller sleeve holders involves a storage device having a holder appointed with means for adding a small amount of liquid, which may include implementation of a foam insert, so that the bristle portion of the paint-brush (or roller sleeve portion of a paint roller) comes into contact with the foam / or liquid layer. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,540,363 to Wilson discloses a container formed from two hingedly attached shallow rectangular members having an opening in the tops thereof to receive a handle of a paintbrush, wherein each of the members includes a layer of closed cell foam material so that the foam can absorb paint drippings as well as contain a small amount of paint solvent.
U.S. Patent No. 5,709,301 to Couch et al. discloses storage devices for paint rollers,

paint roller covers, and paintbrushes, generally comprising a cylindrical container

having a circular opening, and a lid, also having a circular opening through which the

handle of a roller frame can extend, the container has a foam insert that keeps the
brush / roller head wet; the container is filled with paint so as to cover the painting

surface of the painting implement. U.S. Patent No. 6,530,470 to Roundy discloses a

holding box having an interior space for receiving, longitudinally, a paint-applying

roller, and an opening in one of the container walls for receiving and passing there-
through a portion of the roller handle, and solvent absorbing material positioned in the

box to receive and hold solvent therein and release solvent vapors into the box to help

prevent drying of the paint on the roller. Like the aforementioned solvent suspending

storage devices, these storage devices result in saturation of the bristles or roller

sleeve through fluid transport from the foam material to the bristles or roller sleeve.

Again, the very use of solvent or water housed within these protective devices

nullifies the ability of the user to simply remove their painting tool from the protective
device and immediately begin painting, without the necessity for rinsing or cleaning
the brush or roller head, and without the risk of commingling the solvent or rinsing
solution with the paint to be utilized.

Yet another type of paintbrush and / paint roller storage device heretofore
disclosed and utilized provides a protective cover including apertures in the body
thereof. The cover is appointed to be placed in a container so that solvent can enter
the apertures and clean or moisten the bristles or roller sleeve of a paintbrush or paint
roller, respectively. In particular, U.S. Patent No. 1,239,638 to H.S. Throckmorton
discloses a paintbrush protector generally comprising a box-like member having a
covering hingedly connected thereto, wherein the box-like member includes
perforations that so that when the protector is placed in a trough containing oil,
benzene, or water, the bristles remain wetted. U.S. Patent No. 1,951,576 to H. Lehr
discloses a brush protective device generally comprising a pair of jaws that are
pivotally joined together and have openings therein. The jaws are adapted to receive
the bristles of a wet paintbrush and be placed in a container having a liquid therein.

U.S. Patent No. 2,051,267 to M. Mezey discloses a brush holder having a perforated
bottom part and a perforated cover part hingedly joined together. The brush holder is
placed in a container having oil therein in order to permit a constant circulation of oil through the brush, to clean the brush. Lastly, U.S. Patent No. 2,562,482 to A.F. Weisser discloses a paint-brush jacket having a bottom opening. When the jacket is inserted into a preservation liquid, the liquid acts to keep the bristles of the brush in a soft and pliable condition. These storage devices result in saturation of the bristles or roller sleeve with the liquid in the container. This nullifies the ability of the user to simply remove the painting tool from the protective device and immediately begin painting.

Even where storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized do not provide for interaction of solvent within the container, many of the devices merely disclose protective devices having apertures in order to allow air to pass over the bristles or roller sleeve. Specifically, U.S. Patent No. 1,437,822 to F.A. Seymour discloses an improved protector for brushes generally comprising a body portion, further including a pair of projections appointed to pass through the handle of a paint-brush, and wherein the body portion is composed of a wire mesh material, thereby resulting in apertures for air flow. U.S. Patent No. 4,667,361 to Wolcott, et al. discloses a paint roller cleaner and remover having two semi-cylindrical halves hingedly connected that close around a roller in order to scrape the roller sleeve, and to provide a grip for removal of the roller sleeve off of a mandrel; the semi-cylindrical halves are open on both sides, and they do not prevent air exposure. U.S. Patent No. 5,465,453 to Landmeier discloses a protective cover generally comprising a flexible cover having a plurality of flaps and a plurality of vent openings that allow the bristles of the paintbrush to breathe during storage, and a hard cover that fits over the flexible cover. These non-solvent interactive paintbrush and / paint roller storage devices generally provide a container having apertures for the entry of air flow. As a result, these devices fail to prevent the hardening of bristles or a roller sleeve as the used paint solidifies due to air exposure.

