UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PORTABLE WADING POOL

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4—172)

1. This invention relates to a portable pool which may be used as a swimming or wading pool, the construction being particularly adapted to the shallow type of pool suited to children for wading and the like.

Its preferred use is as an outdoor pool which may be set up on the lawn or on a hard surface, such as a pavement or floor.

The pool is of the knock-down type, being so constructed that when assembled the frame is sufficiently rigid so that it requires no guy ropes or projecting supports. Such external supports are not only regarded as unsightly, but they are objectionable as inconvenient and dangerous in that it is almost impossible to avoid tripping over them.

Furthermore the tubular construction and interlocking features of the invention provides a lightweight, compact device that may be easily carried from place to place in the trunk compartment of a passenger automobile and be quickly set up in a park or picnic ground for a day's pleasure; after which it may be as quickly and easily knocked down and stored away.

The pool structure embodying the features of the invention in the preferred form is illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein like parts are referred to and indicated by like reference characters and wherein:

1. Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention;
2. Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of the disassembled top rail;
3. Figure 3 is an enlarged bottom view of one of the top rail sections;
4. Figure 4 is a side view, partly in section, of the junction point between two of the top rail sections, showing one section and the locking means in alternate disassembled position;
5. Figure 5 is a view looking in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of the Figure 5;
6. Figure 7 is a front view of one of the U-shaped locking means;
7. Figure 8 is a perspective view of a portion of the assembled top rail showing the locking means and the aligning plate, with a portion broken away to show the underlying structure;
8. Figure 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of the assembled pool showing a shower head attached thereto;
9. Figure 10 is a top plan view of the assembled pool showing a shower head attached thereto;
10. Figure 11 is a right end view of the assembled pool showing a foot-bath attached thereto;
11. Figure 12 is a top plan view of the same;
12. Figure 13 is a fragmentary perspective view of the assembled pool showing a shower head attached thereto;
13. Figure 14 is a fragmentary side elevation of the assembled pool showing a foot-bath attached thereto;
14. Figure 15 is a right end view of the attached foot-bath frame, without its water container; and
15. Figure 16 is a top plan view of the same.

Referring now to the drawings in detail wherein, for the purpose of illustration, we have disclosed a preferred embodiment of the invention, the numeral 20 indicates a top rail made of three arcuate tubular sections 21. Each section is preferably made of aluminum or magnesium tubing for the sake of lightness and because neither of these metals is subject to rusting, thereby making the ideal materials for the use intended.

Reference numeral 21 indicates a short length of tubing or rod that is seated in one end of the section 21 to form a male portion that interferes the female portion of adjacent sections as shown in the Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8. Each of the sections is curved to form a segment of a circle and when interfitted by means of their female and male portions form a complete circular support for the waterproof water bag 31.

In the preferred form shown, the top rail is made in three sections forming a circle five feet in diameter; although more sections can be used, if desired, to form a circle of larger size. A circular aligning plate 24 having a dependent peripheral flange 25 is welded over the male end of each section. The plate 24 has a positioning notch 26 in the flange 25 opposite the male end of the section 21. When the ends of adjacent sections 21 are fitted together, the notch 26 engages the interfitted section and holds the two sections in alignment against lateral displacement.

The plate 24 is about eight inches in diameter and also serves as a convenient seat at the edge of the pool.

A dependent socket 22 is positioned about three inches from the female end of each section and a similar dependent socket 23 is positioned approximately three inches from the male end as shown in Figure 2. Reference character 30 indicates a single length of tubular stock bent into a U-shaped locking means and leg, approximately six inches wide and twelve inches high. After the several sections 21 are interfitted a locking leg 30 is fitted into the adjacent sockets 22 and 23 of each pair of sections as shown in the Figure 5. The U-shaped locking leg 30 serves to prevent the jointed sections from separating.
and also serves as a supporting leg for the assembled top rail 20. A separate locking leg 30 is required for each junction point. In the preferred form of pool illustrated, there are three such legs.

