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(54) **SOAP CASE**

(57) It is possible to improve drainage of soap, to enable soap to be more easily taken out and stored, and to more effectively prevent deformation of soap. A soap holder includes: a plurality of claws that are plate members with an upper side open and have a cross-section with a J shape in a front and back direction with short portions serving as shorter side portions of the J shape positioned on a front surface side and long portions serving as longer side portions of the J shape positioned on a back surface side, the claws being aligned along a lateral direction at an interval corresponding to a gap with a predetermined width formed in the lateral direction; a back plate having a plate shape with which the long portions of the plurality of claws are connected to each other to be a single flat surface; and two side plates having a plate shape that are arranged to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate to serve as both side surfaces.

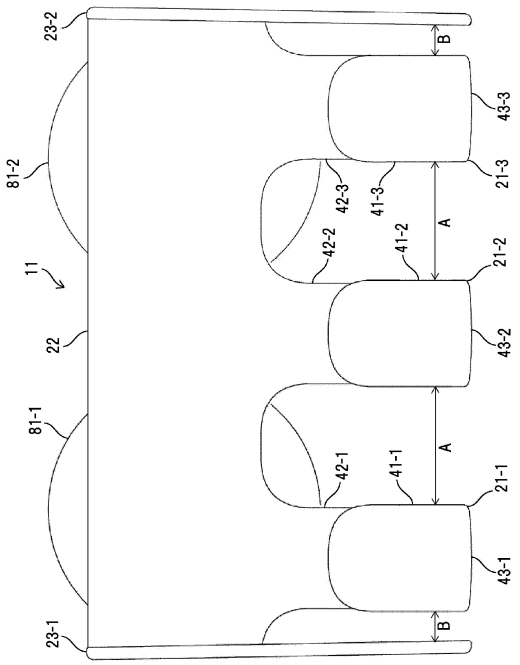

Fig.1

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Description

Technical field

[0001] The present invention relates to a soap holder, and more particularly to a soap holder suitable for use on a wash basin, a sink, or the like.

Background art

[0002] A soap holder, a soap container, and a soap dish are used to hold soap on a wash basin and a sink, and in a bathing room.

[0003] One conventional soap container includes a container body including a bottom plate and side plates surrounding the bottom plate. A lid member including a top plate and side plates surrounding the top plate is fit on an upper portion of the container main body. With this configuration, the soap container contains soap therein. The side plates of the container body have lower end surfaces with a shape matching the surface shape of a circumference edge of the top plate of the lid member. Thus, the lower end surfaces of the side plates of the container body can fit with the circumference edge of the top plate of the lid member, so that the lid member can be disposed on a lower portion of the container body (see, for example, Patent Literature 1).

[0004] Furthermore, one proposed soap stand has a plurality of vertical protrusions on a surface for receiving solid soap, whereby natural drying of the soap can be achieved in a short period of time (see, for example, Patent Literature 2) .

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0005]

Patent Literature 1: JP 2010-268931 A
Patent Literature 2: JP 2011-36621 A

Summary of the Invention

Technical Problem

[0006] Unfortunately, a conventional dish shaped soap container involves adhesion of soap on a bottom surface, hindering drying of the soap. A hole may be provided in the soap container but will be closed by dissolved soap. Thus, water is likely to be collected in the soap container. For this reason, the soap softens and dissolves, and thus is difficult to be fully used up. Furthermore, an attempt to put soap in a soap container might result in the soap slipping out.

[0007] With the soap container in Patent Literature 1 and the soap stand in Patent Literature 2, soap needs to be grabbed from the upper side to be taken out. Thus, slippery soap is difficult to grab and take out. Furthermore, the grabbing requires application of force which results in deformation if the soap has been softened.

[0008] The present invention has been made in view of such circumstances, and is directed to improving drainage of soap, enabling soap to be more easily taken out and stored, and more effectively preventing deformation of soap.

Solution to Problem

[0009] A soap holder according to one aspect of the present invention includes: a plurality of claws each including plate members that have a cross-section with a J shape in a front and back direction, short portions serving as shorter side portions of the J shape positioned on a front surface side, long portions serving as longer side portions of the J shape positioned on a back surface side, and an upper side open, the claws being aligned along a lateral direction at an interval corresponding to a gap with a predetermined width formed in the lateral direction; a back plate having a plate shape with which the long portions of the plurality of claws are connected to each other to be a single flat surface; and two side plates having a plate shape that are arranged to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate to serve as both side surfaces.

[0010] The soap is supported by the plurality of claws aligned in the lateral direction at the interval corresponding to the gap with the predetermined width formed in the lateral direction. Thus, portions to be in contact with the soap can be made smaller and collection of water does not occur, whereby drainage of the soap can be improved. The claws are formed to have the J shape with the short portions positioned on the front surface side, and are aligned in the lateral direction at the interval corresponding to the gap with the predetermined width formed in the lateral direction. Thus, the soap can be easily taken out with a scooping maneuver through the gap between the claws. Furthermore, the soap can be easily stored being slipped in through the front upper side to be easily stored. The soap can be scooped while being supported from below, and thus no strong force needs to be applied to the soap. Thus, deformation is less likely to occur, even when the soap is softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap can be more effectively prevented.

