Feb. 3, 1959 H. MILLER ET AL 2,871,497

CLEANING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 15, 1957

Fig. 1

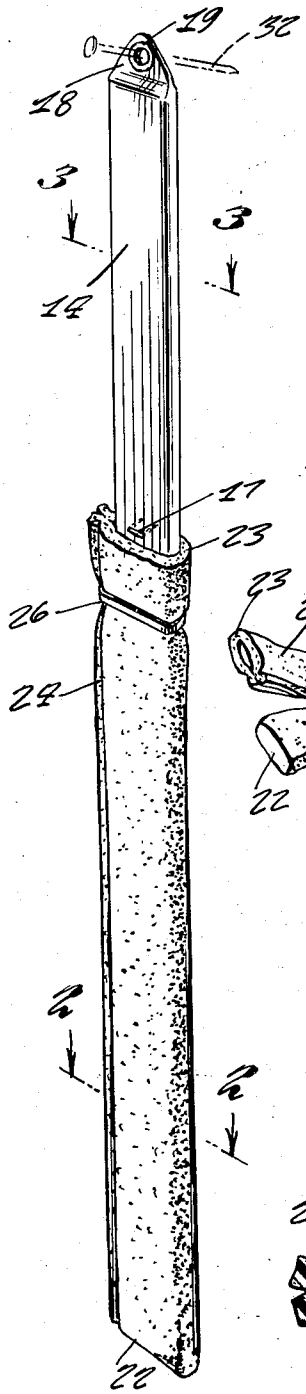


Fig. 4

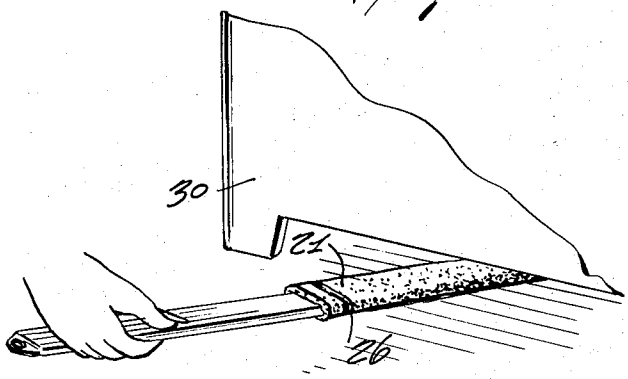


Fig. 5

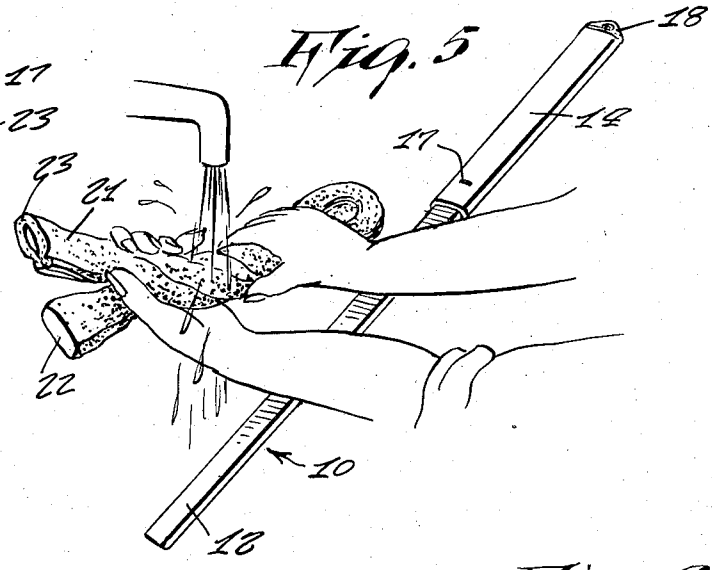


Fig. 3

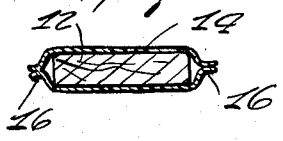
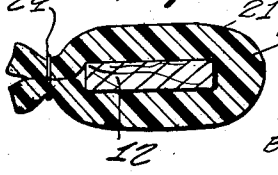


Fig. 2



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United States Patent Office

2,871,497

Patented Feb. 3, 1959

2,871,497

CLEANING DEVICE

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Application January 15, 1957, Serial No. 634,310

2 Claims. (Cl. 15—244)

This invention relates to hand cleaning devices and, more particularly, to a device that may be used to wash especially narrow crevices and areas.

While various types of brushes have been provided that may be used to clean restricted areas, these brushes are not particularly useful for washing those areas. An object of this invention therefore is to provide a cleaning device that is simple in construction, efficient in operation, and which may be used to wash and clean narrow and restricted spaces that are otherwise difficult to reach with conventional washing apparatus.

Another object of this invention is to provide a simple cleaning device in which the cleaning element may be removed from the supporting structure and independently washed during use and which may be manufactured in large quantities at relatively low cost.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the device in operative use; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the cleaning element is removed and cleaned independently of the supporting structure.

Referring now to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawing, a device made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a main body portion **10** that includes an elongated flat body **12** which may be of wood or plastic construction. Substantially one half of the body portion is enclosed within a water repellent handle sheath **14** that is preferably constructed of a pair of similar sheets of plastic that are welded along their adjacent edges to provide sealed seams **16** that prevent the entrance of moisture. The outer end of the handle sheath **14** is provided with a closed triangular tab **18** that includes an eyelet **19** from which the device may be supported from a suitable hanger. The inner end of the sheath is secured to the body portion, such as by a staple **17** that prevents the disassembly of the parts.

The cleaning element is in the form of a cleaning sheath **21**, that is preferably constructed of a sheet of urethane

foam that is folded along the central longitudinal axis so that the opposite lateral edges thereof can be secured together, such as by stitching **24**. One end **22** of the sheath is closed and the opposite inner end **23** is open so as to receive the other half of the main body portion **12**. With the parts assembled, as shown in Figure 1, a fastening means, such as an elastic band **26** is used to secure the inner, open end **23** of the cleaning sheath **21** in close fitting, securing, engagement with the mid-section of the elongated flat body **12** and in overlapping engagement with the inner end of the handle sheath **14**.

In using the device, as shown in Figure 4, the handle is grasped in the hand and the cleaning sheath **21** may be inserted in the narrow openings of any stationary object **30**. The cleaning sheath may then be cleaned by removing the elastic band **26** and withdrawing the sheath from the main body portion so that it may be washed, as shown in Figure 5. When not in use, the device may be suspended from any suitable hanger, such as a nail **32**, in which position it may dry so that it is always ready for use.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the specific form shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A cleaning device comprising, in combination, an elongated body portion of substantially uniform rectangular cross section, a tubular water repellent handle sheath enclosing one extremity of said body portion, a cleaning sheath of sponge material removably secured to the opposite extremity of said body portion, said sponge sheath overlapping part of said handle sheath, removable fastening means securing said sponge sheath in assembled position with said body portion relative to said handle sheath, the outer end of said handle sheath including a triangular tab, and said tab being provided with means for supporting said device in a vertical hanging position, said sponge sheath comprising a rectangular sheet of sponge material folded along a central longitudinal axis and having the opposite lateral extremities thereof secured together, and said sponge sheath being open at one end and closed at the opposite end.

2. A cleaning device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said removable fastening means comprises an elastic band.

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