Oct. 25, 1927. 1,646,524

L. P. BLAKEY

PROTECTOR OR AUTOMOBILE WASH APRON

Filed May 25, 1926

Fig. 1.

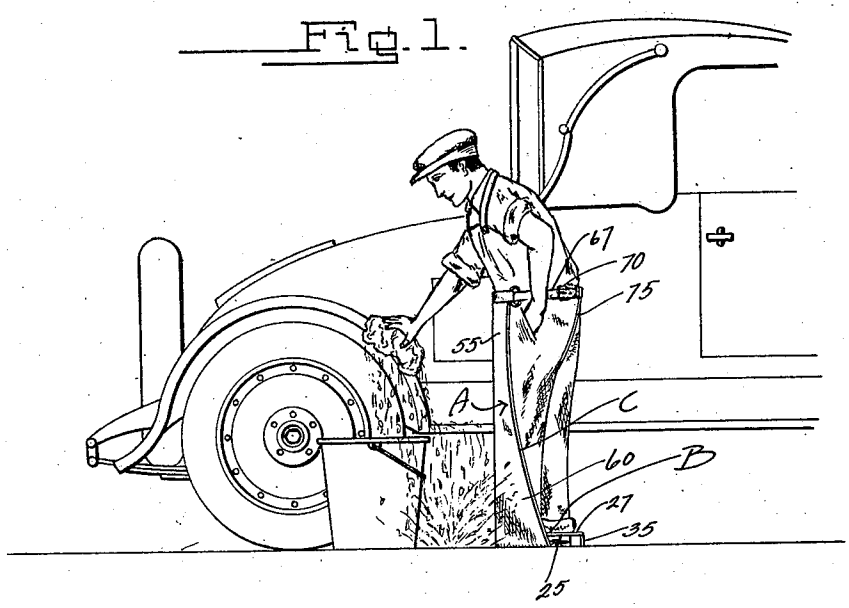


Fig. 2.

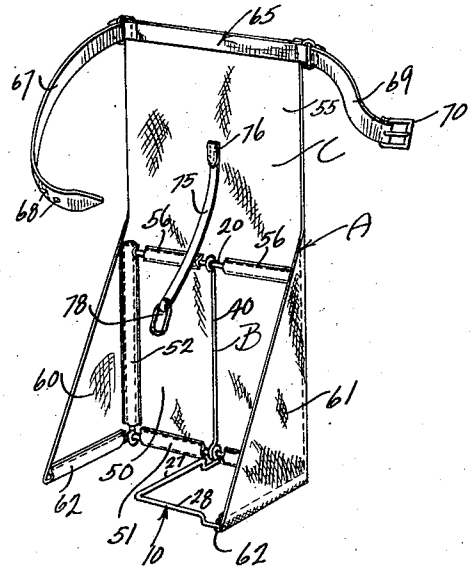
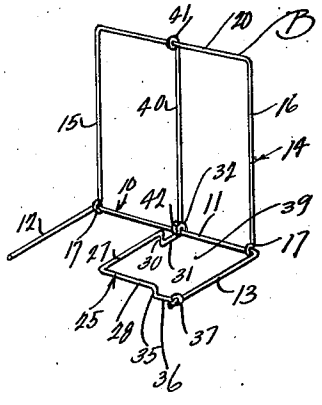


Fig. 3.



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Patented Oct. 25, 1927. 1,646,524

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PROTECTOR OR AUTOMOBILE WASH APRON.

Application filed May 25, 1926. Serial No. 111,584.

This invention relates to an improved apron device to be worn by persons during the cleaning of an automobile or the like.

The primary object of this invention is the provision of a water proof apron or protector to be worn by persons during the washing of an automobile, to furnish complete protection, without discomfort.

The conventional method of protection during car or vehicle washing is to wear hip boots which are quite satisfactory but very uncomfortable and inconvenient at times, especially when during an emergency it becomes necessary to remove the boots and wear shoes. Change from boots to shoes, or vice versa, consumes considerable time, but the improved protector apron device, may be very readily donned or discarded as desired, without much trouble and loss of time.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side elevation of an automobile, showing an operator washing the car, utilizing the improved water proof apron or protector.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of details of the improved protector in the position in which the same is normally supported as worn by an operator.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of frame details of the improved protector, in extended relation.

In the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown the preferred embodiment of the invention, the letter A may generally designate the improved protector, which may comprise a collapsible supporting frame B upon which the improved water proof apron material C is provided.

