

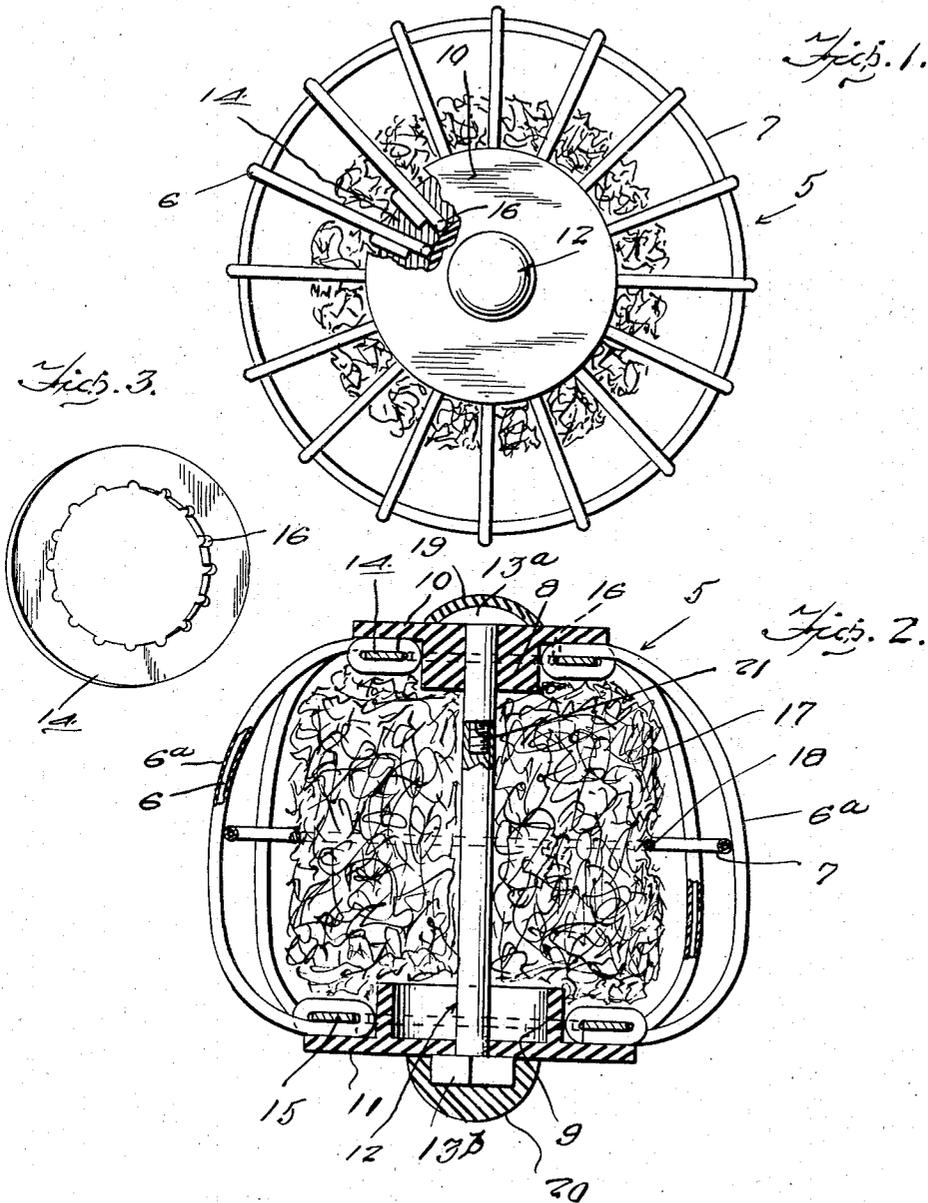
Dec. 30, 1941.

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2,268,182

LINT CATCHER

Filed May 25, 1940



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2,268,182

LINT CATCHER

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Application May 25, 1940, Serial No. 337,309

3 Claims. (Cl. 210-1)

This invention is a device particularly designed for use in connection with washing machines for catching or collecting the lint from the article being washed so as to prevent the lint from again adhering to the laundered article; and an object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is extremely simple in construction and which can be placed within the washing machine for use, and which, when in use, will in no wise tend to injure the garments or articles being laundered, or in any way interfere with the effective operation of the washing machine.

The invention, together with its objects and advantages will be best understood from a study of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the catcher with certain parts broken away and shown in section.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof, and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a ring forming part of the invention.

Referring more in detail to the drawing it will be seen that the device comprises a cage 5 of somewhat distorted spherical shape and of skeleton frame structure; the peripheral wall of the cage being formed from a plurality of rods 6 of wire or other suitable rust-proof material circumferentially spaced equidistantly apart and welded or otherwise secured intermediate the top and bottom of the cage to a ring 7 of, preferably, material from which the wall-forming members 6 are made.