In addition, U.S. Patent No. 5,645,167 to Conrad discloses a paintbrush container including a first or upper tray and a second or lower tray connected together by a hinge. The container is provided with an opening to receive a paintbrush handle; but the opening is not provided with a seal, and therefore air entry results. U.S. Patent No. 6,199,694 to Van Diest et al. discloses a paintbrush protection device in the form
of a sheath, including a bristle-holding portion having a plurality of vent holes adapted to expose the bristles of the brush to ambient air to hasten the drying of the bristles. U.S. Patent No. 6,338,406 to Zagar discloses a brush protection device generally comprising a first cover member and a second cover member, each having a plurality of holes therein and an arcuate slot collectively forming a hole for receiving a handle of a brush. The entry of air into the storage chamber results in solidification of the used paintbrush or roller. These devices fail to prevent the hardening of bristles or a roller sleeve since unused paint thereon tends to solidify due to air exposure.

Moreover, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0135945 to Nordstrom discloses a paintbrush holder generally comprising a sleeve having a liner therein. The liner and sleeve receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation so that the handle of the paintbrush protrudes through the aligned apertures of the sleeve. The sleeve does not have a bottom portion, with the result that the bottom of the bristles is exposed to air. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0050732 to Baker discloses a paintbrush protective cover comprised of a single body member made from a semi-rigid material and having a body section with front and rear surfaces appointed with a plurality of small openings to allow air to circulate within the cover. Like the aforementioned devices, the entry of air into the storage chamber results in solidification of the used paintbrush or roller. Consequently, the devices fail to prevent the hardening of bristles or a roller sleeve since unused paint thereon solidifies due to air exposure.

Even where storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized do not provide apertures for solvent or air interaction within the container, but do provide for a substantially sealed environment, these devices nonetheless fail to provide an efficient two piece paintbrush and / or paint roller storage device that readily receives the bristles or roller sleeve in an efficient manner. That is to say, a number of the storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized require three separate pieces that attach together when the brush or roller is inserted therein. Specifically, U.S. Patent No. 1,202,355 to A.L. Bernhardt discloses a paintbrush container generally comprising three portions, including a cylindrical body portion open on both ends, a head portion having an opening appointed to receive a paintbrush handle and being adapted to attach to one end of the cylindrical body, and a cap adapted to be received by the
other end of the cylindrical body portion. U.S. Patent No. 3,981,399 to Crouch discloses a paintbrush keeper generally comprising a box assembly with a movable wall and top wall appointed with a hole through which the handle of a paintbrush projects, and further having a pair of diverging walls, wherein the bristles of a brush are received and held in a tapered configuration. These devices generally require assemblage of three or more portions. As a result, the devices present a cumbersome, oftentimes slipshod, application to the paintbrush or paint roller having used paint wetted thereon. This enhances the risk of paint contamination on surfaces where it is unintended.

Also, U.S. Patent No. 5,074,098 to Filipchuk discloses a container for storing a wet paint roller generally comprising a cylindrical sleeve. The sleeve has a slot and two end caps (one having a slot) that close to form a cylindrical container. A wet paint roller is inserted into the container with a portion of the handle. The handle extends from an axial rod that in turn passes through a slot in the sleeve and in the end cap.

U.S. Patent No. 5,244,090 to Keith discloses a protective sheath and comb assembly capable of protecting a paintbrush and maintaining bristles of the paintbrush in good condition. The comb is secured to the sheath and the paintbrush bristles are maintained by combing the bristles with the comb. Like the aforementioned devices, these devises generally require assemblage of three or more portions, as a result, the devices present a cumbersome, oftentimes slapdash, application to the paintbrush or paint roller having used paint wetted thereon. This increases the risk of paint contamination on surfaces where it is unintended.

