

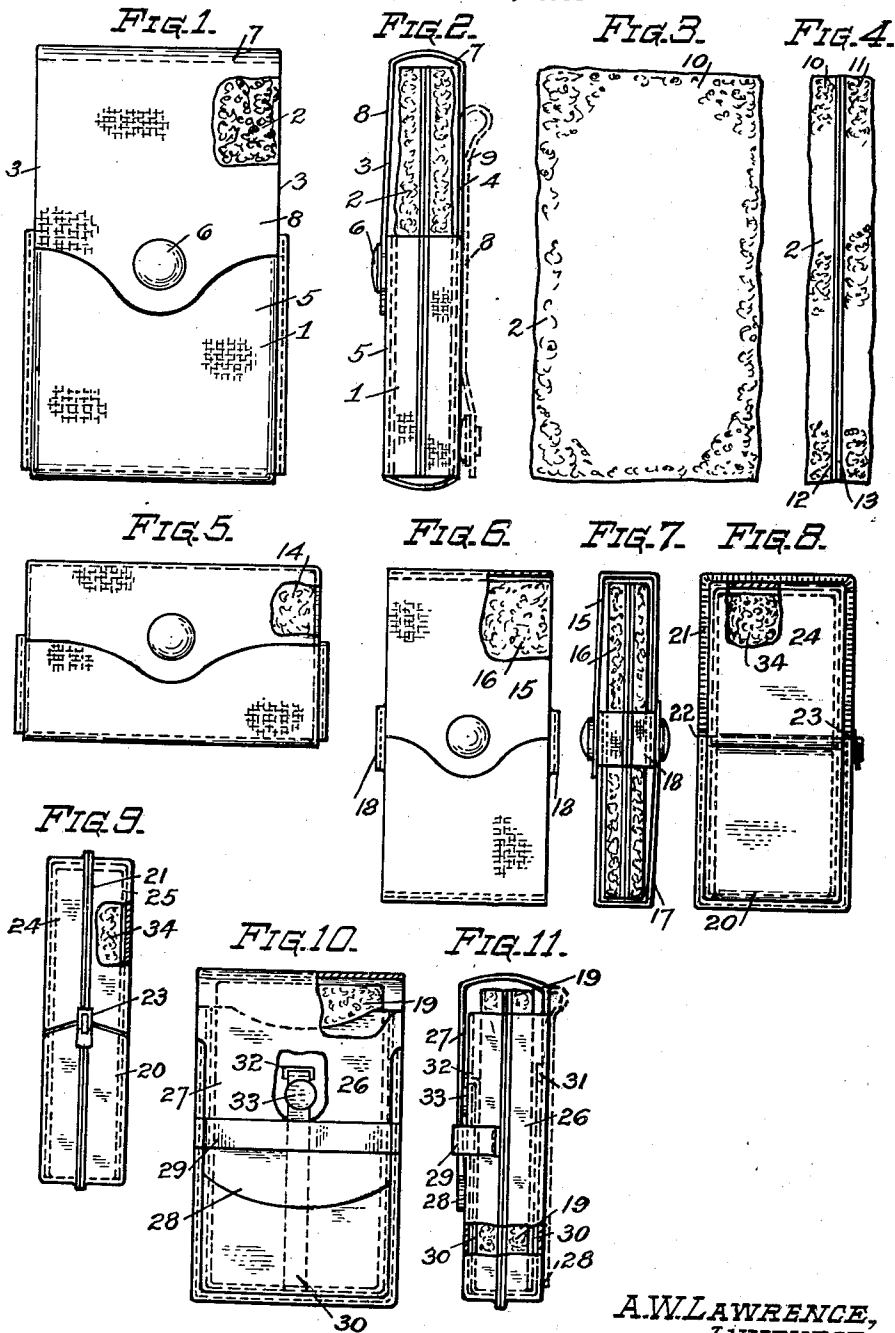
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UNIVERSAL CLEANING DEVICE

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UNIVERSAL CLEANING DEVICE

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The present invention relates to hand-cleaning devices for dry-cleaning shoes, purses, felt hats, spats, suede and buckskin gloves, velvet or velour articles, gabardine shoes, and similar articles. While the device is mostly used for dry-cleaning purposes, yet same may also be used for applying liquid polish and cleaning white buckskin shoes, purses and other articles when desired.

