

Sept. 8, 1959

C. J. WAGNER

2,902,993

MASSAGE DEVICE

Filed Feb. 8, 1956

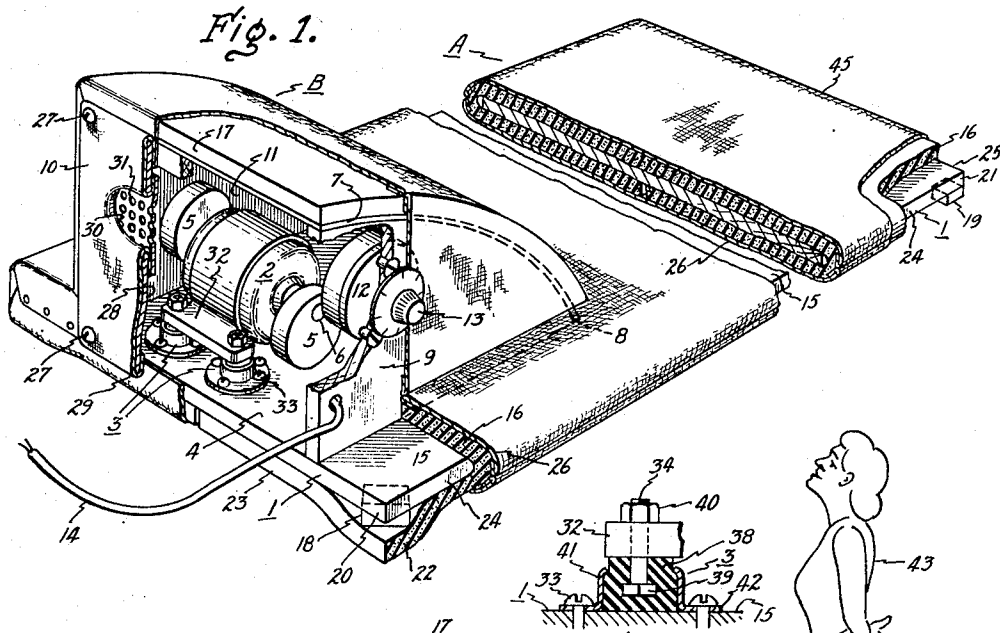


Fig. 2.

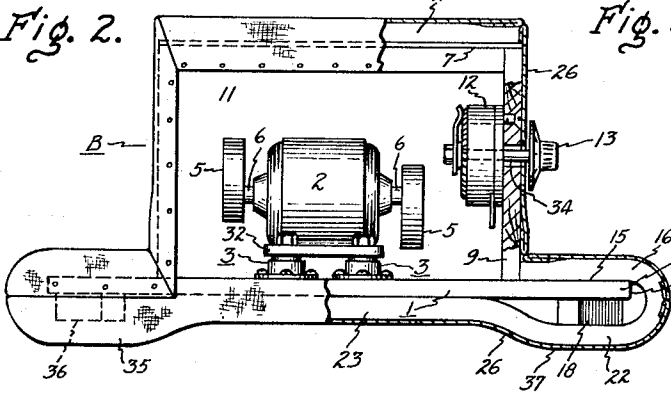


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

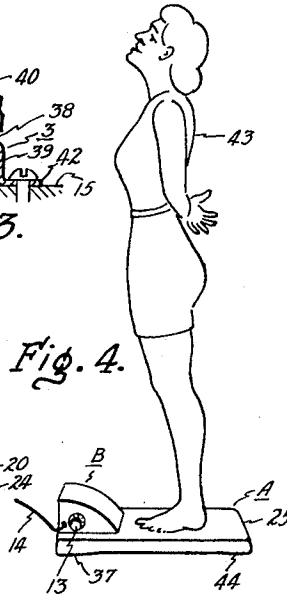


Fig. 5.