The assembled frame combines both rigidity and lightness since the aligning plates 24 and the locking legs 30 hold the separable sections 21 securely together and resist all lateral or axial movement of the joined parts. A waterproof circular bag 31 is suspended from the top rail 20 by means of tabs 32 that fold over the rail and are secured to the outer face of the bag by means of suitable snap-fasteners 33.

To fold, pack and remove the wading pool when completed, it is simply necessary to unbutton the tabs 32. The water-proof bag 31 can then be folded and put away. The lock legs 30 are pulled downward out of engagement with the sockets and the interfitting sections 21 are pulled apart as shown in the Figure 5. The locking legs 30 and sections 21 are then packed away. No tools of any kind are needed to either assemble or dismantle the pool since all of the parts are joined in sliding fits.

Figure 9 shows the pool equipped with a sun-shade 40 made of canvas supported on a knock-down three piece circular frame. The frame is made of three interfitting curved tubular sections 41. The frame is swively supported in an upright 44 by means of a short length of tubing 43 that is rotatably mounted in the top end of the tubular upright 44 as shown in the Figure 11. A bracket or brace 45 joins the swivel tube 43 to the frame sections 41. The upright is secured at the rear end to one of the pool locking legs 30 by means of a vertical sleeve 46 that is mounted on a laterally extending bracket 45 welded to the upright 44. The sleeve 45 fits over one of the upright sides of the U-shaped lock leg 30 and the length of the bracket 45 is such that the upright 44 will clear the edge of the aligning plate or seat 24 as shown in the Figure 9.

The sun-shade may be swiveled on the support 44 in accordance with the position of the sun, as indicated by the reference number 46b which shows the sun-shade in an alternate position.

An upright pipe 51 having a closed bottom end and a shower head 50 attached to the top end is secured to one of the pool locking legs 30 by means of a sleeve 52 similar to that described in the case of the sun-shade. Water is delivered to the shower head through a hose 54 that is attached to a coupling 53 near the base of the pipe 51.

Figures 14, 15 and 16 show a foot bath attachment for the pool. The foot bath comprises a frame 60 made of a single length of tubing bent to form a circular support for the water-proof bag 65. Reference characters 61 and 62 indicate integral legs which support the outer edge of the foot bath frame. The inner edge of the foot bath frame 60 is supported by two sleeves mounted in brackets 64, that engage the two arms of one of the lock legs 30 of the wading pool. The purpose of the foot bath is to enable the wader to wash mud or dirt off his feet before entering the wading pool, thereby keeping the wading pool free of sand and dirt. This is especially necessary where waders are continually entering and leaving the pool as is the case with children at play.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention, the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A wading pool having a flexible waterproof container and a knock-down supporting frame, comprising a plurality of tubular top rail sections having the shape of a segment of a circle, each of the said sections having a female portion at one end thereof, a male portion at the other end thereof and a dependent socket proximate each of the said ends, the said female and male portions of adjacent sections being interfitting to form a circular frame, an aligning plate having a notched dependent flange mounted at the male portion of each section and extended beyond the said portion, the said notch being aligned with the end of said male portion and engaged with the female portion of the adjoining interfitting section to hold the same against lateral displacement with reference to the said first section, and upright U-shaped locking means engaged with the sockets of adjacent interfitting sections to hold the same against separation and also forming supports for holding the top rail above the ground.

2. A wading pool having a flexible waterproof container and a knock-down supporting frame, comprising, a plurality of tubular top rail sections having the shape of a segment of a circle, each of the said sections having a female portion at one end thereof, a male portion at the other end thereof and a dependent socket proximate each of the said ends, the said female and male portions of adjacent sections being interfitting to form a circular frame, a circular aligning disc having a dependent peripheral flange, mounted at the male portion of each section with half of its diameter extending beyond the end of the said section, the said flange having a notch there-in axially aligned with the said male portion and engageable with the female portion of the adjoining interfitting section to hold the same against lateral displacement with reference to the said first section, and upright U-shaped locking means engaged with the sockets of adjacent interfitting sections to hold the same against separation and also forming supports for holding the top rail above the ground.

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