The collapsible frame B is preferably formed of wire $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch in diameter, in order to hold the apron in shape. The frame preferably comprises a substantially U-shaped base 10, consisting of a front rod 11, with rearwardly extending side legs 12 and 13. A vertical apron connecting frame part 14 is pivotally connected to the base frame part 10, for swinging from a collapsed position upon the frame 10, to a vertical right angled position, during the support of the apron upon a person. This frame portion 14 is substantially U-shaped in formation, including the side legs 15 and 16, pivotally connected at their lower ends 17 to the cross rod 11 adjacent the legs 12 and 13 of the frame 10; said legs 15 and 16 of the front frame portion 14 being connected at their outer ends by means of a horizontal cross bar 20, which is uppermost when the frame 14 is swung to a vertical apron supporting position. Of course, the parts 10 and 14 are so connected that they may be swung into collapsed parallel planes. The frame construction B furthermore includes a foot engaging part 25, adapted to be used for shifting the position of the improved protector A, and this foot engaging device 25 preferably comprises an elevated side rail 27 and an elevated rear rail 28, which are in right angled relation; the side rail 27 being offset downwardly at 30, and providing a horizontal ground rest portion 31 which is connected at 32 to the cross rail 11 of the frame base 10, preferably about midway between the side connecting legs 15 and 16 of the frame 14. In similar manner the rear elevated foot engaging rail 28 is offset at 35 and provides a relatively short ground rest portion 36 which is connected at 37 to the rear end of the side leg 13 of the frame base 10. The foot of the operator is adapted to rest in the space 39 bounded by the leg 13, cross rod 11, and elevated side and rear rails 27 and 28, in such position that the heel may hit against the elevated rail 28 to move the entire protecting device rearwardly, or so that the foot may shift laterally into engagement with the elevated rail 27 to move the improved device bodily to the left; it being preferred that when the device is to be moved to the right, that the leg 13 may be utilized by abutting the right foot thereagainst, or that the left foot of the operator may be moved against the elevated rail 27 to cause such shift. It is of course understood that the rear rail 28 and side rail 27 are elevated for about two inches above the ground surface, to facilitate the easy movement of the foot into engagement therewith, to cause the movement of the improved protecting device in the proper direction.

If desired a central reinforcing bar or rod 40 may be supported in connection with the frame section 14, connected at its outer end 41 to the cross rail 20 substantially midway between the legs 15 and 16, and pivotally connected at its opposite end 42 with the

cross rod or bar 11 substantially midway between the legs 12 and 13, and in the relation illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawing.

The improved apron member C is preferably of rubber, or other water proof material, and the same preferably includes the lower front portion 50, its lower margin being doubled at 51 about the cross rod 11 of the frame base 10, and stitched or vulcanized to receive the said rod or bar 11 therethrough in a water-proof connection. At the side margins thereof the front portion 50 is provided with sleeves 52, preferably on the rear surface thereof, vulcanized or stitched in water-proof relation, in place, and receiving the side legs 15 and 16 of the collapsible frame front 14 therein. The apron member C further includes the upper flexible portion 55, extending above the outer bar or rod 20 of the frame 14, and at the juncture of the front portion 50 and the upper flexible portion 55, the apron is secured to the outer bar or rod 20 of the collapsible frame front 14 by means of sleeves or like connections 56 vulcanized or stitched in water-proof relation.

At each side the apron construction C is preferably provided with the integral triangular shaped side panels 60 and 61, which at their front margins are connected integral with the side margins of the apron parts 50 and 55, and extending at an increasing width from the top towards the legs 12 and 13 of the frame base 10, where suitable sleeves 62 or the like are provided in a water-proof stitched or vulcanized relation about the legs 12 and 13.

At its upper edge the upper flexible portion 55 is preferably provided with a belt member 65 secured fixedly in place in any approved relation, and providing a strap portion 67 extending outwardly from one side margin of the upper portion 55, having openings 68 therein, and providing another strap portion 69 extending outwardly from the other side having a buckle 70, for receiving the openings 68 of the other strap portion 67; it being intended to encircle the belt 65 about the waist of the wearer, in order to support the upper flexible portion of the apron in front of the wearer, as a protection for the body and garment of the wearer above the legs and more particularly the knees.

