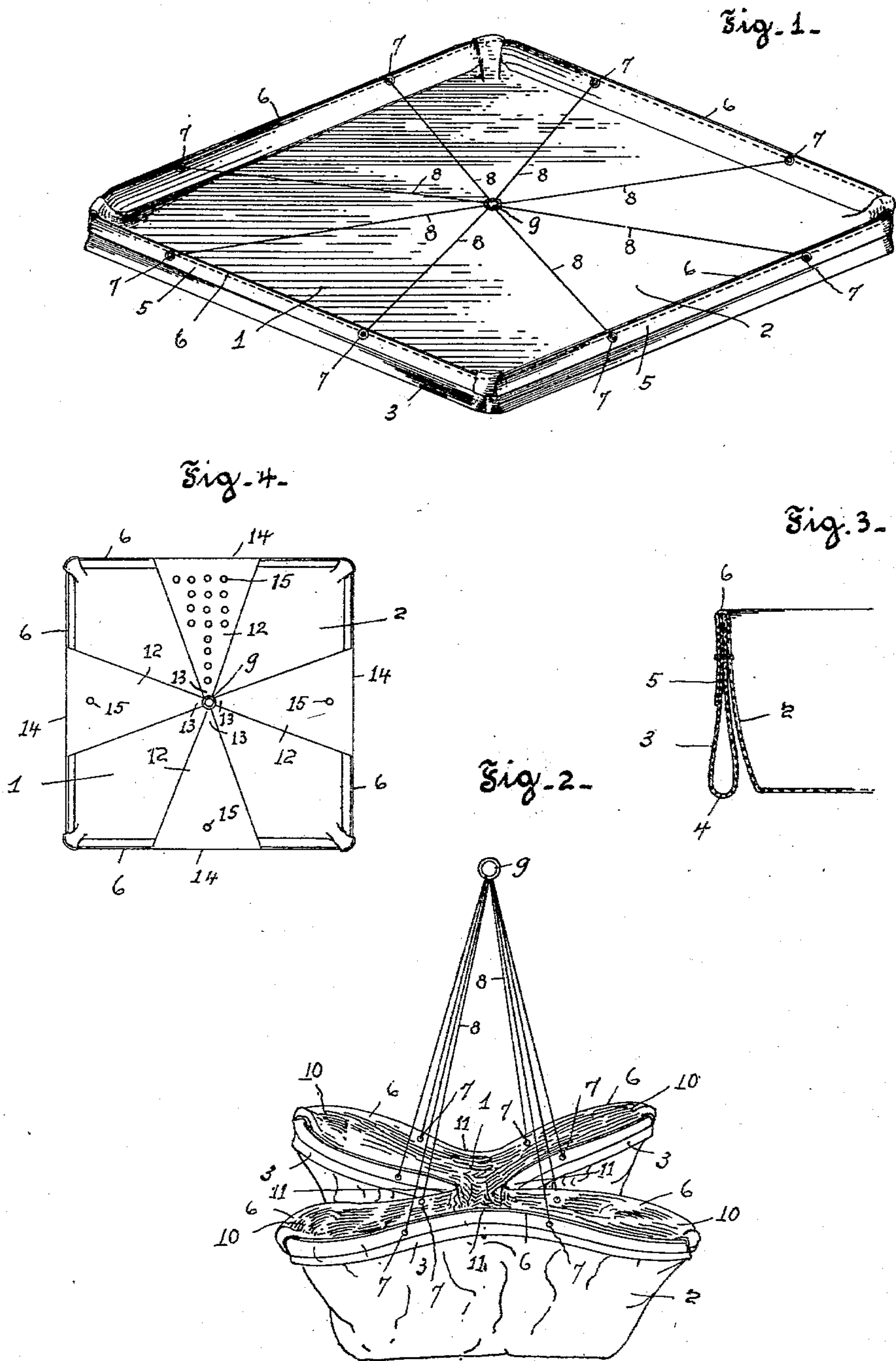


No. 745,553.

PATENTED DEC. 1, 1903.

W. E. ALLEN.
PORTABLE BATH MAT.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses -
Geo. A. Whitney Jr.
Chas. A. Boake

Inventor -
Willard E. Allen
By Wilson & Martin
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLARD E. ALLEN, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

PORTABLE BATH-MAT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 745,553, dated December 1, 1903.

