March 4, 1930. G. C. WILKINSON 1,749,456

GAS BURNER ATTACHMENT FOR CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES

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FIG. 1.

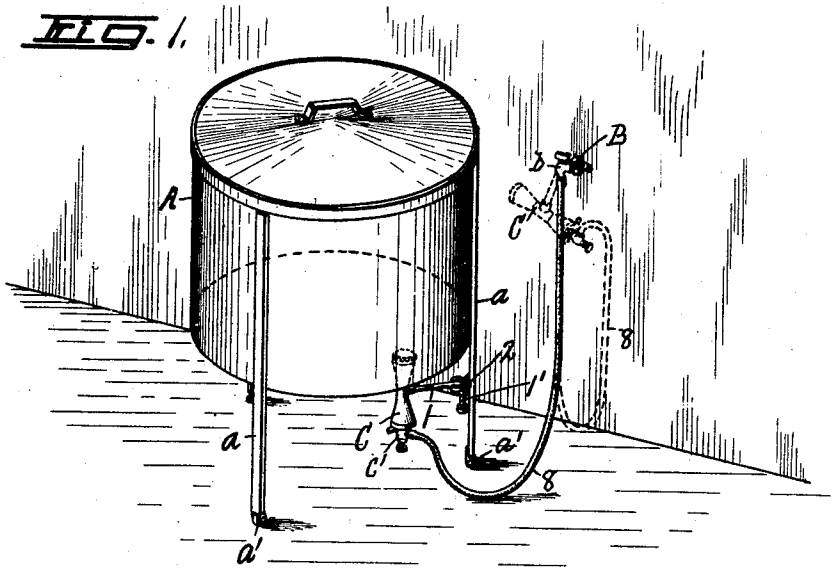
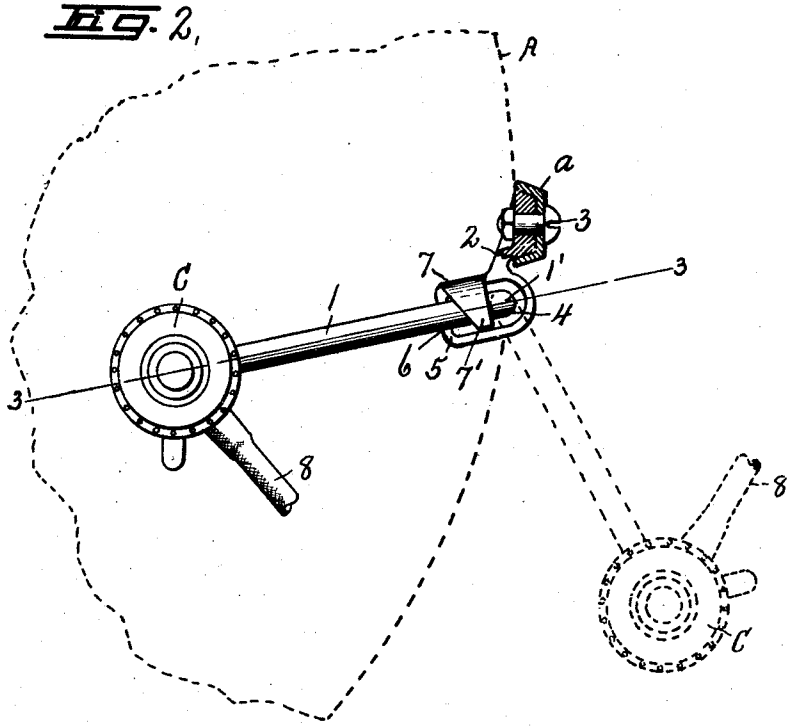


FIG. 2.



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Fig. 3.

