

J. T. SARGENT.  
Wash-Board.

No. 207,134.

Patented Aug. 20, 1878.

Fig. 1.

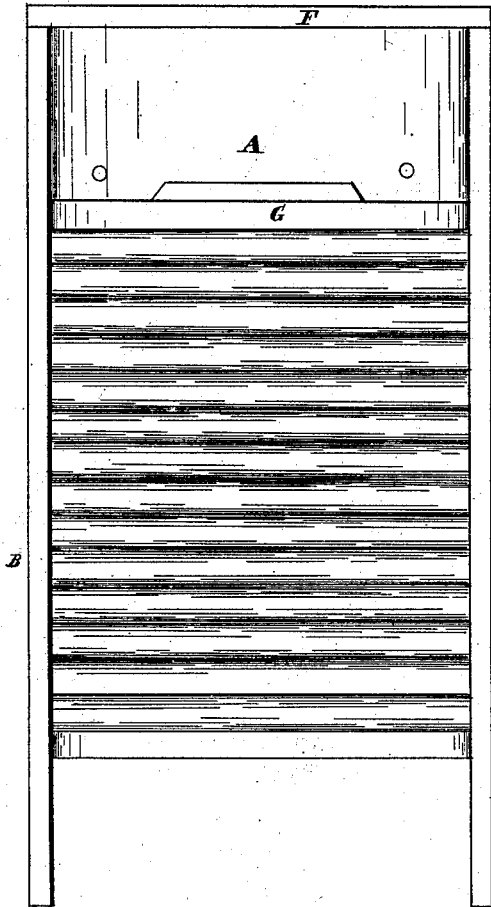
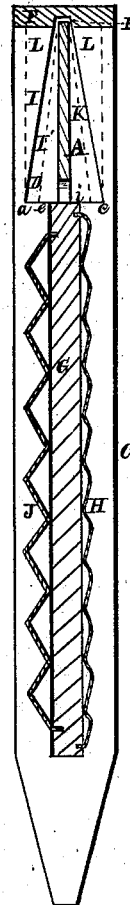


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.  
J. W. Bowman  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN WASH-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **207,134**, dated August 20, 1878; application filed July 19, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES T. SARGENT, of Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and Improved Wash-Board; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and complete description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of the same.

This improvement in wash-boards relates to the means employed for preventing the soap from being soaked and wasted when left upon the shelf of the board, and also to prevent the accumulation of dirt about the joints of the said shelf.

In the use of the ordinary wash-board it is well known that the shelf upon which the soap is placed soon allows an accumulation of water, owing to the closing up of the opening for the escape of water at the top of the rubbing-surface of the board. The secretion of dirt and the expansion of the wood prevent the water from passing off from the shelf as it is thrown up in washing, which dissolves and wastes the soap, and at the same time renders the upper portion of the board more or less unclean.

The object of this improvement is to render the wash-board in no way subject to such objections, and is attained by having the shelf or upper part of the wash-board made movable or self-adjustable, so that the head-board of the shelf will fall or move back by its own gravity sufficiently to admit of an open space for the escape of water from the ledge or shelf upon which the soap is placed, the adjustability of the head-board freely admitting of all dirt and secretions being readily removed.

For a more full description of the said improvement, reference will be had to the following specification, and to the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the wash-board, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal section.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the drawings.

The wash-board herein represented is of the kind known as "double rubbers," and to which the improvement is as applicable as to the single rubber.

The essential features of the invention relate to the movable head-board A and the recess in each of the side pieces B C, which may be angular or curved. One of said recesses is shown at D.

The upper side of the head-board is received into a groove, E, of the cross-piece F, and the lower side or edge extends to the back-board G, to which the rubber is connected on one or both sides. The dotted lines I' K in Fig. 2 indicate the position of the head-board when the wash-board is in use.

It will be observed that the base of the angular recess is much wider than the top, and that it extends beyond the back-board G, which permits the lower side of the head-board to vibrate from *a* to *c*, Fig. 2, while the top of the head-board remains in the groove E. In case the side H is used, then the head-board will move back to the shoulder I of the recess to a position indicated by the dotted lines I', Fig. 2, which leaves an opening at *e* between the top of the back-board G and the head-board A the entire length of both; and when the side J is used, then the head-board will drop back to the opposite shoulder of the recess to a position indicated by the dotted line K, leaving an opening, *i*, between the sides B C. By this arrangement the head-board will vibrate from one side to the other, according to which of the rubbers H and J is used, so that all the water which may be thrown up onto the head-board will pass off through one of the openings *e i*, depending upon which side of the wash-board is used, and as the soap is placed upon the ledge or shelf formed by the top of the back-board G, it follows that it cannot be wasted by soaking in water lodged upon said shelf, as is the ordinary way, and by this means the dirt and secretions which accumulate about the ordinary head-board and its connections are washed away.

In place of the triangular recess D for the vibration of the head-board, the said recess may be formed with its sides at right angles, as noted by the dotted lines L, Fig. 2. In such case the head-board would move from one side to the other of the recess, instead of vibrating.

The head-board may be perforated or an opening made at the base, as seen in Fig. 1, to aid in carrying off the water from the ledge or shelf before mentioned.

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

The combination, in a wash-board, of the movable head-board A and the side pieces

provided with angular recesses to receive the ends of said head-board, respectively, constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES T. SARGENT.

Witnesses:

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