March 20, 1928. 1,663,107

B. WHITE

TOWEL HOLDER

Filed Feb. 23, 1927

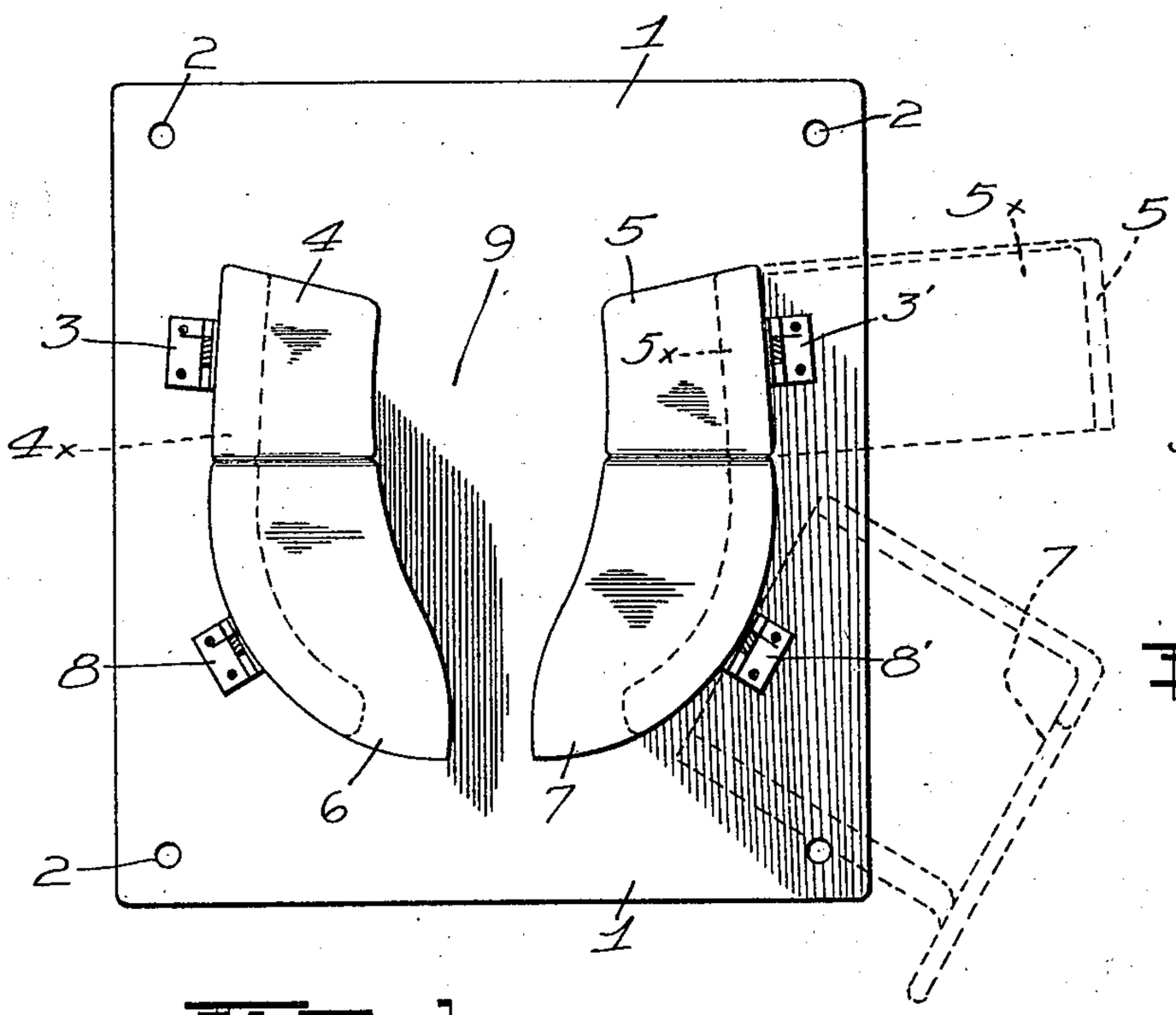


FIG. 1.