[0011] The claws may include three claws. With the three claws, the scooping maneuver through the gaps between the claws can be easily performed, and the soap can be supported with a wider surface. Thus, even if the soap stored is softened, the soap can be prevented from deforming. Furthermore, the width of the gap between the claws may be 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm. With this configuration, the soap can be easily scooped to be taken out using a finger through the gap between the claws.

[0012] The short portions of the claws may have a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in a vertical direction. With this

configuration, the scooping maneuver for the soap through the gap between the claws only requires a shorter distance of upward displacement of the soap for taking out the soap toward the front side over the upper ends of the short portions of the claws. The soap can be easily stored by being slipped in over the upper ends of the short portions of the claws. Thus, the soap can be more easily taken out and stored. The soap can be scooped while being supported from below and can be taken out toward the front side over the upper ends of the short portions of the claws with only a shorter distance of upward displacement of the soap. Thus, no strong force needs to be applied to the soap, so that the soap is less likely to deform even when the soap has been softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap can be more effectively prevented.

[0013] Lower end portions of the claws may have a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in the front and back direction. With this configuration, the soap is stored with the wide surface of the soap erected. This facilitates the downward flow of water from the soap, whereby the drainage of the soap can be improved.

[0014] The lower end portion of the claw may have a shape inclined to extend downward and toward the back plate from the front surface side. With this configuration, the stored soap slips toward the back plate so that the erection of the flat surface of the soap is facilitated, whereby the drainage of the soap can be more improved.

[0015] The short portions of the claws can have a shape inclined toward the front surface side while extending from a lower side toward an upper side. With this configuration, when the soap is scooped through the gap between the claws, the flat surface of the soap is inclined toward the front surface side and the soap slips along the short portions of the claws toward the front surface side. Thus, the soap can easily climb over the upper ends of the short portions of the claws toward the front side to be taken out. Due to a large opening on the front surface side, the soap can easily slip in over the upper ends of the short portions of the claws to be stored. Thus, the soap can be more easily taken out and stored. The scooping maneuver with the support from below results in the soap slipping toward the front surface side along the short portions of the claws. Thus, the soap can be taken out with a smaller amount of force which is less likely to lead to deformation even if the soap has been softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap can be more effectively prevented.

[0016] The lower end portions of the claws may have upper surfaces with a bulging shape. With this configuration, the soap does not adhere to the upper surface of the lower end portions, whereby flow of water through the claws is facilitated so that the drainage of the soap can further be improved.

[0017] A gap may be formed between the side plate and the claw disposed adjacent to the side plate. With this configuration, smooth flow of water is achieved through the gap between the side plate and the claw, whereby the drainage of the soap can further be improved.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0018] The soap holder according to one aspect of the present invention described above can improve drainage of soap, enable soap to be more easily taken out and stored, and more effectively prevent deformation of soap.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0019]

Fig. 1 is a front view illustrating a configuration of a soap holder 11.

Fig. 2 is a rear view illustrating the configuration of the soap holder 11.

Fig. 3 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the soap holder 11.

Fig. 4 is a bottom view illustrating the configuration of the soap holder 11.

Fig. 5 is a right side view illustrating the configuration of the soap holder 11.

Fig. 6 is a view illustrating a state where soap 101 is taken out from the soap holder 11.

Description of Embodiments

[0020] An embodiment of the present invention will be described below. An example of the relationship between constituent features of the present invention and embodiments in a detailed description of the invention is as follows. The description is for confirming that embodiments supporting the present invention are described in the detailed description of the invention. Therefore, if there is an embodiment described in the detailed description of the invention but is not described as an embodiment corresponding to the constituent feature of the present invention, it does not necessarily mean that the embodiment does not correspond to the constituent element. On the other hand, if there is an embodiment described as being corresponding to a constituent element, it does not necessarily mean that the embodiment does not correspond to a constituent element other than the constituent element.

[0021] A soap holder (a soap holder 11 in Fig. 1 for example) according to one aspect of the present invention includes: a plurality of claws (claws 21-1 to 21-3 in Fig. 1 for example) including plate members with an upper side open, the plate members having a cross-section with a J shape in a front and back direction, in which short portions serving as shorter side portions of the J shape are positioned on a front surface side and long portions serving as longer side portions of the J shape are positioned on a back surface side, the claws being aligned along a lateral direction at an interval corresponding to a gap with a predetermined width formed in the lateral

direction; a back plate (a back plate 22 in Fig. 1 for example) having a plate shape with which the long portions of the plurality of claws are connected to each other to be a single flat surface; and two side plates (side plates 23-1 and 23-2 in Fig. 1 for example) having a plate shape that are arranged to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate to serve as both side surfaces.

[0022] Hereinafter, a soap holder 11 according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 1 to 6. Figs. 1 to 5 are respectively a front view, a rear view, a top view, a bottom view, and a right side view illustrating a configuration of the soap holder 11.

[0023] The outer edge of the soap holder 11 defines a generally rectangular parallelepiped shape. For example, the width of the soap holder 11 is 10.0 cm to 11.0 cm, the depth of the soap holder 11 is 5.2 cm to 6.0 cm, and the height of the soap holder 11 is 6.0 cm to 7.0 cm. With the upper side and the upper half of the front surface side of the soap holder 11 open, the soap can be stored inside the soap holder 11 and can be taken out from the inside of the soap holder 11.

