

G. W. SMITH & W. W. BECKER.

BATH MAT.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 8, 1911.

1,099,671.

Patented June 9, 1914.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

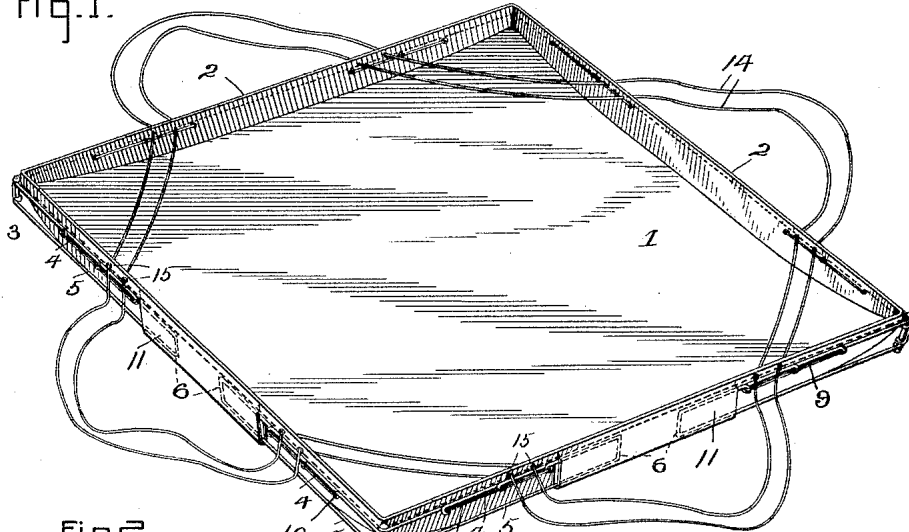


Fig. 2.

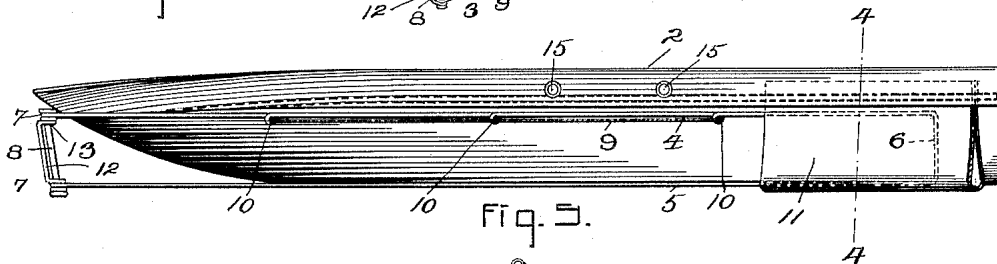


Fig. 3.

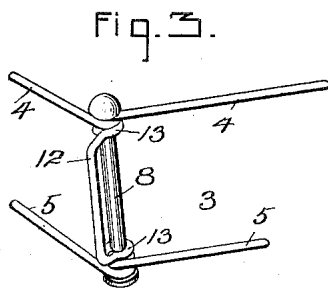


Fig. 4.

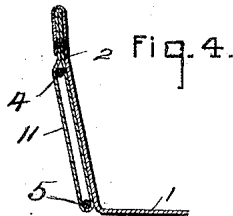
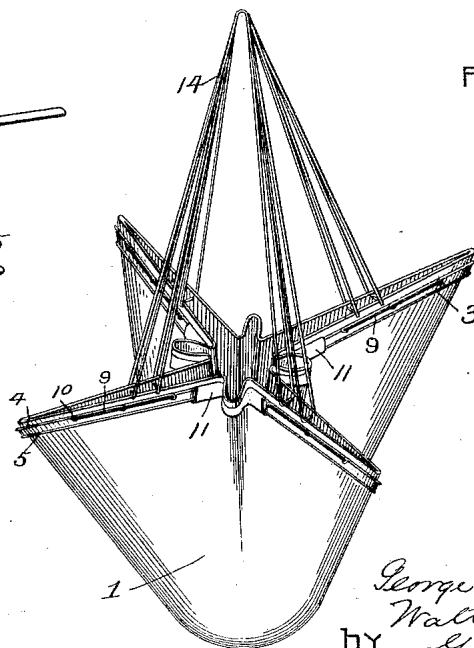


Fig. 5.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 7.

