

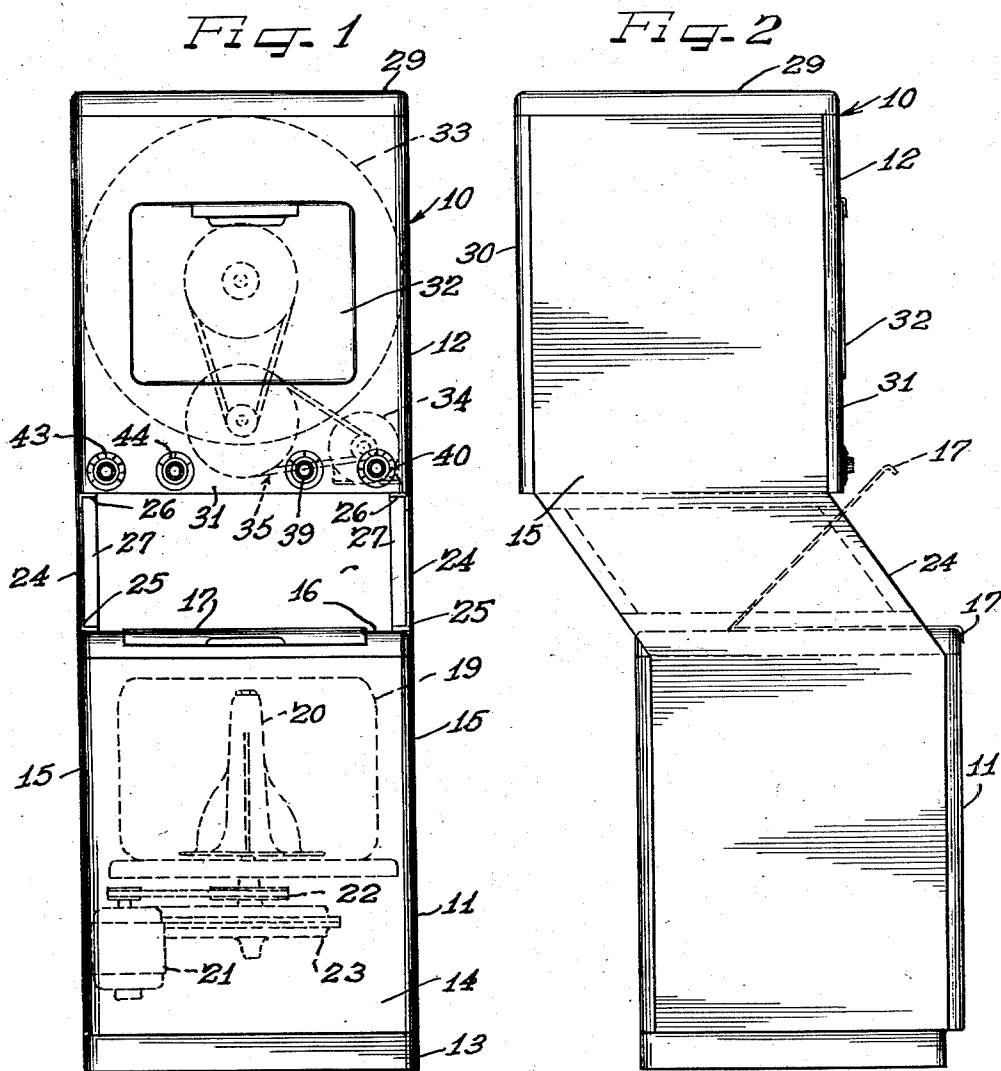
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COMBINATION WASHING AND DRYING MACHINE

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2,793,518

COMBINATION WASHING AND DRYING MACHINE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 68—19)

This invention relates to improvements in laundry machines and more particularly relates to an improved form of unitary washing and drying machine.

A principal object of my invention is to provide a novel and improved form of laundry machine for washing and drying clothes in separate compartments and arranged with the view toward compactness, accessibility and ease of operation.

Another object of my invention is to provide a combination washing and drying machine consisting of separate washing and drying compartments, arranged one above the other, wherein all of the washing and drying operations may be controlled from one of the compartments.

A further object of my invention is to provide a cabinet construction for a combination washing and drying machine wherein the frame structure for the cabinet forms two vertically spaced cabinets offset from each other, to afford access to the lower compartment from the top thereof.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a combination washing and drying machine including a cabinet having two vertically spaced offset compartments one for washing and the other for drying, the lower of which compartments opens from the top thereof, and the side walls of the cabinet of which form a support for the upper of the compartments, and offset the upper compartment from the lower compartment a distance sufficient to afford free opening of the top cover and access to a clothes container therein from the top thereof.

These and other objects of my invention will appear from time to time as the following specification proceeds and with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a front end view of a laundry machine constructed in accordance with my invention; and

Figure 2 is a view in side elevation of the machine shown in Figure 1.