At the top and bottom of the cage the rods 6 are directed inwardly towards one and another and form substantially circular openings that receive plugs 8 and 9 of rubber or other suitable material and that extend inwardly of the cage, being formed integral with disks 10 and 11, respectively, of rubber or suitable material. Preferably the plug 8 is solid while the plug 9 is hollow and the disks 10 and 11 serve to substantially close the top and bottom of the cage, the disks being secured together and in intimate contact with the ends of the wall-forming rods 6 through the medium of a center bolt 12 that extends centrally through the cage and through openings provided therefor in the disks 10 and 11 as shown.

Further for the ends of the cage there are provided flat metal rings 14 and 15, the ring 14 being of smaller diameter than the ring 15 and disposed circumjacent the plug 8, while the ring 15 is disposed circumjacent the plug 9.

At the inner edge thereof each of the rings is notched as suggested in Figure 3 and indicated by the numeral 16, the number of notches corresponding to the number of wall-forming rods 6.

The rods 6 at their respective opposite ends are looped about the respective rings 14 and 15 as shown with the looped ends of the members 6 engaging in the notches 16 so that at said ends the wall-forming members 6 are held in predetermined spaced relation.

Confined within the cage is a filler 17, the same preferably being in the form of a mass of steel wool through the center of which the bolt 12 extends as shown, the mass of wool being held in a substantially cylindrical form through the medium of a length of string or the like 18 wrapped and tied thereabout as suggested in Figure 2.

Further in accordance with the present invention the wall-forming rods 6 have thereon coverings or sheathings of rubber or similar material while the respective opposite or head-equipped ends 13a and 13b, respectively, of the bolt 12 have thereon exterior coverings 19 and 20, respectively, of rubber or similar material.

By providing the sheathings 6a and paddings or coverings 19 and 20, noise resulting from the constant shifting of the device and the striking of the same against the walls of the washing machine will be materially reduced if not entirely eliminated.

Also to facilitate assembly and disassembly, the bolt 12 is composed of two complementary sections including a relatively long section and a relatively short section as shown, and in the present instance the longer section is provided in one end with a threaded socket to receive a threaded pin on one end of the shorter section whereby the sections are detachably and axially connected together as indicated generally at 21.

In actual practice the entire device is placed haphazardly in the tub of the washer, having a tendency to settle at the bottom of the tub so that as the lint and other dirt forced from the clothing and tending to settle in the bottom of the tub comes into contact with the filler mass 17 such dirt, lint and the like will adhere thereto with the result that the amount of lint left free will be minimized to an extent as to have little or no effect on the articles being laundered.

It will also be apparent that the use of the device will in no wise result in harm either to the machine or to the articles being washed therein.

It will also be apparent that by removing the nut 13-b for separating the two sections of the

bolt the member 11 can be removed so that the body 17 can be removed from the opening left by the removal of the member 11, so that a new body of material 17 can be put in place. As this body can readily be compressed, since it is formed of steel wool, the body can be easily removed from the device and a new body placed therein. The string 18 should be tightened sufficiently to hold the body 17 inwardly of the ball-forming portions of the cage so that the lint can enter the cage and collect on the body so that a considerable amount of this lint will be caught and held by the body before the space between the body and the wires of the cage is filled with this lint.

It is thought that a clear understanding of the construction, assembly, utility and advantages of a device of this character will be had without a more detailed description.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. A device for catching and holding lint in the water of a washing machine comprising a cage of skeleton structure having an opening therein, a body formed of a mass of material which forms tendrils of relatively thin form to catch and hold lint, said body being insertable and removable through the opening, a closure for closing the opening, means for removably holding the closure in place and means for hold-

ing the body spaced from the interior portion of the cage to permit the collection of lint on the body within the cage.

2. A device for catching and holding lint in liquid in a washing machine comprising a skeleton cage of substantially spherical form with substantially flat ends, said ends having openings therein, plugs of resilient material closing the openings, a body formed of a mass of mineral wool insertable through one of the openings into the cage, means for holding the body with parts thereof spaced from the interior portions of the cage, and a bolt passing through the center of the cage and through the plugs for holding the plugs in place.

3. A device for catching and holding lint in liquid in a washing machine comprising a skeleton cage of substantially spherical form with substantially flat ends, said ends having openings therein, plugs of resilient material closing the openings, a body formed of a mass of mineral wool insertable through one of the openings into the cage, means for holding the body with parts thereof spaced from the interior portions of the cage, and a bolt passing through the center of the cage and through the plugs for holding the plugs in place and resilient covers for the members of the cage and the ends of the bolt.

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