Feb. 21, 1956 H. C. HANCOCK 2,735,737

DIAPERING SUPPORT

Filed June 15, 1953

Fig. 1.

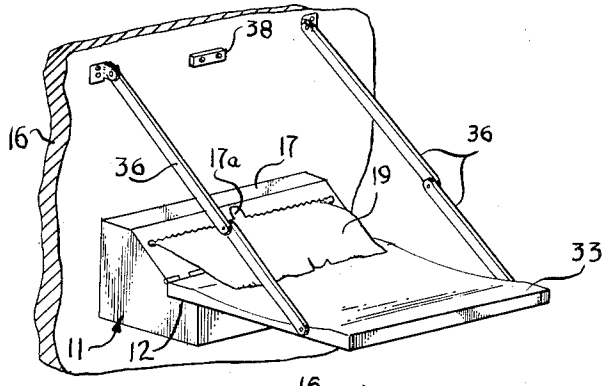


Fig. 2.

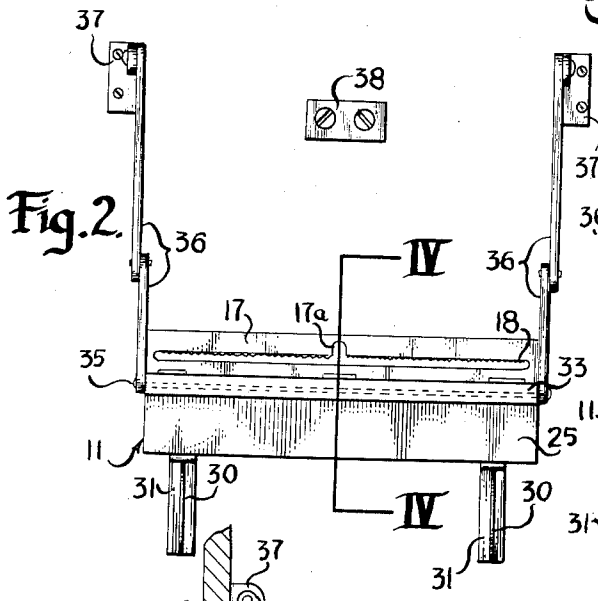


Fig. 3.

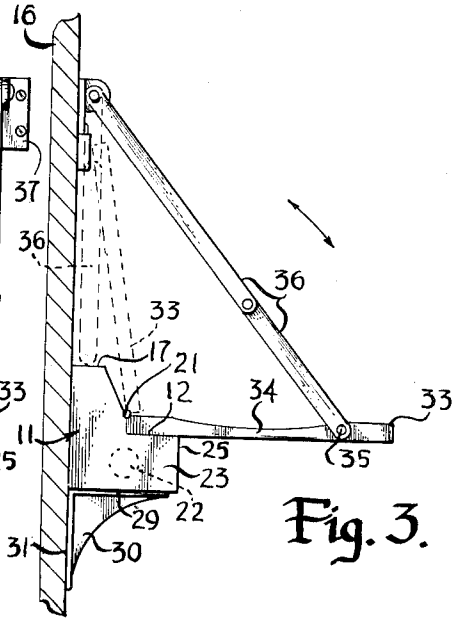
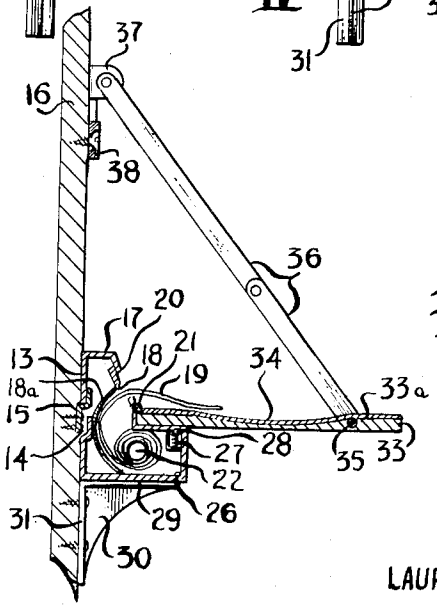


Fig. 4.



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DIAPERING SUPPORT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 311—2)

The present invention relates to a diapering support and more particularly to a wall bracket folding type baby support which may be conveniently and compactly located in lavatories, toilets, and rest rooms for the convenience of mothers in handling babies who require diapering attention.

