

Jan. 7, 1941.

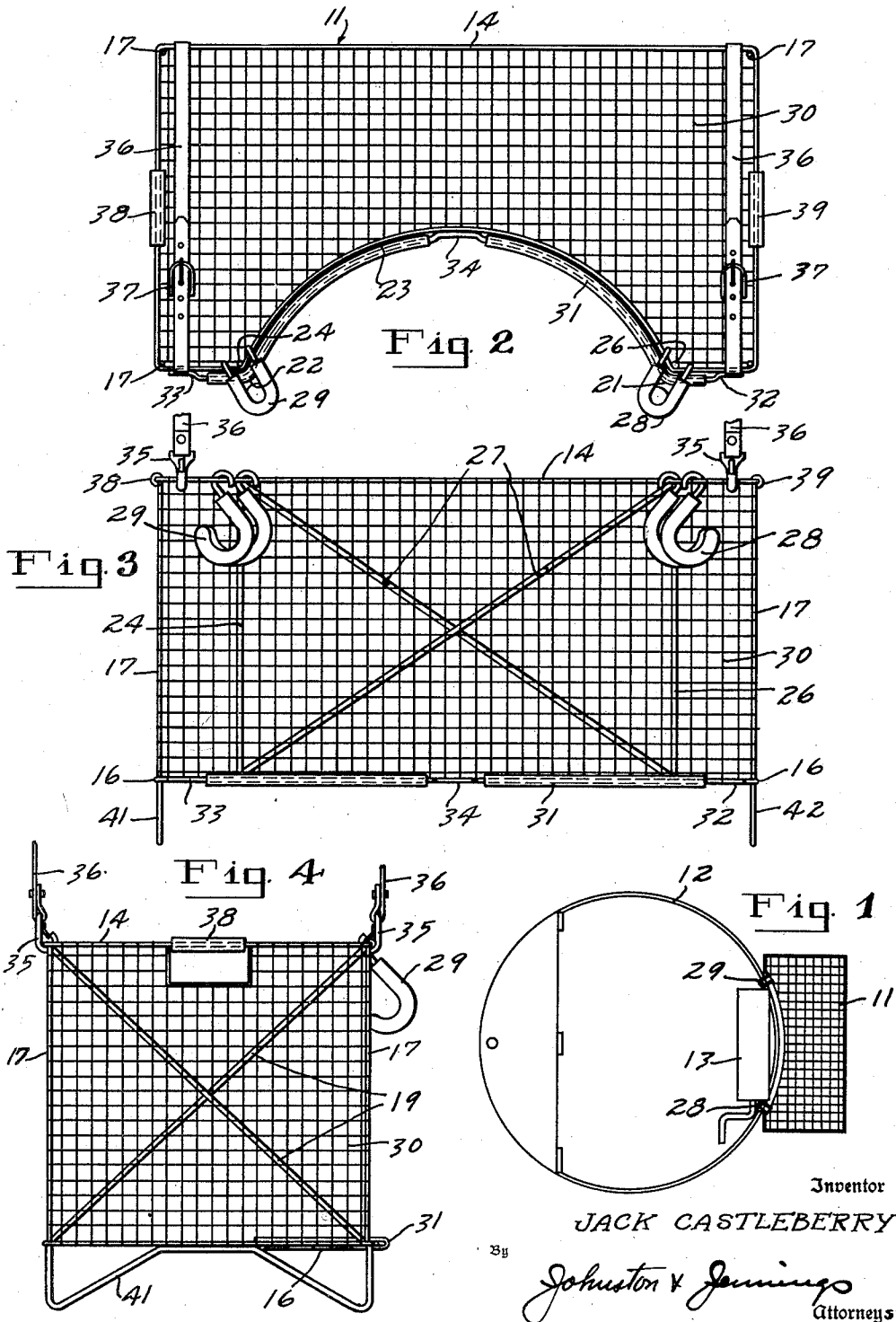
J. CASTLEBERRY

2,227,702

LAUNDRY BASKET

Filed June 24, 1938

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor

JACK CASTLEBERRY

By

Johnston & Jennings

Attorneys

Jan. 7, 1941.

