

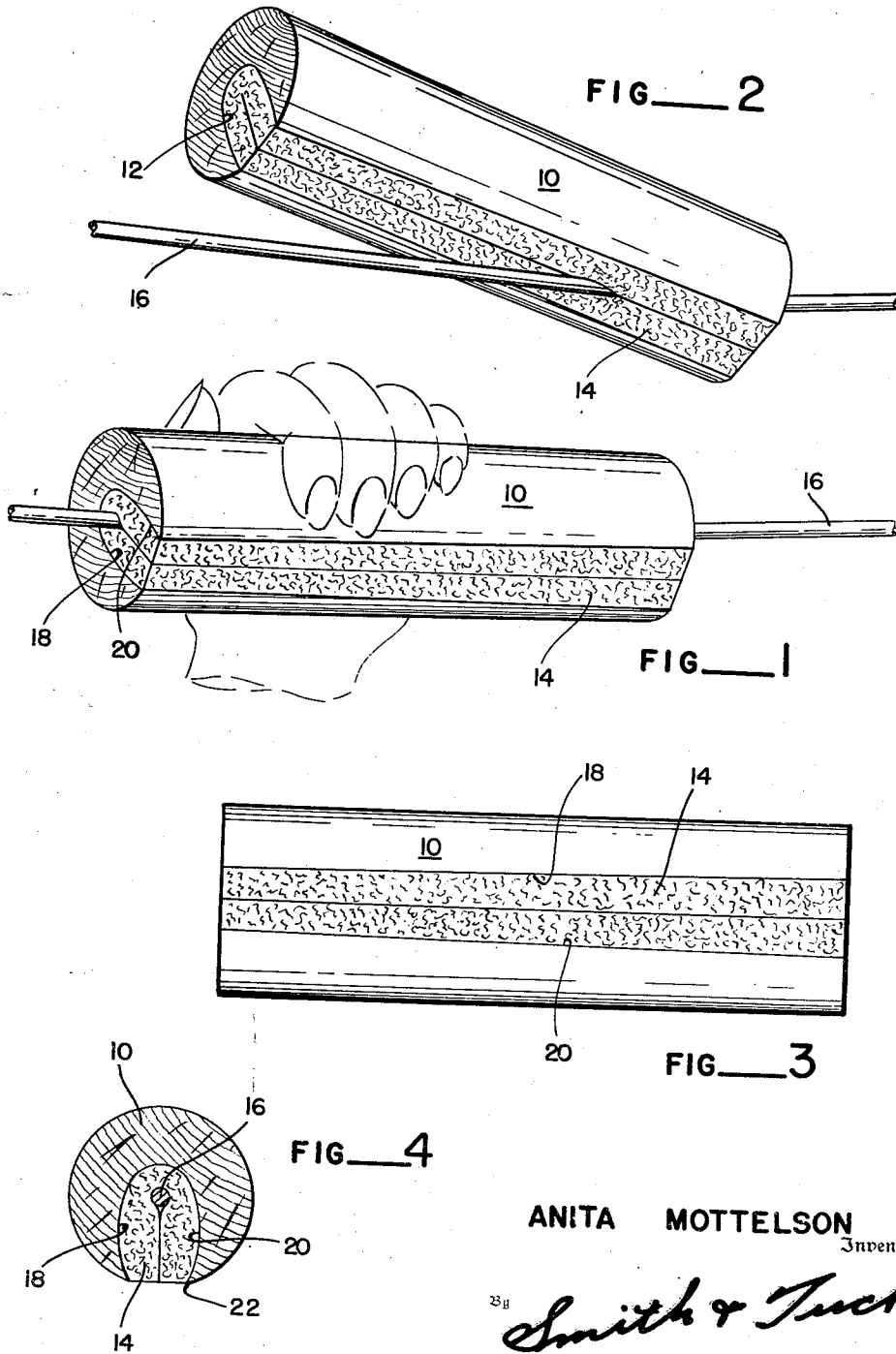
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SELF-CLEANING CLOTHESLINE CLEANER

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SELF-CLEANING CLOTHESLINE CLEANER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 15-210)

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This present invention provides an elongated housing which is slotted on one side for the inclusion of a fibrous cleaning material, and has as its principal use the cleaning of lines such as clothes lines. To achieve its function, the clothes line is introduced between the folded fibrous material in the slot of the housing and, as the housing is moved along the line, the line is cleaned and the fibrous material is gradually carried out of the housing. Normally, the material carried out is the part that has become soiled from use, therefore the device may be considered as self-cleaning.