Because no adequate provision has been made, in public and private rest rooms for the diapering of babies, the the mother is faced with a juggling problem of the greatest magnitude in removing the used diaper, cleansing the baby, and adjusting a new diaper into position. Babies have been injured where the cramped quarters of rest room facilities have made the usual precautions against injury difficult if not impossible. The extreme inconvenience to mothers because of inadequate provisions for the diapering of infants is incalculable. Where crude facilities, such as tables, are available they cramp the limited space of the rest room and in addition are rarely used by the mothers because of the belief that unsanitary conditions may exist thereon.

The present invention has as its object the provision of a simple, economical and space-saving structure for the diapering of babies which is provided with adequate support and which is arranged to provide a sanitary surface upon which the baby can be rested.

An additional object is to provide a body conforming support surface upon which the baby may be rested while diapering is in progress.

A still further object is to provide a relatively tamper-proof structure which can be easily serviced and supplied.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the diapering support as viewed when lowered for use.

Figure 2 is a front elevation showing the diapering support in its lowered position for use with hidden edge lines indicating the position of the diapering support when not in use.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the diapering support in the lowered position with hidden edge lines indicating the position of the diapering support when not in use.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional elevation taken along line IV—IV of Fig. 2.

General description

In general the diapering support structure consists of an elongated generally L-shaped sanitary sheet container which serves as a base member for the hinged diapering support member. The sanitary sheet container is provided internally with means for receiving and dispensing a sanitary paper sheet from the roll form. A hinged door at the front of the said sheet container provides access for replacing spent rolls of paper. At the top of the sheet container a serrated tearing edge is provided above a supply slit so that the sanitary sheet may be ripped off and disposed of after use. The diapering support member has a modeled surface to conform generally to

the body of an infant and acts to cradle the infant while diapering is in progress. A pair of arms are provided at either end of the diapering support member which are pivotally secured thereto. The arms are pivotally bracketed at the other end for secure attachment to the wall. The arms are broken so as to be foldable midway between the diapering support and the wall bracket fixture so that when the diapering member is not in use the arms will, scissors-like, fold out of the way against the wall. The diapering member, because of the position of its center of gravity in the raised position, will position itself against the wall in a compact manner pivotal upon its hinges which are attached to the sheet container to assist in carrying the weight of the structure and to transmit loads upon the structure into the wall.

Referring more particularly to the drawing the elongated container **11** is generally L-shaped in cross section being provided with a step **12**. The back **13** of said container **11** is rectangular and is provided with slots **14** which may accommodate various wall attaching means. The preferred attachment for flush mounting are means inclosing a plurality of tongues **15** insertable in the said slots **14**. The tongues **15** are securely attached to or in the wall **16** by screws, bolts, or other fastening means. Screws are shown as a specific embodiment in Figure 4. In the top **17** of the sheet container **11** is a slit orifice **18** of such size as to accommodate the desired width of the paper sheet **19**.

An arcuate baffle **18***a*, having the same width as the orifice **18**, is attached as by spot welding or other fastening means so as to form an arcuate paper guide from the interior base of the container **11** to the slit orifice **18**, and butts longitudinally against the serrated cutting edge **20**. The said cutting edge **20** extends slightly into the slit **18** from above said slit orifice as best shown in Fig. 4. The purpose of the arcuate baffle **18***a* will be more completely described as the description proceeds. At the center of the top **17**, above the slit **18** and communicating therewith, is a U-shaped opening **17***a* through which the paper sheet **19** may be grasped and torn upwardly or pulled outwardly. A relief notch (not shown) is provided in the leading edge of the arcuate baffle **18***a* registering with the U-shaped opening **17***a*. Directly beneath said slit **18** are hinges **21**. If a plurality of hinges **21** are desired the arrangement indicated in the drawing has proved satisfactory. A continuous hinge may be provided running the length of the container **11**. Inside said container **11** are sockets **22** (see hidden edge lines in Fig. 3) located in the end plates **23** into which may be inserted rotatably the roll of paper **24**. The panel **25**, comprising the front of said container **11**, is flush hinged at **26** so that it may be opened outwardly and downwardly for replacing used rolls. A lock may be utilized securing said panel **25** from opening. In the drawing a spring loaded ball **27** is provided which by detent means **28** secures the panel in the closed position.