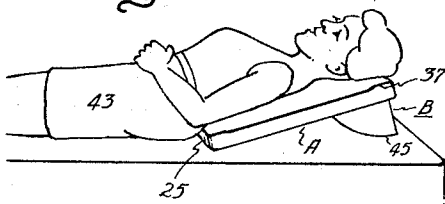
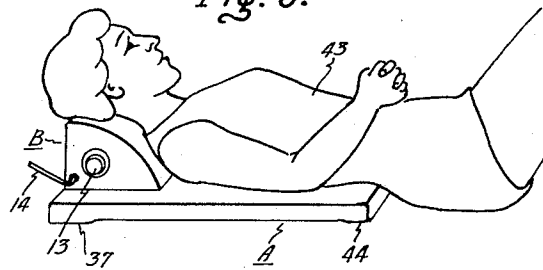


Fig. 6.



Inventor
 Carman J. Wagner,
 by *George H. Baldwin*
 Attorney.

1

2,902,993

MASSAGE DEVICE

Carman J. Wagner, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Application February 8, 1956, Serial No. 564,254

5 Claims. (Cl. 128—33)

This invention relates to massaging devices and more particularly to a massage device comprising a vibratory pillow and pallet useful in treating large areas of the human body.

A general object of the invention is to provide a convenient, self-contained, versatile massage device, with which a wide variety of vibratory massage treatments are obtainable for substantially any part of the body.

The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a partially broken away perspective view of a device in accord with this invention taken toward a rear corner of the device;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation, partially broken away and with the rear wall of the motor compartment removed;

Fig. 3 is a partially sectionalized rear detail view, on an enlarged scale, showing a resilient mount for the motor; and

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are views showing the device, on respective reduced scales, in various modes of use for therapeutic treatment.

As shown in Fig. 1, the device comprises a pallet body portion designated A and a pillow or motor housing portion B, and more specifically includes an elongated flat pallet or panel member 1, rectangular in shape, having a motor 2 attached thereto by resilient mounts 3, the motor overlying a rear end portion 4 of the pallet. A respective eccentric weight 5 is attached to each end of the motor shaft 6. A rigid pillow member 7 has its forward edge 8 meeting pallet member 1 forwardly of the motor, and the pillow member extends from its forward edge 8 curvedly upwardly and rearwardly to overlie both the end portion 4 of the pallet member and the motor 2 mounted thereon.

Pillow member 7, together with a pair of side walls, such as wall 9, and with a removable rear wall 10, forms a hollow motor housing structure comprising motor chamber 11. The side walls, pillow member and pallet member are suitably secured to one another as by gluing or other suitable means, thereby to form a unitary assembly. Rheostat 12 is mounted on wall 9 within the compartment 11 and comprises a control knob 13 disposed externally of the housing. The rheostat is electrically connected to the motor for changing the speed thereof, power being provided for the motor through electric cord 14.

The whole exposed upper surface 15 of the pallet member is padded with a pad or cushion 16 preferably of sponge rubber, a thickness of about 1 inch being satisfactory. The sponge rubber padding also extends over the whole exposed forward and upper surface of pillow member 7 as seen at 17.

Resilient support members underlie end portions of the pallet member. In the specific construction shown,

2

square or rectangular blocks 18 and 19 are shown disposed under corner portions 20 and 21 at opposite ends of one side of the pallet member and, as seen at 22, the padding 23 which covers the exposed undersurface of the pallet also underlies the support members at the ends or corners of the pallet. The supports 18 and 19 may comprise sponge rubber material and may have upper and lower surfaces of about one or two square inches and may be about ½ inch to 1 inch in height. If a material firmer than sponge rubber is used for the supports, a somewhat smaller size or greater height may be required, but it is preferred not to use a material softer than sponge rubber. In the specific construction shown, the supports at the forward end of the pallet member, such as support 19, are one inch square and one-half inch high, while the rear end supports, including support 18, have a cross section of two square inches and are one inch high.

The padding preferably extends around the side edges 24 and forward edge 25 of the pallet member, and the whole outer surface of the padding is preferably covered with upholstery material 26.

