June 14, 1960 E. R. WONDRACK 2,940,086

INFANT'S TOILET SEAT

Filed Dec. 20, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

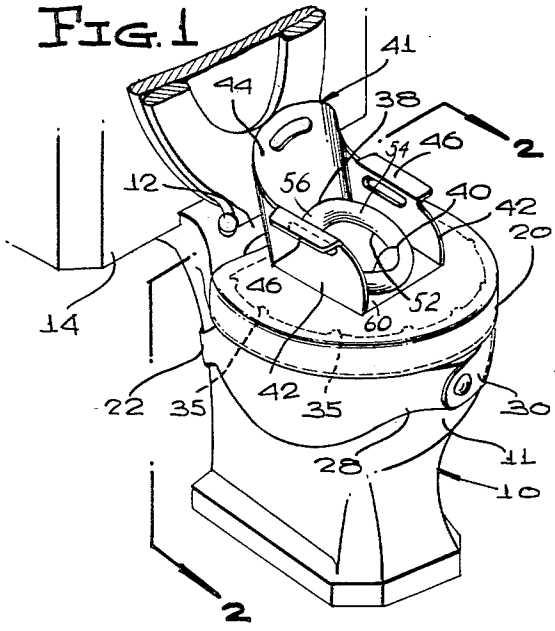


FIG. 2

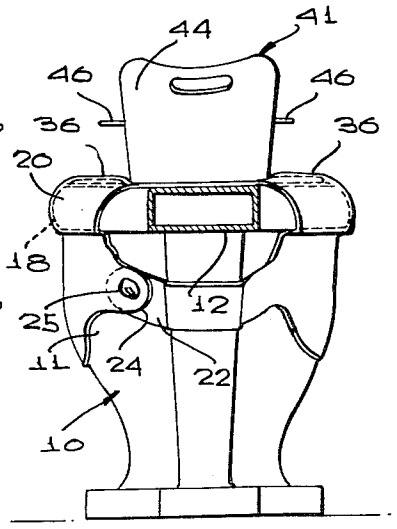


FIG. 3

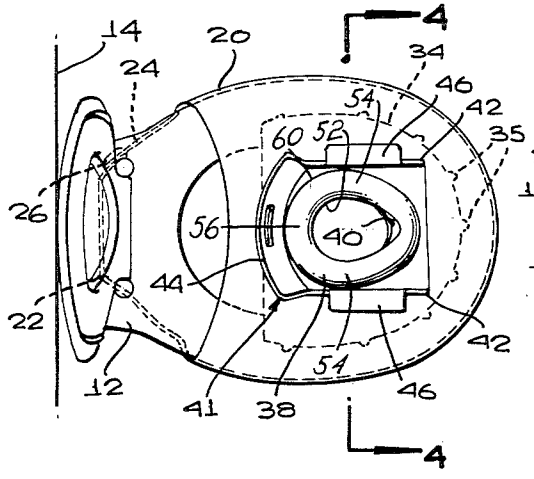
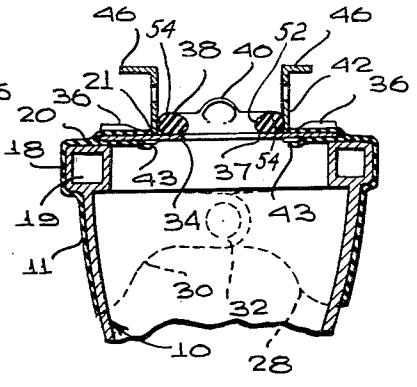


