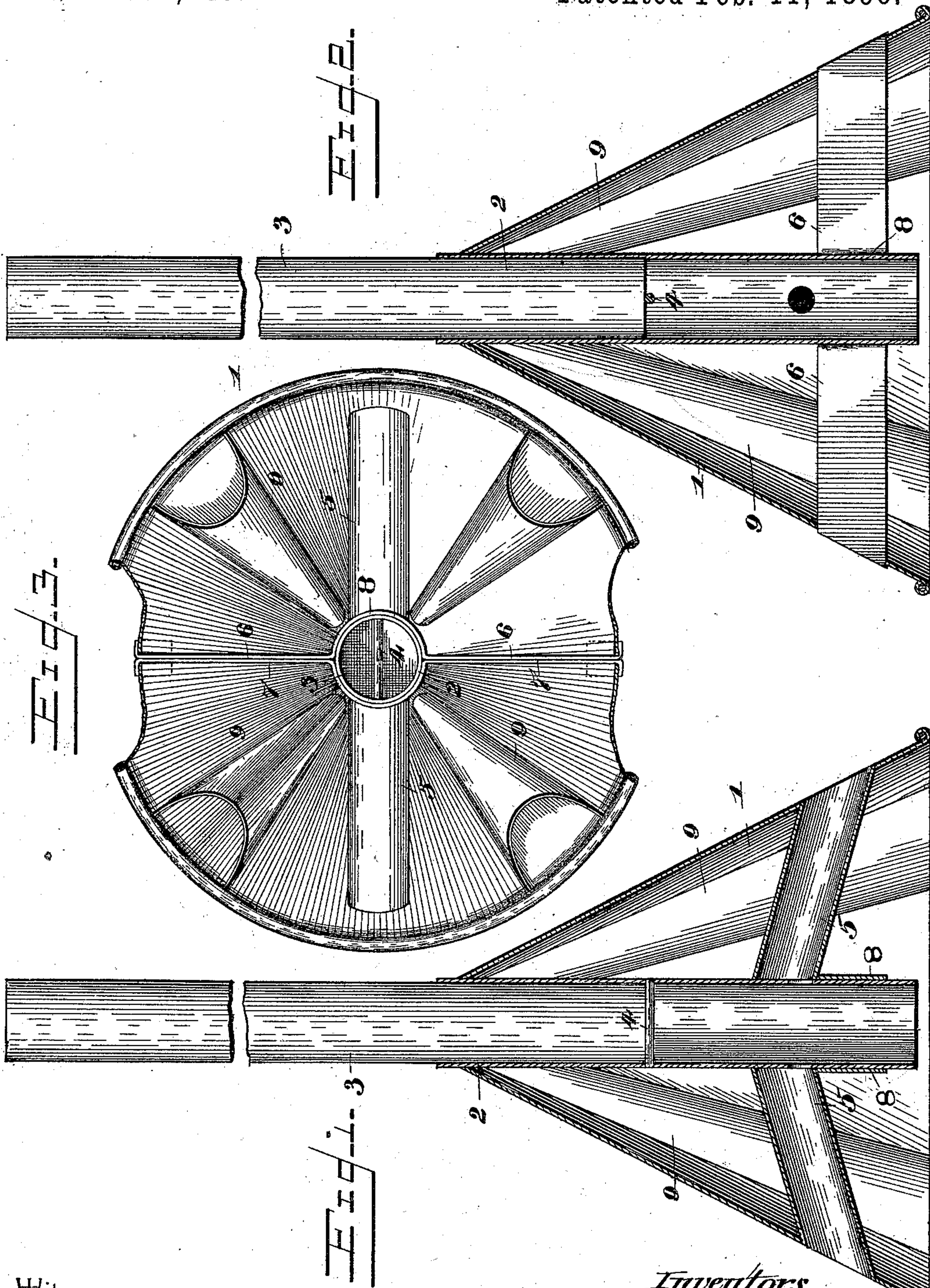


(No Model.)

G. A. & E. R. CROOKER.
CLOTHES POUNDER.

No. 554,440.

Patented Feb. 11, 1896.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE A. CROOKER AND EDWIN R. CROOKER, OF CROWLEY, LOUISIANA.

CLOTHES-POUNDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 554,440, dated February 11, 1896.