Other paintbrush covers heretofore disclosed and utilized provide a case generally having a top and bottom part which is hingedly attached together. Such covers have wedge shaped configurations, with the tip where the bristles of a paintbrush would rest coming to a point. For example, U.S. Patent No. 1,869,753 to R. Kamm discloses a case for preserving the bristle portion of a brush therein. The case generally comprises two members hinged together to form a wedge-shaped container. The two members' walls overlap, and an opening is provided for receiving the brush handle therein in a substantially air-tight case. The wedge-shaped conformation of the container results in the user trying to fit a bristle portion, wet with paint, into a wedge or angled area. As a result, oftentimes the bristle portion will not
fit within the tip area of the wedge-shaped cover without causing the bristles, wet with paint, from becoming caught between the top and bottom parts of the case. Over time, residual paint can build up between the top and bottom parts, and thereby minimize the ability of the device to properly create a sealed environment.

Still other paintbrush and or roller head storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized teach containers appointed to hold the entire paintbrush or paint roller, rather than a portion of these tools. These devices generally include containers that house the entire handle of the paintbrush (or paint roller) while at the same time housing the bristle portion (or roller sleeve) of the paintbrush (or paint roller). As a result, the devices present a cumbersome, oftentimes slipshod, insertion and removal of the paintbrush or paint roller wetted with used paint. This increases the risk of paint contamination on surfaces where it is unintended. For example, U.S. Patent No. 2,679,315 to R. Zegers discloses a paint-brush holder generally comprising a body member having a chamber within which an entire paintbrush may be disposed in a stored position; the brush may be sealed in the holder and stored with cleaning fluid, such as turpentine or the like for cleaning and preservation of the brush. U.S. Patent No. 4,802,576 to Kern discloses a storage container for a paint roller having a bottom member and a cover member configured as half-shell type hollow bodies having semi-cylindrical recesses for receiving the paint roller and a further recess to accommodate the handle, and wherein the members are connected together via "film hinges" and close in a sealed condition. U.S. Patent No. 5,645,164 to Hocking discloses a one-piece paint roller tray with cover designed to accommodate paint tools, such as a standard paintbrush and a paint roller with handle, within a standard paint tray body. These storage devices house the paintbrush or paint roller in their entirety, so that both the handle portion and the bristle portion of the paintbrush are fully housed within the device. As a result, insertion and removal of the brush from these devices can become burdensome and messy, as the bristles (and possibly some leakage onto the handle) are wetted with paint when housed in the device.

Other paintbrush and / or paint roller storage devices heretofore disclosed and utilized provide housing for a paint roller, but fail to provide the ability to expand and contract the holder so that it can hold a variety of sized roller sleeves. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,533,617 to Von Flatern discloses a paint roller sleeve storage
container having a flexible resilient tubular housing including a sealed end and an open end. The open end is appointed to engage with the paint roller sleeve by way of a plurality of sleeve retaining bosses that abut the sleeve holder. U.S. Patent No. 5,539,950 to Zar et al. discloses a protective housing for a roller cover having a unitarily fabricated body with two half, hollow cylinder portions hingedly connected and having a perimeter seal means and a channel for receiving a roller handle shaft.

U.S. Patent No. 5,915,552 to Kim et al. discloses a paint roller protective device including an elongated shell having an end wall and an open end for receiving a roller portion, and a cap for covering an open end of the elongated shell having a holder means for engaging and holding a portion of the roller portion's handle. These storage devices fail to provide the ability to expand and contract the holder size, and as a result, these devices cannot be expanded or contracted to accommodate varying sized roller sleeves.

