

Jan. 20, 1953

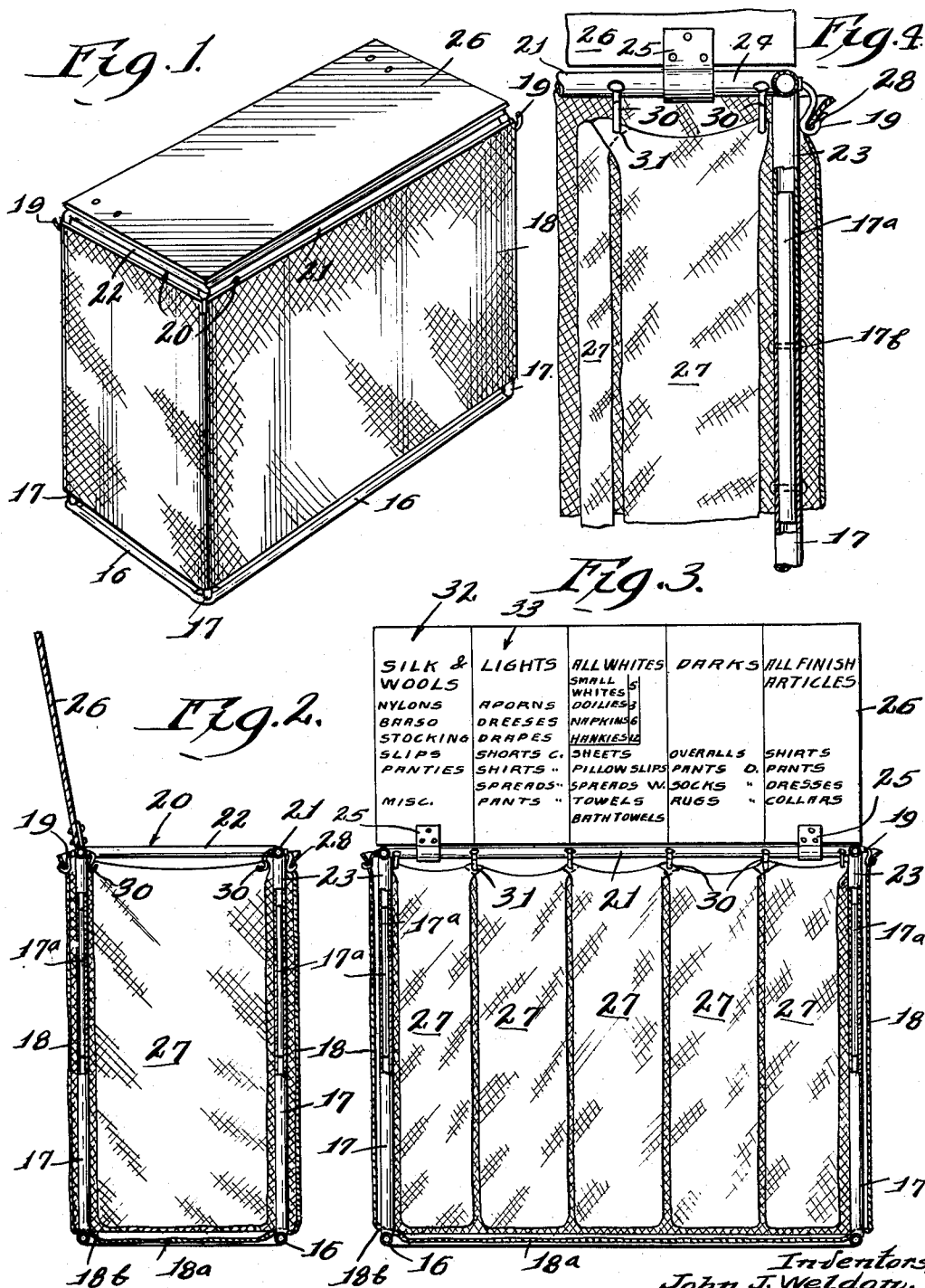
J. J. WELDON ET AL

2,625,973

LAUNDRY HAMPER

Filed Aug. 31, 1951

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



Inventors:
John J. Weldon,
Beryl L. Levett.
By: Zabel and Gritybaugh
Attorneys.