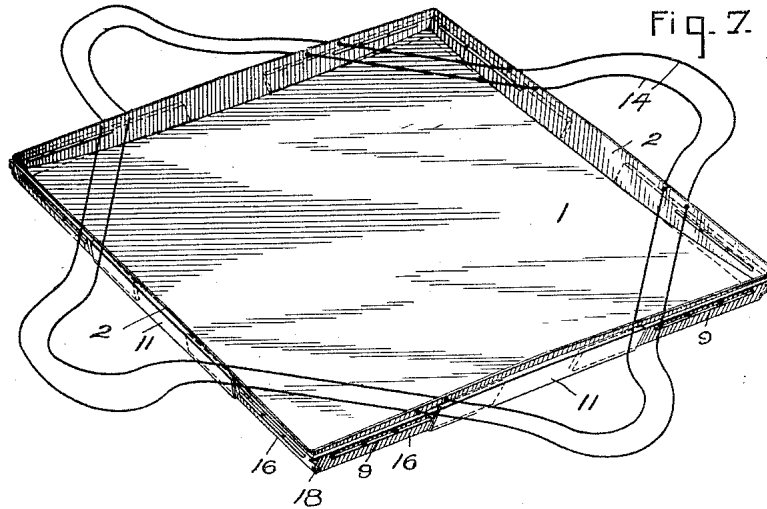


Fig. 8.

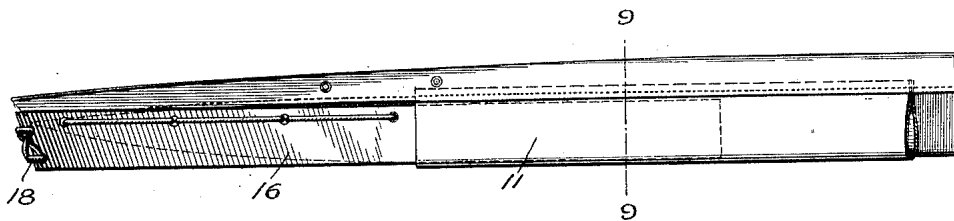


Fig. 9.

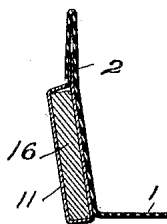
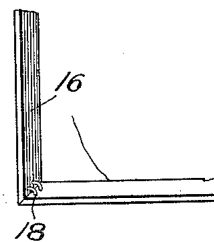


Fig. 10.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. SMITH AND WALTER W. BECKER, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

BATH-MAT.

1,099,671.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 9, 1914.

Application filed December 8, 1911. Serial No. 664,555.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, GEORGE W. SMITH and WALTER W. BECKER, citizens of the United States, and residents of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bath-Mats, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to collapsible and foldable bath mats of the class designed for the use of travelers and the residents of rural and other localities where the usual bath-tub conveniences are unavailable. Among other constructions, such mats have heretofore been provided with radial cords for holding the flexible rim of the mat in an upright position in order to retain the water. In the use of the mat, these cords lie upon its bottom and extend from its center to its rim. This is objectionable because the cords are not only uncomfortable to the feet but are liable to be caught by them and strained unevenly, thus slackening the cords at one side of the mat and releasing the corresponding portion of the rim with the result that some of the water is spilled.

One of the objects of our invention is to dispense with the use of such radiating or intersecting cords, in order to overcome the above objections.

A further object is to provide the mat with simple, neat and inexpensive rim-stiffeners or supports which shall reliably hold its flexible rim in an upright position for use and yet permit the mat to be folded and rolled into a small compass for conveniently packing, carrying or shipping it.

A further object is to improve the construction of the cords or handles by which the mat is gathered, carried and emptied of its contents.