[0024] The soap holder 11 is used by being fixed to, for example, a vertical surface of a bowl of a wash basin or a sink, a vertical wall of a bathing room, or the like. The soap holder 11 is formed of a material that is well drained and is not easily corroded. For example, the soap holder 11 is formed of a resin such as acrylic, polypropylene, or polyethylene resin, or metal such as stainless steel or titanium alloy. The soap holder 11 can also be formed as pottery.

[0025] In the soap holder 11, the stored soap is supported by three arm-shaped claws 21-1 to 21-3 in a state where a wide surface of the soap is erected. Thus, the portion in contact with the soap can be made small so that the amount of water adhering to the soap can be made small, and collection of water does not occur, whereby drainage of the soap can be improved. In addition, with the soap supported in the state where the wide surface of the soap is erected, the soap holder 11 can have a small depth so as not to take up a large space, and thus is less likely to get in the way.

[0026] The moisture adhered on the soap drops directly from the soap holder 11 to the wash basin, sink, bathing room, or the like to be directly drained, and thus is not likely to soil the wash area.

[0027] The user can easily take out the soap by inserting his or her fingers through gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 and scooping the soap. Furthermore, the soap can be returned to the soap holder 11 with excellent fitting, that is, the soap can fit neatly without sticking out.

[0028] Next, the configuration of the soap holder 11 will be described in detail. The soap holder 11 includes the claws 21-1 to 21-3, a back plate 22, and side plates 23-1 and 23-2. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are three arms that support the soap.

[0029] The back plate 22 is a flat plate connecting the back surface sides of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 to each other. On the back surface side of the back plate 22, suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2, for respectively holding suction cups 81-1 and 81-2, are arranged side by side in a lateral direction. The suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2 are each formed of elastic rubber, plastic, or the like and have a dish shape. Each of the suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2 is formed to have a hollow rectangular parallelepiped form with a lower side open. Furthermore, on the back surface side of each of the suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2, a circular hole with a lower side open is formed.

[0030] The suction cups 81-1 and 81-2 are respectively attached to the suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2, with protrusions of the suction cups 81-1 and 81-2 respectively inserted into the holes of the suction cup holders 24-1 and 24-2. The soap holder 11 can be fixed by pressing the suction cups 81-1 and 81-2 against a vertical surface of a bowl of a wash basin or a sink, a vertical wall of a bathing room, or the like.

[0031] A front surface side surface of the back plate 22 can have a bulging shape.

[0032] The side plates 23-1 and 23-2 are respectively disposed to be both side surfaces of the soap holder 11. The side plates 23-1 and 23-2 are each a flat plate disposed to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate 22.

[0033] Specifically, the side plate 23-1 is provided to be the left side surface of the soap holder 11. The claw 21-1 is adjacently provided on the right side of the side plate 23-1. The claw 21-2 is adjacently provided on the right side of the claw 21-1. The claw 21-3 is adjacently provided on the right side of the claw 21-2. The side plate 23-2 is adjacently provided on the right side of the claw 21-3. In other words, the side plate 23-2 is provided to be the right side surface of the soap holder 11.

[0034] The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are arranged side by side in the lateral direction at a predetermined interval. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 is each formed in a shape of a plate curved to be in a hook form. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are formed such that the surfaces of the plate-shaped claws 21-1 to 21-3 come in contact with the stored soap. The stored soap is supported on the curved inner sides of the claws 21-1 to 21-3.

[0035] Specifically, the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are each formed of a plate material. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 have identical shapes.

[0036] More specifically, the claws 21-1 to 21-3 each are formed to have a cross-section with a J shape, in a front and back direction. The claw 21-1 has a short portion 41-1, which is a shorter side portion of the J shape, positioned on the front surface side and a long portion 42-1, which is a longer side portion of the J shape, positioned on the back surface side. The claw 21-2 has a short portion 41-2, which is a shorter side portion of the J shape, positioned on the front surface side and a long portion 42-2, which is a longer side portion of the J shape, positioned on the back surface side. The claw 21-3 has a short portion 41-3, which is a shorter side portion of the

J shape, positioned on the front surface side and a long portion 42-3, which is a longer side portion of the J shape, positioned on the back surface side.

[0037] The J-shaped claw 21-1 has a lower end portion 43-1 having a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in the front and back direction. The J-shaped claw 21-2 has a lower end portion 43-2 having a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in the front and back direction. The J-shaped claw 21-3 has a lower end portion 43-3 having a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in the front and back direction. More preferably, the lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 each has a length of 3.5 cm in the front and back direction.

[0038] The claws 21-1 to 21-3 each have an upper side open.

[0039] The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are at the same position in a height direction. Thus, the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are aligned in the lateral direction. In other words, the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are arranged side by side with the positions of the inner surfaces of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 aligned.