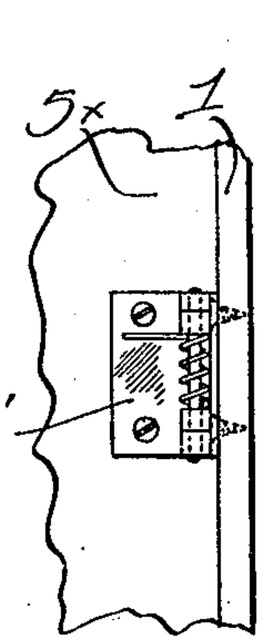


FIG. 2.

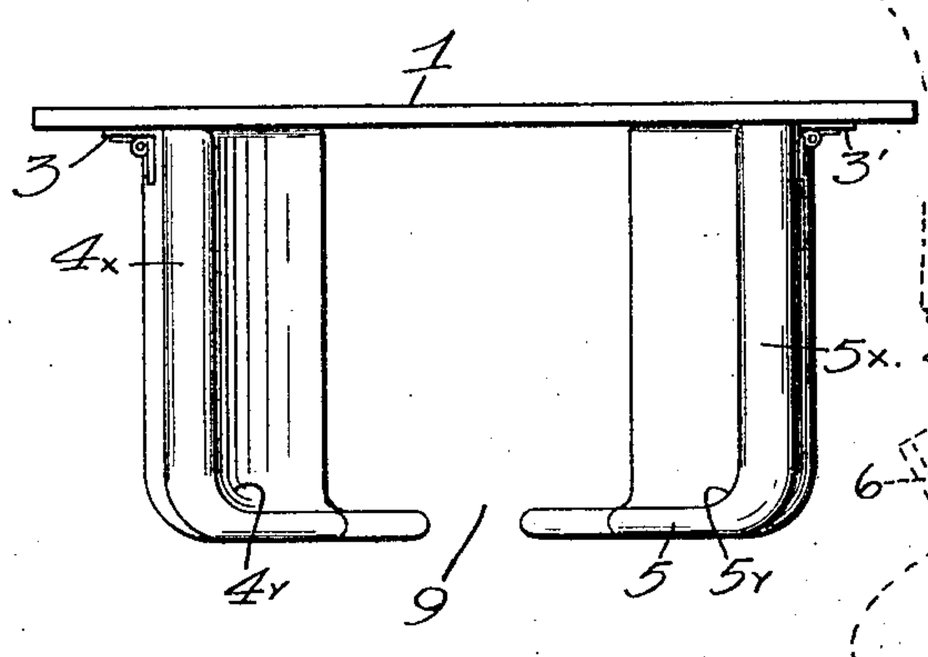


FIG. 3.

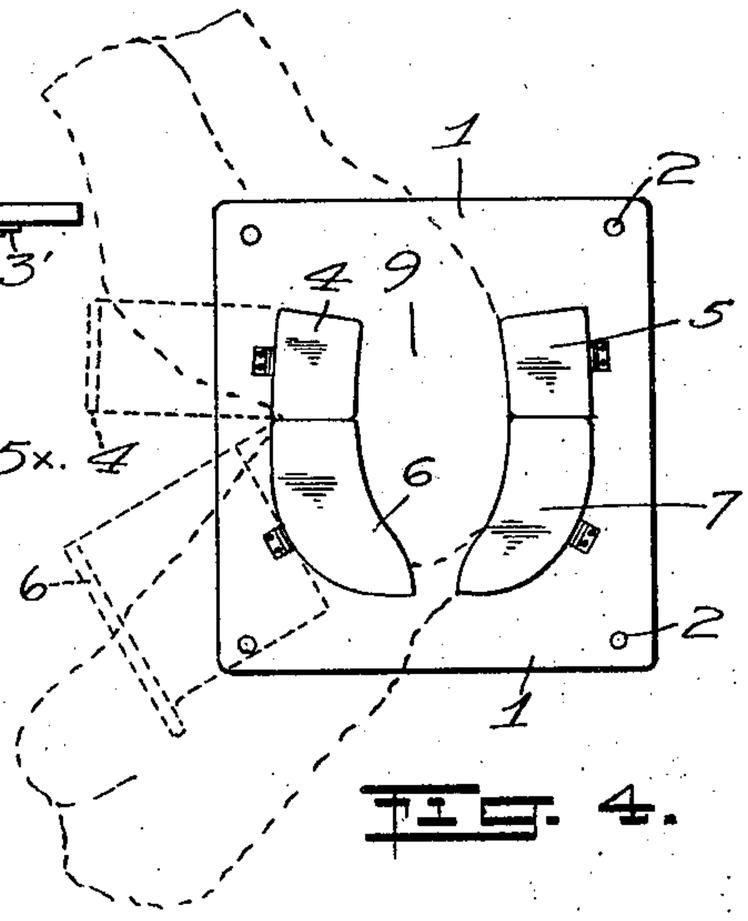


FIG. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOWEL HOLDER.