FIG. 4



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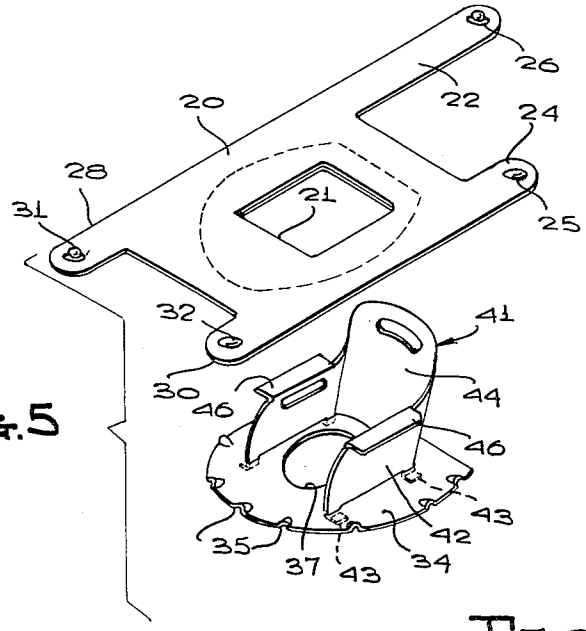
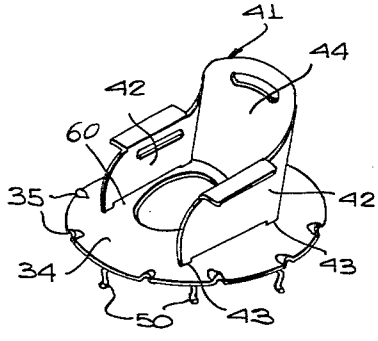


FIG. 5

FIG. 7



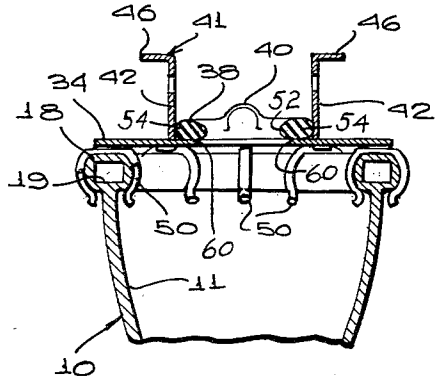


FIG. 6

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INFANT'S TOILET SEAT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 4—239)

This invention relates to toilet seats or trainers for small children, and more particularly has reference to a generally improved device of this nature, designed to be supported upon a toilet in such a manner as to prevent any damage whatever to the surface of the toilet fixture.

Conventionally, toilet seats or trainers for infants are so designed that they tend to scratch or otherwise damage the surface of the toilet seats or adjacent components of the toilet fixture. Usually, the repeated application of a device of this type to a toilet seat, and the removal of the same, tends to create scars by reason of the contact of the infant's seat with the same portions of the toilet, each time the device is used on the toilet. Then too, the device itself tends to wear due to said repeated applications and removals, and this wears away protective material provided upon the infant's seat, exposing bare metal which of course tends to scar the toilet fixture even more heavily.

In view of the above, one important object of the present invention is to provide an infant's toilet seat or trainer that will not damage the toilet seat in any way, due to the fact that the device is not used upon the toilet seat, but rather, is completely out of contact therewith, being applied instead directly to the top surface of the bowl.

Another object is to provide a device of the character stated which will be designed to be wholly protectively sheathed in a manner to insure to the maximum extent against damage to the toilet seat.

Still another object is to provide an infant's toilet seat or trainer that is designed for use on any of various toilet bowls differing from one another in respect to their particular design, without requiring any modification or redesign either of the infant's toilet seat or of the water closet or bowl.

Still another object is to provide a device as stated which will be swiftly and easily applicable to or removable from the bowl.

A further object of importance is to so form the device that it will be capable of manufacture at relatively low cost, and will be attractive and durable.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claim appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an infant's toilet seat or trainer, in position upon a conventional toilet bowl.

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1, showing the device in rear elevation.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the device applied to the toilet bowl.

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of the device.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a modified form.

Figure 7 is a view on the same cutting plane as Figure 4, showing the modified device applied to the toilet bowl.