[0040] Furthermore, as indicated by arrows A in Fig. 1, gaps with a predetermined width in the lateral direction is formed between the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus, the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are arranged in the lateral direction at an interval corresponding to the gap formed to have a predetermined width in the lateral direction. The width of the gap between the claw 21-1 and the claw 21-2 is 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm. The width of the gap between the claw 21-2 and the claw 21-3 is 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm. Thus, the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 each have a width of 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm. More preferably, the width of each of the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 is 2.0 cm.

[0041] The short portion 41-1 of the claw 21-1 has a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in the vertical direction. The short portion 41-2 of the claw 21-2 has a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in the vertical direction. The short portion 41-3 of the claw 21-3 has a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in the vertical direction. More preferably, the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 each have a length of 2.4 cm in the vertical direction.

[0042] The short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are inclined toward the front surface side while extending from the lower side to the upper side.

[0043] The lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 are inclined to extend downward and toward the back plate 22 from the front surface side.

[0044] The lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the respective claws 21-1 to 21-3 each have an upper side surface with a bulging shape.

[0045] Furthermore, as indicated by arrow B in Fig. 1, a gap having a predetermined width in the lateral direction is formed between the side plate 23-1 and the claw 21-1. Further, as shown by arrow B in Fig. 1, a gap having a predetermined width in the lateral direction is formed between the claw 21-3 and the side plate 23-2. The gap between the side plate 23-1 and the claw 21-1 and the gap between the claw 21-3 and the side plate 23-2 are each smaller than each of the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3.

[0046] Thus, a gap is formed between the side plate 23-1 or 23-2 and any of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 disposed adjacent to the side plate 23-1 or 23-2.

[0047] A protrusion 51-1 is formed on the back surface side and on the lower side of the side plate 23-1. A protrusion 51-2 is formed on the back surface side and on the lower side of the side plate 23-2. The soap holder 11 fixed by using the suction cups 81-1 and 81-2 can have an orientation (the orientation of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 in particular) appropriately maintained, with the protrusions 51-1 and 51-2 coming into contact with a vertical surface of a bowl of a wash basin or a sink, a vertical wall of a bathing room, or the like.

[0048] Fig. 6 is a view illustrating a state where the soap 101 is taken out from the soap holder 11. The soap 101 stored in the soap holder 11 has a lower side supported by the lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the respective claws 21-1 to 21-3. At the same time, the soap 101 has a back surface side supported by the back plate 22, or has a front surface side supported by the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the respective claws 21-1 to 21-3. Furthermore, the soap 101 has a side surface supported by the side plate 23-1 or 23-2.

[0049] The soap 101 is taken out from the soap holder 11 in the following manner. Specifically, an index finger and a middle finger facing up are inserted upward from the bottom side of the soap holder 11 storing the soap, through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3, with the palm facing up. Then, the soap 101 is pushed out upward with a scooping maneuver using the index finger and the middle finger inserted through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus, the soap 101 is pushed up. The scooping maneuver using the index finger and the middle finger involves a movement of the finger tips toward the front side, whereby the soap 101 is taken out by being moved over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 to be on the palm.

[0050] The soap 101 is returned to be stored in the soap holder 11 in the following manner. Specifically, the soap 101 placed on the palm is slid on the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3. Then, the soap 101 is guided, by the inner surfaces of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 and the side plates 23-1 or 23-2, into the soap holder 11. In this manner, the soap 101 can be easily stored in the soap holder 11.

[0051] As described above, the soap holder 11 includes the claws 21-1 to 21-3, the back plate 22, and the side plates 23-1 and 23-2. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are plate members with an upper side open that have a cross-section with a J shape in the front and back direction with the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 serving as shorter side portions of the J shape positioned on the front surface side and the long portions 42-1 to 42-3 serving as longer side portions of the J shape positioned on the back surface side. The claws are aligned along the lateral direction at an interval corresponding to the gap with the predetermined width formed in the lateral direction. With the back plate 22 having a flat plate shape, the long portions

42-1 to 42-3 of the plurality of claws 21-1 to 21-3 are connected to each other to be a single flat surface The side plates 23-1 and 23-2 that are two side surfaces having a flat plate shape are arranged to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate 22 to serve as both side surfaces of the soap holder 11.

[0052] The soap 101 is supported by the plurality of claws 21-1 to 21-3 aligned in the lateral direction at the interval corresponding to the gap with the predetermined width formed in the lateral direction. Thus, portions to be in contact with the soap 101 can be made smaller and collection of water does not occur, whereby drainage of the soap 101 can be improved. The claws 21-1 to 21-3 are formed to have the J shape with the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 positioned on the front surface side, and are aligned in the lateral direction at the interval corresponding to the gap with the predetermined width formed in the lateral direction. Thus, the soap 101 can be easily taken out by being scooped through the gap between the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Furthermore, the soap 101 can be easily stored by being slipped in through the front upper side. The soap 101 can be scooped while being supported from below, and thus no strong force needs to be applied to the soap 101. Thus, deformation is less likely to occur, even when the soap 101 is softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap 101 can be more effectively prevented.

[0053] Further, the plurality of claws may include the three claws 21-1 to 21-3. With the three claws 21-1 to 21-3, the scooping maneuver through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 can be easily performed, and the soap 101 can be supported with a wider surface. Thus, even if the soap 101 stored is softened, the soap 101 can be prevented from deforming. Furthermore, the width of the gap between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 may be 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm. With this configuration, the soap 101 can be easily scooped to be taken out using fingers through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3.

