April 5, 1938. C. X. WINKELSPECHT 2,113,205

FLUSH TANK ACCESSORY

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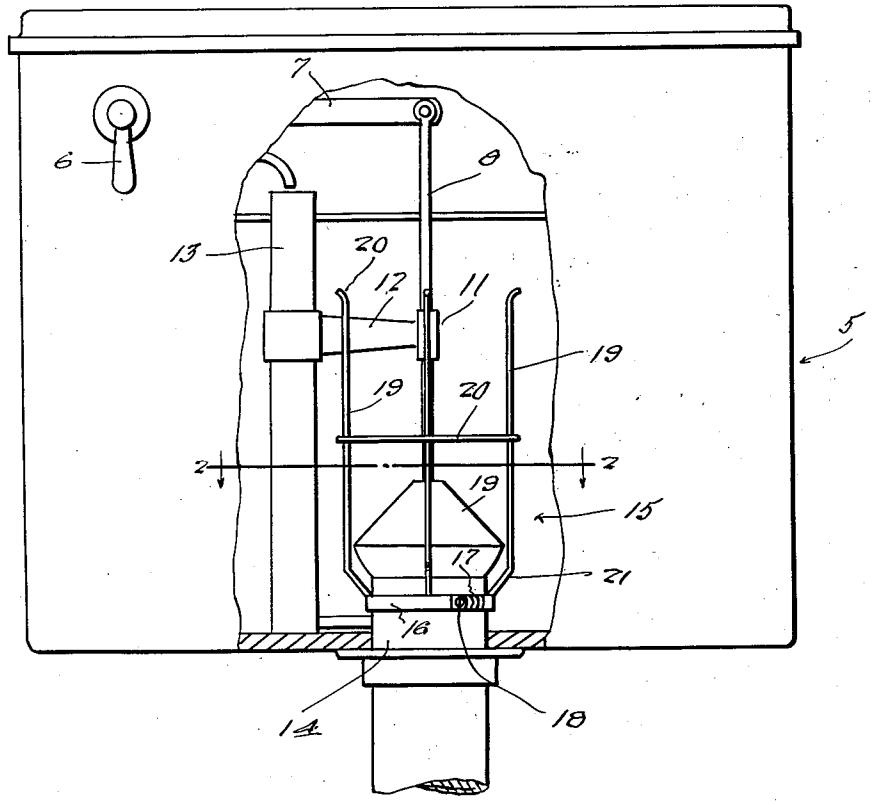
Fig. 1.



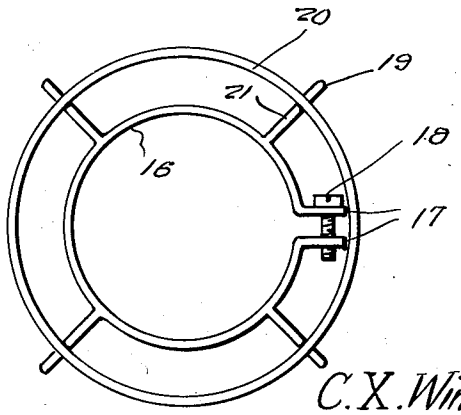


Fig. 4.

Inventor

C. X. Winkelspecht

By Clarence A. O'Brien

Hyman Berman

Attorneys

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Fig. 2.

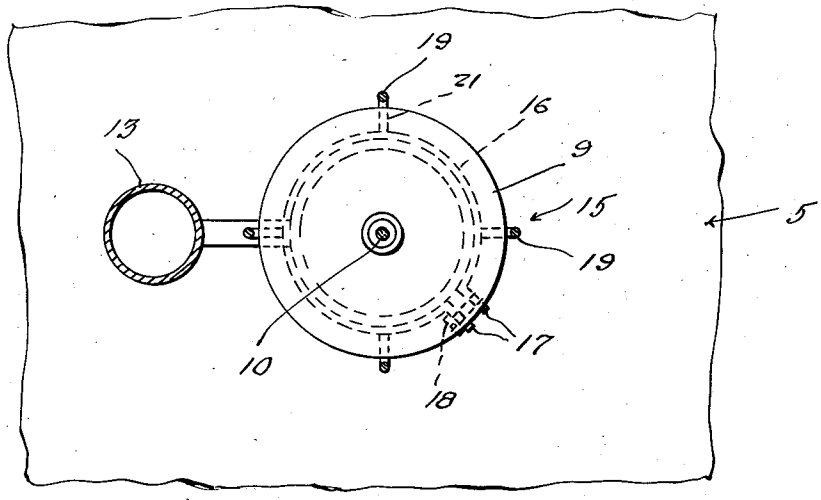
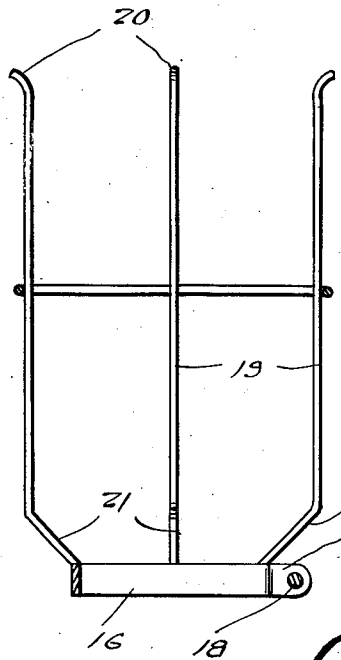


Fig. 3.