Referring to the drawing in detail, designated generally at **10** is a conventional toilet bowl, said toilet bowl being provided with the usual connection **12** to a flush tank **14**. The bowl has the usual side wall **11**, tapering in a downward direction, and integral at its upper end with a ledge portion **18** having the usual conduit **19**.

The device constituting the present invention includes a flexible bowl gripping member **20**. This may be formed of rubber material or the like, and might, for example, be formed of a flexible plastic. It is mainly important that the material be designed not to abrade the surface of the toilet bowl, and it is further important that the device be formed in a manner to insure to the maximum extent that it will be readily washable so as to be easily kept in a sanitary condition, as well as being durable to withstand heavy use.

In any event, the flexible member **20** in the form shown in Figures 1–5 is of generally rectangular outer configuration, and has a substantially centrally disposed, generally rectangular opening **21**. Projecting from one end of the member **20**, at opposite sides thereof, are connector straps **22**, **24**, strap **24** being substantially shorter than strap **22** and having a separable fastener element **25** engageable with a complementary fastener element **26**.

At the other end of the member **20** are connecting straps **28**, **30**, both short in length and having complementary male and female fastener elements **31**, **32**, respectively.

A generally planiform metal plate **34** (see Figures 3 and 4) has a straight back edge (see Figure 3) and has side and front edges following a continuous arc and formed with uniformly spaced, small corrugations or flutes **35**. The corrugations project upwardly to a slight extent out of the general plane of plate **34**, the plate being wholly embedded, over its full area, within the member **20**. As a result, the member **20** is caused to have small undulations **36** (Figures 2 and 4) and this arrangement insures to the maximum extent against relative movement of the plate and member or against any tendency of the plate to loosen within the member.

Formed substantially centrally within the plate **34** is an opening **37** (see Figures 4 and 5), which may be oval as shown, in a typical embodiment. Opening **37** is in registration with opening **21**, and supported upon the protectively enclosed plate, in position extending about opening **37**, is a correspondingly shaped toilet seat **38** for the infant, formed of plastic, rubber, or any other suitable material. In the illustrated example, seat **38** has a guard **40** at its front, so that said seat would be of the type used by a male infant. The guard would be omitted on seats to be used by females.

Extending about the toilet seat is a chair structure **41**, having side walls **42** formed at their lower edges with laterally outwardly extending connecting ears **43** (see Figures 4 and 5). A back rest **44** is also formed in the chair structure, integrally with walls **42**, and at the top edges of the walls there are integrally provided arm rests **46**. Openings can be formed in the side walls and in the back rests, facilitating grasping of the chair structure.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 6 and 7, the chair structure **41** is identical to that of the first form, as is the removable toilet seat **38**. In this form of the invention, plate **34** is identical to the first form, and chair structure **41** is secured to the plate by means of the ears **43**, exactly as in the first form of the invention.

In this form, however, the means for gripping the toilet bowl differs. Plate **34** is completely sheathed in rubber or similar material, exactly as in the first form of the invention. However, the material that encloses the plate does not have the strap portions. Instead, fixedly secured to the underside of the plate is a plurality of downwardly

opening, approximately U-shaped gripping hooks or forks **50**, all of which are completely rubber-enclosed or sheathed. Hooks **50** can of course vary in number and spacing, but in a typical embodiment there would be a pair of said hooks or forks at each side of the device, and one at the front, making a total of five. This would be sufficient to cause the hooks to have a good grip on the hollow ledge portion **18**. The hooks are spring-tensioned, being normally progressively decreased in distance apart in a direction toward the distal ends of the legs of each hook. The legs of each hook at their distal ends are outturned; as a result, by a straight downward movement of the device, said legs will be spread by the bowl ledge resiliently, after which the legs will close about the flange or ledge portion in stradding relation thereto as shown in Figure 7 when the infant's toilet seat is in its use position.

The device can of course be removed with equal ease.