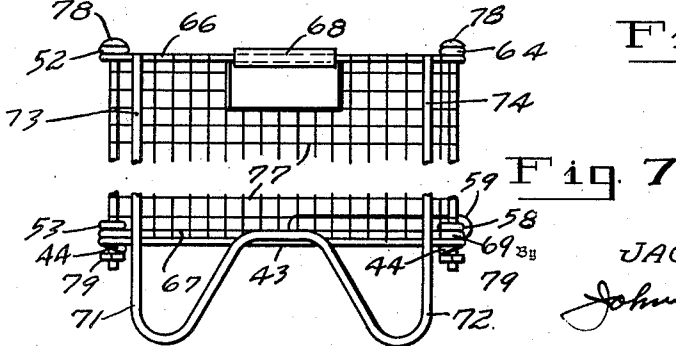
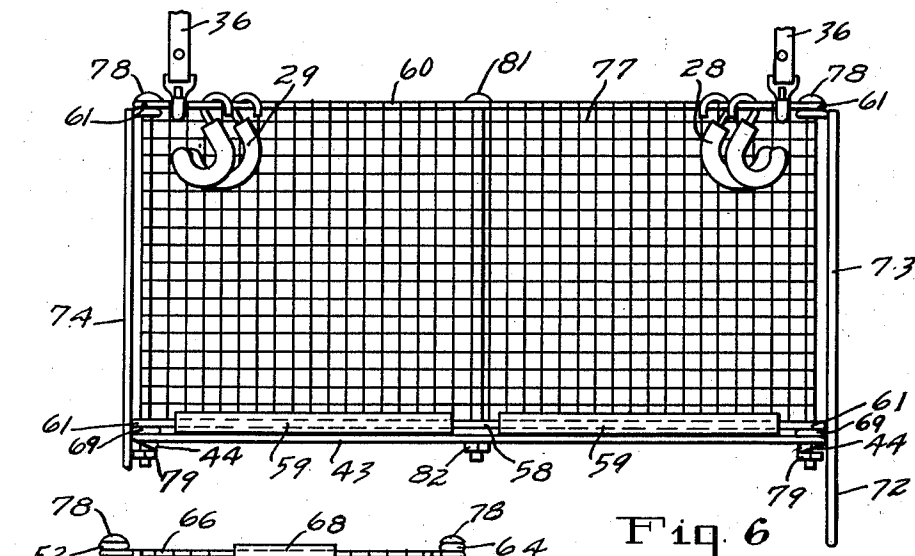
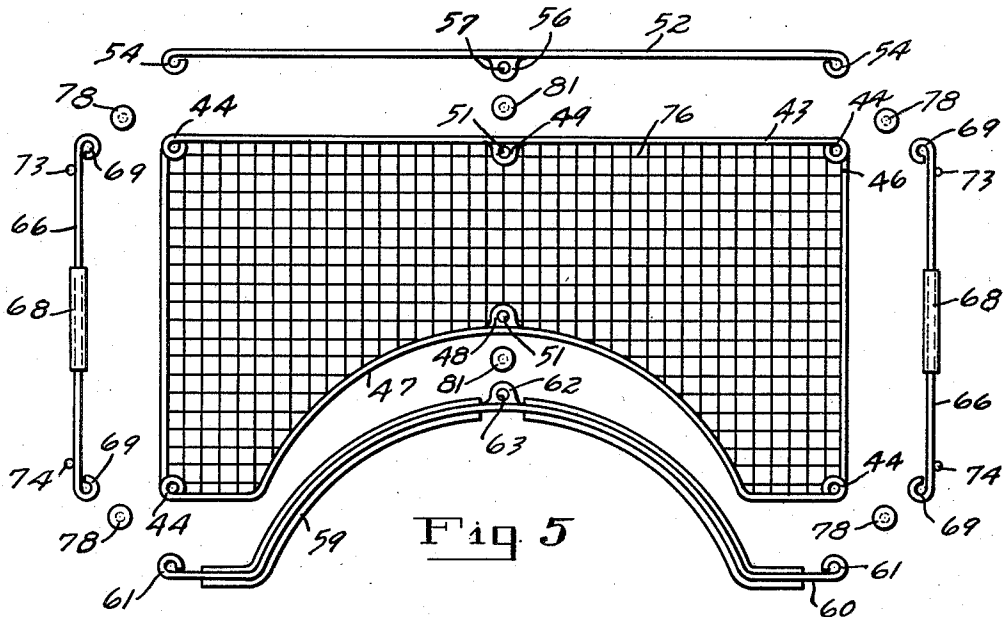
J. CASTLEBERRY