Jan. 20, 1953

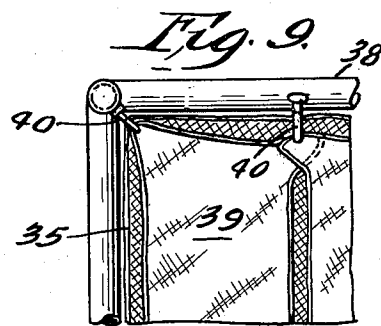
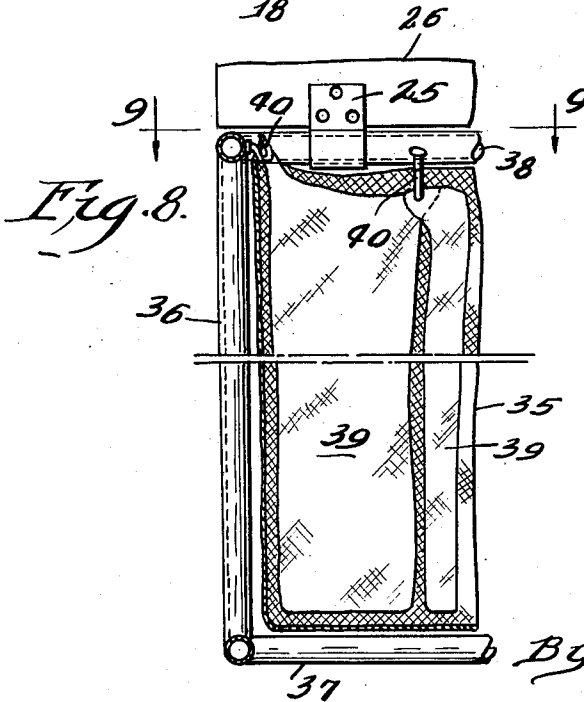
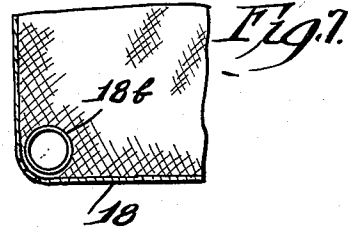
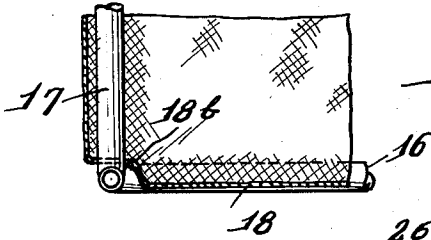
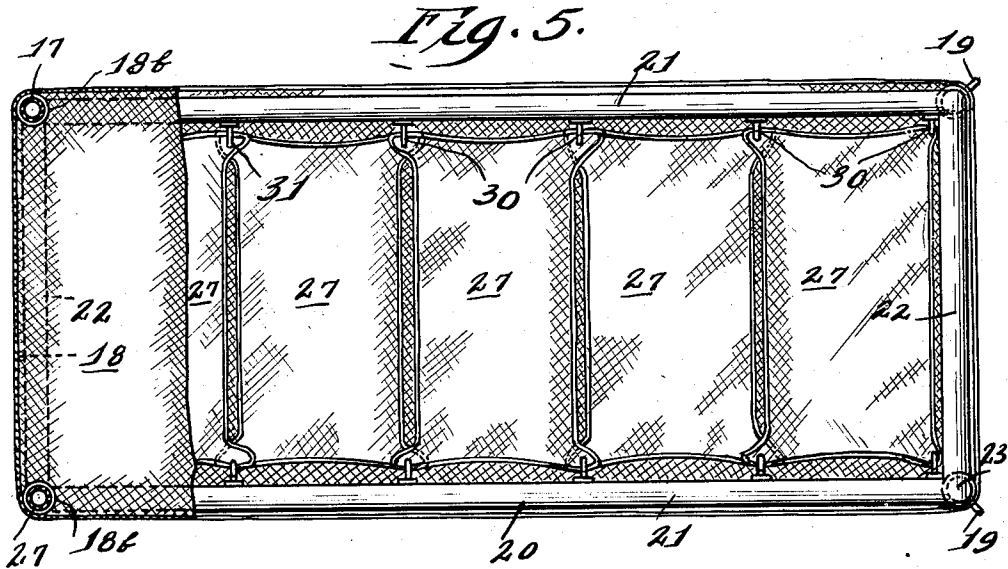
J. J. WELDON ET AL

2,625,973

LAUNDRY HAMPER

Filed Aug. 31, 1951

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



Inventors,
John J. Weldon,
Beryl L. Levitt.

By. Zabel and Fitzbaugh
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,625,973

LAUNDRY HAMPER

John J. Weldon and Beryl L. Levitt, Chicago, Ill.

Application August 31, 1951, Serial No. 244,612

4 Claims. (Cl. 150—1)

1

Our invention relates to a laundry hamper and more particularly to a laundry hamper designed to facilitate sorting of laundry in the home or at the place of use. Thus, when soiled laundry is temporarily stored prior to washing, it may be sorted immediately upon being placed in the hamper. This eliminates the necessity for later sorting of the soiled laundry immediately prior to cleaning thereof by the housewife or commercial laundry.

