

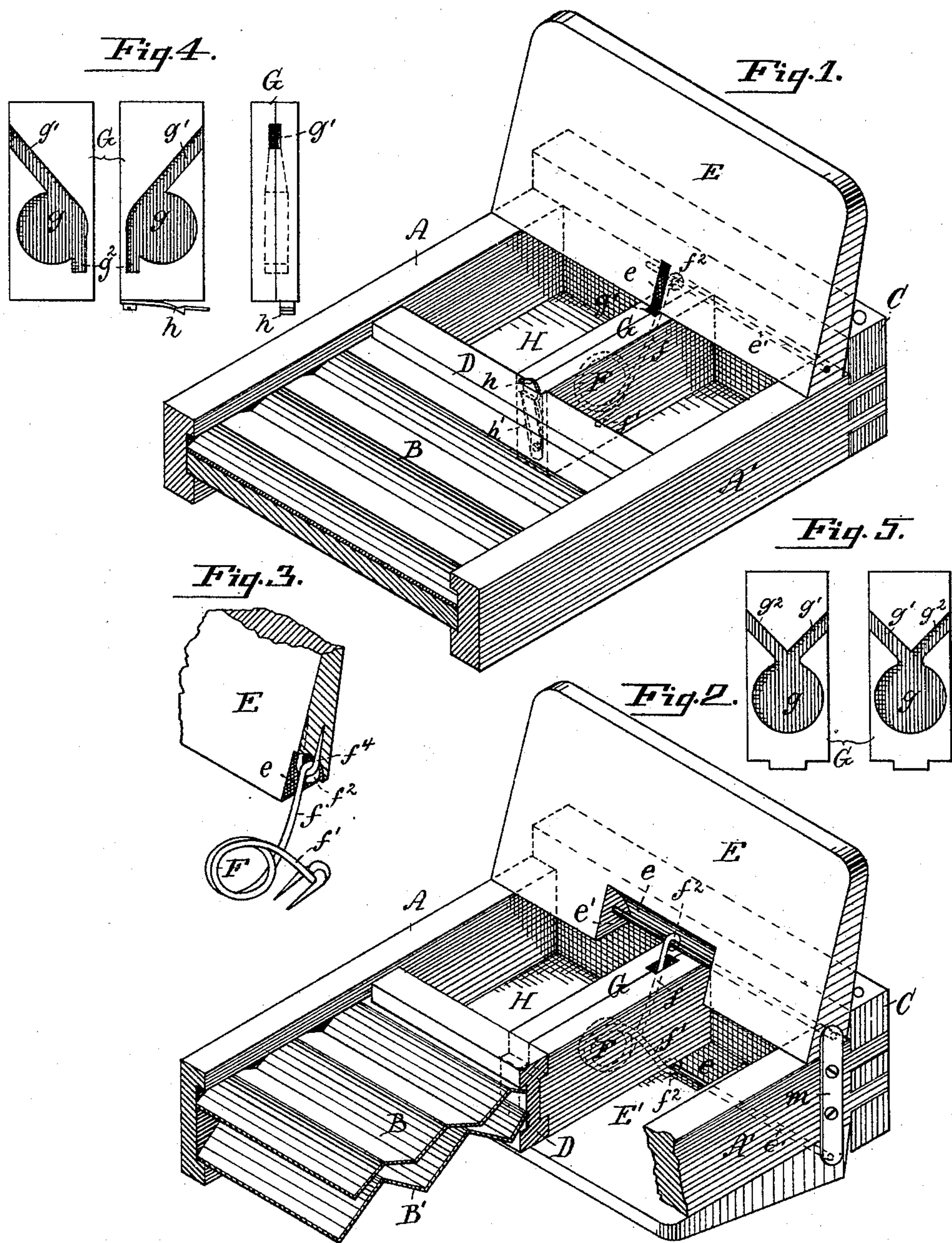
(Model.)

S. BINGHAM.

WASH BOARD.

No. 395,650.

Patented Jan. 1, 1889.



WITNESSES:

Hermann Bornmann.

Thomas M. Smith.

INVENTOR:

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Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## WASH-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 395,650, dated January 1, 1889.

Application filed February 7, 1888. Serial No. 263,259. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SOLON BINGHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Conklingville, in the county of Saratoga and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wash-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to certain improvements in wash-boards, and is applicable to such as have a single washing or rubbing surface, as well as those having washing or rubbing surfaces on opposite sides or faces of the board.

The object of my invention is to provide a wash-board with one or more lids or protectors connected with a spring supported centrally in a space between the crown-piece and cross-bar supporting the upper portion of the washing or rubbing surfaces, whereby the lids may be used as soap-containers and as a protector at the same time to shield the body of the person from splashing water and soap-suds. The lids or protectors are connected with the spring held in a block secured to the crown-piece and the supporting cross-bar of the wash-board in much the same manner that the blades of a knife are pivoted or hinged to a frame or housing, and consequently the normal position of each lid or protector is a closed one; yet, nevertheless, an efficient protector is presented when one of the lids is opened outward.