[0054] The short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 may have a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in the vertical direction. With this configuration, the scooping maneuver for the soap 101 through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3 only requires a shorter distance of upward displacement of the soap 101 for taking out the soap 101 toward the front side over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3. The soap 101 can be easily stored by being slipped in over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus, the soap 101 can be more easily taken out and stored. The soap 101 can be scooped while being supported from below with only a shorter distance of upward displacement of the soap 101 required for taking out the soap 101 toward the front side over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus no strong force needs to be applied to the soap 101, so that the soap 101 is less likely to deform even when the soap 101 has been softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap 101 can be more effectively prevented.

[0055] The lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 may have a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in the front and back direction. With this configuration, the soap 101 is stored with the wide surface of the soap 101 erected. This facilitates the downward flow of water from the soap 101, whereby the drainage of the soap 101 can be improved.

[0056] The lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 may have a shape inclined to extend downward and toward the back plate 22 from the front surface side. With this configuration, the stored soap 101 slips toward the back plate 22 so that the erection of the flat surface of the soap 101 is facilitated, whereby the drainage of the soap 101 can be more improved. Note that a section from the lower sides of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 to the front sides of the respective lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 may be curved.

[0057] The short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 can have a shape inclined toward the front surface side while extending from the lower side toward the upper side. With this configuration, when the soap 101 is scooped through the gaps between the claws 21-1 to 21-3, the flat surface of the soap 101 is inclined toward the front side and the soap 101 slips along the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 toward the front surface side. Thus, the soap 101 can easily climb over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 toward the front side to be taken out. Due to a large opening on the front surface side, the soap 101 can be easily stored by being slipped in over the upper ends of the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus, the soap 101 can be more easily taken out and stored. The scooping maneuver with the support from below results in the soap 101 slipping toward the front surface side along the short portions 41-1 to 41-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3. Thus, the soap 101 can be taken out with a smaller amount of force which is less likely to lead to deformation even if the soap 101 has been softened. All things considered, the deformation of the soap 101 can be more effectively prevented.

[0058] The lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3 of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 may have upper surfaces with a bulging shape. With this configuration, the soap 101 does not adhere to the upper surface of the lower end portions 43-1 to 43-3, whereby water flow through the claws 21-1 to 21-3 is facilitated so that the drainage of the soap 101 can further be improved.

[0059] A gap may be formed between the side plate 23-1 or 23-2 and any of the claws 21-1 to 21-3 disposed adjacent to the side plate 23-1 or 23-2. With this configuration, smooth flow of water is achieved through the gap between the side plate 23-1 or 23-2 and any one of the claws 21-1 to 21-3, whereby the drainage of the soap 101 can further be improved.

[0060] All things considered, it is possible to improve drainage of soap, to enable soap to be more easily taken

out and stored, and to more effectively prevent deformation of soap.

[0061] The fixing of the soap holder 11 to the vertical surface of the bowl, the vertical wall, or the like is not limited to the suction cups 81-1 and 81-2. The fixing can also be achieved with a screw, magnet, or adhesive double-sided tape.

[0062] The plurality of claws are the three claws 21-1 to 21-3 in the description. However this should not be construed in a limiting sense, and four claws may be used.

[0063] Embodiments of the present invention are not limited to the above-described embodiment, and various modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Reference Signs List

[0064]

11	Soap holder
21-1 to 21-3	Claw
22	Back plate
23-1 and 23-2	Side plate
24-1 and 24-2	Suction cup holder
41-1 to 41-3	Short portion
42-1 to 42-3	Long portion
43-1 to 43-3	lower end portion
51-1 and 51-2	Protrusion
81-1 and 81-2	Suction cup

Claims

1. A soap holder comprising:

a plurality of claws each including plate members with a cross-section of a J shape in a front and back direction, the plate members having short portions serving as shorter side portions of the J shape positioned on a front surface side, long portions serving as longer side portions of the J shape positioned on a back surface side, and an upper side open, the claws being aligned along a lateral direction at an interval corresponding to a gap with a predetermined width formed in the lateral direction;
a back plate having a plate shape with which the long portions of the plurality of claws are connected to each other to be a single flat surface; and
two side plates having a plate shape that are arranged to be oriented in a direction intersecting with the back plate to serve as both side surfaces.

2. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein the claws include three claws.

3. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein a width of the gap between the claws is 1.8 cm to 2.2 cm.

4. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein the short portions of the claws have a length of 2.2 cm to 2.7 cm in a vertical direction.

