

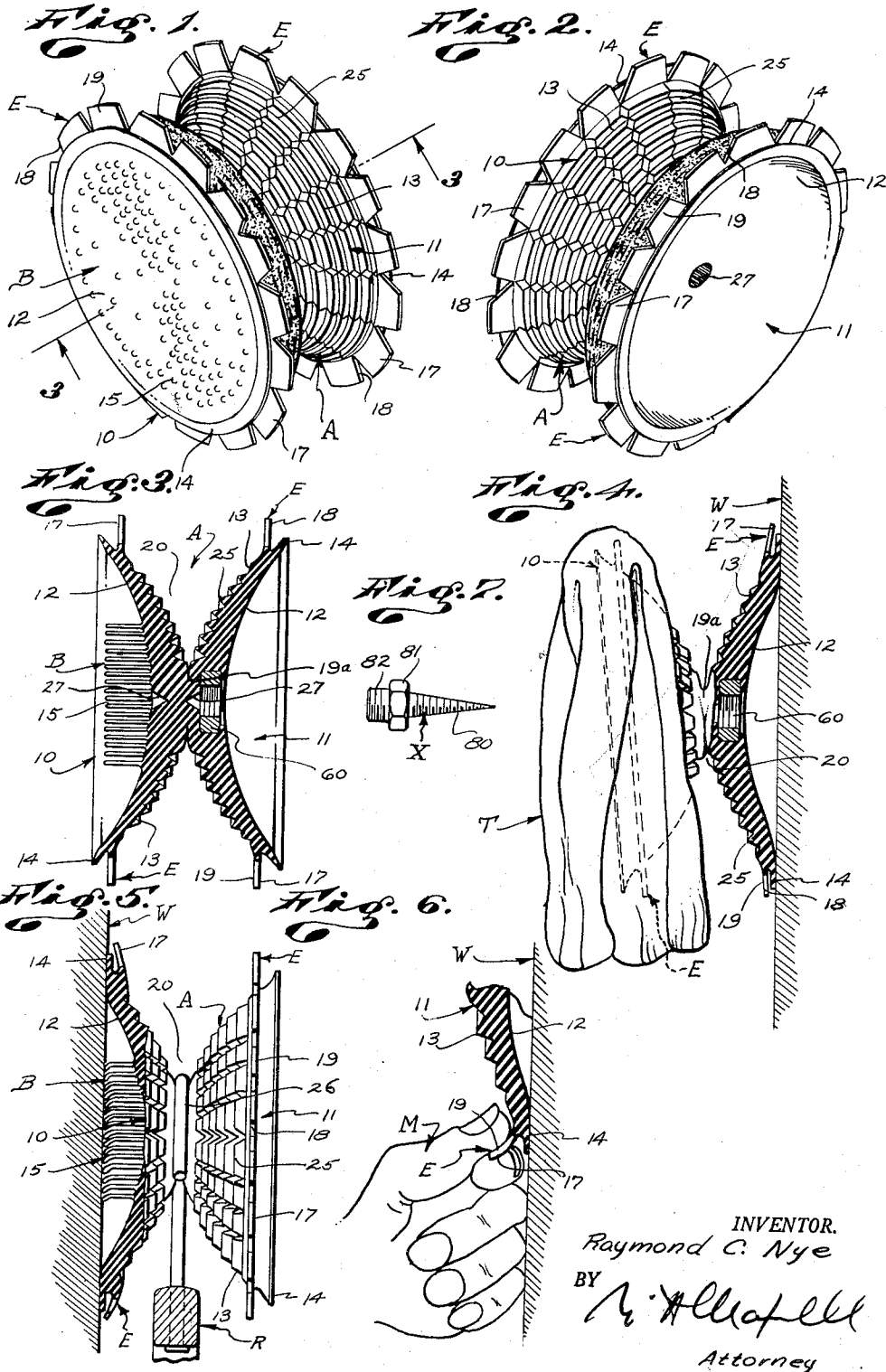
Jan. 15, 1957

R. C. NYE

2,777,141

BATHING BRUSH

Filed Feb. 3, 1953



INVENTOR.
Raymond C. Nye
BY *[Signature]*
Attorney

1

2,777,141

BATHING BRUSH

Raymond C. Nye, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application February 3, 1953, Serial No. 334,829