Secured to the base plate **29** of the container **11** are the pedestal brackets **30**. The pedestal brackets **30** are provided with right angle end members **31** which assist in the wall mounting of the diapering support.

To the hinges **21** is attached the infant diapering support member **33**. The diapering support member **33** is generally concave upon its top surface **34** so as to conform to the body contours of the average child and to assist the changer in holding the infant in position while diaper changing is in progress. Extending from either end of the support **33** are pivots **35** which are preferably ends of a rod which extends through the support **33** to which arms **36** may be attached. The arms **36** are broken substantially near their centers and pivotally retained so as to fold inwardly in a scissors-like manner

as the diapering support **33** is raised upwardly. The other ends of the arms **36** are provided with pivotal wall hangers **37** so that the diapering support **33** is adequately braced when in use. Other forms of bracing members may be utilized without a departure from the spirit of the invention.

The container **11** is preferably made of sheet metal. The arms **36** are fashioned from steel selected for its strength and durability characteristics. The support **33** is contour formed in metal, plastic, or wood and may be cushioned as indicated by a resilient matt **33***a* (Fig. 4).

In the drawings a bumper **38** comprising a rubber stop or the like is provided which resiliently resists damage to the wall. Securing means may be employed to hold the support **33** in the raised position but is normally unnecessary.

In operation the diapering support **33** when in the raised position is retained thereby because of the position of the center of gravity of the support **33**. The center of gravity is shifted to a position between hinges **21** and wall **16**. A bumper **38** may be used to prevent damage to the wall. As the support **33** is pulled down for use the arms **36** move into the support position with the rear edge of the support **33**, adjacent the hinges **21**, assisting in support as it bears against the paper container **11** or step **12**. This can all be accomplished by the mother with one hand to bring the support **33** into position for use. Utilizing the U-shaped aperture **17***a*, above the dispenser slit, the sanitary sheeting material **19** may be drawn outwardly to substantially cover the support **33**. The mother can then rest the infant on the support **33** and conveniently attend to the changing of its diapers. The baby's diaper adjusted, the baby is removed by the mother from the support **33**, the sanitary sheet is severed from the roll by action of the serrated cutting edge **20** when the sheet **19** is drawn upward. Then the mother can fold the support **33** upward and dispose of the sanitary paper sheet **19**. The space requirements for the diapering structure with respect to extension into the room are not greater than the extension of the container **11** when the support **33** is folded against the wall.

Replacement of paper rolls **24** is easily managed by opening hinged panel **25** in the front of the container **11** and withdrawing the old spool and inserting a fresh roll **24**. Threading the paper through the slit orifice is greatly simplified by reason of the arcuate baffle **18***a* which guides the paper through the slit orifice **18** where it is ready for use.

The invention has been thus specifically described with reference to the drawing attached hereto but it will be understood that certain modifications may be made by persons familiar in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In a diapering support structure the combination including: a wall mounted paper dispensing container provided with a slit orifice and having a hinge along the forward face parallel to and beneath the orifice; an infant cradling body contoured support member hinged to said container; a serrated tearing edge mounted in said container and above said slit orifice; an access slot above said orifice for withdrawing sheets of paper; an arcuate baffle in said container directing paper flow through said slit; and collapsible supporting arms attached pivotally to said support member at one end and pivotally attachable to the wall at the other end.

2. In a diapering support structure the combination including: a wall mounted paper dispensing container provided with a slit orifice in the top thereof and having a hinge along the forward face parallel to and beneath the orifice; a serrated tearing edge mounted in said container; a padded resilient faced infant cradling body contoured support hinged to said container; an access slot above said orifice for withdrawing sheets of paper; an arcuate baffle in said container directing paper flow through said slit; and collapsible supporting arms attached pivotally to said support member at one end and pivotally attachable to the wall at the other end.

3. In a diapering support structure, the combination including: a wall mounted paper dispensing container having a slit orifice and having a hinge along the forward face thereof parallel to and beneath the orifice; an infant cradling body contoured support member pivotally hinged to said container; and collapsible supporting arms attached pivotally to said support member at one end and pivotally attachable to the wall.

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