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COMPARTMENTED CLOTHES HAMPER

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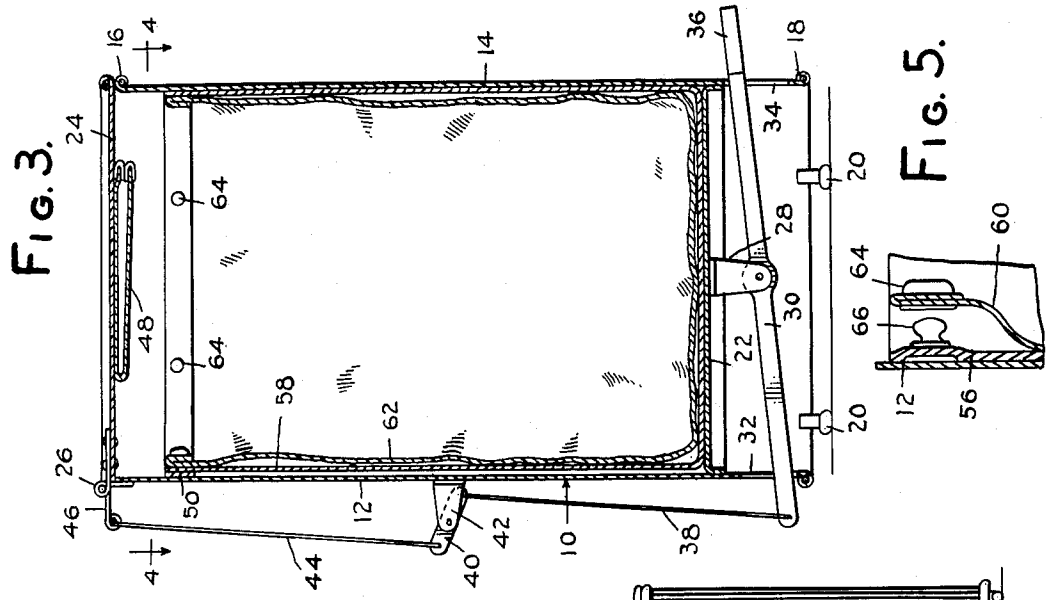


FIG. 3.

FIG. 5.

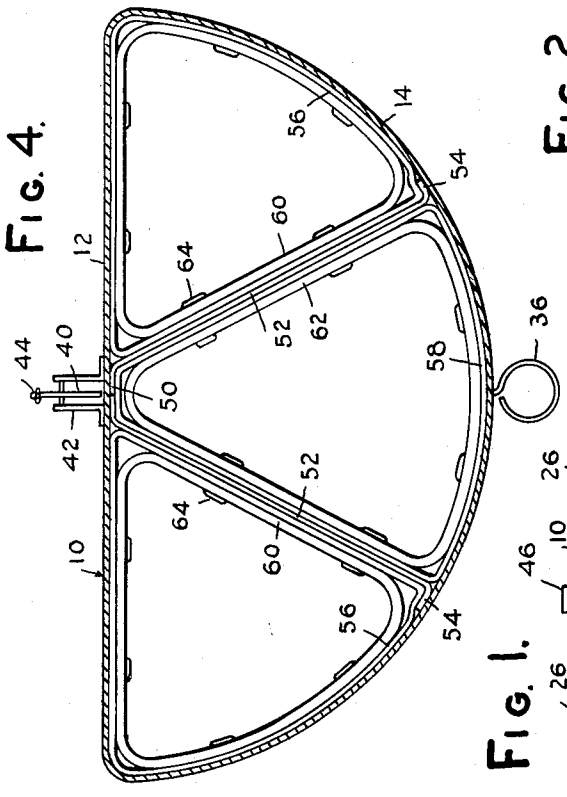


FIG. 4.

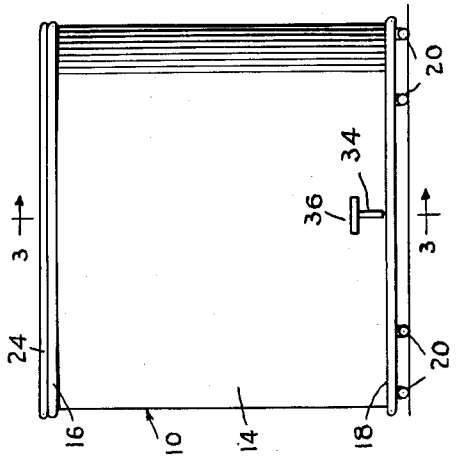


FIG. 2.

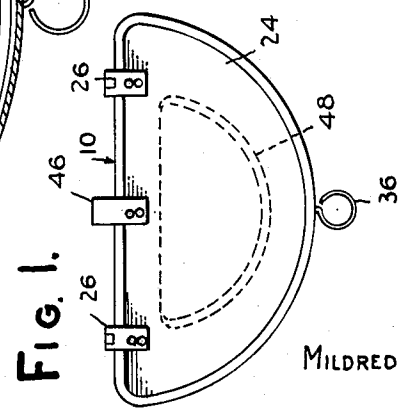


FIG. 1.