Application filed April 17, 1895. Serial No. 546,083. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, GEORGE A. CROOKER and EDWIN R. CROOKER, citizens of the United States, residing at Crowley, in the parish of Acadia and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Clothes-Pounder, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of washing appliances which operate by a vertical reciprocatory movement and force the water back and forth through the clothes in the process of washing; and the object of the same is to provide a device of this type which will obviate splashing of the water to the inconvenience of the operator and the soiling of the floor, and which will lessen the effort and energy usually required of the operator to the efficient working of similar prior machines, and which will possess durability and structural features for effecting the washing in a rapid and efficient manner, and which will obviate rusting and the accumulation of foreign matter, as the parts will be disposed with special reference to drain themselves of all water and possible accumulation.

With these and such other ends in view as may appertain to the special organization of the device, the improvement consists of the novel features which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth and claimed, and which are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a central vertical section of a washing-machine embodying the essential features of the invention. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but taken at right angles thereto. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the device, a portion of the body or cone being broken away to show the manner of securing the ends of the cross-brace.

The body 1 is formed of sheet metal, preferably tin, and is constructed in the form of a cone. The tube 2 projects a short distance beyond the apex of the cone and has its lower end terminating in about a plane passing through the base of the body. This tube is centrally disposed with respect to the cone-body, and its upper-end portion forms a socket to receive the lower end of the operating-handle 3, the latter being limited in its inward movement when thrust into the tube by a cross-bar 4, which forms a stop. Ventilating-

tubes project in opposite directions from the lower-end portion of the tube 2 and connect at their outer ends with the body 1. These ventilating-tubes serve to brace the tube 2 and strengthen the body 1, and at the same time admit air to the interior of the body to obviate a too great suction when lifting the device in the efficient working of the machine. These ventilating-tubes incline downwardly from the tube 2 and communicate with the latter a short distance from its lower end. By giving the ventilating-tubes 5 a downward inclination they will drain themselves of any water and foreign matter, which would otherwise have a tendency to remain therein if the said tubes occupied any other position.

A cross-brace 6 extends at approximately right angles to the ventilating-tubes 5 and has attachment at its middle point to the lower end of the tube 2 and at its ends to the sides of the body 1. This cross-brace is composed of two similar members 7, which are preferably strips of tin and which have their end portions soldered or otherwise secured together, the middle portion being oppositely curved, so that unitedly said middle portions will form a socket 8 through which the lower end of the tube 2 extends, the ends of said members 7 being extended through slits in the sides of the body 1 and bent in opposite directions and soldered to the said body. This construction is shown most clearly in Fig. 3. This cross-brace 6 forms a stay for the lower end of the tube 2 and at the same time strengthens the body 1.

A series of air-passages 9 is disposed around the inner side of the body and extends from the base thereof to within a short distance of the apex and forms air-chambers to facilitate the washing process and result in lessening the labor of the operator. These air-passages 9 gradually decrease in capacity from the lower to the upper end and are formed by tapering strips of tin or other sheet metal, which are curved between their edges and placed with their concaved sides against the body 1, to which they are soldered or otherwise firmly attached, so as to secure tight joints between the edges of the strips and the sides of the body. These air-passages, constructed in the manner set forth, besides serving to increase the operation of the device also

serve to strengthen and brace the body, thereby enabling the parts to be made of lighter material than is possible with similar prior constructions and providing a comparatively
5 light device which can be operated without fatiguing the user.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

10 A clothes-pounder comprising an approximately conical-shaped body having a centrally-disposed tube constructed to receive a handle at its upper end, the lower end of the said tube terminating in about the plane of the base of the body, ventilating-tubes com-
15 municating at their inner ends with the lower end portion of the central tube and inclining downwardly in opposite directions, and attached at their outer ends to the body at diametrically-opposite points and opening there-
20 through, a cross-brace disposed at right angles to the ventilating-tubes, and composed

of similar members which have their end portions secured together, and which have the middle portions oppositely curving to form a
socket to receive the lower end of the said cen- 25
tral tube, the extremities of the said members passing through slits in the sides of the body, and bent in opposite directions and attached to said body, and air-passages disposed about
the inner sides of the body and extending 30
from the base thereof to within a short distance of the top, substantially in the manner set forth for the purpose described.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures 35
in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE A. CROOKER.
EDWIN R. CROOKER.

Witnesses:

A. C. LORMAND,
VALSIN VALIER, Jr.