3 Claims. (Cl. 15—105)

This invention has to do with a multi-purpose household utensil which will be referred to as a bathing brush or article carrier, and it is a general object of the invention to provide a simple, practical, effective and durable construction, particularly useful in the bathroom or around the ordinary household.

Bathrooms, and more particularly stall showers, in the average dwelling are often without suitable fixtures upon which a bathing brush, wash cloth, towel, or the like, may be placed by the bather, and in the case of the usual bath tub installation, the soap holder is not always conveniently located.

In some instances a bather in a tub or under a shower is unable to readily find his or her bathing brush or soap, or is unable to conveniently place such articles for future use or handling. In many cases, it is common practice for a bather to simply drop the brush or possibly the soap when he is not using it, with the result that, when such article is needed again, he must, if tub bathing, feel about uncertainly to find it, or if shower bathing, bend over and search for it.

It is a general object of this invention to provide a unitary rubber utensil, that will be termed a bathing brush, that can be easily and advantageously applied to and removed from a wall or other like flat surface.

It is another object of this invention to provide a utensil of the character mentioned that is applicable to a wall, and which can be advantageously employed as a suitable support for wash cloths, towels and like articles.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a structure that is inexpensive of manufacture and which can be advantageously cast or molded of rubber or rubber-like material.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a bathing brush that is not subject to breakage and which is clean, neat, and compact and also very convenient and effective in use.

It is another object of the invention to provide a bathing brush that is easy to handle and which is not subject to slipping in one's hand.

The invention provides, generally, a unitary rubber body having outwardly opening or facing concavo-convex end sections forming outwardly opening vacuum cups, one end section being provided, in the cup formed thereby, with a plurality of bristle-like projections forming a suitable bathing brush. The opposing convex sides of the sections of the body converge and form a centrally located annular groove midway between the ends of the body providing a suitable gripping means for hanging or gripping items such as towels, wash cloths, and the like, and serving to conveniently receive the fingers of the user when the device is being used as a brush.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of a typical preferred form and application of the invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

2

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the brush provided by the present invention, showing a top, one side, and one end thereof. Fig. 2 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 1 and showing the top, the other side, and the other end. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the structure, being a view taken as indicated by line 3—3 on Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the structure showing one end thereof in section and applied to a wall and showing a cloth carried on the section at the other end and deflecting it somewhat. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 showing the other end of the structure applied to a wall, and having an article (a coat hanger) supported thereby. Fig. 6 is a schematic view of a portion of the structure engaged between the fingers for manipulation thereof, and Fig. 7 is a view showing a mounting member that may be employed to mount the structure permanently if desired.

The structure provided by the present invention includes, generally, an elongate body A formed by two oppositely disposed, outwardly opening, cup-like sections 10 and 11, either one of which can be employed in mounting the device as circumstances may require. A suitable brush B is provided in section 10 to occur at one end of the body. The section 11 at the other end of the body forms a suitable handle for the brush.

The sections 10 and 11 form or may be used as anchoring means at the ends of the body. Each section is adapted to be employed to releasably secure the structure to any suitable flat, smooth surface. Operating means E is provided adjacent the ends of the body, and is adapted to be operated to release the structure from a supporting surface. The opening or groove-like channel provided or occurring between the sections 10 and 11 is adapted to receive and releasably retain objects engaged therein.

The body A is characterized by two oppositely disposed outwardly opening concavo-convex sections 10 and 11 integrally joined in back-to-back relationship. The section 10 forms a suitable head for the brush B, and the section 11 forms a suitable handle C to be gripped when the brush is in use.