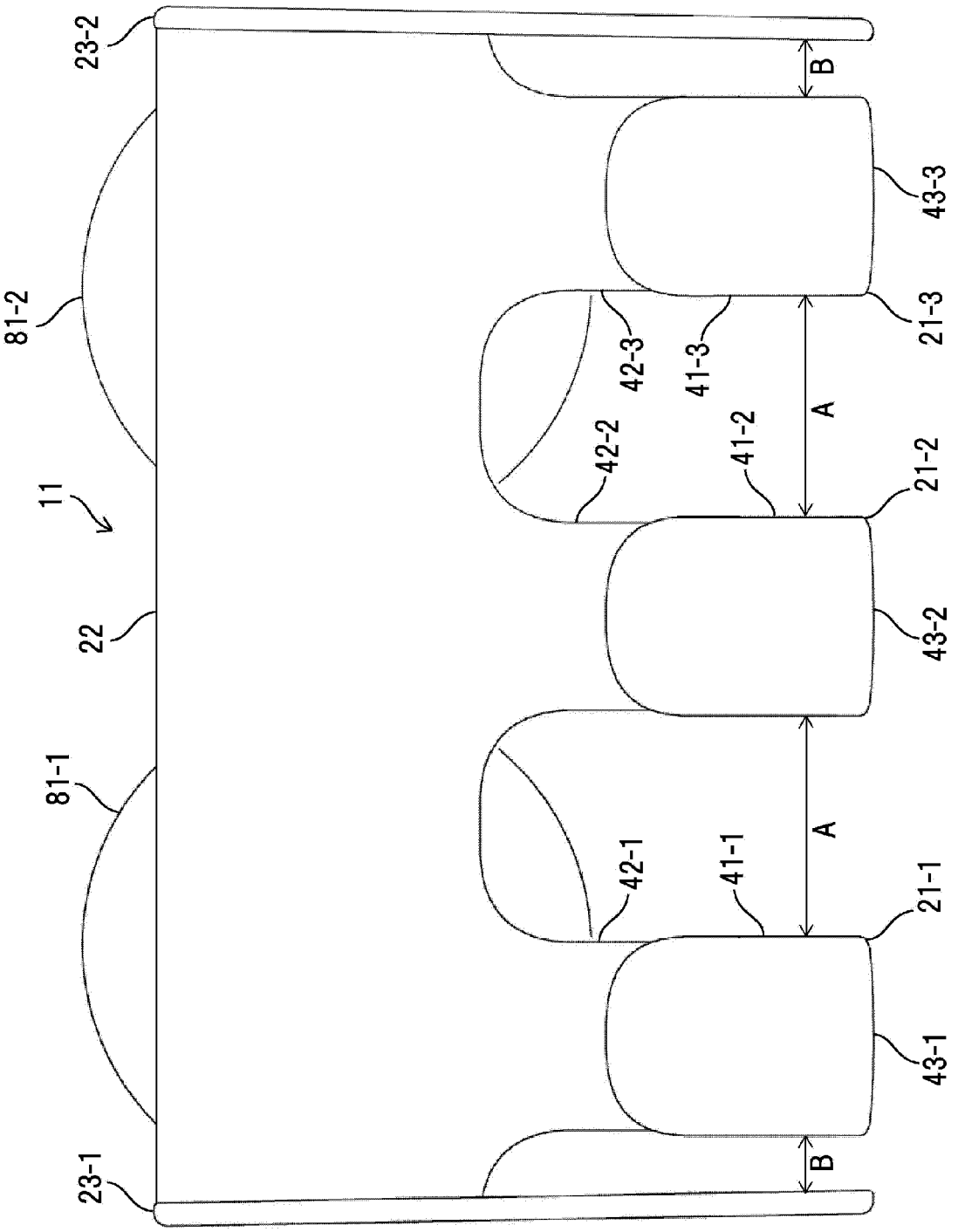
5. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein lower end portions of the claws have a length of 3.0 cm to 4.0 cm in a front and back direction.

6. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein lower end portions of the claws are inclined to extend downward and toward the back plate side from the front surface side.

7. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein the short portions of the claws are inclined toward the front surface side while extending from a lower side toward an upper side.

8. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein lower end portions of the claws have upper surfaces with a bulging shape.

9. The soap holder according to claim 1, wherein gaps are formed between the side plates and the claws disposed adjacent to the side plates.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A
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43-1
B

