April 24, 1962 E. H. BARD 3,031,207

TWIN BUCKET ASSEMBLY

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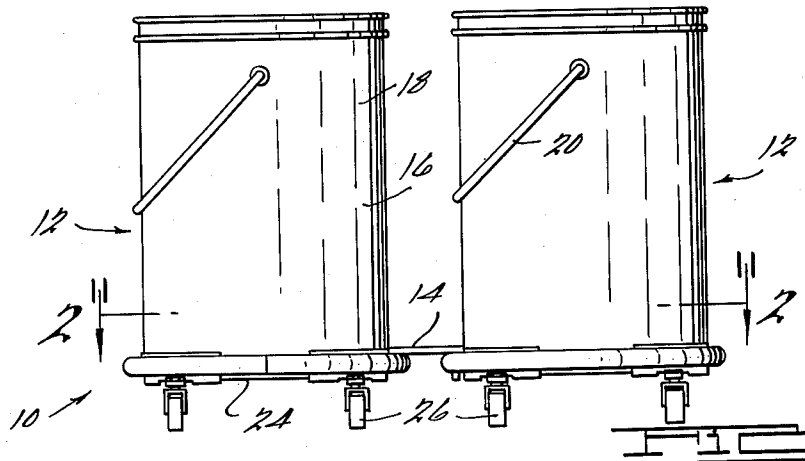


FIG. 1.

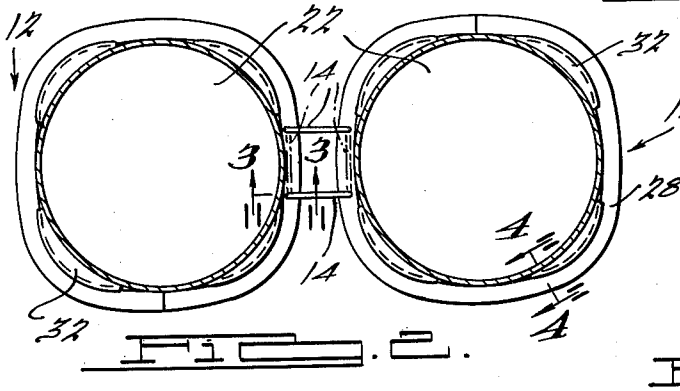


FIG. 2.

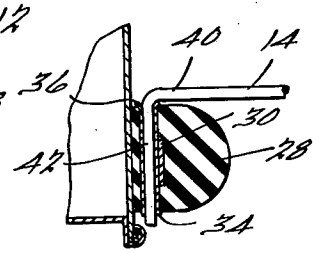


FIG. 3.

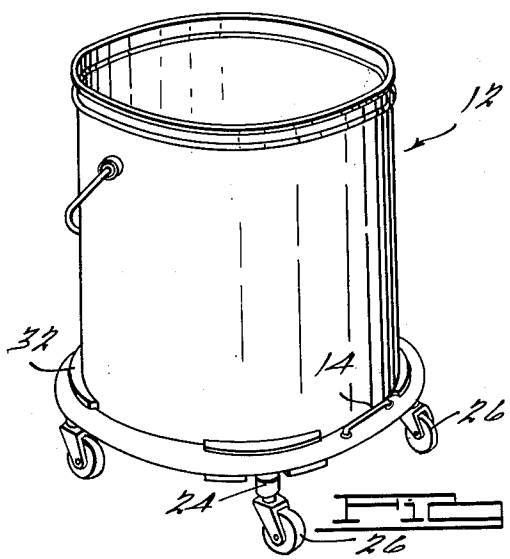


FIG. 5.

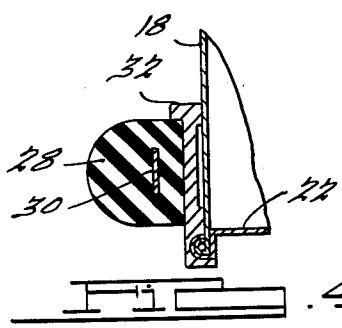


FIG. 4.

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TWIN BUCKET ASSEMBLY

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This invention relates generally to wheeled buckets of the type used in floor cleaning operations and, more particularly, to an improved twin bucket assembly.

In many floor cleaning operations, it is desirable to have a pair of adjacent buckets. In some cases, one bucket carries a wringer and is for soapy water, while the other is for clear water. In other cases, two buckets are used so that two people can mop simultaneously without interfering with each other. The principal object of the present invention, therefore, is to provide a twin bucket assembly which consists of detachable single bucket units, each of which has casters, so that a bucket can be readily converted from single to twin use without requiring any additional supporting frames, and to provide the buckets with bumpers which prevent noise and damage when the buckets come into contact with each other or walls, furniture and the like.