In the accompanying drawings consisting of 2 sheets: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the mat unfolded for use. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation thereof, on an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the rim supports or stiffeners. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on line 4—4, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the mat showing its form when gathered and lifted preparatory to carrying and emptying it. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the mat as it appears when folded and rolled up. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a modified construction of the mat.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary side elevation thereof, on an enlarged scale. Fig. 9 is a cross section on line 9—9, Fig. 8. Fig. 10 is a fragmentary top plan view of an adjoining pair of rim-supports.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

The mat is constructed of a sheet of flexible waterproof material, such as rubber cloth. It comprises a bottom or body-portion 1 and a raised shallow rim or wall 2, the mat being preferably square or approximately so, as shown. The flexible rim is held in an upright position by supports or stiffeners 3 consisting of comparatively stiff bars, slats or frames arranged on the outer side of the rim walls and extending from the corners of the mat to or nearly to the middle of said walls, as shown in Fig. 1. In the preferred construction shown in Figs. 1-6, these rim-supports consist of metallic loops or skeleton frames each bent from a single length of steel wire and comprising longitudinal bars 4, 5 connected at their inner ends by a cross bar 6 and provided at their outer ends with eyes 7 which encircle a substantially upright pivot-pin or pintle 8 by which the two wire-supports of adjoining walls of the rim are hinged together, to permit folding of the mat as hereinafter described. These supports may be fastened to the rim by any suitable means, but are preferably sewed thereto, as shown at 9, the upper bars 4 being provided for this purpose with integral eyelets 10 for the passage of the thread. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the extreme corner-portions of the mat are preferably left free or detached from the rim-supports to prevent buckling or puckering of the mat at those points. Arranged centrally and horizontally on the outer side of each rim-wall is a flexible pocket or housing 11 which receives and incloses the opposing inner portions of the two wire supports of the wall. These pockets may consist of a strip of doubled rubber cloth stitched or otherwise secured to the rim, preferably only at the upper edge of the pocket, as shown.

The upper and lower pintle-eyes 7 of each pair of hinged rim supports are held at the ends of the pintle 8 by suitable spacers 12. The spacers shown in the drawings are bent from a single piece of wire and consist of a substantially upright bar provided at its

ends with inwardly-extending arms terminating in eyes 13 which encircle the pintle and bear against the upper and lower eyes of the rim-supports.

At its four sides the mat is provided with handles or loops for carrying and emptying it after bathing. These loops are preferably formed by one or more continuous draw-cords 14 threaded through eyelets or openings 15 arranged at suitable intervals in the rim of the mat. These openings are located near the corners of the mat, so that the portions of the lifting cords or loops inside the rim extend only across the corner portions of the mat where they are remote from its central area upon which the bather naturally stands. The cords therefore produce no discomfort and are not apt to be caught by the bather's feet. Two cords are shown in the drawings to afford better control of the mat in lifting and carrying it, but a single cord may be employed, if desired. These cords pass loosely through the eyelets in the rim so that they may slide freely therein in gathering the mat preparatory to lifting and carrying it to the place where it is to be emptied. This is done by first grasping two loops at opposite sides of the mat, one in each hand, raising them and bringing them together into one hand. The remaining two loops are then successively raised with the other hand, thus gathering or folding the four walls of the rim toward the center of the mat. Upon now lifting the mat it assumes approximately the form shown in Fig. 5, thus reliably confining the water therein. It may now be conveniently emptied by holding the several cord-loops in one hand, bringing three of the spout-like folds of the mat together and using the fourth as a spout for pouring out its contents. After emptying the mat it may be folded diagonally a number of times and then rolled into a small bundle, as shown in Fig. 6. In this compact form it occupies but a small space in a trunk or traveling bag. It can also be cheaply shipped or compactly stored. By the above described construction and arrangement of the lifting cord or cords, all of the handle-loops formed thereby need not be carefully and uniformly raised in lifting the mat but may be raised higher on one side than on the other without danger of spilling its contents, for the reason that the capacity of the continuous lifting and draw-cords to slide freely in all sides of the mat-rim permits the mat always to assume a level position under the weight of its contents. At the same time this arrangement leaves the central portion of the mat free from the cords, as hereinbefore described.

