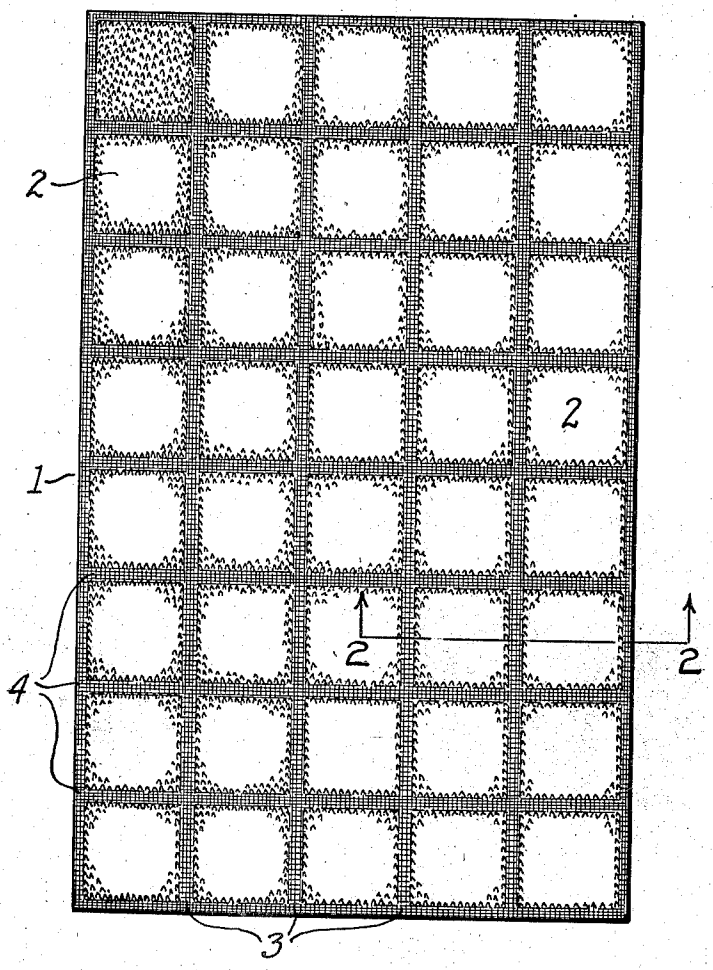
June 21, 1938. J. A. RILEY 2,121,162

TOWEL

Filed March 24, 1937

FIG. 1.



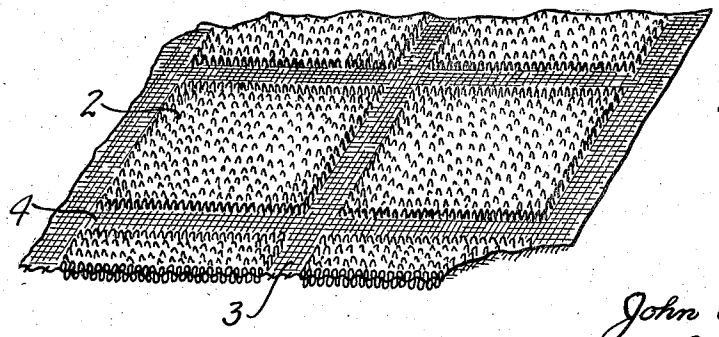


FIG. 2.

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TOWEL

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Application March 24, 1937, Serial No. 132,751

2 Claims. (Cl. 139—391)

This invention relates to towels and is more particularly directed to large size sheets of "terry cloth" or similar moisture absorbing fabrics, such as are used for bath sheets and beach robes and which measure some forty inches by sixty inches. Sheets of this size as heretofore manufactured are very expensive if made of good material, due to the fact that any defect in the weave during manufacture necessitates the rejection of the large unit.

Although desirable for use in hotels and homes, such large towels are not in general use, not only because of the high initial cost, but also because when such a towel becomes torn or cut in use its value has been practically destroyed, although a large part of the fabric may still be in good condition.

The primary object of my invention is to provide a large towel which will be less expensive to manufacture because of reduced losses from defects and a large portion of which can be salvaged for continued first-class use, even though the large towel has become torn, cut or otherwise damaged in spots.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a large body of toweling having its surfaces composed principally of "terry cloth", but which may be readily divided into smaller units when occasion requires.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a somewhat diagrammatic plan view of a towel woven in accordance with the present invention, and Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view somewhat enlarged, taken along line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

In the drawing, 1 designates a body of toweling having rectangular sections 2 of moisture absorbing material woven therein. Each moisture absorbing section is of a looped fabric commercially known as "terry cloth" and is in the form of a rectangular section completely surrounded by closely woven sections or strips of material from which the loops forming the moisture absorbing surface of the "terry cloth" are omitted. Thus, strips 3 of the closely woven material or "mock selvedge" run longitudinally of the body 1 at equally spaced intervals and are intersected by equally spaced strips 4 of similar material woven laterally of the body. The strips 3 and 4 are of such weave that if cut they will not ravel but may be hemmed or sewed. It will be understood that it is commercially impractical to cut the looped fabric known as "terry cloth" and endeavor to hem or bind the edge to prevent raveling since the bound edge is thick and cumbersome.

The present invention makes it economically possible to manufacture and use large towels, since the strips of closely woven material provide a ready means for reduction in size of the towel to eliminate a defectively woven area or a damaged place in the body. The small rectangular sections of moisture absorbing material are made of such size that they may be combined to form standard units such as small bath towels, hand towels, or wash cloths. Each of these, when formed from the large sheet 1, will be completely surrounded with a hemmed edge in the usual manner.

Further advantages accrue from the use of the present invention in that, by folding the large towel for storage purposes on the lines defined by the strips 3 and 4, the bulk of the towel is considerably reduced so that less storage space is required. Also, the weight of the towel is reduced without seriously impairing its moisture absorbing properties.

It will be seen that while the present invention is simple and economical, it provides very definite advantages which have heretofore not been available. While it has been described in connection with a towel of a particular size, it should be appreciated that this description is purely by way of illustration and not of limitation.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent, is:

1. A complete, finished towel, the obverse and reverse faces of which are the same, all four edges of the towel being finished, ready for use, said towel having similar rectangular sections of looped, moisture absorbing fabric such as "terry cloth" spaced both laterally and longitudinally by strips of material from which the loops are omitted, said strips running parallel to the edges of the towel and being sufficiently wide to permit hemming when the towel is cut to form smaller rectangular units of towelling.

2. A finished towel, the obverse and reverse faces of which are the same, surrounded on all four sides by a border of substantially smooth material which is finished, ready for use, said towel, having substantially rectangular sections of uniform size formed of looped moisture-absorbing fabric such as "terry cloth" spaced laterally and longitudinally by strips of material from which the loops have been omitted, said strips running parallel to the respective borders of the towel, and being sufficiently wide to permit hemming when the towel is cut, whereby said "terry cloth" sections will combine with adjacent sections to form smaller substantially standard units of towelling when said towel is separated along said lateral or longitudinal strips.

JOHN A. RILEY.