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COMPARTMENTED CLOTHES HAMPER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 220—20)

This invention relates to clothes hampers, and more particularly, has reference to a clothes hamper so designed as to include a plurality of individual sections therein, each of which sections is provided with a removable bag or flexible container.

Ordinarily, clothes hampers are not sectioned or compartmented, and as a result, it is necessary, when clothes are to be removed therefrom for laundering, that the various items removed from the hamper be sorted out properly, into separate portions. It will be appreciated that the nature and coloring of the various items governs the sorting thereof into separate piles, it being essential that certain of said items not be washed in the same tub with other items, due to their tendency to discolor said other items.

The operation described above is obviously time consuming and inconvenient for the housewife, and is to be avoided if possible. Accordingly, the main object of the present invention is to provide a compartmented clothes hamper so designed as to permit a plurality of individual bags or flexible containers to be suspended therein, each container being adapted to hold a particular classification of laundry, as for example, white garments, colored garments, etc.

Another object of importance is to provide a hamper as described which, despite the desirable features thereof noted above and having regard to the hamper compartmentation, can nevertheless be manufactured in a size and exterior configuration no different from those of conventional hampers.

Another object of importance is to provide a hamper as described which will be so designed as to permit the flexible containers to be removably suspended within their associated compartments, and separably connected at their upper ends to the walls of the compartments in such a manner as to cause the open upper ends or mouths of the containers to be retained in an expanded condition, thereby to facilitate the insertion of the soiled garments.

Yet another object is to provide a hamper construction as described in which the flexible containers, when disconnected from the walls of their associated compartments, can be removed bodily from the hamper, to permit the contents of said container to be emptied directly into a washing machine.

A further object of importance is to provide a hamper construction as stated wherein a hinged lid will be so proportioned as to normally cover the upper ends of the several flexible containers, said hinged lid having a treadle-operated elevating mechanism associated therewith in such a manner as to permit the lid to be swung upwardly with considerable facility, whenever access to the interior of the hamper is desired.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claims 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 top plan view of a clothes hamper formed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a front elevational view;

Figure 3 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged, detailed sectional view of the separable fastener means for suspending the containers within their associated sections.

The reference numeral **10** has been applied generally to an outer receptacle, and as will be noted from Figure 4, said outer receptacle includes a flat back wall **12**, and an arcuate front wall **14**, said walls cooperating to impart a semi-circular cross sectional configuration to the receptacle, from the upper to the lower ends thereof.

To eliminate sharp edges, the upper end edges of the back and front walls **12**, **14** are formed with a continuous bead **16**, the lower end edges of said walls being similarly formed with a continuous bead **18**.

Spaced about the lower end of the receptacle **10**, and extending downwardly from the bead **18** of the receptacle, are feet **20**, which support the receptacle in an elevated position above a floor surface or the like. The feet **20**, it may be noted, can be eliminated if desired.

Closing the lower end of the receptacle **10** is a bottom end wall **22**, said end wall being formed with a peripheral, depending flange rigidly secured in any suitable manner to the interior surfaces of the front and back walls of the receptacle. The bottom end wall **22** is elevated above the rolled lower end edge of the receptacle, as best shown in Figure 3, to provide a clearance space in which a treadle-operated lever, to be described hereinafter, can be mounted.

A lid **24**, of semi-circular outer configuration, closes the upper end of the container, and is hinged as at **26** to the upper end edge of the back wall **12**. For the purpose of swinging the lid **24** upwardly from its normally closed position, a treadle-operated means is provided, said means being particularly well shown in Figure 3 and including a depending pivot bracket **28** secured to the center portion of the bottom end wall **22**. A main lever **30** is pivotally connected, intermediate its ends, to said bracket **28**, for swinging movement within a vertical plane, the opposite end portions of said lever projecting through vertical slots **32**, **34**, formed in the back and front walls **12**, **14** respectively.

That end portion of the lever **30** projecting through the slot **34** is integrally or otherwise rigidly formed with a foot treadle **36**. To simplify construction, said treadle can be formed directly from the material of the lever, being circularly shaped as in Figure 4.

It will be understood that depression of the treadle **36** will be effective to impart upward swinging movement to the rear end portion of the lever **30**, and pivotally connected to said rear end portion of the lever is an elongated link **38** formed from a suitable length of stout rod material or the like. Link **38** is extended upwardly along the back wall **12**, exteriorly of the receptacle, and is pivotally connected at its lower end to the lever.

At its upper end, the link **38** is pivotally connected to one end of a second lever **40**, said second lever being mounted to swing within a vertical plane upon a pivot bracket **42** secured to the back wall **12** intermediate the upper and lower ends thereof.