The nature and characteristic features of my present invention will be more particularly understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wash-board, showing a single lid or protector pivoted or hinged to a spring supported in a block held centrally in an opening in the upper part of the board. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a double-face wash-board broken away, and with the lids or protectors in open and closed positions, with my improved spring attachment applied to said lids or protectors. Fig. 3 is a perspective view in broken section of a lid and a coiled spring, showing a modified form of attaching said spring to said lid or protector. Fig. 4 represents in elevation the two-part block, and also an end view

thereof, and in which block the coiled spring is supported and such a form of block as is particularly adapted for use in a single-face wash-board; and Fig. 5 is an elevation of the two-part block arranged for use in connection with a double-face wash-board.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a further description of my invention, A and A' are the two side frames of the wash-board, made of wood or other suitable material.

B is the washing or rubbing surfaces, made of wood, corrugated zinc, or other suitable material.

C is the crown-piece, secured to the upper extremities of the side frames, A and A', in any suitable manner.

D is a cross-bar located at the upper extremity of the washing or rubbing surfaces, this bar performing the function of a support or rest for the soap held in the rectangular-shaped opening H of the wash-board.

In Fig. 1, E is the lid or protector, made of wood or other suitable material, and having a groove, *e*, formed therein for the reception and free movement of the arm *f* of the spring F, having on its outer extremity an eye, *f*<sup>2</sup>, which is held in the groove *e* of the lid E, preferably by means of a staple, *f*<sup>4</sup>. The spring F, spiral in form, or preferably formed into one or more coils, is fitted into a two-part block, G, having a central annular recess, *g*, formed in each part, and constituting, when the two parts are suitably united together, a housing for the spring F. In each part of the block is formed a groove, *g*', diverging from the centrally-located housing *g*, for the reception of the arm *f* of the spring, and in each part of the block is formed a recess, *g*<sup>2</sup>, extending downward from the central housing, *g*, for the reception of the oppositely-disposed arm *f*' of the spring, which is held to place therein by means of a staple or pin, or in any other convenient manner. The block G may be dovetailed into the supporting cross-bar D, by which a rigid connection with the wash-board will be insured for the efficient working of the lid or protector E; or the block may be provided with a spring-catch, *h*, secured to the bottom of the block, and fitting into a recess formed in the sup-



porting cross-bar D by cutting a narrow channel,  $h'$ , in the same at a right angle to said cross-bar D.

By arranging the protector for use in connection with a single-face wash-board in substantially the manner hereinabove described the lid may be readily and quickly removed from the wash-board for cleansing the stationary soap-containing receptacle, or for any other purposes for which it may be desired to remove the lid.

With reference, now, to Fig. 2, which shows a double-face wash-board, A and A' are the side frames thereof; B and B', the washing or rubbing surfaces on opposite sides or faces of the board, made of wood, corrugated zinc, or other suitable material. C is the crown-piece; D, the cross-bar, located at the upper extremity of the washing and rubbing surfaces and forming a support or rest for the soap. E and E' are two lids or protectors, made of wood or other suitable material, and each having a recess,  $e$ , formed in it for the reception of the arms  $f$  and  $f'$ , respectively, of the spring F, and to which arms, having eyes  $f^2$ , the lids are pivoted by means of a bar,  $e'$ , fitted into each lid in any convenient manner. The spring F is mounted, by preference, in a two-part block, G, having a central housing,  $g$ , for the reception of the spring F, and with grooves  $g'$  and  $g^2$ , diverging from the central housing,  $g$ , and these grooves arranged preferably at an acute angle to each other for the reception of the arms  $f$  and  $f'$  of the spring F.

The two-part block G is secured together in any suitable manner, and is by preference dovetailed into the supporting cross-bar D, the opposite extremity of said block resting snugly up against the interior surface of the crown-piece C, and therefore it will be readily understood that the spring F, arranged in this manner, can be properly supported for the performance of its particular function of supporting in an open or closed position the lids or protectors independently of the side frames of the board.

With the wash-board arranged for use, as illustrated, for instance, in Fig. 2, with the rear lid, E', closed against the side frames, a convenient soap box or receptacle will be formed, while the extreme lower inner edge of said lid will serve as an efficient drip for the water and soapsuds. The lids E and E' in Fig. 2 may be cut out, as therein illus-

trated, with the bar  $e'$  passed through the respective lids in such manner as to permit of the movement of the arms  $f$  and  $f'$  of the spring F, held in the two-part block G, to the right or left of a central position, for the purpose of increasing the size of the receptacle for containing soap in one apartment, while what is termed "soft" soap is held in the opposite or smaller apartment, in which event I prefer to use a block that is provided with a spring-catch,  $h$ , as shown, for instance, in Fig. 1, and arranged so as to be held in a rigid position in contact with the upper surface of the supporting cross-bar D. To the upper portion of the two side frames, A and A', of the board are secured lateral cleats  $m$ , made of metal. These cleats  $m$  project laterally beyond the side frames, A and A', slightly, and form stays to hold the respective lids in proper position, whether the spring F in the block G occupies a central position or not, which will be readily understood.

Having thus described the nature and objects of my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a wash-board, of a lid or protector connected with and supported by a spring held centrally in a space in the upper part of the board between the crown-piece and the supporting cross-bar, substantially as shown, and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, with a wash-board, of two protectors pivoted to the arms of a spring supported in a block which is held within an opening in the upper part of the board between the crown-piece and the supporting cross-bar, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination, with a wash-board, of two protectors pivoted to the arms of a spring supported in a two-part block adjustably mounted in an opening in the upper part of the board between the crown-piece and the cross-bar, whereby either lid may be opened or closed, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SOLON BINGHAM.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM SCOTT,  
B. R. JENKINS.