Fig.1

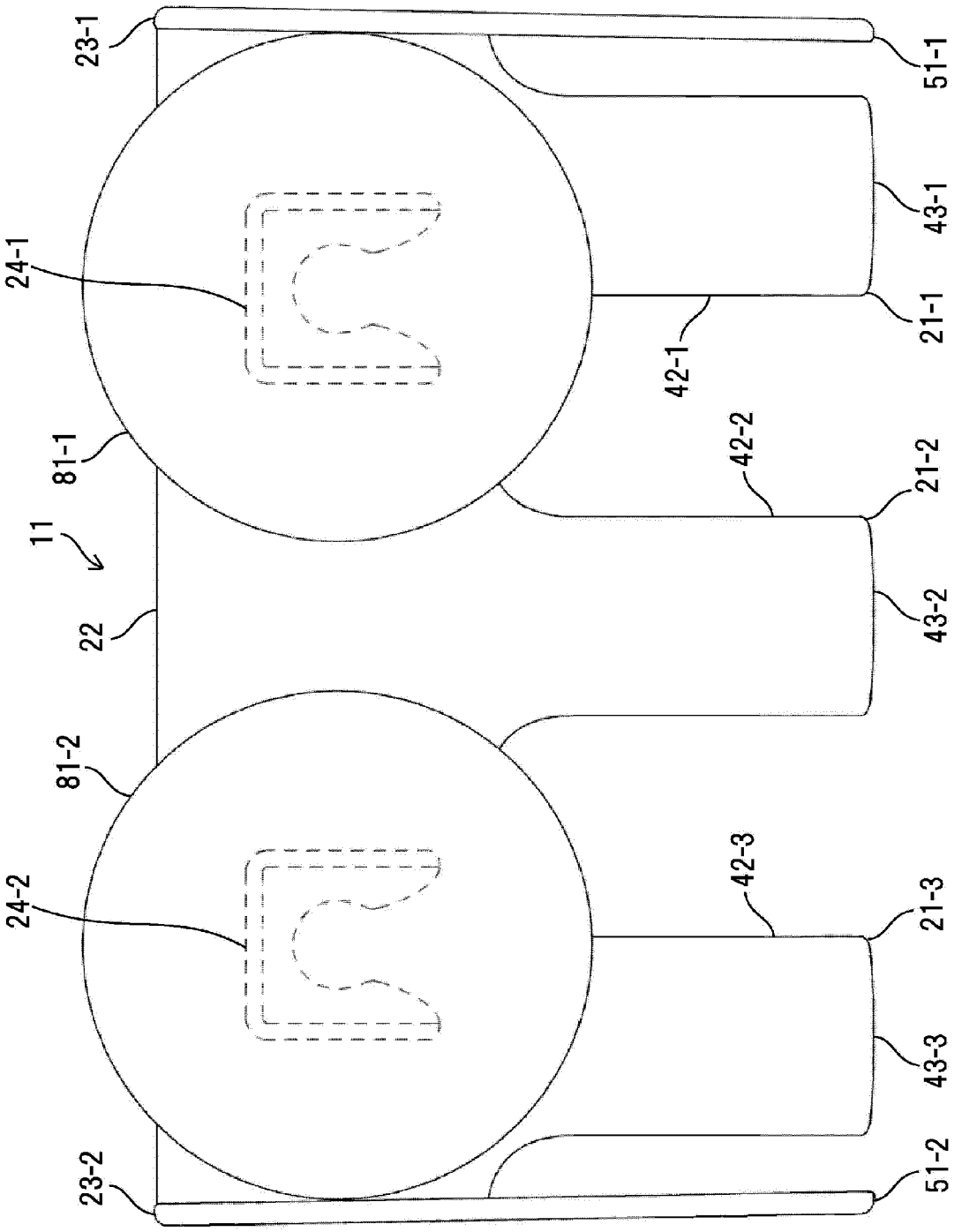
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Fig.2

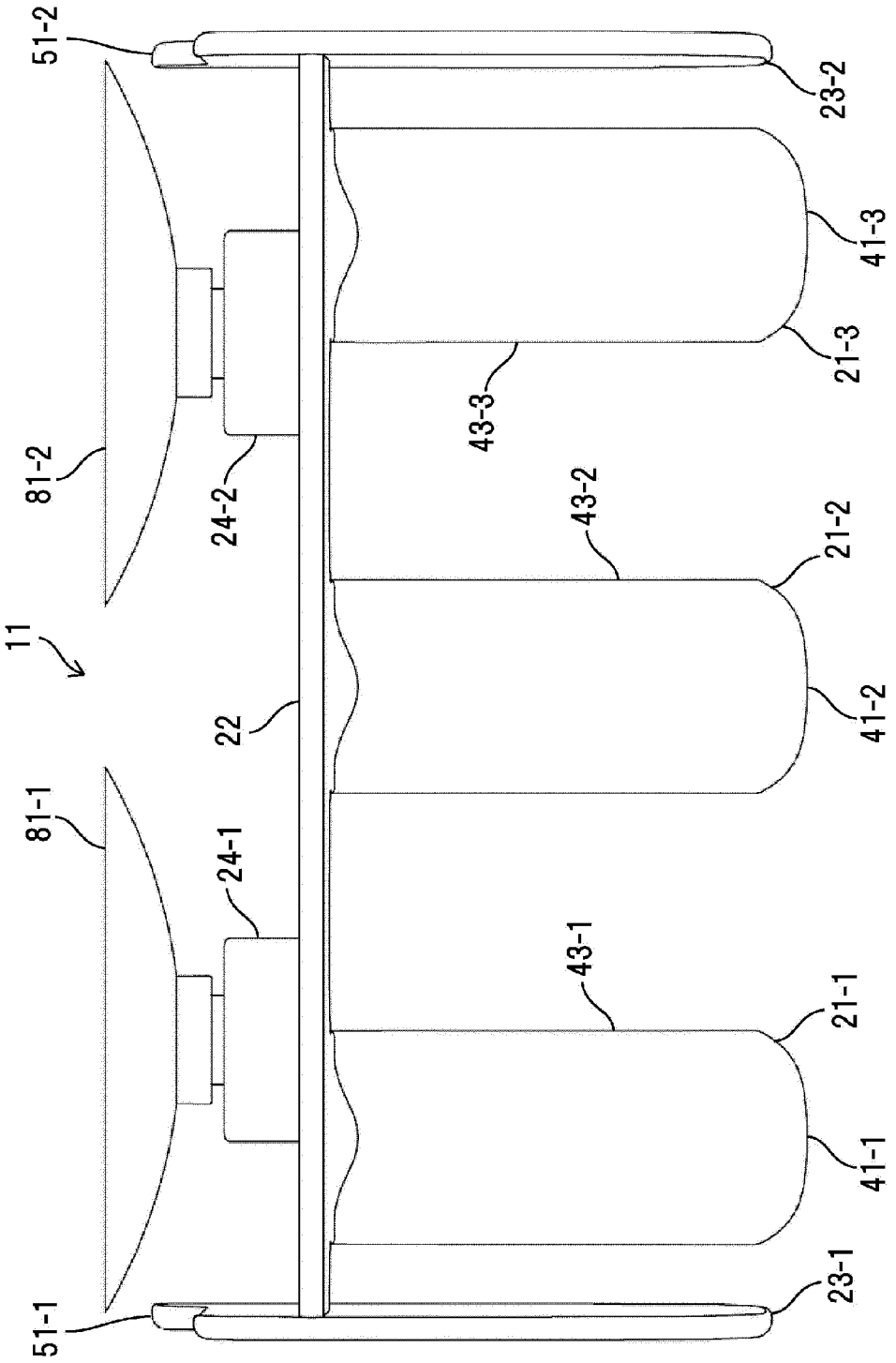
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Fig.3