The device itself consists of a sponge rubber pad, which is mounted in a rubberized cloth or similar holder, and when both faces of one end of the pad become soiled, the pad may be reversed in the holder in order to use the opposite end and faces for further cleaning purposes. When both ends of the pad are dirty the pad itself may be washed in hot soap suds, or cleaned in gasoline, and dried for further use in the pad holder as will be explained hereinafter in this specification.

A principal feature of the invention lies in the combination which is made between a pad and an enclosing case, which has a flap portion which is adapted to be returned upon itself to form a support for the end of the pad, as well as a protection against soiling of the fingers of the user, and when said flap is not in use, same covers the soiled end of the pad, as will be further explained below.

The cleaning pad being covered and protected by a rubberized cloth holder, may be placed in a lady's hand-bag without soiling or contamination of other articles.

In the drawing forming part of this specification, I have shown a complete embodiment of one form of the device, and several modifications thereof.

Fig. 1 is a front view in elevation of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of Fig. 1 taken from the right thereof.

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the sponge rubber insert used with the invention.

Fig. 4 is a right side elevation of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of another modified form of the device.

Fig. 7 is a right side view of Fig. 6 in elevation.

Fig. 8 is a front view of a modified form of the device.

Fig. 9 is a right side view of Fig. 8 in elevation.

Fig. 10 is a front elevational view of still another modified type of the invention.

Fig. 11 is a right side elevation of Fig. 10.

In its simplest form as illustrated in Figures 1

to 5 of the drawing the present invention comprises a casing 1, preferably made of rubberized cloth cotton, leather or similar material, and a double piece unit of sponge rubber 2, which is adapted to slidably operate in said casing. In this type of covering case the opposed ends 3, 3 are shown open and the rear wall 4 is carried over the top of the sponge rubber 2 at 7, to form a flap 8, and thence to the front wall 5 where it is secured preferably by a snap button 6. When the sponge rubber cleaner is in use the portion 7 is doubled rearwardly upon itself as shown in Fig. 2 dotted, and the fingers of the user of the device rest on the upper portion 9 of the doubled flap 8, and the latter keeps the fingers clean as well as forming a "backing" for the rubber pad when in use. When not in use the soiled surface of the sponge 2 is covered by the flap 8 so that the whole device may be placed in a lady's hand-bag or, other receptacle, as is at once understood.

In Figures 3 and 4 we see the sponge rubber 2 shown clearly per se, and it will be seen that the said rubber is preferably of medium soft, fine pore, pliable sponge rubber, each half-portion 10, 11 having a rind thereon 12, 13, respectively placed "back-to-back" and securely cemented or vulcanized together. This double rind gives a slight support to the sponge portion of the rubber pad 2, and facilitates the use of the same by such support.

Figure 5 shows a modified type of device which is substantially like Figures 1 and 2 except that the rubber may be used on its side edges 14 in this type, which only varies in shape from the form just described.

Figures 6 and 7 show another modification which is advantageous in some instances, since the flap portion 15 exposes when reversed the sponge rubber 16 on both faces of one end of the sponge; and the flap portion 17 exposes the opposite end of the sponge 16 and on its two face surfaces. This is equivalent to using both ends of the sponge 16 without removing the same from its holder 18, whereas in Fig. 1 the sponge 2 has to be manually reversed and placed in the holder 1, after the one end has been soiled by use.

Figures 8 and 9 show still another type of the device wherein an entirely closed case 20 may be used, and what is called a Zipper fastening device 21 used which extends preferably from points 22 to 23 of the casing. It is readily seen that the opposed upper sides 24, 25 of the case can be bent outwardly and downwardly when it is desired to

use the sponge cleaning pad 34 which normally is enclosed within the case 20.

