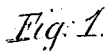


N<sup>o</sup> 48,576,

*Patented July 4, 1865.*



J. M. Corington

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL P. MECAY, OF KILBORN, OHIO.

## IMPROVED WASHING-MACHINE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,576, dated July 4, 1865.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL P. MECAY, of Kilborn, in the county of Delaware and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Clothes-Washing Machine; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side sectional view of my invention, taken in the line *x x*, Fig. 2; Fig. 2, a transverse vertical section of the same, taken in the line *y y*, Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a view of a portion of the inner surface of one of the sides of the suds-box of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in the employment or use of a spring, in combination with a head provided with an arm which is connected with the spring and a lever, as hereinafter set forth, whereby the clothes to be washed may be operated upon with the greatest facility and in the most efficient manner.

The invention also consists in the employment or use of a reversible wash-board, whereby the machine may be readily adapted for washing a greater or less quantity of clothes at one operation.

A represents a suds-box, which is of quadrilateral form, and provided with a double-inclined bottom, *a*.

B is a wash-board, composed of a series of horizontal slats, *b*, fitted in side pieces, *c*, on a proper frame, the latter being fitted in vertical grooves *d* in the inner surfaces of the sides of the suds-box. The slats *b*, it will be seen by referring to Fig. 1, are at one side of the side pieces, *c*, the object of which will presently be seen.

C represents a head, which may be fluted or corrugated at its face side. This head extends entirely across the suds-box, and has an arm, D, projecting from its rear side at right angles. The outer end of this arm D is connected by a link, E, to a shaft, F, the ends of which are provided with journals fitted in slides G. These slides work in oblong horizontal recesses *d* in the inner surfaces of the sides of the suds-box, and said slides have the ends of a spring, H, fitted in them, which

spring passes through a fixture, I, attached to the inner surface of one of the end pieces of the suds-box. This fixture I projects upward above the suds-box, and has the fulcrum-pin *e* of a lever, J, passing through it, the inner end of said lever being connected by a bar, K, with the outer end of the arm D of the head C.

From the above description it will be seen that two motions are given the head C by operating the lever J. On depressing the outer end of said lever the head will be moved toward the wash-board B until the lower edge of the former comes in contact with the latter, and then the head will move in the arc of a circle and from its lower edge as a center, the upper edge of the head approaching the wash-board. The clothes which are between the head C and the wash-board B are thus subjected to a requisite pressure which insures the suds with which the box A is supplied being forced through their texture, the spring H yielding or giving to admit of the elevation of the arm, and at the same time admitting of a proper pressure of the head on the clothes while the turning of the shaft F in the slides G admits of the elevation of the link E.

The wash-board may be adjusted, as shown in Fig. 1, with its slats *b* at the outer sides of the side pieces, *c*, or the wash-board may be withdrawn from the grooves *d* and reversed in position, so that said slats will be at the rear of the side pieces, *c*. By this means a greater or less space may be allowed for the clothes between the head and wash-board, according to the quantity of clothes in the suds-box to be washed.

Thus by this simple means a very efficient and simple clothes-washing machine is obtained, one which may be operated with facility and will not injure the clothes.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The spring H, connected to the slides G, in which the ends of the shaft F are fitted, in combination with the link E and the arm D of the head C, all being arranged substantially as shown, and with a lever, J, or its equivalent, for operating the head, for the purpose set forth.

SAMUEL P. MECAY.

Witnesses:

S. S. SLYTER,  
JONATHAN LEONARD.