

J. W. LATCHER.

Wash-Boards.

No. 146,921.

Patented Jan. 27, 1874.

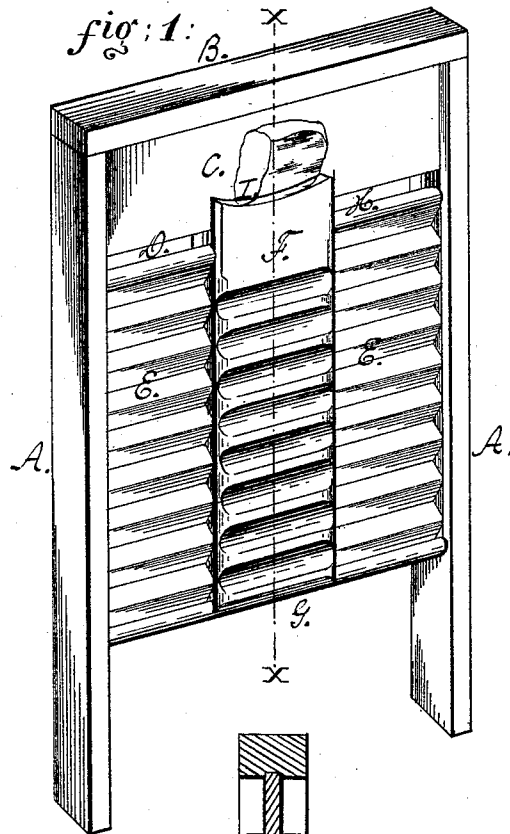
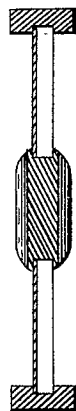
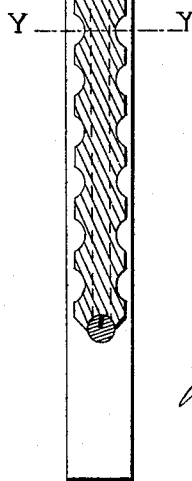


fig: 2:



Witnesses:

West Wagner.
A. H. Norris.

Inventor:

John W. Latcher.
By James L. Norris.
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. LATCHER, OF EDINBURG, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN WASH-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,921**, dated January 27, 1874; application filed January 17, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. LATCHER, of Edinburg, in the county of Saratoga and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Wash-Board, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to certain improvements in that class of wash-boards which are provided with a central rubbing surface of wood, and with two metallic corrugated surfaces on opposite sides of the same, wash-boards of this description having heretofore been constructed with a convex or cylindrical central bead or rib, while I, in contradistinction to this, propose to employ a wide and perfectly flat strip of wood, which is ribbed to form a rubbing surface on both sides, and channeled at its edges to receive the corrugated metallic plates. The invention further consists in extending the central wooden portion above the rubbing surface, so as to form a shoulder or support for sustaining the soap when not in use, the upper end of the wooden rubbing strip bearing against or embracing the lower edge of an upper transverse board, which terminates at such a distance from the rubbing surface as to form an open space for the escape of the water.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my wash-board. Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line *y y*, Fig. 2.

The frame of the wash-board is principally composed of the parallel side bars *A A*, which are connected at their upper ends by a cross-bar, *B*. The inner sides of the side bars are grooved or channeled throughout nearly their entire length, so as to receive the ends of the upper cross-bar or plate *C*, which terminates at such a distance from the upper edge of the rubbing surface or board proper, so as to form an open space, *D*, which is designed to carry the water back into the tub which has been carried up by the clothes. The corrugated zinc or metallic plates *E E*, which compose the greater portion of the rubbing surface, are sustained in position by inserting their side edges into the grooved side-boards of the frame and into grooves formed in the sides of the central wooden strip or bar *F*. Said wooden strip, which is made, preferably, from maple, and

broad and flat, covers one-third, more or less, of the entire area of the rubbing surface, and is grooved and ribbed transversely on both sides, so as to form double-fluted rubbing surfaces, and projects to some extent above the metallic rubbing surface. The sides of the wooden strip *F* are beveled off, so as to avoid forming angular abrupt terminations of the ribs, which would injure the clothes. In order to secure the wooden strip in position, I groove or channel the lower end of the same, so as to cause it to embrace the lower cylindrical cross-bar or round *G* of the wash-board frame, when fitted in position, said round being also grooved for the reception of the lower end of the corrugated metallic plates. The wooden rubbing board or strip is extended above the rubbing surface, and is recessed at its upper end, so as to embrace the lower edge of the top board *C*, an opening being also made through the strip for the passage of the upper round *H*, which is grooved and employed for the same purpose as the round *G*. Instead of embracing the top board *C*, as shown, the upper end of the wooden rubbing-board may terminate under, and abut against, the lower edge of the board *C*, so as to form, in both instances, a shoulder or support, *I*, for sustaining the soap when not in use. The upper end of the rubbing-board may, for the latter purpose, be made concave, so as to more effectually hold the soap. The frame of the wash-board, as well as the wooden rubbing-board, are also firmly secured and braced, in order to prevent warping by the prolongation of the latter above the rubbing surface, so as to embrace or abut against the top board *C*.

In practice it is found that a wash-board, constructed as above described, with a central broad rubbing surface of wood, and with metallic corrugated surfaces located at the sides of the same, is superior, in many respects to a wash-board provided with a central cylindrical ribbed bar of wood, for the reason that the wooden rubbing surface being broad and perfectly flat the clothes, which are moved up and down on the same, are subjected to a rolling or wringing action, which is conducive of cleansing the same in a more expeditious manner than in the ordinary wash-boards. Another point of advantage lies in the fact that the

wooden rubbing surface being made perfectly flat, the same may be made of any desired width without raising it above the metallic rubbing surface, while in a wash-board provided with a cylindrical central bar, a corresponding enlargement in width of the same would also have the effect of causing said bar to project above the metallic rubbing portion to such an extent as would render it objectionable and inoperative for the purpose for which it is designed.

By constructing a wash-board with a wooden central rubbing surface, and with two corrugated rubbing surfaces located on both sides of the same, I also combine the advantages of the wooden wash-board with those of the metallic board for enabling fabrics of various kinds or different textures to be rubbed either on the wooden or metallic portion of the board without reversing the board.

The wash-board is provided with double rubbing surfaces, in order to render it susceptible of being reversed for operation on both sides.

Another advantage derived by using a flat rubbing-board is attributable to the fact that

the same may be formed of a plain board or plank, in contradistinction to a rubbing surface which is turned into shape by a lathe.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a wash-board possessing a double-faced wooden and metallic rubbing surface, the flat corrugated wooden strip F, extending above said rubbing surface to embrace or abut against the top board of the frame, and terminating abruptly to form a soap-support, I, and to strengthen the frame, as herein set forth.

2. A wash-board, provided with a double-faced metallic and wooden rubbing surface, and with an opening, D, for the passage of water, located on both sides of the central flat wooden rubbing surface F, as herein shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of January, 1874.

J. W. LATCHER.

Witnesses:

W. J. PEYTON,
JAMES L. NORRIS.