The sections 10 and 11 of body A are in the form of vacuum cups and each forms an anchoring means. Each of the sections 10 and 11 is characterized by a concave outer face 12, a convex inner face 13, and an annular sealing lip portion 14 occurring at its outer peripheral portion or margin. The sealing lip 14 is formed where the inner and outer faces 12 and 13 converge and come together at the periphery of the section. The lip portion 14 is, in effect, a continuation of the faces 12 and 13, and forms suitable sealing means engageable with a surface to which the section is applied.

The brush B is formed in or at the concave side 12 of section 10 and is characterized by a plurality of bristle-like projections 15 of limited extent formed on or projecting therefrom. The bristles terminate at or close to a plane coincidental with that of the lip 14, so that the brush is substantially within the confines of the section 10, where it is exposed at the outer end of the section 10 for the purpose of scrubbing the body, or other part or surface. The bristles being flexible, the brush will not interfere with the use of the lip 14 as a mounting or sealing element when the section 10 is employed to mount the device on a wall, or the like.

The structure provided by the present invention can, when desired, be releasably secured to any available flat, smooth surface by applying either section of the body thereto to act as a vacuum cup. If section 11 is applied to a supporting surface so that the brush carrying section 10 faces upwardly, the structure can be used as a holder for soap, or the like, and if soap is held, the bristles of

3

the brush will hold it up, so the soap will drain and quickly dry.

In Fig. 4 of the drawings, I have shown the section 11 of body A applied to a wall W, the section 11 having been pressed against the wall W to displace air from between the concave face 12 thereof and the wall W, establishing a vacuum, or minus pressure, which results in the device being effectively retained in engagement with the wall W. The annular sealing lip 14 at the periphery of the section 11 engages the wall W and effectively seals therewith. When either section of the body is applied to a wall as shown in Fig. 4, the other section is available as a holder or support. In Fig. 4 a cloth is shown applied to section 10 to be held thereby and section 10 is deflected somewhat from the weight of the cloth without disturbing the mounting of section 11 on the wall.

In Fig. 5 of the drawings, I have shown the section 10 releasably secured to the wall W, which application of the structure is identical to that described above, except that the bristles, or the brush B, face the wall. The bristles 15 of the brush B may be of such lengths, that when the section 10 is employed as shown in Fig. 5, they yield or bend as there illustrated, and in no way effect the sealing action of the lip 14. It is to be understood that in practice, the bristles may be of any desired length and the area around the bristles may be varied as desired. If the bristles are confined to the central portion of the cup-shaped side of section 10, there will be left a smooth annular surface that will have a desirable massaging effect as the brush is used.

Each body section is provided with operating means E, adapted to be employed to release the section from a surface to which it has been applied. The means E is in the form of an annular fin 17 located at the outer peripheral portion of the section and projects outward therefrom. The fins 17 may be on or formed as a continuation of the lips 14, or they may overlie the sealing lips 14 and be spaced rearwardly therefrom, as shown in the drawings.

In the preferred form of the invention, each fin 17 is notched as at 18, forming a plurality of radially projecting tabs or fingers 19 that can be easily and advantageously engaged by the fingers of the user to lift the structure away from a surface to which it has been engaged. In Fig. 6, I have illustrated section 11 engaged with a wall W, and the operating means E of that section is engaged between the fingers M of the user preparatory to lifting the sealing lip 14 of section 11 away from the wall W to effectively release the structure therefrom.

The inner convex faces 13 of the sections 10 and 11 come together at the central portion of the structure, and they form an annular inwardly convergent groove 20 located midway between the ends of the body. The groove 20 thus formed provides a suitable holder for items of various kinds which may be engaged with the structure from any direction. Articles engaged in the groove can be advantageously engaged in and released from the groove at will and when in the groove they will be gripped if they are engaged so as to spread the sections somewhat.