2,227,702

LAUNDRY BASKET

Filed June 24, 1938

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventor

JACK CASTLEBERRY  
*Johnston & Jennings*  
Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,227,702

## LAUNDRY BASKET

Jack Castleberry, Jasper, Ala., assignor of one-third to Robert Argo and one-third to W. C. Gardner, both of Jasper, Ala.

Application June 24, 1938, Serial No. 215,594

2 Claims. (Cl. 220—4)

This invention relates to laundry baskets, and more particularly, though not exclusively, to laundry baskets used in handling damp clothes during the laundering process.

5 One object of this invention is the provision of a laundry basket which shall be adapted to fit against and be readily attached to and detached from a washing machine or laundry tub, and which, when so attached, will not mar the finish of the tub by scratching the paint from its sides or otherwise damaging it.

10 Another object of this invention is the provision of a laundry basket which will fit comfortably against the body of a person when it is being carried, leave his arms and hands free, and at the same time prevent the damp clothes in the basket from wetting the person's body, or becoming soiled.

15 Another object of this invention is the provision of a laundry basket which shall include means to prevent soiling the clothes therein when the basket is in use on a tub, being carried by a person, or resting on the ground or floor.

20 A further object is the provision of a basket which will readily and conveniently fold up for shipping purposes or for storing.

25 A further object of the invention is the provision of a laundry basket having the features above enumerated and which will be light, durable and inexpensive.

30 Briefly, my invention comprises a frame formed preferably of substantial wires, or the like, welded or otherwise secured together to form a rigid framework, the bottom, ends, and sides of which are covered with reticulated metal, such as coarse screen wire. One side of the frame is curved inwardly to form a recessed portion adapted to fit around a laundry tub, or the body of a person carrying the same, and is provided with an offset rubber-sheathed member which holds the damp clothes and the side of the basket out of contact with the side of the tub or the body of the person carrying it. Convenient means for lifting and carrying the basket are provided, as well as a means to prevent soiling of the clothes when the basket is placed on the ground or floor.

35 My invention further comprises the novel details of construction and arrangement of parts which are hereinafter more particularly described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic plan view of my invention in position on a washing machine;

Fig. 2 is a plan view;

40 Fig. 3 is a side elevation;

Fig. 4 is an end view;

Fig. 5 is an exploded plan view of a modified form;

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of the form shown in Fig. 5; and

Fig. 7 is an end view of the form shown in Fig. 6.

Referring to Fig. 1, I show my improved basket 11 mounted on a washing machine 12 in position to receive clothes as they pass from the wringer 10 13. It will be understood that the basket can be readily hung on any type of laundry tub, as well as against the side of a mechanical washing machine.

15 Referring to Figs. 2 through 4 of the drawings, it will be seen that the basket comprises upper and lower main frame members 14 and 16 joined at each corner thereof by vertical brace members 17. To further strengthen the frame, I provide diagonal brace members 19 across the ends. The junctions of all these wires are welded or soldered together, thus forming a light, strong framework. The top and bottom members 14 and 16 are bent inwardly on one side, as at 21 and 22, to form a recessed portion 23, which recess fits snugly 20 against the laundry tub or the body of a person when the basket is being carried. At the points of bend 21 and 22 of the members 14 and 16 I provide further diagonal members 27 and vertical members 24 and 26 which serve to strengthen the curved recessed portion 23 against longitudinal and transverse stresses.