The back or rearward end of the motor housing is covered by a detachable wall member 10, held in place by screws 27, and comprising a relatively thin sheet 28 of plywood or the like, encased in upholstery material 29 and including a window 30 in which a perforated metal plate or screen 31 is set. The function of the wall member 10 is to complete the encasing of the motor and rheostat, to improve the appearance and, with window 30, to provide ventilation for the motor and rheostat.

Pallet 1 may comprise a rectangular sheet of plywood approximately ¾ inch in thickness and, in any event, it should be formed of a rigid material suitable for transmitting vibrations. Pillow member 7 may be of plywood of about ¼ inch thickness.

Fig. 2 shows motor 2, having eccentric weights, such as weight 5, carried on opposite ends of its shaft, the motor being mounted by means of its mounting flange or base 32 through support members 3 to the upper surface 15 of pallet member 1 at the rear end portion 4 of the pallet member. The mounting devices are screwed by screws 33 to the pallet member and include bolts 34 engaging the mounting flange 32.

Rheostat 12 is seen to have a shaft 34 extending through wall 9 and carrying control knob 13 externally of the upholstery material 26 at the side of the pillow structure B. It will be seen that structure B comprises a housing for motor 2 and rheostat 12.

Resilient support member 18, having a counterpart 36 at the other rear corner of the pallet member, is preferably secured to the pallet by gluing and is located within and above the lower or bottom padding 23. The interposition of support member 18 under the pallet corner portion 20 provides a downwardly protruding padded bulge or projection 37 at the corner of the device, the purpose of which will be more readily apparent from the later discussion. A bulge similar to bulge 37 is provided below each of the four corners of the device, including bulge 35 at the left rear corner under support 36.

Fig. 3 shows in detail the attachment of motor mounting flange 32 to a rubber block 38 by means of bolt 34, of which the head 39 is embedded in the rubber block, nut 40 being tightened down on the flange 32. Rubber block 38 is held in a cup-like metal member 41, of which the lower outwardly turned flange 42 is screwed to pallet member 1 by means of screws 33.

The rubber mounting of the motor decreases the noise produced during operation and provides a more pleasing vibratory motion of the pallet and pillow portions of the device.

In Fig. 4 the pallet portion A of the device is placed flat on the floor with the device in upright position, and

3

patient 43 is standing flat upon the pallet A. The speed of the motor, and, accordingly, the strength of the vibrations are adjusted by means of knob 13, and the pallet vibrates. The pallet is supported by the floor primarily on its four corner supporting bulges, such as are shown at 37 and 44. The major portion of the padded undersurface of the pallet is not dampened by floor contact of the bottom pad because all, or almost all, of the support is furnished by the four corner bulges, such as bulges 37 and 44. Depending upon the motor speed, the device may be used as in Fig. 4 to vibrate primarily the feet, to vibrate the feet and legs, or to vibrate substantially the entire body of the patient 43.

With the device in the position of Fig. 4, the patient may kneel on the pallet A, and if desired may bend at the waist to place the forehead on pillow B. Alternatively the patient may lie across the pallet either face down or face up, and with the pallet extending under the legs, under the hips, under the chest or under some other part of the body. The patient may lie on back, front or side, and, for example, the pallet may extend across the patient's back or hips.

Fig. 5 discloses the device in inverted position with the pallet portion A resting on its forward edge 25 and on its pillow portion B. When in the position shown in Fig. 5, the normally upper major face of the pallet faces downwardly toward the floor, and the pillow portion B, which projects laterally away from the pallet portion of the device, in a downward direction, becomes a rest projection with its exposed padded remote wall portion 45 constituting a floor-engaging rest portion. The device is, accordingly, supported on the floor on the rest portion 45 and on the extreme forward end edge 25 of the pallet portion. The rest portion 45 of the device comprises, when the device is in the position of Fig. 4, for example, the upper wall portion of the pillow or motor housing structure B.

With the device in the Fig. 5 position, the patient's body may be rested against the upwardly inclined bottom of the device, either as shown or in various other positions. The pallet vibrates effectively since it is supported from the floor or other supporting surface only along its forward edge 25 and on rest portion 45 of limited area of the pillow portion B, there being no large surface area of the pallet pad in damping engagement with the floor. When the device is used as shown in Fig. 5, the support projections, such as projection 37, do not interfere with the patient's comfort, being located in portions usually not in contact with the patient and being padded, also, so as to be soft even when in contact with the body.