Application filed February 23, 1927. Serial No. 170,318.

My invention relates to improvements in towel holders and it consists in the combinations, constructions, and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of my invention is to provide a device in which a towel, wash cloth, dust cloth, or similar article, may be held and from which it may be easily withdrawn by a pull in any direction, with no danger of tearing or injuring the article.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the type described which is especially adapted to take the place of towel racks in bath rooms, and which will open to permit the release of the towel and will resume its normal closed position when the towel has been removed.

A further object is to provide a device of the type described in whch the towel or the like may be instantly inserted and which will be held securely until it is desired to remove it, when it can be readily removed, as stated.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, and the novel features of the invention will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application, in which

Figure 1 is a face view of the device in its normal position,

Figure 2 is a detail view of one of the spring hinges,

Figure 3 is a plan view, and

Figure 4 is a view showing the manner in which the parts are swung to permit the withdrawal of the towel or cloth.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a base plate 1 which may have openings 2 by means of which it may be secured to a wall or other suitable supporting surface. Hinged at 3 and 3′ are the upper portions 4 and 5, respectively, of the towel retaining means. The lower portions 6 and 7 are hinged, respectively, at 8 and 8′.

The portions 4 and 6 are disposed on one side of the center of the device, while the portions 5 and 7 are disposed on the opposite side. Each of the portions 4, 5, 6 and 7 consists of a side wall, such as that shown at 4^x and 5^x in Figures 1 and 3 with end portions extending toward one another.

The portions 4 and 6 are arranged to contact with one another in the normal position of the device, while the portions 5 and 7 are also arranged to contact. It will be observed that the outer edges of the portions 4 and 6 as well as of the portions 5 and 7 are arranged in curved form and the hinges are so placed that the upper portions 4 and 5 will swing outwardly as shown in dotted lines in Figure 1, while the lower portions will swing outwardly and downwardly.

It will be noted that the interior of the holding members have no sharp corners, thus at 4^y and 5^y there is a fillet, while at the contiguous edges of the portions 4 and 6 the corners are slightly rounded, thus preventing the towel from catching thereon. The members 5 and 7 are similarly rounded at their contiguous edges.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof may be readily understood. The holding members are spaced apart as shown in Figure 1. In using the device, the towel, ordinarily in a folded condition, is dropped in at the open space at the top. Normally, the spring hinges hold the parts in such position as to retain the towel. A portion of the towel may project below the retaining members, but the springs of the hinges are designed to be strong enough to normally hold the members in position against the force exerted by the weight of the towel.

Now when it is desired to remove the towel, it may be done by grasping a portion thereof and pulling in any direction. If the pull is straight downwardly, the towel will spread out to lower members 6 and 7 until it is free. If the pull is to one side, the upper and lower members of that side will be swung on their hinges and when the towel has been removed the spring hinges will return them to their normal position. One may grasp a portion of the towel at the opening between the opposed flanges and pull straight outwardly. In such case, it may be that all of the members 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be moved slightly on their hinges, but will return when the towel has been removed.

The opening 9 between the opposed flanges serves the purpose of permitting the towel to be more easily inserted as well as to be easily removed.

The device may be made in any suitable material, such as wood or metal, and of

various sizes to accommodate articles of different nature.

I claim:

1. A towel-holding device, comprising a base, a pair of towel-holding members having their edges contiguous to one another, spring hinges for holding each of said members to said base and for permitting them to swing in different directions, and a second pair of holding members spaced from the first pair and movable toward and away from said first-named pair.

2. A towel holder, comprising a base, upper opposed towel-holding members, spring hinges for permitting said upper towel-holding members to swing outwardly, lower towel-holding members having their upper edges normally contiguous with the upper towel-holding members, and spring hinges for said lower towel-holding members arranged to permit said lower towel-holding members to swing in a direction at an angle to the direction of movement of the upper towel-holding members.

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