25 At the points of inward bend 21 and 22 of the members 14, I provide rubber-sheathed hook members 28 and 29 which are adapted to hook over the sides of the laundry tub and thus hold the basket in place therein. It will be noted that these hooks 28 and 29 are so placed with respect to straight and curved portions of the basket side that the basket may be hung equally as well on the straight side of a laundry tube as on one having a curved side. The hooks are loosely mounted on members 14 and may be readily pressed down into engagement with the side of the tub, thus forming a resilient and slip-proof engagement 30 therewith. By reference to Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings, it will be seen that the hook members 28 and 29 are pivotally mounted on the frame members 14 and may be readily swung around until they overhang the inside of the basket. This leaves the curved side of the basket smooth and free of obstructions which would bear against a person's body when the basket is being carried.

The sides, ends, and bottom of the basket are completed by fastening reticulated metal 30 or 55

other suitable covering to the frame. This covering preferably consists of coarse screen wire of about three to six mesh. The wire is held in place on the frame by welding or soldering, and may be so attached in as many places as the individual strands cross the frame members, thus insuring a rigid construction.

Adjacent the lower main frame member 16, I provide a sheathed wire 31, extending outwardly and offset from, but substantially conforming to, the curvature of the recessed portion 23. The ends of the wire are welded or soldered at 32 and 33 to the frame member 16. Midway the length of the recess 23 the wire 31 is bent inwardly, as at 34, and again made fast to the main frame member 16, thus giving a strong, three point contact attachment. When the basket is attached to the tub, the sheathed wire 31, being offset from the sides of the basket, serves to hold the basket away from the side of the tub and thus prevents soiling the clothes in the basket or damaging the side of the tub. Also, when the basket is being carried by a person, this wire rests against the body and prevents the wet clothes from coming in contact with the person carrying the basket.

To facilitate carrying the basket, I fasten shoulder straps 36 to the front and back sides and to the top frame members 14, which straps are adjustable in length by means of buckles 37 to fit the individual user. The straps are fastened to the basket by means of snap-hook fasteners 35 which may be easily removed and attached to the basket at any point. When the basket is in use on the tub the center portion of the straps may be dropped over the ends of the basket to get them out of the way and to prevent them from being covered up by the incoming clothes. In order that the basket may be easily lifted, I provide enlarged hand-holds 38 and 39 at each end thereof. Legs 41 and 42, formed preferably of heavy wire bent to shape, are fastened to the bottom sides of the basket by welding or soldering to prevent soiling the clothes when the basket is set on the ground or floor.

Referring to Figs. 5 to 7 of the drawings, I show a modified form of my invention in which the basket is adapted for ready assembly and disassembly, whereby it is better adapted for shipping where space is important. Except in details hereinafter set forth, this modification is similar to the one already described. In Fig. 5, which is an exploded plan view with some of the parts removed, the lower frame 43 is shown as made from a single piece of wire bent round at each corner to form a ring or bolt hole 44 and is welded at 45 to form a unitary frame member. The lower frame member is curved inwardly at 47, as shown in the previous modification, to adapt it to fit against the side of the tub, and has secured thereto a supporting clip 48 at the mid position of the inwardly curved portion, and another supporting clip 49 extending inwardly from the rear. Each of these clips is provided with a bolt hole 51, the purposes of which will appear more clearly hereafter.

The rear side of the basket has an upper frame member 52 and a similar lower frame member 53, each of which is bent at the ends to form an eye or bolt hole 54 which is adapted, upon assembling, to match with the rings 44 formed in the lower frame member 43. Also, intermediate its ends, the frame members 52 and 53 are each provided with a clip 56 having a bolt hole 57 therein which matches with the bolt hole 51 of the lower frame member.