In the preferred form of the invention, the faces 13 of the sections 10 and 11 are provided with a plurality of tooth-like projections 25 adapted to engage, and to a degree grip, the item or articles engaged in the groove 20 between the sections 10 and 11. The projections 15 also facilitate handling of the structure by the user as they prevent slipping of the structure in the hand of the user.

It will be apparent that when the structure of the present invention is secured to a wall, the sections 10 and 11 can be advantageously spread apart or rocked relative to each other about their point of joinder 19, so as to widen the groove 20 formed thereby to accommodate articles of considerable bulk. Rocking of one section can occur without disturbing the mounting of the other section as is shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings.

4

In Fig. 5 of the drawings I have shown a typical article, a coat hanger R, engaged in the groove 20. The hook 26 of the hanger R is shown seated in the groove.

By employing the structure set forth above, a person bathing in a stall shower, or the like, can, by pressing either end of the structure on a wall or other suitable surface, place the structure in a desirable and convenient location for further use. It will be apparent from the drawings that the structure provides a suitable fixture to receive wash cloths, towels, robes, bathing caps, and other like items, and it may be employed to hold soap, or the like.

It is preferred in practice, to provide central indentations 27 at the bottoms of the cup-like sections 10 and 11 so that a screw, or the like, can be readily forced through the body to effect fastening of the structure to a suitable support if so desired.

In practice, a threaded element 60 such as a nut may be imbedded or carried in one section of the body at the center thereof where it is available to receive a screw fastener X such as is shown in Fig. 7. The fastener X may have an end 30 adapted to be made fast to or with a support and it has a head 31 with a threaded part 32 engageable in nut 60. Through this construction the device can be mounted on any suitable support to be permanently located thereon.

The structure of the present invention is such that it can, in practice, be advantageously formed, as by molding, or the like, so that it is a single unitary block of rubber, or rubber-like material, making possible simple, inexpensive manufacturing possible.

Having described only a typical preferred form and application of my invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may appear to those skilled in the art and fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A bathing brush of the character described including, two concavo-convex spherical suction cup sections in back to back relationship so their concave sides face out, and bristles of limited extent on and projecting from the concave side of one section and confined to the central portion thereof forming a brush within the confines of the section, and leaving a smooth annular sealing surface in said section surrounding the brush, there being circumferentially and radially spaced gripping projections on the opposed convex sides of the sections.

2. A bathing brush of the character described including, two concavo-convex suction cup sections in back to back relationship so their concave sides face out, and bristles of limited extent on and projecting from the concave side of one section and confined to the central portion thereof forming a brush within the confines of the section and leaving a smooth annular sealing surface in said section surrounding the brush, the peripheral portions of both the sections being in the form of sealing lips, there being an annular body engaging and fingers gripping fin about the peripheries of the opposed convex sides of the sections, the said fins being notched about their peripheries.

3. A bathing brush of the character described including, two concavo-convex sections in back-to-back relation so their concave sides face out, and bristles on and projecting from the concave side of one section and confined to the central portion thereof forming a brush and leaving a smooth annular sealing surface in said section surrounding the brush, the peripheral portions of both the sections being in the form of sealing lips, there being annular fins about the outer peripheries of the opposed convex sides of the sections, the said fins being notched about their peripheries and there being circumferentially and radially spaced gripping projections on the opposed convex sides of the sections.

(References on following page)

2,777,141

5

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,065,307	Everitts -----	June 17, 1913	
1,584,695	Palmer -----	May 11, 1926	5
1,641,880	Cohen -----	Sept. 6, 1927	
1,649,052	Zimmet -----	Nov. 15, 1927	
1,757,135	Odell -----	May 6, 1930	

1,925,019
2,217,367
2,315,996
2,385,977
2,502,714

3,359

6

Wilson -----	Aug. 29, 1933
Horsh -----	Oct. 8, 1940
Workman -----	Apr. 6, 1943
Farmer -----	Oct. 2, 1945
Garnett -----	Apr. 4, 1950

FOREIGN PATENTS

Great Britain -----	Feb. 9, 1911
---------------------	--------------