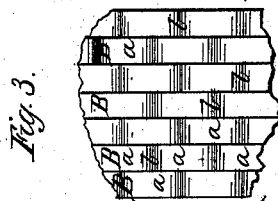
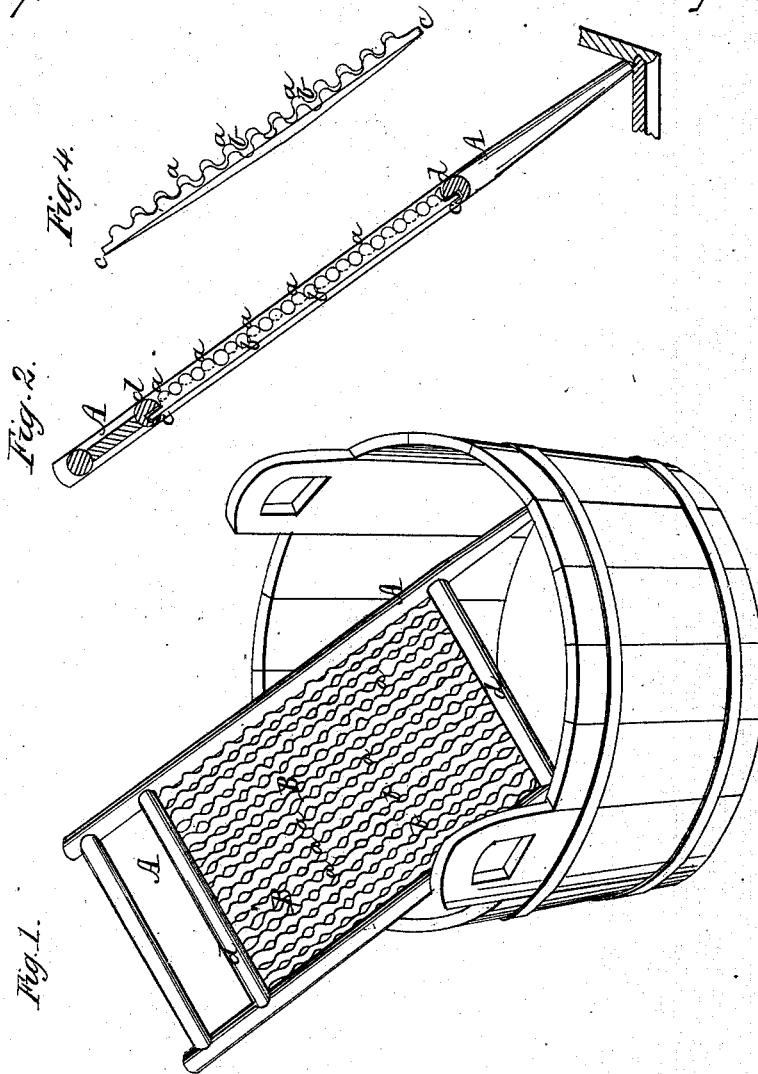


*N. Homes,*  
*Wash-Board,*

*Nº 47,206.*

*Patented Apr. 11, 1865.*



*Witnesses*  
*Jay Hoyatt*  
*R. F. Osgood*

*Inventor*  
*Nelson Homes*  
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*Attys*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON HOMES, OF LAONA, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVED WASH-BOARD.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,206, dated April 11, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NELSON HOMES, of Laona, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Wash-Boards; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved wash-board resting in a tub; Fig. 2, a central longitudinal vertical section of the same; Fig. 3, a plan of a portion of the washing-bed, on an enlarged scale; Fig. 4, an edge view of one of the corrugated strips or bars forming the washing-bed, detached, and showing the spring or elasticity of the same.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

A variety of wash-boards with the bed made of wood has long been employed. In the oldest device in common use the bed is formed of a single stiff board, corrugated transversely. In another a series of stiff beaded rollers, placed side by side, with the beads alternating, is employed; and still in a third, a sort of honey-comb arrangement is used, having cavities and ridges in a single stiff board. But in all these there are objections, the most important of which are that they are stiff and inelastic, and do not retain the water upon their surfaces sufficiently long to perform the washing to advantage. It is the object of my invention to obviate these difficulties by producing a wash-board made up of strips or bars with plane edges, situated closely together, so as to prevent water escaping through, and corrugated in such a manner that the ridges of one bar will alternate with those of the next, &c., so as to form cells to retain the water to the best advantage, and so arranged as to produce an elastic surface.

As represented in the drawings, A is a frame of any ordinary or convenient construction for supporting the washing-bed. This bed is made up of a series of slats or bars, B B B, sawed from a board or the block in such a manner as to leave plane square edges, which, when placed side by side in the bed longitudinally, leave no opening between, but merely a joint, as shown most clearly in Fig. 3. These bars or strips are corrugated transversely, so as to leave alternate ridges or projections *a a* and intermediate hollows or de-

pressions, *b b*; and when the bars are situated side by side in the bed the ridges of one bar come opposite the depressions of the next, or, in other words, the ridges of one bar alternate with those of the next. The ends of the slats or bars may be secured in the frame of the wash-board in any desirable manner, being represented in the drawings as having bearings *c c*, which enter grooves in the cross-pieces *d d*.

I secure several advantages in the arrangement above described. I avoid the use of a stiff, unbroken, unyielding board, such as the old device in common use, and employ in its place an elastic bed, which is still as tight, or nearly so, as the other, as the plane edges of the slats fit closely together, and thus effectually prevent the water drawn up with the clothing from running through. The narrowness of the slats allow each to spring independently, as indicated by red lines, Fig. 4. In this respect, also, the superiority of my arrangement over the wash-board made up of beaded rounds or bars is manifest, for in the latter the large openings between the beads allow a free passage of the water through, so that there can be no retention, and in such device, also, there is no elasticity of the bed.

It will be seen that by alternating the ridges *a a* of my slats the cavities *b b* are inclosed in such a manner that the water is retained therein, (there being no passage through the bed,) so that there is a constant supply. I am aware of no other device where these several qualities are combined.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The wash-board composed of the plane-edged slats or bars B B, fitting closely together, so as to prevent the passage of water through, and having a necessary degree of elasticity, said slats being provided with corrugations *a a b b*, so arranged that the corrugations of any one slat alternate with the next, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

NELSON HOMES.

Witnesses:

FREEMAN LAKE,  
E. D. HOMES.