Likewise, U.S. Patent No. 5,966,902 to Korycki discloses a paint roller cover including an upper and lower half section joined by a hinge that, when the halves are closed upon one another, define an enclosed elongate chamber to accommodate a roller element. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0188980 to Myers discloses a paint roller case, including a molded plastic housing with an integral plastic hinge that opens to receive a wet paint roller cover and roller handle assembly, and includes a hole to allow the paint roller handle shaft to protrude out of the housing; a relatively air-tight environment is created via overlapping edges. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0188276 to Petrehn discloses a paint roller preserver including an upper portion and a lower portion hingedly connected and both having a rounded interior surface, and an aperture in the housing, which couple together to form a cavity appointed for housing a standard roller cover and to receive a shaft of a roller applicator. Like the devices mentioned hereinabove, these storage devices fail to provide the ability to expand and contract the holder size, and as a result, these devices cannot be expanded or contracted to accommodate varying sized roller sleeves.

Notwithstanding the efforts of prior art workers to construct a paintbrush or paint roller storage device that houses a used painting implement, such as a paintbrush or paint roller, so that the implement can be
later re-used, there remains a need in the art for a painting implement storage
device that stores the implement in a dry, sealed environment. In particular,
there is a need in the art for a paintbrush and / or paint roller storage device that
provides a sealed, clean environment to store a used paintbrush or roller head, so that
hardening of the bristles or roller surface is avoided, and the brush or roller head can
be readily utilized at a later time. Through use of such a novel paintbrush and / or
paint roller storage device, the consumer or painter can save both time and money by
minimizing damage to the paintbrush or roller during storage, while at the same time
minimizing damage that can result from washing and drying.

Specifically, there is a need in the art for a paintbrush and / paint roller
storage device that does not require the addition of solvent therein; as such
would deleteriously introduce the solvent into the paint when the paintbrush /
roller is later used. Moreover, there is a need in the art for a paintbrush and / or
paint roller storage device that does not have perforations, or any other
type of air circulation; as such air contact would result in hardening of the
bristles or roller sleeve, rendering the brush or roller no longer useful. A
paintbrush and / or paint roller storage device that is constructed having two
portions that close to seal an air tight environment in a convenient, easy to
use two piece construction in order to prevent hardening of the bristles or
roller sleeve, has long been needed in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a painting implement cover, or paintbrush and
/ or roller head cover, that securely houses a painting implement therein in a
dry, air-tight environment so that the painting implement is ready for
immediate use. The paintbrush and / or roller head cover is an apparatus appointed
for temporarily housing a used paintbrush or paint roller head so that the bristles or
roller head surfaces do not harden after use, thereby enabling the brush or roller to be
used at a later time.
The painting implement cover for storing a painting implement having a handle portion and a body portion includes a container having a first member and a second member removably connected together by way of a connection means to form closed and open configurations. The first member further includes a back, front, two side walls, and a top wall forming an upper cavity having an upper rim. The second member further includes a rear, lateral walls, and a bottom wall forming a lower cavity having a lower rim. The connection means is located between the upper rim of the first member and the lower rim of the second member. The connection means causes the upper and lower rims to engage together to form an air-tight seal between the first and second members when the first and second members are in the closed configuration.

The top wall of the first member further comprises a handle aperture appointed for receiving the handle portion of the painting implement. The handle aperture has a groove with a handle seal member housed therein to form an air-tight seal between the handle portion and the handle aperture when the handle portion of the painting implement is received therein. Preferably, the painting implement is a paintbrush.

In another embodiment, the painting implement is a roller head. In this embodiment the roller head cover comprises a container having a first member and a second member removably connected together by way of a connection means to form a closed and an open configuration. The first member includes a back, front, two side walls, and a top wall forming an upper cavity having an upper rim. The second member includes a rear, face, lateral walls, and a bottom wall forming a lower cavity having a lower rim. The top wall of the first member further comprises a handle aperture appointed for receiving a handle of a paint roller. The handle aperture has a groove with a handle seal member housed therein to form an air-tight seal between the handle and the handle aperture when the handle of the paint roller is received therein.

The connection means is located between the upper rim of the first member and the lower rim of the second member. The connection means causes the upper and lower rims to engage together to form an air-tight seal between the first and second members when the first and second members are in the closed configuration.