Pivotally connected to the other end of the second lever **40** is a link **44**, pivotally attached at its upper end to a lateral projection **46** rigidly secured to the lid **24** and projecting rearwardly from the lid beyond the hinge axis of said lid.

By reason of the construction illustrated and described, it will be apparent that depression of the treadle **36** will be effective to impart movement to the link **38**. As a result, the second lever **40** will be rocked about its pivot

axis, causing downward movement of link **44**. Downward pull is thus exerted upon the projection **46**, and as a result, the lid **24** will be swung to an upper position, thereby to expose the interior of the receptacle **10**.

I prefer that there be secured, to the underside of the lid **24**, a sock bag **48** formed of flexible plastic material or the like. It will be readily appreciated that when the lid **24** is swung upwardly, the sock bag will be conveniently disposed for insertion or removal of socks or other small articles to be laundered therewith.

Referring to Figure 4, there is shown in this figure of the drawings the arrangement whereby I compartment the interior of the hamper, and as will be noted, a brace is provided within the hamper, which brace can be formed from a single length of flat bar material or the like, having a short bight **50** rigidly secured to the back wall **12**, intermediate opposite sides of the back wall. The bight **50** merges at its opposite ends into legs **52**. The legs **52** extend horizontally within the receptacle, diverging in a direction away from the back wall **12**. The divergent ends of the legs **52** are integrally formed with lateral extensions **54** fixedly secured to the inner surface of the arcuate front wall **14**.

The brace is preferably mounted at the upper end of the receptacle, but it will be understood that the brace could be mounted in a lower position if desired, and could, in fact, comprise a series of vertically spaced, identically formed brace members.

The brace subdivides the receptacle **10** into a plurality of sections each of approximately triangular cross section. Thus, end sections **56** are provided, said sections being disposed at opposite sides of a center section **58**. Each section is adapted to contain a particular classification of soiled garments or other items to be laundered.

Within the end sections **56** I suspend end containers **60**, a center container **62** being suspended within the center section **58**. The several containers **60**, **62** can be identically formed, from plastic or other flexible material, each container substantially filling its associated compartment. Each container **62** is hemmed or otherwise reinforced at its upper end, and separable fastener elements **64**, **66** are carried by the containers and their associated inner receptacles, for detachably connecting the containers to the walls of their associated compartments. As will be noted from Figure 5, the separable fastener elements can each include a female element **64** carried by the container **60**, and a male element **66** carried by the section wall. The separable fastener means thus defined is adapted, as will be appreciated, not only to suspend the containers within the several sections of the hamper, but also to retain the mouths of the containers in an expanded condition, thereby to facilitate the insertion of the soiled garments.

Ordinarily, the several flexible containers will be suspended within their associated compartments in the manner shown in Figures 3 and 4. However, assuming that the hamper contents are to be removed, it is merely necessary that the treadle **36** be depressed to elevate lid **24**, after which the separable fastener elements **64**, **66** will be exposed in a location where they can conveniently be disengaged. The flexible containers can then be lifted bodily out of their compartments, and the contents of each container can be emptied directly into a washing machine. Thus, there is eliminated the tedious task of sorting out the hamper contents, prior to washing thereof.

The hamper can, of course, be exteriorly ornamented in any desired manner, and it will also be understood that suitable deodorizing means can be incorporated in the construction, either directly within the material of which the containers **60**, **62** are formed, or in a separate deodorizing device mounted interiorly of the hamper.

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 claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A clothes hamper comprising: an outer receptacle having a flat back wall and an arcuate front wall cooperating to impart a semi-circular cross sectional configuration to said receptacle; a horizontally disposed U-shaped brace positioned within said receptacle and having its bight abutting and secured to the intermediate portion of said back wall, the legs of said brace extending in a diverging direction from said bight and having their free ends engaging and secured to the adjacent portions of said front wall, said brace subdividing the outer receptacle into a plurality of sections each of approximately triangular cross section; a container for clothes and the like removably mounted in each of said sections; and separable fastener means spaced circumferentially about each of said containers and about the walls of the respective sections, for removably suspending the containers within their associated sections.

2. A clothes hamper comprising: an outer receptacle having a flat back wall and an arcuate front wall cooperating to impart a semi-circular cross sectional configuration to said receptacle; a horizontally disposed U-shaped brace positioned within said receptacle and having its bight abutting and secured to the intermediate portion of said back wall, the legs of said brace extending in a diverging direction from said bight and having their free ends engaging and secured to the adjacent portions of said front wall, said brace subdividing the outer receptacle into a plurality of sections each of approximately triangular cross section; a container for clothes and the like removably mounted in each of said sections; separable fastener means spaced circumferentially about each of said containers and about the walls of the respective sections, for removably suspending the containers within their associated sections; and a hinged lid for said receptacle proportioned to overlie the several sections of the receptacle.

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