Fig. 6 shows the device in use in position corresponding to that of Fig. 4 but with the patient reclining, resting her head upon the padded or cushioned surface of pillow B and with pallet portion A extending under the shoulders and back of the patient. It will be apparent that the patient could, with the device in the position shown, sit upon pallet A instead of lying thereon. Many other positions for the device, and for the patient receiving the massage, will suggest themselves to provide a wide range of usefulness of the device.

While only certain preferred embodiments of this invention have been shown and described by way of illustration, many modifications will occur to those skilled in the art and it is, therefore, desired that it be understood that it is intended in the appended claims to cover all such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

What is claimed as new and what it is desired to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A massaging device comprising a rigid elongated flat pallet member, a motor disposed above and having its frame attached to one end portion of said pallet, said motor having an eccentrically weighted shaft, a rigid pillow member having a forward edge fixed to said pallet member, said pillow member extending curvedly upwardly

4

and rearwardly from said forward edge to overlie said one end portion and said motor, resilient support members underlying the end portions of said pallet member, and foam rubber padding overlying the exposed upper surface of said pallet and pillow members and underlying said support members and the whole exposed undersurface of said pallet member.

2. A vibratory massage device comprising a flat rigid panel having upper and lower faces and comprising an operative body portion extending forwardly from an end portion, a vibratory motor attached to and disposed above said upper face at said end portion, a pillow member joined to and vibrated with said panel and curving over said motor at said end portion, and padding covering the exposed surfaces of said pillow member and the upper and lower surfaces of said panel member.

3. A vibratory massage device comprising a flat rigid panel having upper and lower faces and comprising an operative body portion extending forwardly from an end portion, a vibratory motor attached to and disposed above said upper face at said end portion, a pillow member joined to and vibrated with said panel and curving over said motor at said end portion, and padding covering the exposed surfaces of said pillow member and the upper and lower surfaces of said panel member, and a plurality of small resilient supporting blocks spacedly positioned under said panel.

4. A vibratory massage device comprising a flat rigid panel having parallel opposite rectangular major faces, said panel having a rearward end portion and a forward end edge, a rigid hollow housing structure projecting laterally away from said panel and attached to one of said major faces at said rearward end portion, said panel including a major body portion extending from said housing structure to said forward end edge of the panel, said structure having a rest portion of limited area spaced outwardly from said one major face of said panel for floor contact when said device is rested on the floor with said one face of said panel facing downwardly toward the floor and with said forward end edge of said panel resting on the floor thereby to dispose said panel upwardly inclined from said forward end edge to the housing-structure-supported raised rearward end portion thereof, means for vibrating said panel comprising a motor disposed within said housing structure and attached to said panel, padding on said one major face covering at least said forward end edge, external padding on at least said rest portion of said housing structure, and padding substantially completely covering the other said major face of said panel.

5. A vibratory massage device comprising a flat rigid panel having parallel opposite rectangular major faces, said panel having a rearward end portion, a rigid hollow housing structure projecting laterally away from one of said major faces of said panel and attached to said one of said major faces at said rearward end portion whereby said panel and housing structure comprise a unitary assembly, said panel having a major body portion extending from said housing structure and terminating in a forward end edge of the panel remote from said housing structure, said housing structure having a wall portion of limited area spaced laterally outwardly of said one major face, means for vibrating said assembly comprising a motor disposed within said housing having a mounting portion attached to said assembly and having an unbalanced rotating member, and padding externally covering said outwardly spaced limited area wall portion of said housing structure, said end edge, said other major face and said body portion of said one major face.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,234,770	Meyer	Mar. 11, 1941
2,425,655	Tompkins	Aug. 12, 1947
2,659,365	Lewis	Nov. 17, 1953
2,792,830	Dacey	May 21, 1957