Additionally, the first member and the second member of the roller head cover further comprise at least one accordion portion integrally associated with each member
so that the container can be expanded and contracted in length and thereby appointed to fit a plurality of sizes of paint rollers.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

The invention will be more fully understood and further advantages will become apparent when reference is had to the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention and the accompanying drawings, in which:

**FIG. 1** illustrates schematic views of the painting implement cover appointed to be utilized as a paintbrush cover, showing the first and second members in the opened and closed configurations;

**FIG. 2** illustrate a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover appointed to be utilized as a paintbrush cover, showing the container having accordion portions;

**FIG. 3** illustrates a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover wherein the first member substantially covers the body portion of the painting implement;

**FIG. 4a** illustrates a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover, wherein the apparatus is a roller head cover and the apparatus opens on the horizontal plane; and

**FIG. 4b** illustrates a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover, wherein the apparatus is a roller head cover and the apparatus opens on the vertical plane.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**
The present invention provides a painting implement cover, or paintbrush and roller head cover, that securely houses a painting implement therein in a dry, air-tight environment so that the painting implement is ready for immediate use. The paintbrush and/or roller head cover is an apparatus appointed for temporarily housing a used paintbrush or paint roller head so that the bristles or roller head surfaces do not harden after use, thereby enabling the brush or roller to be used at a later time. The paintbrush and/or roller head cover readily snaps onto a paintbrush, or roller head, and protects the brush’s bristles or roller head from air exposure and preventing the residual paint from hardening and causing the bristles to remain flexible. Moreover, when the user intends to use the same paint color, the brush or roller can be conveniently placed in the paintbrush and/or roller head cover without washing or cleaning of the brush or roller. As a result, the paint bristles or roller head does not become saturated with water, which can cause watering down of the paint as it is applied when the brush or roller is used later. Advantageously, the paintbrush and/or roller head cover has particular applications in providing a sealed, clean environment to store a used paintbrush or roller head, so that hardening of the bristles or roller surface is avoided, and the brush or roller head can be readily utilized at a later time.

Fig. 1 illustrates schematic views of the painting implement cover appointed to be utilized as a paintbrush cover, showing the first and second members in the opened and closed configurations, both shown generally at 10. In addition, Fig. 1 further illustrates the paintbrush cover’s second member, the bottom wall of which is shown in an angled configuration, generally at 40. A paintbrush is shown at 11, having a handle 12, handle bottom 15, body 13, and bristles 14. A painting implement cover 10 for storing a painting implement, preferably paintbrush 11, comprises a container having a first member 16 and second member 17 removably connected together by way of a connection means 22 to form closed and open configurations. The first member 16 includes a back wall 18, front wall 19, two side walls 20, and a top wall 21 arranged to form an upper cavity 23 and an upper rim 24. Upper cavity 23 is appointed for accommodating body portion 13 of paintbrush 11. In an alternative embodiment, upper cavity 23 is appointed for accommodating body portion 13 and bristles 14 of paintbrush 11 (see discussion concerning Fig. 3). The second member
includes a rear wall 25, face wall 26, lateral walls 27, and a bottom wall 28 arranged to form a lower cavity 29 having a lower rim 30.

Connection means 22 is located between the upper rim 24 of the first member 16 and the lower rim 30 of the second member 17. The connection means 22 engages the upper rim 24 and lower rim 30 to form an air-tight seal between the first member 16 and second member 17 when the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, are in the closed configuration (shown with paintbrush 11 in phantom lines).

The top wall 21 of the first member 16 includes a handle aperture 31 appointed for receiving the handle bottom 15 of handle portion 12 of paintbrush 11. The handle aperture 31 is appointed with a groove having a handle seal member housed therein, a gasket or the like, to form an air-tight seal between the handle bottom 15 of handle portion 12 of paintbrush 11 and the handle aperture 31 when the handle bottom 15 is received therein. In operation, the handle 12 of paintbrush 11 passes through upper cavity 23 and traverses into the handle aperture 31. The handle 12 continues until handle bottom 15 of handle portion 12 engages with handle aperture 31 and the paintbrush 11 comes to a rest. The body portion 13 of paintbrush 11 is received in upper cavity 23 of the first member 16. The bristle portion 14 of paintbrush 11 is received by the lower cavity 29 of second member 17. Optionally, as discussed in Fig. 3, first member 16 substantially receives both the body portion 13 and the bristle portion 14 of the paintbrush 11.

