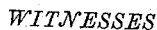


G. THOMPSON.
WASHING MACHINE.

Patented Aug. 29, 1882.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GASTON THOMPSON, OF CAMERON, NORTH CAROLINA.

WASHING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 263,628, dated August 29, 1882.

Application filed March 13, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GASTON THOMPSON, of Cameron, in the county of Moore and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Washing-Machines; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of my improved washing-machine. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the same through one of the rollers of the reciprocating rubber; and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical section through one side of the reciprocating rubber-frame, showing the spring-bearings for the roller-shafts.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention has relation to reciprocating-rubber washing-machines; and it consists in the improved construction and combination of parts of a machine of that class, as hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the tub or suds-box, which is of rectangular shape and supported upon legs *a*, of suitable height. In the bottom of the box is secured the corrugated stationary rubber B, which is preferably of hard wood and of the shape clearly shown in the drawings—that is, with its forward end made beveled or sloping toward the bottom of the tub to form an incline, *b*. There is an open space, *c*, between the under side of the stationary rubber B and the bottom of the tub or box A, to permit of the free circulation of the hot water and soap-suds, and there are also open spaces or channels on both sides of the rubber, as shown at *d d*, Fig. 2, separating it from the ways D D in the bottom of the tub, upon which the reciprocating rubber slides. The latter consists of a frame having two side pieces, E E, connected by cross-pieces C C', one or both of which is rounded, or has its edges cut off or beveled, to form a convenient grip or handle for operating the rubber. The sides E have cylindrical

bores or recesses *e*, having longitudinal slots *f*, opening to the inside of the frame.

F designates the rollers, of which there may be three or more, the shafts G of which are inserted through the slots *f* into bearings H, that are fitted loosely in the cylindrical bores or boxes *e*, so as to have a free up-and-down motion. Each of the roller-bearings H is reduced at its upper end, where it is encircled or encompassed by a coiled spring, I, which impinges upon its shoulder *i*. Narrow strips K, of wood or metal, are placed upon the bottom of the frame for the double purpose of closing the boxes *e* and properly confining the roller-bearings H, which work in said boxes, and forming shoes or wearing-strips to slide upon the ways D D in the bottom of the tub in reciprocating the rubber. In the top of the latter are mortises or recesses *l l*, to receive friction-rollers L L, which wear against flanges M M on the sides of the tub along its top; and it will thus be seen that the rubber is at all times confined between the bottom ways, D D, and top flanges or guide-strips, M M. At the same time the spring-bearings H I of the rollers permit the latter to yield in their boxes *e* in passing over the stationary rubber B and over the clothes on said rubber, and as each roller has its own separate spring-bearings they will yield independently of one another, according to the thickness of the layer of clothes under each. The friction-rollers L in the top of the rubber-frame cause this to work freely and easily, and without "binding," and the slope or incline *b* of the stationary rubber causes the clothes in the tub to work up upon said rubber as the movable rubber is reciprocated, while the open spaces at the sides and ends and underneath the stationary rubber provide for the free circulation of the suds.

I am aware that washing-machines have been made before in which a reciprocating rubber having spring-actuated rollers slides upon a corrugated rubber-board fixed in the bottom of the suds-box, the sliding rubber being confined between ways to give it a true forward-and-back motion, and I do not therefore claim such construction, broadly; but

What I claim as my improvement, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The washing-machine herein described, consisting of the laterally-corrugated stationary rubber B, the reciprocating rubber-frame E, having boxes *e* and recesses *l*, the rollers F, journaled in said recesses, the spiral springs I, operating in the boxes *e*, the bearings H, having shoulders and conical shank, the cross-bars C C', strips K, adapted to cover the boxes *e*, the rollers L, and flanges M, the whole con-

structed, combined, and adapted to serve as 10 and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GASTON THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

ANGUS CURRIE,
GIDEON MCFADY.