In the embodiment of my invention illustrated in the drawings, I have shown a combined washing and drying machine comprising a cabinet 10 of a unitary structure and having two vertically spaced laundry compartments 11 and 12, the lower of which is shown as being a washing compartment and the upper of which is shown as being a drying compartment and as being offset rearwardly with respect to the lower compartment, to afford access to the lower compartment from the top thereof.

The lower compartment 11 is shown as having a base 13 which may rest on the floor, a front wall 14 and parallel spaced side walls 15,15 extending therealong and upwardly above a top 16 of said compartment and forming side walls for the upper compartment 12.

The lower compartment 11 is shown as having a top opening cover 17, hinged to the top 16 of said compartment toward the rear end thereof, and opening upwardly to afford access to a clothes container 19 suitably journaled within said compartment. The clothes container 19 is shown as being of a type commonly used in com-

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bined washing and drying machines, which may extract water from the clothes by spinning the clothes, and which has an agitator 20 supported therein. The agitator 20 may be reciprocally driven by a motor 21 through suitable oscillating drive mechanism, which may be driven by said motor through a belt drive 22. The motor 21 and belt drive 22 may be connected to the oscillating drive mechanism through suitable clutch means (not shown) to oscillatably drive the agitator 20 or may be connected by the clutch to spin the clothes container 19 and extract moisture therefrom as in my joint patent with Luther Ringer No. 2,521,159 dated, September 5, 1950, and not herein shown or described since it forms no part of my present invention.

The side walls 15, 15 of the cabinet 10 are shown as extending for substantially the height of the two compartments and as having a rearwardly inclined offset portion 24, in the space between the compartments 11 and 12, offsetting the compartment 12 rearwardly with respect to the compartment 11 a distance sufficient to afford free opening of the cover 17 and free access to the clothes container 19, without interference from the bottom of the compartment 12. The side walls 15, 15 in the space between the compartments 11 and 12 may be reinforced by a frame structure, which may consist in angles 25 and 26 extending along the top 16 of the compartment 11 and the bottom of the compartment 12, and connected together by angles 27, 27 extending along the inclined forward and rear faces of the intermediate offset portion of the side walls 15, 15.

The compartment 12 is shown as having a top 29, a rear wall 30 and a front wall 31, all of which are spaced above the top of the compartment 11 and are offset rearwardly therefrom by the offsets of the side walls 15, 15 of the cabinet, and are rigidly supported by said side walls so as to afford a unitary cabinet structure. The front wall 31 of the upper compartment 12 is shown as having a door 32 hinged thereto, affording a means for access to a drier drum 33 contained within the compartment 11 and rotatably driven by a motor 34 within said compartment, for drying the clothes therein. The motor 34 is shown as driving the drier drum 33 by means of series of belt drives 35, as in my joint application with Harold E. Morrison, Serial No. 123,018 filed on October 22, 1949 and entitled "Gas Heated Drier," so not herein shown or described in detail. The compartment 12 may also be provided with suitable air ducts and means for heating and circulating the air into and out of the drum 33 as in the aforementioned prior application Serial No. 123,018 so not herein shown or described further. It should here be understood that the heating means may either be a well known form of gas burner or an electric heater.

On the front wall 31 of the compartment 12, and adjacent the lower end thereof at the right hand portion of said front wall, I have shown control knobs 39 and 40, which may control the temperature and may time an operation of the drier drum 33, as in the aforementioned application Serial No. 123,018. On the opposite side of the lower end portion of the front wall 31 of the compartment 12, I have shown two control knobs 43 and 44, which may control the temperature and sequential operation of the clothes container 19 and the agitator 20. The control from the two knobs 43 and 44 may be like that of Patent No. 2,521,159 previously mentioned, and no part of my present invention so not herein shown or described further.

It may be seen from the foregoing that a unitary laundry machine has been provided, wherein the washing and extracting operations may be carried out in one part of the machine, and the drying operation may be carried out in another part of the machine, and wherein the

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washing and extracting and the drying operations may be controlled from one of the laundry compartments located for ready access and visibility.

It may further be seen that a unitary cabinet structure has been provided, wherein separate laundry compartments for washing and drying are so arranged to afford free access to either compartment without stooping or stretching.

It will be understood that various modifications and variations of the present invention may be effected without departing from the spirit and scope of the novel concepts thereof.

I claim as my invention:

A laundry machine for washing and drying clothes comprising in combination a first lower laundry cabinet for housing the laundry equipment therein, a second upper laundry cabinet for housing the laundry equipment and being substantially the same size as the first cabinet, supporting walls between the cabinets extending from the front to the rear of the cabinets and spaced

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from each other and supporting the second cabinet above the first in spaced relationship thereto, said second cabinet being positioned rearwardly of the first to expose a portion of the top of the first cabinet, and an access door in the top of the first cabinet hinged at its rear to swing upwardly between said supporting walls, said walls acting as a side guide for clothes placed in the access door to aid in placing the clothes into the interior of the drier, the door acting as a rear guide for insertion of the clothes.

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