Optionally, the connection means 22 of the painting implement cover, shown as a paintbrush cover in Fig. 1, further comprises a snap type construction. In this embodiment, upper rim 24 of first member 16 further comprises an inner perimeter lip. Lower rim 30 of second member 17 further comprises an outer perimeter groove appointed to receive the inner perimeter lip so that the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, are removably joined together to form an air-tight seal when the container is in the closed configuration. In addition, at least one of the inner perimeter lip or outer perimeter lip may further comprise a perimeter groove appointed to receive a perimeter seal portion housed therein. Perimeter seal portion then engages to form an air-tight seal between the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, when the container is in the closed configuration.
Alternatively, the painting implement / paintbrush cover may further include a hinge means located on a portion between the upper rim 24 of first member 16 and the lower rim 30 of second member 17.

The bottom wall 28 of the second member 17 may have a straight edge, as shown at 10, or may have an angled edge, as shown at 40. The angled edge configuration of bottom wall 28 of second member 17 has particular applications in storing paintbrushes having angled bristles. The optional angled configuration allows the angled bristles to more conveniently fit within the second member 17 when the paintbrush having angled bristles is being stored. The angled orientation provides an efficient fit so that the angled bristles of the paintbrush having angled bristles do not become deformed. As a result, the angled brush retains its angled bristle configuration.

The paintbrush cover 10 may further comprise a locking means 34. The optionally locking means 34 is engage-able when the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, are in the closed configuration. This provides an extra security measure, ensuring that the container does not open while the wetted paintbrush is housed therein. In addition, the locking means 34 further ensures that the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, remain tightly connected together via the connection means 22, further preventing seepage of air into the container. Such seepage of air or opening of the container would render the bristles hardened and, subsequently deformed. The locking means 34 mitigates this risk by ensuring the seal is maintained and the container's closed position is maintained.

The painting implement cover's container, or as shown herein in Fig. 1 as a paintbrush cover, preferably is composed of a transparent material. That is to say, the first member 16 and the second member 17 may be composed of a transparent material (preferably plastic). Alternatively, second member 17 may be composed of a transparent material while first member 16 may be composed of an opaque material. The transparent material allows the user to readily see the color of the paint wetted on the stored paintbrush, without the necessity of opening the container. This has special significance when the user has paintbrushes stored that have been used for different paint colors. Advantageously, the transparent feature of the container provides the
user with the ability to immediately ascertain the specific paintbrush used for a specific color.

Preferably, the painting implement cover is constructed for storing a paintbrush or a foam brush. The painting implement cover's container may range from 1.27 cm (0.5 inches) to 6.35 cm (2.5 inches) in width. This width range provides increased ability for the user to place the paintbrush into the first and second members, 16 and 17, respectively, so that the bristles 14 or body 13 of the paintbrush 11 readily slides into the container. In addition, the painting implement cover's container may range from 1.27 cm (0.5 inches) to 17.8 cm (7 inches) in width. The painting implement cover's container may range from 5 cm (2 inches) to 25.4 cm (10 inches) in length. These ranges are advantageous to accommodating standard paintbrush or foam brush sizes so that the same readily fits into the container with minimal risk of paint contamination or drip-age in the surrounding environment when the paintbrush is being inserted in the container.

Fig. 2 illustrates a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover appointed to be utilized as a paintbrush cover, showing the container having accordion portions, shown generally at 50. The painting implement cover shown at 50 alternatively includes at least one accordion portion 51 integrally constructed within first member 16; herein there are shown two accordion portions 51. In addition, second member 17 includes at least one accordion portion 52 integrally constructed within second member 17; herein there are shown two accordion portions 52. These accordion portions, 51 and 52, allow the members, 16 and 17, to be expanded in length so that the device can be utilized for varying sized paintbrushes.