The rim supports or stiffeners 3 reliably sustain the rim in its normal substantially upright position for retaining the water in

the mat, and as these supports are pivotally or foldably connected at the corners of the mat and terminate at or near the center of the rim-walls they permit doubling of said walls and folding of the mat as above described. By constructing the rim-supports or frames of steel wire, they will readily spring back into place in case they should be bent or deflected. By inclosing the inner ends of these frames in the pockets 11, the loops of the lifting cords 14 cannot catch thereon or become entangled therewith, avoiding all danger of accidentally disturbing any portion of the mat in such manner as to spill its contents.

In the modified construction shown in Figs. 7-10, wooden rim-supporting slats 16 are substituted for the wire frames 3. These slats are secured to the rim by sewing or lacing, as shown at 17. Their inner ends are housed in pockets 11, as in the first-described construction, while their outer ends are foldably tied together by cords 18. This modified mat has draw and lifting cords 14 like those shown in Fig. 1, and the mat may be lifted, emptied and folded in the same manner as the one first described.

We claim as our invention:

1. A collapsible rectangular bath mat, comprising a flexible and collapsible body having a flexible rim, and stiff rim-supports extending along the walls of the rim from the corners of the mat nearly to the middle of each of its four walls, leaving the middle-portions of the rim-walls unstiffened to permit doubling thereof at those points.

2. A foldable rectangular bath mat, comprising a flexible body having a flexible rim, and stiff rim-supports extending along the walls of the rim from the corners of the mat nearly to the middle of said walls, said supports being permanently secured to the rim walls, and means for foldably connecting the adjoining rim-supports at the corners of the mat.

3. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim and stiff rim-supports attached to the outer sides of the rim-walls and extending from the corners of the mat nearly to the middle of the rim-walls, and means for foldably connecting adjoining rim-supports at the corners of the mat.

4. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, stiff rim-supports attached to the outer sides of the rim-walls and terminating at the corners of the mat, and means for foldably connecting adjoining rim supports at the corner of the mat, the rim-supports being detached from the corner-portions of the rim and mat-body.

5. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, stiff rim supports extending along the outer side of the rim-walls from the corners of the mat nearly to the middle of said walls, and pockets at

tached to the middle portions of the rim-walls and inclosing the inner portions of said rim-supports.

5 6. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, and stiff rim supports each extending along one of the walls of the rim from the corner of the mat nearly to the middle of said wall, each support consisting of a metallic skeleton frame permanently secured to the rim, the meeting  
10 ends of adjoining frames being hinged together to swing toward and from each other.

7. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, rim-supporting  
15 frames extending along the outer sides of walls and each consisting of a pair of longitudinal bars connected at their inner ends by a cross bar and provided at their outer ends with pintle-eyes, the pintle-eyes of adjoining rim-supports meeting at the corners  
20 of the mat, and pintles passing through said eyes.

8. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, rim-supporting  
25 frames extending along the outer sides of the rim-walls, each of said frames being bent from a single length of wire and comprising a pair of longitudinal bars connected at their inner ends by a cross bar and provided  
30 at their outer ends with pintle-eyes, and pin-

tles passing through the eyes of adjoining frames.

9. A foldable bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim, rim-supporting  
frames extending along the outer sides of 35 the rim-walls, each of said frames being bent from a single length of wire and comprising a pair of longitudinal bars connected at their inner ends by a cross bar and provided at their outer ends with pintle-eyes, 40 one of said longitudinal bars having integral thread-eyelets, and pintles passing through the eyes of adjoining frames.

10. A foldable rectangular bath mat comprising a flexible body, a flexible rim having 45 cord-openings near its corners, stiff rim-supports extending along the walls of the rim from the corners of the mat nearly to the middle of said walls, and a continuous draw and lifting cord passing loosely 50 through the openings of the rim and extending across the corner portions of the mat and adjacent to the rim-walls.

Witness our hands this 4th day of December, 1911.

GEORGE W. SMITH.  
WALTER W. BECKER.

Witnesses:

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E. M. GRAHAM.