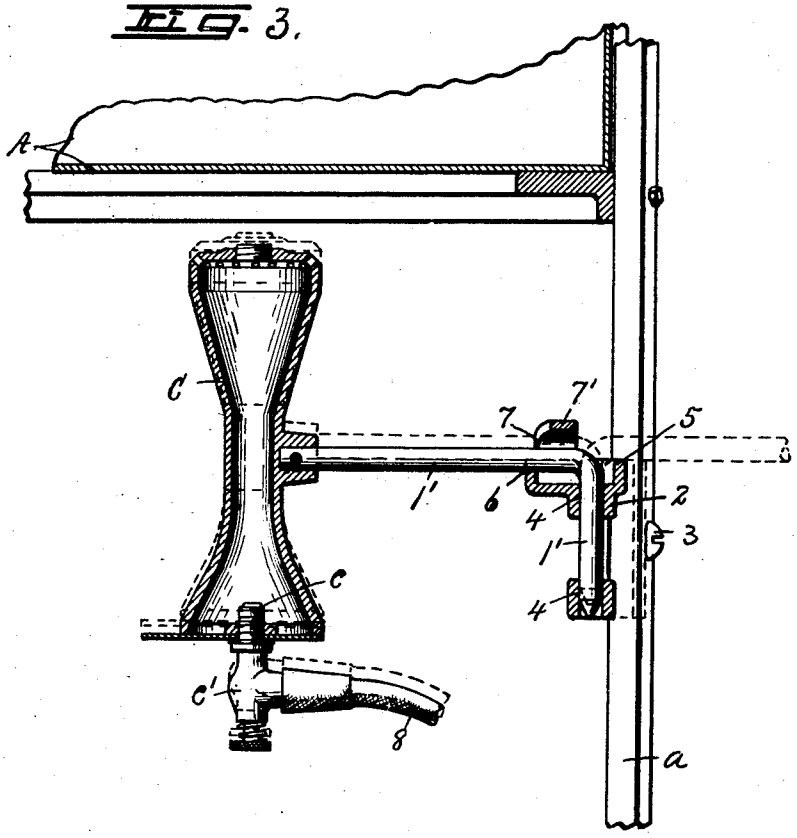
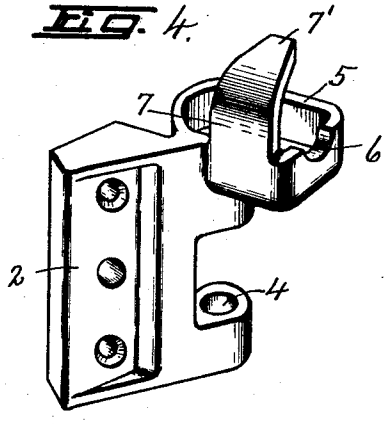


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAS-BURNER ATTACHMENT FOR CLOTHES-WASHING MACHINES

Application filed February 5, 1924. Serial No. 690,727.

This invention relates to a gas burner attachment for clothes washing machines and analogous implements in which a burner is used at the underside of a liquid-containing vat or tub for heating the liquid therein.

In machines of this character, the vat and power plant are usually mounted in an elevated position upon a suitable supporting frame provided with casters whereby the entire apparatus may be moved from place to place along the floor of a laundry or other room in which the machine is located and it therefore, becomes necessary to provide a flexible hose or pipe for connecting the burner to a suitable source of gas supply thus permitting the machine to be moved to a convenient position within certain limits without disconnecting the gas burner from the source of supply.

Heretofore, so far as I am aware, the gas burner has been installed in a fixed position directly under the bottom of the vat which made it necessary for the user to bend low or kneel upon the floor in a more or less uncomfortable position in order to light the burner and also to see that it was properly adjusted or extinguished during the heated process after the liquid had become sufficiently heated.

Another serious objection to the use of the fixed burner arose from the fact that the flexible pipe usually remained attached to both the burner and gas supply fixture with more or less of the pipe lying upon the floor resulting in more or less inconvenience to the user in moving about the machine and in some instances causing said user to trip upon the pipe and to fall upon the floor with a more or less serious consequences and in other instances resulting in the overturning of the machine with the resultant spilling of the hot water upon the floor and attendant dangers therefrom.

The main object of my present invention is to obviate these difficulties and dangers by mounting the burner upon the frame in such manner that it may be easily and quickly moved from its operative position under the vat to a position at one side thereof and also permitting said burner with the flexible pipe attached thereto to be easily and quickly removed from the frame and hung upon a suitable wall support or upon the gas supply fixture in case the latter should be supported in the wall.

Other objects and uses relating to specific parts of the burner attachment will be brought out in the following description.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clothes washing machine and the burner attachment including the flexible pipe and supply fixture in operative position ready for use, the dotted lines indicating the burner with the flexible pipe usually attached thereto as hung upon the gas fixture when not in use.

Figure 2 is an enlarged top plan of the burner attachment showing a portion of the supporting bracket and one of the legs of the machine in section and also showing by dotted lines, a portion of the bottom of the vat and the attachment as swung from a position under the vat to a position at one side thereof.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3, Figure 2, showing the lower portion of the vat in section and one of the supporting legs therefor, upon which the burner attachment is mounted.

Figure 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the detached bracket for supporting the burner.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood, I have shown a clothes washing machine consisting of a vat —A— mounted upon a suitable supporting frame having legs —*a*— provided with castors —*a'*— whereby the entire machine may be easily moved from place to place along the floor of the room in which the machine is installed, and have also shown a gas pipe fixture —B— secured to one of the side walls of the room for attachment to a source of gas supply and provided with a valve —*b*— for controlling the gas supply to the burner as —C—.

This burner may be of any desired construction suitable for the purpose and is provided with a radially projecting supporting arm —1— having one end rigidly secured thereto and its other end provided with a downwardly and axially offset extension

—1′— parallel with the axis of the burner.

The lower end of the burner is provided with the usual gas jet or tip and valve —*c′*— for regulating the amount of gas admitted to the burner.

A bracket —2— is rigidly but detachably secured by bolts —3— to one of the legs —*a*— of the frame of the machine a sufficient distance below the bottom of the vat —A— to support the burner below said bottom with its upper end in spaced relation thereto to allow the flame issuing from the upper end of the burner to impinge against the underside of the bottom for heating the water in the vat.