In Figures 10 and 11 it will be noted that the cleaning pad 19 is mounted in still another modified type of holder 26 in which the flap 27 normally passes over the top of the pad 19, and the end 28 is tucked under a leather or rubberized band 29 for the purpose of securing the end 28 in a closed position. In this type of case is preferably mounted a piece of tape 30, same being attached at point 31 to the rear wall of the case 26 and passes down beneath the pad 19, and through an orifice 32 in the front wall of the case, the end of said tape protruding downwardly at 33 as shown. It is readily seen that by reversing the flap 27 as shown in Fig. 11 and pulling on the end 33 of the tape 30 that the pad 19 is projected from the case in position for using the end of said pad. Moreover if the flap 27 is only partially returned upon itself, a portion of same may be used as a support for the portion of the pad being used, and at the same time act as a protection to prevent the fingers of the user being contaminated by any soiled portions of the end of the pad.

This last feature applies to all the forms of the device herein described, and in combination with the various structures used as holders is one of the most important features of the invention. Moreover when the various forms of the case are closed, the soiled portions of the cleaning-pad are always covered, and contamination of any articles usually found in a lady's hand-bag is thereby prevented.

It is readily seen that, in the forms of the device shown in Figures 5, 8 and 10, the sponge rubber pads in each instance may be reversed in the holder when the outer ends become soiled, similar to the procedure followed in the case of the form shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawing.

I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, a resilient sponge-like cleaning-pad, a casing completely enclosing one end portion of said pad, the other end portion projecting freely a substantial working distance from said casing, a flap formed as an extension of the rear wall of the casing, adapted when in a returned position to leave exposed for use, the edges and working face of the pad, and form both a support for the free end of the pad, and a means for keeping the fingers of the user of the device clean while the end of the pad is in use, and said flap also providing a protecting covering means for the soiled end of the pad when the flap is in a closed position, and secured on the front wall of the casing.

2. In a device of the class described, a clean-

ing-pad of sponge-like material, a casing having a body portion completely enclosing a middleward portion of said pad while the end portions of same are adapted to project freely from said casing, a pair of flap portions formed on opposed side walls of the body of the casing, each flap portion being adapted when in a returned position to form a support for an exposed end of the pad, as well as a protection for the fingers of the user of the device, and each flap portion also providing a covering-means for the soiled portion of the pad, when the flap portion is secured to the body of the casing.

3. In a device of the class described, a pad of resilient cleaning material, a casing having a lower portion adapted to completely enclose one end portion of the pad, and an upper portion on said casing composed of two half-sections, each of which may be returned upon the lower portion of the casing to expose a freely projecting portion of the opposite end portion of the pad, while the other half-section may be used to form a support for the exposed end of the pad, as well as provide a protecting means for the fingers of the user, and zipper means for securing the two half-sections together and completely enclose the pad within the case.

4. In a device of the class described, a cleaning pad, a casing therefor having a part adapted to encompass one portion of the pad, with the other portion of the pad projecting a substantially working distance from the above-named part of the casing, and a covering means for the projecting portion of the pad formed as an extension to the casing, and which is adapted to leave exposed for use the edges and working face of the last-named portion of the pad, said covering means also forming a support for the exposed end of the pad, and adapted to keep the fingers of the user clean when the pad is in use.

5. A case for holding a cleaner in the form of a slab, said case being composed of two symmetrical parts each consisting of an elongated flap extending from a comparatively narrow section for forming a band, said parts having their band-forming sections united to define a band having an opening with the flaps extending from the opposite sides thereof, and in reverse directions with respect to the opening through the band which is adapted to embrace the cleaner about its girth so as to expose opposite end portions, said flaps being foldable over the respective end portions of the cleaner, with their distal extremities overlapping the opposite band-forming sections, and means for detachably securing the distal extremities of the flaps.

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