Application filed May 31, 1902. Serial No. 109,774. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLARD E. ALLEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Portable Bath-Mats, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in portable bath-mats, and has for its object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and portable device of the kind upon which the bather may stand and that is adapted to receive and retain the escaping water and by means of which a shower, sponge, or fountain-brush bath may be taken in any room without wetting the floor or carpet; furthermore, that may be conveniently lifted after bathing, with the water collected therein, without danger of spilling the water, and safely carried to a place of emptying and then emptied as a vessel.

A further object is to provide a device of the kind that may be folded and rolled into a compact package convenient for shipment or packing in a trunk.

I accomplish these objects by constructing my invention as hereinafter described, claimed, and illustrated in the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an isometric view of my invention ready for use. Fig. 2 is an isometric view of a mat constructed in accordance with my invention when lifted with water therein by the radial cords. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through the rim of the mat, and Fig. 4 is a plan view of a mat provided with a modified form of flexible rim-supports and means for lifting the mat with water therein.

In the drawings, 1 designates the mat, which is constructed of a single square piece of impervious flexible fabric 2 and a rim-band 3, preferably secured together to form the mat, as hereinafter described.

Rim-band 3 is formed of a narrow strip 4 of flexible fabric doubled to one-half of its width and having the longitudinal marginal portions suitably secured together. Strip 4 is of a length slightly less than the combined length of the edges of the square 2, so that when doubled, as described, and connected together at the ends to form the rim-band 3 the area that may be inclosed by the band is less than the area of the square 2.

To secure the square 2 to the band 3, the square 2 is placed over the band 3, having the edge formed by the conjoined margins of the strip 4 uppermost and with the central body portion of the square 2 sagged within the band 3 to the level of the folded edge of the band. Equal marginal portions 5 along the sides of the square 2 are then bighted over the top edge of the band, and the margin 5, the top of the band 3, and the body of the square are then stitched through or otherwise suitably secured together to form a rim 6, the corners of the square being suitably infolded to slightly round the corners of the shallow-cupped mat thus formed.

To support the flexible rim 6 so that the mat 1 will retain water when lying on the floor and to provide means for lifting the mat with water therein, rim 6 is provided with eyelets 7 at regular intervals in the sides of the rim, through each of which there is secured to the rim a cord 8, which is extended and secured to a common ring or other suitable connection 9 central to the square 2. Thus constructed it is manifest that the mat will in use retain a considerable quantity of water and that when lifted with water therein by the central connection 9 of the radial cords the mat will assume the conformation shown in Fig. 2, forming the radial outfolds 10 and infolds 11, and may be carried thus to the place of emptying.

To empty the water from the mat, the mat is held suspended from its central connection 9 by one hand, and all but one of the outfolds 10 being gathered in the other the water may be as readily emptied through the free outfold 10 as through the spout of a vessel. When the mat is emptied, it may be formed into a compact roll for shipment or packing in a trunk by first folding it one or more times to form either triangles or squares and then rolling it up and securing it in a rolled form by tapes, elastic bands, or other suitable fastenings.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a mat in which four triangular pieces 12 of suitable fabric with their apexes 13 secured to the central connection 9 and with their bases 14 secured centrally to the adjacent sides of the rim 6 of the mat are substituted for the cords 8. The pieces 12 are provided with perforations 15, which allow

the water to readily run through them when the mat is lifted by the central connection 9. In this form of mat the water may be emptied from the mat and the mat folded and rolled in the same manner as when cords are used.

5 What I claim to be new is—

In a portable bath-mat, the combination of a flexible band with a central body of impervious fabric of larger area than inclosed by the band, secured to the top portion of the band by a marginal bight of the body inclosing the top of the band and stitched through

the bight, the band, and the body, to form a rim around the body; and flexible supports for the rim radiating from a common connection central above the body and secured to the sides of the rim at intervals substantially as shown and described, and for the purpose set forth. 15

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of May, A. D. 1902.

WILLARD E. ALLEN.

Witnesses:

FRED E. MCCASKEY,
EDITH SCHAEFER.