In the past many devices have been provided for the cleaning of clothes lines. Those observed, however, have all been characterized by constructions, which normally make them expensive to manufacture and, in many cases, the proper use of these devices requires considerable skill on the part of the user, more than can reasonably be expected of a busy housewife, to whom the clothes line cleaner is merely a substitute for a cloth. In this present invention it is believed that many of the shortcomings of the devices used for this work, in the past, have been eliminated and that a cheap, simple, and useful cleaner is thus provided.

The principal object of this present invention, therefore, is to provide a clothes line cleaner that is characterized by extreme simplicity of construction, to the end that it can be made cheaply and can, therefore, be conveniently replaced when damaged or soiled.

A further object of this invention is to provide a clothes line cleaner having an elongated housing which is slotted to receive a folded, fibrous or felt-like material for the engagement of the clothes line.

A further object of this invention is to provide that the housing be slotted with a slot that is tapering longitudinally of the slot, so that the same can be easily slipped over the line at the beginning of the cleaning operation.

A further object of this invention is to provide a longitudinal slot in an elongated housing, so formed as to accept, and secure in place, a piece of folded, fibrous material.

Further objects, advantages and capabilities will be apparent from the description and disclosure in the drawings, or may be comprehended or are inherent in the device.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the manner of using the clothes line cleaner which is the subject matter of this invention;

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Figure 2 is a perspective view illustrating the manner in which the cleaner is applied to the clothes line at the beginning of the cleaning operation;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of this clothes line cleaner showing the tapering of the longitudinal slot therein;

Figure 4 is an end view of the clothes line cleaner as applied to a clothes line which is, in turn, shown in section.

Referring more particularly to the disclosure in the drawings, the numeral 10 designates the housing of the clothes line cleaner. In its simplest form the housing may be made from round wood stock, although it is believed that it will be readily apparent that many types of material might be used, such as the various moldable materials, or the general form could easily be made from sheet metal. It is further believed that it will be apparent that the round form is not essential, it merely being desirable that sufficient body be provided so that an easy hand-grip will be obtained.

Extending longitudinally of housing 10 is an open slot 12. This slot has for its purpose, the holding in place of folded fibrous sheet stock, indicated at 14. The depth to which slot 12 is formed within housing 10 should be sufficient so that, when the device is in use, as in applicant's showing in Figure 1, the clothes line 16 will be substantially in the center of the housing. This will normally mean that the slot must be formed to a depth equal to the distance to the center of the housing, plus the thickness of the sheet material 14.

In order that the fibrous sheet material 14 will be adequately gripped, it has been found desirable to form the walls of the slot concave, after the showing of Figure 4, in which it will be noted that the concavity of walls 18 and 20 is sufficient to give considerable compression to the fibrous material at the opening 22 of slot 12. When so formed, it has been found that the lining material can be made of felted sheet material which can be forced into position and then will be gripped by the slot. This is a very desirable feature of the construction in that it is not necessary to glue this felt material in place, therefore it is very convenient to replace the same when it has become worn in use or soiled beyond the limits of practical use.

Referring particularly to the showing in Figure 3, it will be noted that the two walls, as 18 and 20 of slot 12, taper considerably longitudinally of the device. This form has proved to have a

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marked advantage in this construction when the device is placed in use. Referring to Figure 2, it will be noted that the clothes line enters into the end of slot 12, in which the side walls are most widely spaced. This permits of a relatively easy entering, and then continued movement to the right as viewed in Figure 2, making it relatively simple to slide the cleaner onto the exposed line 16, so that the clothes line will come throughout the length of the cleaner, well into the center of the same, after the showing of Figure 4.