To prevent sag of the loose portion 55 of the apron during bending of the washer, it is preferred to provide a take-up strap 75, which is secured at one end 76 at substantially the middle of the flexible top portion 55, and which is adapted to be extended downwardly between the legs of the operator, and upwardly at the rear of the operator, and at its free end being provided with a buckle loop 78 for receiving thru the loop thereof the belt 65 when the same is placed about the operator; it being adapted to thread the end section 67 of the belt 65 thru the loop 78, to hold the strap 75 snugly between the legs of the operator, so that should the operator stoop the flexible portion 55 will be maintained close to the body and preventing outward bulge, which would be liable to permit water to soil the wearer's garments.

The operation of the improved protector or automobile wash apron will be apparent from the foregoing. The upper portion 55 is flexible, and it is securely affixed to the body of the wearer, to follow the contour of the wearer's body. The water-proof portion of the body C prevents the water from soiling the wearer's garments, and the side panels 60 and 61 protect the sides of the legs of the operator. The application or removal of the protecting wash apron A may be accomplished very quickly, merely by lifting of the foot from the space 39, and opening of the belt 65.

Various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be made to the form of invention herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. In an automobile wash apron construction the combination of a collapsible supporting frame, flexible water-proofing apron means connected with the frame, and means carried by the apron independent of said frame for attaching the same to a person's body.

2. In an automobile wash apron the combination of an elongated flexible water-proof apron element, rigid frame means connected at the lower end of the apron element for resting upon a supporting surface, and means at the upper end of the apron element for attachment to the body of a wearer.

3. In an automobile wash apron the combination of an elongated flexible water-proof apron element, rigid frame means at the lower end of the apron element for resting upon a supporting surface, means at the upper end of the apron element for attachment to the body of a wearer, and means carried by the first mentioned means for engagement by the foot of a person to cause lateral shifting of the lower portion of the apron along a supporting surface.

4. An automobile wash apron construction comprising a collapsible frame including a floor engaging base portion and a collapsible front portion adapted to be extended substantially vertical from the base portion or collapsed thereon, and a water-proof apron portion including a lower part connected to the collapsible front of the frame and an upper flexible portion extending above the frame.

5. An automobile wash apron construction

comprising a collapsible frame including a floor engaging base portion and a collapsible front portion adapted to be extended substantially vertical from the base portion or collapsed thereon, and a water-proof apron portion including a lower part connected to the collapsible front of the frame and an upper flexible portion extending above the frame, the upper flexible portion having a belt thereon for attachment above the body of a wearer.

6. An automobile wash apron construction comprising a collapsible frame including a floor engaging base portion and a collapsible front portion adapted to be extended substantially vertical from the base portion or collapsed thereon, a water-proof apron portion including a lower part connected to the collapsible front of the frame and an upper flexible portion extending above the frame, the upper flexible portion having a belt thereon for attachment about the body of a wearer, and a strap connected with the flexible apron portion and adapted to be engaged by the belt with the strap extended between the legs of an operator to permit the flexible portion to follow the contour of the person's body when bending during a car operation.

7. An automobile wash apron comprising a collapsible frame including a floor engaging base portion, and an upstanding front portion adapted to be extended in right angled relation with the base portion or collapsed downwardly thereon, an elongated water-proof apron element having a lower front portion for attachment to the collapsible front portion of the frame and including an upper flexible portion adapted to extend above the front portion of the frame when the latter is open, a belt at the upper end of the flexible portion of the apron for engagement about the waist of the wearer, a strap connected at one end substantially at the middle of the flexible upper portion and having a loop at its opposite end for threading thru the belt with the strap extended between the legs of the person wearing the apron, side water-proof panels connected between the base and front portion of the frame, and means carried by the base portion of the frame against which the foot of an operator may abut to guide the rearward or side movement of the frame in the desired direction.

8. An apron construction for car washers including a flexible water-proof apron portion including an upper part for extension about the waist of the wearer and a lower part for extension across the legs of a wearer, and a rigid frame connected in the lower part of the apron to hold the same transversely in position.

9. In a car washer's apron the combination of a flexible apron portion having means thereon for connecting it about the waist of a wearer, and having a frame in the bottom thereof transversely holding the apron extended across the front of the wearer, and means on said frame which may be connected to the legs of the wearer adjacent the feet for holding the frame against relative movement with respect to the feet of the wearer.

10. As an article of manufacture a flexible water-proof apron comprising a skirt adapted to extend from the waist to the feet of the wearer, the same being formed un-bifurcated, and having side panels at the lower end thereof extending transversely to the apron, and frame means to hold the side panels and the lower portion of the skirt in relative rigid relation.

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