A further object of this invention is to provide a twin bucket assembly which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and which consists of a pair of readily connectible and detachable bucket units.

Further objects, features and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following description, the appended claims and the accompanying drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of the twin bucket assembly of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a horizontal sectional view looking along the line 2—2 in FIG. 1;

FIGS. 3 and 4 are enlarged detail sectional views looking along the lines 3—3 and 4—4 in FIG. 2; and

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a bucket unit in the assembly of this invention.

With reference to the drawing, the twin bucket assembly of this invention, indicated generally at **10**, is illustrated in FIG. 1 as consisting of a pair of identical bucket units **12** connected by a pair of parallel link members **14**. The bucket units **12** are described in detail in my copending application Serial No. 743,270, filed June 20, 1958, and since issued as Patent No. 2,947,548. In general, each unit **12** consists of a bucket **16**, having a tubular side wall **18** on which a bail **20** is mounted and a bottom wall **22**. A supporting frame **24** for the bucket **16** is provided, and four casters **26** are mounted on the frame **24**. A resilient rubber bumper member **28**, having a reinforcing metal strip **30** extending therethrough, extends about the lower end of the bucket **16** and is mounted on four brackets **32** positioned on the bucket **16** and the frame **24**.

Each bumper member **28** carries a pair of upright tubular socket members **34** (FIG. 3), each of which has a flared upper end **36**. The socket members **34** extend downwardly through the bumper member **28** adjacent the strip **30** and have their flared upper ends **36** disposed at the top side of the bumper member **28**. The pair of socket members **34** on each bumper member **28** are spaced apart a predetermined distance in a direction generally parallel to a line extending between the ends of the bail **20** for a purpose to appear presently.

Each of the link members **14** consists of a rigid wire body member **40** having downturned end portions **42** of a diameter to fit easily within the socket members **34**. The end portions **42** for each body member **40** are parallel and are spaced apart a distance corresponding to the distance between the socket members **34** in each pair. As a result, a link member **14** is readily mounted on a bumper **28** for a unit **12** with the end portions **42** of the link extending into the socket members **34**. In such a position, the link **14** is in an out of the way location in which it is always available for connecting the unit **12** to a second unit **12** to form the twin assembly **10**.

To connect a pair of units **12** to form the assembly **10**, the links **14** are moved to parallel positions, and the downturned end portions **42** for each link are inserted in a pair of sockets **34**, each of which is in a different unit **12**. The units **12** are thus connected so that they are always adjacent each other and, when one bucket **16** is moved, either by manipulation of the handle of the mop disposed therein or manipulation of the handle of a wringer mounted thereon, the other unit follows the movement of the first. The location of each pair of sockets **34**, so that they are on a line parallel to a line between the bail ends, provides for an assembly of the buckets **16** so that the bails **20** are substantially parallel, and thus will not interfere with each other. The units **12** are readily disconnected by removing the links **14** and mounting each link in a storage position, as illustrated in FIG. 5. The buckets are proportioned so that the top of one bucket will fit inside the casters **26** on the frame **24** for the other bucket to facilitate storage of the buckets. Because the bumper members **28** are at the same level, contact of the units **12** during use is noiseless.

Although the invention has been described with respect to a preferred embodiment thereof, it is to be understood that it is not to be so limited, since changes can be made therein which are within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A twin bucket assembly comprising a first bucket provided with casters and a resilient bumper member extending horizontally around the bucket adjacent the lower end thereof, a second bucket provided with casters and a resilient bumper member extended horizontally around the second bucket at the level of said first bucket bumper, a pair of identical parallel link members disposed in a substantially horizontal plane and provided with downturned end portions, and a pair of sockets extended vertically through each of said bumper members for receiving said downturned end portions so as to pivotally support said link members in positions extending between said buckets, said pair of sockets being spaced a distance apart corresponding to the spacing of the downturned end portions on each of said link members.

2. In a twin bucket assembly, a bucket unit adapted to be connected to an identical unit, said unit comprising a bucket provided with casters and a resilient bumper member extended horizontally around the bucket adjacent the lower end thereof, a pair of horizontally spaced sockets extending vertically through said bumper member, and a link member for pivotally connecting said units, said link member having downturned end portions spaced apart a distance corresponding to the spacing of said socket members and receivable therein.

3. A twin bucket assembly comprising a first unit which includes a bucket provided with casters and a resilient bumper member extending horizontally around the bucket adjacent the lower end thereof, a second unit which includes a bucket provided with casters and a resilient bumper member extending horizontally around the second bucket at the level of said first bucket bumper, each of said resilient bumper members having a reinforcing strip therein, a socket extending vertically through each of said bumper members between the reinforcing strip and the bucket, and a link member pivotally disposed at one end within the socket in one of said bumper members and at

the other end within the socket in the other of said bumper members.

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