Fig. 3 illustrates a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of the painting implement cover wherein the first member substantially covers the body portion of the painting implement, shown generally at 60. First member 61 of paintbrush cover 60 receives the handle portion 12 of paintbrush 11 and engages with the handle bottom 15 of the paintbrush 11. In this embodiment, bristle portion 14, body portion 13, and handle bottom 15 of paintbrush 11 are received and housed within the upper cavity of first member 61. Second member 62 is, herein a shallower portion and seals
with first portion 61, via connection means, to form an air-tight container to form the closed configuration.

Continuing with Fig. 3, shown generally at 70, first member 61 includes a top wall 74 having a handle aperture 71 having an elongated construction, with an optional opening 72. In this embodiment, first member 61 has an open end 73 constructed by way of a top wall 74 being hingedly connected to a back wall 75 of first member 61. The top wall 74 is releaseably engageable with front wall 76 of first member 61 so that the top wall 74 can be opened and closed. When top wall 74 is opened, the paintbrush 11 housed therein can be readily pulled upward in manner, while first member 61 is pulled in a downward direction. In this manner, the paintbrush is readily removed without risk of splashing of the paint on the bristles. Moreover, such downward removal allows the removal to take place along with the grain of the bristles, so that the conformation of the bristles is not disrupted.

Figs. 4a and 4b illustrate schematic views of alternative embodiments of the painting implement cover, wherein the apparatus is a roller head cover, shown generally at 80, and 100, respectively. In Figs. 4a and 4b, a paint roller tool 81 having handle 82, arm 83, and roller head 84 encased in the roller head cover 80. Cover 80 includes a first member 85 and a second member 86 each appointed with an accordion portion 85a and 86a. Both the first member 85 and the second portion 86 have a notch 87 and 88, respectively, for receiving arm 83, so as to form an aperture when the first and second members, 85 and 86, are closed together. Connection means 89 is provided in order to form an air-tight seal between the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively. Optionally, the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, are attached via hinge 90 so that the members can readily open and close. In Fig. 4a, at 80, the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, are in a horizontal relation on horizontal plane V to one another; in Fig. 4b, at 100, the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, are in a vertical relation on vertical plane X to one another. Moreover, at 100 only the second member 86 includes the accordion portion 101; while first member 85 is solely appointed with handle aperture 102.

Optionally, the roller head cover's connection means 89 further comprises a snap type construction wherein an upper rim of the first member 85 further comprises
an inner perimeter lip appointed with a perimeter seal portion. In addition, a lower rim of second member 86 further comprises an outer perimeter groove appointed to receive the inner perimeter lip of first member 85 so that the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, are removably joined together to form an air-tight seal. The roller head cover may further comprise a hinge means 90 located on a portion between the first member 85 and second member 86.

The roller head cover may further include a locking means engage-able when the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, are in the closed configuration. This provides an extra security measure, ensuring that the container does not open while the wetted roller head / sleeve is housed therein. In addition, the locking means further ensures that the first and second members, 85 and 86, respectively, remain tightly connected together via the connection means 89, further preventing seepage of air into the container. Such seepage of air or opening of the container would render the roller head / sleeve hardened and, subsequently deformed.

The locking means 89 mitigates this risk by ensuring the seal is maintained and the container's closed position is maintained.

Optionally, the roller head cover 80 may be composed of a transparent material. That is to say, the first member 85 and the second member 86 may be composed of a transparent material (preferably plastic). Alternatively, second member 86 may be composed of a transparent material while first member 85 may be composed of an opaque material; and vice versa. The transparent material allows the user to readily see the color of the paint wetted on the stored roller head / sleeve, without the necessity of opening the container. This has special significance when the user has numerous roller heads stored that have been used for different paint colors.

Advantageously, the transparent feature of the container provides the user with the ability to immediately ascertain the specific roller head used for a specific color.