Heretofore the housewife has customarily placed all soiled laundry in one container, which is periodically removed by a laundry driver. (In this description it will, for convenience, be contemplated that the soiled laundry will be done by a commercial laundry, but it will readily be seen that the advantages of our hamper will apply equally to those instances wherein the laundry is done in or out of the home.) This soiled laundry is then taken to the commercial laundry where sorters separate the various pieces of laundry into appropriate piles. Following the sorting process, laundry of like kind is placed within laundry bags which are in turn placed in machines for washing. The sorting process in the laundry is not only a disagreeable and unhealthy task, but also an expensive one as additional help must be used for this sorting process. Also a very large percentage of the articles of laundry which are lost each year by commercial laundries are lost during this sorting process. Equally, a great source of loss in the laundry industry each year is due to damage done to clothing which is incorrectly sorted and mixed with laundry not of a like kind.

It is an object of this invention to provide a relatively simple and inexpensive laundry hamper which provides an easy method of sorting the laundry in the home, thus dispensing with the sorting process in the laundry itself and the attendant cost of sorters and the loss connected with said sorting process.

Other objects of this invention will become apparent from the following description made in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of our laundry hamper with the cover closed;

Fig. 2 is a side sectional view with the cover open, certain portions being broken away to show various construction details;

Fig. 3 is a front sectional view with the cover open, certain portions being broken away to show various construction details;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view, partly

2

broken away, showing further details of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a top view with part of the cover removed;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating a bottom corner of the hamper;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on a plane at right angles to the plane of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view of a modified form of our invention, and

Fig. 9 is a sectional view on line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in the different figures of the drawings.

Referring to Figs. 1-7, our laundry hamper includes a 3-dimensional rectangular frame. The frame comprises upper and lower portions that telescope one another in a detachable manner.

The lower portion of the 3-dimensional frame comprises a rectangular base frame 16 that forms the base of the hamper. A base frame leg 17 extends vertically from each corner of the base frame 16. Upper portion 17a (best shown in Fig. 4) of each leg 17 has a reduced cross section compared with the remainder of the leg. As illustrated, upper portion 17a is a dowel member that telescopes the leg 17 and is secured therein by suitable means 17b.

The upper portion of the 3-dimensional frame comprises a rectangular top frame 20 of the same size as lower portion 16. Top frame 20 has front and rear longitudinal members 21 and transverse end members 22. Tubular legs 23 extend downwardly from the four corners of top frame 20, and the internal diameter of such legs is of proper size to telescope in a detachable manner the reduced end portions 17a of the base frame legs 17.

The rear longitudinal member 21 is provided with a pair of hinges 25 to which is secured a cover 26. The hinges 25 may be removably attached to member 21 and may be provided with suitable stops so that when opened the cover assumes a limiting position such as shown in Fig. 2.

The body of the hamper comprises an outer laundry bag 18 having a generally flat bottom 18a (Figs. 2 and 3) and front, rear and side portions of a height corresponding generally with the distance between assembled upper and lower portions of the hamper frame.

In the Figs. 1-7 form of the invention, outer laundry bag 18 is provided with apertures 18b at the four corners of the bottom 18a.

In assembling outer laundry bag 18 with the 3-dimensional frame, the upper frame portion

3

is first removed from the lower frame portion. Outer bag 18 is fitted over the lower portion of the frame by inserting base frame legs 17 through corresponding apertures 18b in the bag bottom. Thereafter the two frame portions are telescoped together.

The top frame 20 is provided at its corners with bag suspending means such as hooks 19. The upper margin of outer bag 18 has cooperating means such as apertures 28 whereby the bag is suspended from the hooks 19.

Our laundry hamper also includes a plurality of smaller inner laundry bags 27. These bags are disposed within outer bag 18, and are suspended from means such as hooks 30 that are spaced along the length of the front and rear longitudinal members 21 of the top frame 20. Each bag 27 is provided at its upper margin with means such as apertures 31 which cooperate with hooks 30 to support the bags in open mouth condition.

As seen in Fig. 3, there are five inner bags 27 in the illustrated hamper. The under surface of cover 26 is divided into sections generally designated by numeral 32, each section being vertically related to one of the inner bags. Each section contains a legend generally designated by numeral 33 that sets forth the particular types of laundry that fall into a sorting classification. Typical legends are illustrated in Fig. 3.

By reason of the respective legends and the associated inner laundry bags 27, it will be seen that proper laundry sorting may readily be accomplished by the user at the time when soiled laundry is placed in the hamper. With this arrangement, the user does all the sorting, thereby making it unnecessary for the commercial laundry to perform this service, or making it unnecessary for the user to further sort the laundry prior to washing.