This bracket —2— extends laterally to one side of the leg —*a*— to which it is secured and is provided with vertically alined journal bearings or openings —4— for receiving the downwardly offset end —1′— of the arm —1—.

The upper end of the lateral extension of the bracket —2— is provided with an upstanding flange —5— surrounding the upper end of the upper bearing —4— to form a horizontal ledge upon which the adjacent portion of the arm —1— may ride when turning the arm to a position at one side thereof as shown by full lines and by dotted lines in Figure 2, and thereby to support the burner at the desired level under the vat.

The upstanding flange —5— is elongated in one direction horizontally so as to extend partly under the adjacent side of the vat, its outer end being concentric with the axis of the bearings —4— while its inner end extends a greater distance beyond said axis and is provided with a recess —6— open at the top to receive the adjacent portion of the arm —1— when the burner is adjusted for use thereby holding the arm and burner supported thereby against accidental displacement from its operative position.

In other words, when the arm —1— with the burner —C— is adjusted to the desired position under the vat for heating purposes, its own weight causes the arm —1— to drop into the recess —6—, but when it is desired to shift the arm —1— with the burner thereon outwardly to a position beyond the vat or at one side thereof as shown by dotted lines in Figure 2, it is simply necessary to lift the arm —1— with the burner thereon out of the recess —6— and then to swing it outwardly along and upon the upper edge of the flange —5— where it will rest at any desired angle by its own weight.

One side of the flange —5—, preferably that facing the leg —*a*— is provided with an upward extension —7— forming a stop for limiting the inward swinging movement of the arm —1—, said stop being preferably located at the inside of the axis of the bearings —4—.

This extension —7— is also provided with an additional extension —7′— projecting laterally toward the opposite side of the flange and directly over the intervening space to form an additional stop for limiting the upward movement of the arm —1— with the burner thereon, the lower face of the lateral extension —7′— being spaced above the upper edge of the flange —5—, a distance slightly greater than the diameter of the adjacent portion of the arm —1— so as to allow said arm to be raised out of the recess —6— and turned angularly about the axis of the bearings —4— to permit the arm —1— with the burner thereon to be swung from a position under the vat to a position at one side thereof as shown by full lines and by dotted lines in Figure 2, while at the same time, the stop —7′— prevents the upward displacement of the downwardly projecting offset —1′— from its bearings —4— until the arm —1— with the burner thereon has been swung outwardly to the outside of the vat or to a position beyond the outer edge of the stop —7′— at which time the arm —1— with the burner thereon may be removed from the bracket by upward displacement.

The means for supplying gas from the fixture —B— to the valve —*c′*— of the burner —C— consists in this instance, of a flexible pipe or housing —8— having one end attached to a suitable nipple on the valve —*c′*— and its other end similarly attached to the nipple of the valve —*b*— of the fixture —B— thus permitting the machine to be moved about from place to place along the floor within the limits of the length of the pipe —8—. This flexibility of the pipe —8— also permits the arm —1— with the burners —C— thereon to be swung horizontally to and from a position under the vat and also permits those parts to be removed from the bracket —2— and hung upon the fixture —B— or any other suitable wall support as shown by dotted lines in Figure 1.

Operation

When it is desired to use the burner for heating purposes, the arm —1— with the burner thereon is first rocked laterally from a position under the vat to a position outside thereof as shown by dotted lines in Figure 2 whereupon the valves —*b*— and —*c′*— may be properly adjusted to supply the desired gas which may then be lighted at the tip —*c*— through openings usually provided in the bottom of the burner or if desired, the lighting medium may be applied to the openings in the top of the burner.

When the gas is lighted, the arm —1— with the burner thereon is returned to a position under the vat until the arm —1— drops into the recess —6—, the burner being then in position for use in heading the water in the vat.

After the water has been heated to the de-

sired degree, the gas supply may be shut off preferably by closing the valve —*b*— whereupon the arm —1— with the burner —C— thereon may be lifted against the stop —7'— and then rocked outwardly to the position indicated by dotted lines in Figure 2 at which time the arm with the burner thereon still connected to the hose —8— may be hung upon the fixture —B— leaving the washing machine free to be moved to any convenient position for washing purposes and at the same time, removing the hose from the floor and avoiding the dangers which might arise from leaving the burner in place with the hose connected thereto.

The construction shown and described is particularly simple and efficient, but obviously, may of the details may be changed without departing from the spirit of this invention.

What I claim is:

A gas burner attachment for clothes washing machines and the like comprising a bracket having an offset support and an upright journal bearing in the support, a laterally extending support adjacent the upper end of the bearing, and a lug overhanging a portion of the last named support and being offset from the bearing, said bearing being adapted to receive an offset extension of a burner supporting arm, the distance between the free end of the lug and upper surface of the laterally extending support being sufficient to permit the passage therebetween of the offset extension of the burner supporting arm.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of February, 1924.

GUY C. WILKINSON.