Now in use it has been found best to start with the cleaner at one end of the line and, after it has been fully seated on the clothes line, to work up to the other end of the line, usually with a repeated back and forth movement, but as the general trend of the movement is towards the right hand end of the line, as viewed in Figure 2, there is a tendency to more fully seat the fibrous material in the tapered slot. It follows that a clothes line cleaner of this order is only used on a clothes line which requires cleaning, therefore considerable dirt and other soil is removed from the line that normally would impregnate the cleaning pads. However, if a fibrous material is used for the cleaning pad, as the cleaner is moved along the line, small amounts of the fibrous material will be pulled out of the housing by the friction or drag of the clothes line, and naturally this material removed will be that which has come most intimately in contact with the clothes line. Therefore, it has been found that an effective means is provided for the removal of the soil, consequently this device can be properly referred to as a self-cleaning clothes line cleaner. It follows, then, further, that if the fibrous material is going to be gradually worn away, then convenient means must be provided for the replacement of the same, and it is believed that a study of the drawings and the foregoing description indicates clearly how simply these old, partially used-up cleaning pads can be removed from the housing and a new pad inserted.

While this device has been referred to as a clothes line cleaner, it will be understood, it is believed, that if the cleaning pad is impregnated with any solution, as a preservative compound, or a lubricant, the device will become a very effective device for distributing such liquids or preservative material throughout the line. This is particularly true in view of the ease with which a cleaning or treating pad may be removed after such treatment and a new pad inserted.

It is believed that it will be clearly apparent from the above description and the disclosure in the drawings that the invention comprehends a novel construction of a self-cleaning clothes line cleaner.

Having thus disclosed the invention, I claim:

1. A clothes line cleaner, comprising: an elongated housing having a longitudinal radial slot extending from end to end, said slot being open at its ends and being tapered longitudinally; an oblong insert of pliant material folded longitudinally and positioned in said slot with the free edges outward, said insert being flakable so that soiled material will be removed by action of the clothes line as the cleaner is used; the side sur-

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faces of said slot being slightly concave and opposed side surfaces being spaced apart a shorter distance at the mouth of said slot than inside of said mouth thereby forming a restricted opening at said mouth to secure said insert in place, and the depth and width of said slot being such as to accommodate said insert removably, and to permit easy manual insertion and withdrawal of a clothes line between the folds of said insert to the center of said housing.

2. A clothes line cleaner, comprising: an elongated housing having a radial slot extending from end to end, said slot being open at its ends and being tapered longitudinally; an oblong removable insert of pliant cleansing material folded longitudinally and positioned in said slot with the free edges outward, said insert being flakable so that soiled material will be removed by action of the clothes line as the cleaner is used; the side surfaces of said slot being slightly concave and opposed side surfaces being spaced apart a shorter distance at the mouth of said slot than inside of said mouth thereby forming a restricted opening at said mouth to secure said insert in place, and the depth and width of said slot being such as to accommodate said insert removably, said free edges of said insert being compressed against each other by the walls of said slot, and to permit easy manual insertion and withdrawal of a clothes line between the folds of said insert to the center of said housing by starting the insertion or withdrawal of the clothes line at the wider end of said slot.

3. A clothes line cleaner, comprising: an elongated housing which is substantially circular in transverse cross-section, said housing having a radial slot extending from end to end, said slot being open at its ends and being tapered longitudinally; an oblong removable insert of flakable pliant cleansing material folded longitudinally and positioned in said slot with the free edges outward, said insert being of a size to substantially fill said slot, said insert being positioned with the inside of the fold approximately at the center of said housing, said free edges of said insert being compressed against each other; the side surfaces of said slot being slightly concave and opposed side surfaces being spaced apart a shorter distance at the mouth of said slot than inside of said mouth thereby forming a restricted opening at said mouth to secure said insert in place, and the depth and width of said slot being such as to accommodate said insert removably, and to permit easy manual insertion and withdrawal of a clothes line between the folds of said insert to the center of said housing by starting the insertion or withdrawal of the clothes line at the wider end of said slot.

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