One advantage of the telescoping frame construction is the ease with which outer bag 18 may be applied to and removed from the hamper frame. The manner of applying the bag to the frame has already been mentioned. When inner bags 27 are full, or the laundry driver is ready to pick up the laundry, the respective bags, both inner and outer, are detached from their supporting hooks 30 and 19 respectively. Inner bags 27 are first removed from their hooks and closed by appropriate sealing means such as a large laundry pin commonly used by commercial laundries. They are then allowed to collapse within the outer bag 18. The upper portion of the frame is lifted away from the lower portion, and outer bag 18 is lifted upwardly to clear legs 17. The outer laundry bag is now folded to a closed position and may be fastened with appropriate fastening means such as a belt. The bag of laundry is now ready to "go" with all the contained articles of soiled laundry properly sorted within the individual inner bags 27.

An additional advantage of the telescoping construction is that the overall size of the hamper is minimized when the hamper is empty. The bags 18 and 27, being flexible, allow the upper portion of the frame to telescope the lower portion a maximum amount. However, as the inner bags 27 are filled with clothing, the telescoping framework allows the size of the hamper to increase, thereby providing for the accommodation of a maximum amount of laundry. This maximum, of course, is limited by the size of the bags and the length of reduced portion 17a of the base legs 17.

A modified form of the invention is illustrated

4

in Figs. 8 and 9. In this form, outer laundry bag 35 is suspended within the confines of the framework. As shown in Fig. 8 vertical legs 36 do not telescope but rather extend continuously between base frame 37 and top frame 38. In other respects the two hampers are alike, it being noted that outer bag 35 and inner bags 39 are suspended from hook means 40 carried on top frame 38. In hanging or removing outer bag 35 from the framework, the bag is passed through the open front or side of the frame. In all other respects operation and use of this modification are the same as have already been described in connection with Figs. 1-7.

The invention described is practical and economical to manufacture and is particularly useful for the purposes for which it is designed. Many variations in the detail of structure may be resorted to as, for example, the modification shown in Figs. 8 and 9. The invention accordingly is not to be considered as limited in any respect to the specific details of structure shown but is to be considered comprehensive of all forms of structure coming within the scope of the appended claims defining the invention.

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

1. A laundry hamper comprising a rectangular base frame, vertical base frame legs at each corner of said base frame, said legs being reduced in cross-section at their upper end portions, a rectangular top frame, vertical tubular top frame legs at each corner of said top frame, said tubular top frame legs removably telescoping the upper ends of said base frame legs, spaced bag suspending means on said top frame, a cover hingedly connected to said top frame, a pliable outer laundry bag, said bag having bottom openings to pass said base frame legs and means at the mouth thereof for removably engaging some of said bag suspending means, a plurality of smaller bags within said outer bag, said smaller bags having means at the mouths thereof for removably engaging some of said bag suspending means whereby said smaller bags are supported in open mouth condition, and sorting legends on the underside of said cover in alignment with the respective smaller bags.

2. A laundry hamper comprising a 3-dimensional frame, said frame having a plurality of spaced bag suspending means on its upper longitudinal members, an outer laundry bag having means at its upper margin for removable engagement with some of said bag suspending means, and a plurality of smaller bags within said outer bag, said smaller bags having means at their upper margins for removably suspending said inner bags in open mouth condition for some of said bag suspending means.

3. In a laundry hamper, a 3-dimensional frame, an outer removable laundry bag supported from the top of said frame in open mouth condition, a plurality of smaller inner bags removably fitting inside said frame and within said outer removable bag, means for removably suspending said inner bags from the top of said frame in open mouth condition, and a cover hingedly connected to the top of said frame, said cover having sorting legends on the underside thereof in alignment with the respective inner bags.

4. In a laundry hamper, a combination of a 3-dimensional frame, a plurality of laundry bags, means on said frame for suspending said bags from said frame in open mouth condition and side

5

by side relation, and a cover hingedly connected to the top of said frame, said cover having sorting legends on the underside thereof in alignment with the respective bags.

JOHN J. WELDON.
BERYL L. LEVITT.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the
file of this patent:

Number
919,745
1,180,225
1,211,853
1,475,603
1,951,158
1,951,604
1,962,661
2,128,693
2,517,757

5

10

6

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Name	Date
McCraw	Apr. 27, 1909
Bamman et al.	Apr. 18, 1916
Huggins	Jan. 9, 1917
Sheridan	Nov. 27, 1923
Locke et al.	Mar. 13, 1934
Friedlander	Mar. 20, 1934
Kruschwitz	June 12, 1934
Dowd	Aug. 30, 1938
Alderstein	Aug. 8, 1950