The front side of the basket has a lower frame member 58 curved inwardly to conform to the inward curve 47 of the lower frame member and is sheathed with a protective material 59, such as rubber. The ends of the frame member 58 are bent to form eyes 61 which match with the front rings 44 formed in the lower frame member 43. Also intermediate its ends, the frame member 58 is provided with a supporting clip 62 having a bolt hole 63 therein which matches with the bolt hole 51 of the front of the lower frame member. The upper frame member 60 for the front side of the basket 64 is similar in all respects to the lower frame member 58, except that it may not be provided with a protective sheathing.

The ends of the basket are provided with upper and lower frame members 66 and 67 which are similar to each other except that the upper frame members are provided with a protective sheathing 68 intermediate the ends to form handles for the basket. The ends of the members 66 and 67 are each bent to form eyes 69 which match with the rings 44 in assembling.

In order to stiffen the basket, as well as to provide for its support, I provide legs 71 and 72 at each end, which are formed from a single piece of wire bent in the form of a W, with upright portions 73 and 74 at each side, which are welded or otherwise suitably joined to the upper and lower end frame members 66 and 67 near the ends thereof, and thus provide stiffness for the ends and sides of the basket.

The bottom frame member 43 has soldered or otherwise suitably secured thereto, a bottom 76, which may be of reticulated metal or other suitable material, and the side and end frame members likewise have each secured thereto a similar reticulated metal covering 77, each such covering, of course, being independent of the other, whereby the sides and ends may be disassembled. As is well understood, the protective covering or sheathing 59 will be slit or otherwise opened at suitable points in order to secure the front covering to the lower side frame member 58.

The several parts are assembled by first placing the end frame members 66 over the bottom frame member 43 with the eyes 69 matching with the rings 44 in the lower frame member. The sides are then assembled with the ends and bottom, the eyes 54 matching with the rings 44 and the eyes 69 of the end frame member. Through bolts 78 are then placed through each corner of the basket and nuts 79 are screwed on at the bottom. Through bolts 81 extend through the holes in the clips 56 and 49 and are provided with nuts 82 at the bottom. The upright portions 73 and 74 of the wire forming the legs prevent the sides from crushing downward when the nuts on the through bolts are screwed home. When thus assembled, there is provided a rigid, sturdy basket, which may be readily disassembled and packed into a small package for shipping.

While I have shown my invention in but two forms, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited, but is susceptible of various other changes and modifications, without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are imposed by the prior art or as are specifically set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A laundry basket having a bottom frame member bent back upon itself to form a bolt hole at each corner, upper and lower end frame mem-

bers having bolt holes at each end matching the bolt holes formed of the bottom frame member, legs having upwardly extending portions joined to the upper and lower frame members whereby  
5 to stiffen the ends of the basket, upper and lower side frame members having bolt holes formed at the ends thereof matching with the bolt holes of the lower frame members, and through bolts passing through said bolt holes at the corner of  
10 the basket to hold it in assembled position.

2. A laundry basket having a bottom frame member bent back upon itself to form a bolt hole at each corner, a clip secured to the front and rear of said bottom frame member intermediate  
15 the ends thereof and having a bolt hole therein, end frame members comprising upper and lower transverse wires bent at the ends to form an eye

for a bolt matching with the bolt holes at the corners of the bottom frame members, legs having upwardly extending portions joining the upper and lower end frame members whereby to  
5 stiffen the ends of the basket, upper and lower frame members at each side of the basket comprising wires bent at the ends to form eyes for bolts and matching with the corner bolt holes of the bottom frame member, supporting clips  
10 intermediate the ends of the upper and lower side frame members and each having a bolt hole matching with the bolt holes intermediate the ends of the lower frame member, and through bolts passing through all the bolt holes at the corners and at the sides intermediate the ends,  
15 to join the bottom, front and sides together.

JACK CASTLEBERRY.