Inventor

C.X Winkelspecht

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Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,113,205

FLUSH TANK ACCESSORY

Charles X. Winkelspecht, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application March 26, 1937, Serial No. 133,249

1 Claim. (Cl. 4—57)

This invention relates to plumbing appliances and accessories, and has reference in particular to what may be conveniently classified as an auxiliary attachment usable on the interior of a conventional flush tank in a manner to function as a guide for the discharge flow check bulb.

Persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates recognize the ordinary or conventional flush tank construction as embodying a rubber bulb serving as the flush water cut-off valve, the same seating itself on the flush pipe and being actuated by manually controlled trip means. Then, too, in the usual arrangement the suspension link for the bulb has operating connection with the hanger wire forming a part of the bulb, said hanger wire being mounted for reciprocation in a relatively fixed guide on the overflow pipe. Hence, when the bulb is lifted off of its seat, it dangles about in a more or less haphazard manner in the water.

I have therefore discovered the need for guide means which will compel the bulb to ascend and descend in a substantially perpendicular line, whereby to maintain it in effective cooperative relationship with its seat. Hence, the purposes of the invention are to overcome unusual wear and tear on the present day arrangement and to promote continuous and effective seating of the bulb, whereby to insure more reliable operation.

In reducing to practice the principles of the novel conception, I have adopted a simple and inexpensive attachment susceptible of easy application and removal, and not calculated to interfere with the replacement of the bulb whenever necessary or desired.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like details throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a view partly in section and partly in elevation of a so-called conventional flush tank showing the principal details with which we are here concerned and illustrating the novel guide attachment as it is constructed and used.

Figure 2 is a section taken approximately on the horizontal line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a central vertical sectional view through the attachment by itself.

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of said attachment.

In the drawings in Figure 1, the regular flush tank is denoted by the numeral 5. The trip lever or handle is indicated on the exterior and denoted by the numeral 6 and has operating connection with the customary rocker arm 7 controlling the pendulous suspension link 8 for the regulation rubber bulb 9. The stem 10 on the bulb operates through the vertical guide 11 on an adapter arm 12 carried by the overflow pipe 13. The flush pipe is indicated at 14 and the bulb seats thereon in the usual way.

The improved guide attachment is in the nature of a wire cage and generally denoted by the numeral 15.

The attachment 15 comprises a collar or band 16 which embraces the seat portion of the pipe 14, as shown in Figure 1. The split ends 17 carry an adjusting screw 18 enabling said band or collar 16 to be removably clamped on the pipe 14 at a point below the bulb 9. The body portion of the cage comprises a plurality of equi-distant circumferentially spaced vertical or perpendicular wires 19, these having their upper ends 20 flared outwardly and their lower ends bent laterally inward as at 21 and connected with the attaching clamp or collar 16. The numeral 22 designates a wire ring which is attached to and surrounds the central portions of the wires 19 to stabilize the assembly. It is therefore self evident that this is an unusually simple adaptation and coordination of properly selected features. The parts cooperate to contribute their proportionate share to the unitary article shown and described.

It is thought that an accessory of this type is in effect an innovation in this line of endeavor. It is calculated to appeal to the trade, and is quite efficient in operation, easy to install and remove, and therefore justifies unqualified endorsement by the trade as promoting progress in this line in a limited but nevertheless appreciable manner. The collar 16 is adaptable to connection with a pipe 14 whether it projects a great distance into the tank or terminates in close proximity to the inner surface of the bottom of the tank. The features 17 and 18 can be readily shifted around so that they are accessible to facilitate application and removal. The device being open at the top does not interfere with the rise and fall of the bulb. Nor does it interfere with replacement of said bulb whenever a new one is required. It follows, therefore, that the introduction of this novel guide attachment is calculated to prolong the life of the bulb, to insure more constant and certain operations, and is otherwise aptly fitted for the specific purposes intended.

It is thought that the description taken in connection with the drawings will enable a clear understanding of the invention to be had.

Therefore, a more lengthy description is thought unnecessary.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is to be understood that minor changes coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to if desired.

I claim:

As a new article of manufacture, a guide for a flush tank bulb in the form of an attachment comprising a wire cage open at its top and bottom, said cage being provided at its bottom with a circular split band attaching collar having means for adjustably joining the free split end portions thereof, a plurality of perpendicular circumferentially spaced equi-distant guide wires, the lower end portions thereof being inwardly and laterally offset and attached to said collar, the upper free ends being flared outwardly, and a stabilizing wire surrounding the intermediate portions of said perpendicular wires as shown and described.

CHARLES X. WINKELSPECHT.