Having thus described the invention in rather full detail, it will be understood that such detail need not be strictly adhered to, but that additional changes and modifications may suggest themselves to one skilled in the art, all falling within the scope of the invention as defined by the subjoined claims.
What is claimed is:

1. A painting implement cover for storing a painting implement having a handle portion and a body portion, comprising:
   a. a container having a first member and a second member removably connected together by way of a connection means to form a closed and an open configuration;
   b. said first member having a back, a front, two side walls, and a top wall forming an upper cavity having an upper rim, said second member having a rear face, lateral walls, and a bottom wall forming a lower cavity having a lower rim;
   c. said connection means being located between said upper rim of said first member and said lower rim of said second member, said connection means causing said upper and lower rim to engage together to form an air-tight seal between said first and second member when said first and second member are in said closed configuration; and
   d. said top wall of said first member having a handle aperture appointed for receiving said handle portion of said painting implement, said handle aperture having a groove with a handle seal member housed therein to form an air-tight seal between said handle portion and said handle aperture when said handle portion of said painting implement is received therein.

2. A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said connection means further comprises a snap type construction wherein said upper rim of said first member further comprises an inner perimeter lip and said lower rim of said second member further comprises an outer perimeter groove appointed to receive said inner perimeter lip so that said first and second members are removably joined together.

3. A painting implement cover as recited by claim 2, wherein at least one of said inner perimeter lip or said outer perimeter lip further comprises a perimeter
A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, comprising a hinge means located on a portion between said upper rim of said first member and said lower rim of said second member.

5 4.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said bottom wall of said second member has an angled edge.

5 5.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1 comprising a locking means engage-able when said first and second member are in said closed configuration.

6 6.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1 comprising a locking means engage-able when said first and second member are in said closed configuration.

7.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said first and said second member are further comprised of at least one accordion portion so that said first and said second member can be extended and contracted to accommodate said painting implements having varying sizes.

8.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said container is composed of a transparent material.

9.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said painting implement is a paintbrush.

10.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said container ranges from 1.27 cm (0.5 inches) to 6.35 cm (2.5 inches) in width.

11.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 1, wherein said first member substantially covers said body portion of said painting implement so that said first member receives said handle portion of said painting implement and slides over and receives said body portion of said painting implement, and wherein said second member is connected to said first member via said connection means to form said closed configuration.

12.  A painting implement cover as recited by claim 14, wherein said handle aperture of said top wall of said first member is elongated and has an open end and wherein said top wall of said first member is hingedly connected to said
13. A roller head cover, comprising:
   a. a container having a first member and a second member removably
      connected together by way of a connection means to form a closed and
      an open configuration;
   b. said first member having a back, front, two side walls, and a top wall
      forming an upper cavity having an upper rim, said second member
      having a rear face, lateral walls, and a bottom wall forming a lower
      cavity having an lower rim;
   c. said top wall of said first member having a handle aperture appointed
      for receiving a handle of a paint roller, said handle aperture having a
      groove with a handle seal member housed therein to form an air-tight
      seal between said handle and said handle aperture when said handle of
      said paint roller is received therein;
   d. said connection means being located between said upper rim of said
      first member and said lower rim of said second member, said
      connection means causing said upper and lower rim to engage together
      to form an air-tight seal between said first and second member when
      said first and second member are in said closed configuration; and
   e. said first member and said second member further comprising at least
      one accordion portion integrated with each member so that said-
      container can be expanded and contracted in length and thereby
      appointed to fit a plurality of sizes of paint rollers.

14. A roller head cover as recited by claim 16, wherein said connection means
    further comprises a snap type construction wherein said upper rim of said first
    member further comprises an inner perimeter lip appointed with a perimeter
    seal portion and said lower rim of said second member further comprises an
    outer perimeter groove appointed to receive said inner perimeter lip so that
    said first and second members are removably joined together to form an air-
    tight seal.
15. A roller head cover as recited by claim 16 comprising a hinge means located on a portion between said upper rim of said first member and said lower rim of said second member.

16. A roller head cover as recited by claim 16 comprising a locking means engageable when said first and second member are in said closed configuration.

17. A roller head cover as recited by claim 16, wherein said container is composed of a transparent material.