

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JNO. SHUGERT, OF ELIZABETH, PENNSYLVANIA.

WASHING-MACHINE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 3,096, dated May 19, 1843; Antedated May 1, 1843.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN SHUGERT, of Elizabeth, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Washing-Machines; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which makes a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a isometrical elevation of the machine; Fig. 2, a vertical section.

The nature of my invention consists in combining a flat wash-board with a box, in such a way as to act upon the clothes without rubbing or pressing them in washing; the wash board having horizontal handles affixed to it; and pins projecting from its face, to prevent the clothes from rising out of the water; by which means the clothes are washed under water, and are more effectually cleansed, without injury, than by any other process.

In constructing my machine, the side pins of the box are parallel with each other, and to them the four legs (*a*) on which it is elevated are affixed; the front ones being vertical, and the lower end of the back ones inclining outward. The bottom of the box is the segment of a circle, and the back and front end pieces are straight, and in the same position as the legs between which they are placed. The sides have notches cut in their upper ends, in which the journals of an axle (*b*) fits, and turns; the center of this axle is about twice the distance from the bottom of the box, that it is from the front of the same, which position is necessary in order to produce the full effect of my machine; into this axle two handles (*c*) are put, which extend out backward, a little inclined downward, when the machine is in a state of rest, there being notches cut out of the back end piece into which they fall; two braces or arms are also fixed in the axle, which project downward at an obtuse angle with the handles, and to these a wash-board (*d*) is fastened; this is a plain flat board, the lower edge of which, when the handles are in the position above named, slants out nearly to the lower front angle of the box; in this board, near the bottom, there is a

row of small holes; and at about two thirds of the distance from the lower edge, there are two pins (*e*) projecting forward.

When the clothes are soaped and put into this machine with water, the handles of the wash-board are elevated, and the lower edge of the board carried back, till the water is between it and the front end of the box. The handles are then brought down quickly, which carries the water and clothes forward against the front end, the water being prevented from running back, by the upper part of the wash-board, and the clothes being kept under the water by the pin (*e*) in the board; in this position the handles are vibrated a little, and the clothes are kept in motion, while the water percolates through the clothes, and out at the holes in the lower edge of the wash-board from the head of water on its front side; the handles are then raised, and the same operation repeated till the clothes are cleansed; every time the handles are raised up the clothes turn over, presenting a new surface for the action of the machine.

When the press is used in this machine for wringing the water from the clothes after washing a notch is cut in the front end piece on one side, in which the two sides, and bottom of a small box (*f*) are fitted; this has also an end to it outside; around the center of this box there is a frame of four pieces (*f'*), in the top piece of which a screw (*g*) is inserted; a follower (*h*) fits the inside of this box, which is forced down by the screw, the clothes being laid into the box under it and the water is by this means forced out.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

The combination of the wash-board constructed and arranged as herein described with the wash box, for the purpose above set forth; so as to cleanse the clothes without rubbing or pressing, by keeping them in motion under water, while it is allowed to percolate through them.

JOHN SHUGERT.

Witnesses:

H. H. KELLEY,
J. J. GREENOUGH.