It is understood that in both forms of the invention, the device would be used directly upon the ledge portion, rather than upon the conventional toilet seat. As a result, there is no possibility whatever of damaging of the toilet seat surface in any way. Still further, the space surrounding the infant's toilet seat is fully closed, so that the infant cannot accidentally or intentionally drop articles into the water, etc. Still further, the porcelain surface of the toilet bowl cannot be marred in any way, since all portions of the device that come in contact therewith are fully sheathed in a relatively soft, protective material.

As clearly shown in Figure 3, the seat **38** has a center aperture **52** bounded at its sides and back by side portions **54** and back portion **56** of the seat **38**.

The side walls **42** and the back wall **44** of the chair structure **41** constitute upstanding abutments, engaging the side portions **52** and back portion **54** respectively, when the seat **38** is centered over the opening **37**.

Thus, a completely removable seat **38** is provided, that can be washed independently of the remaining components of the device, and that can otherwise be kept in a sanitary manner. Further, the seat **38** can be discarded in the event it shows signs of heavy deterioration due to long use and frequent washings. In such an event, a new seat **38** can be purchased, without requiring the purchase of the remaining parts of the toilet seat device comprising the present invention.

Another important characteristic of this arrangement resides in the fact that the seat **38** can be of two different forms, one for females and one for males. Either form can be purchased by the consumer, for use with the chair structure, support plate, and bowl-gripping means. This reduces considerably the cost of manufacture, as will be readily apparent, since the chair structure, support plate, and bowl-gripping means can remain unchanged, regardless of whether the device is to be used by a male or female infant.

It is also to be noted, from Figure 4, that when the seat **38** is positioned in abutting relation to the chair structure, so as to be centered over the opening **37**, the inner edge of the seat **38** projects laterally inwardly beyond the edge of the opening **37**, to provide an overhang. This is desirable to prevent soiling of the plate **37**.

The arrangement is one in which the side walls **42** and back wall **44** of chair structure **41** are spaced outwardly from the sides and back, respectively, of the opening **37**, thus to define, about the sides and back of the opening, a planiform support ledge **60** of the plate **34**, on which ledge the seat **38** is disposed, in the above-mentioned centered position and abutting relation to the chair structure, overhanging the edge of the opening **37**. Responsive merely to the insertion of the seat **38** into the space bounded by the chair structure, there will be automatically effected an accurate positioning of the seat **38** in the above-discussed relationship to the remaining components of the device.

It is understood, further, that the device could be made with a folding chair structure, and that certain other variations could be made, so long as the principles of the invention, as specified in the appended claims, are retained. Still further, there could be various other differences, in respect to the types of fasteners used, etc.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation, and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

An infant's toilet device for disposition upon a toilet bowl having a ledge portion, comprising: a generally plantiform support plate adapted to rest directly upon said ledge portion and having an opening; means connected with and projecting downwardly below the plane of the plate adapted for releasably gripping said bowl; a rigidly constituted chair structure fixedly attached to and projecting upwardly from said plane, said chair structure including side walls between which the opening is disposed, said side walls being respectively spaced laterally outwardly from the corresponding sides of the opening, said chair structure further including a back wall fixedly connected to and extending transversely between the side walls, said back wall being spaced rearwardly from the back edge of the opening whereby a flat seat support ledge is defined between the chair structure and the edge of the opening extending along the sides and the back of the opening, said side and back walls defining upstanding abutments bounding said ledge; and a toilet seat having a central aperture and including side and back portions bounding said aperture, said seat being removably positioned upon the ledge wholly above said plane with its aperture centered over said opening, said side and back portions engaging the side and back walls of the chair structure respectively, to retain the seat against lateral and rearward displacement from the centered position thereof, said bowl-gripping means comprising a flexible member having a substantially centrally disposed opening receiving the chair structure, said plate being fixedly secured to said member, said member including connector straps adapted for extension about the bowl to connect the member to the bowl.

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