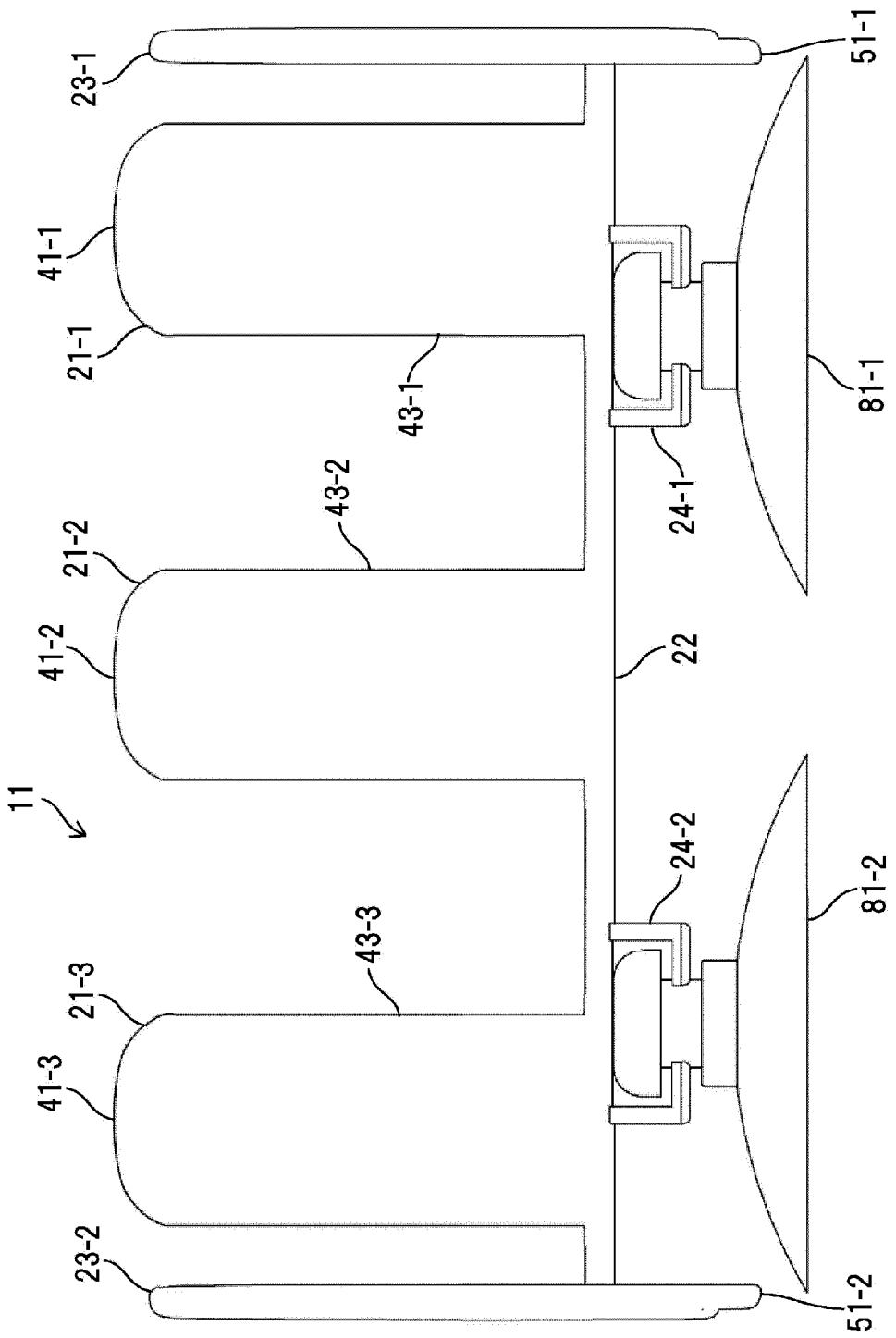
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Fig.4

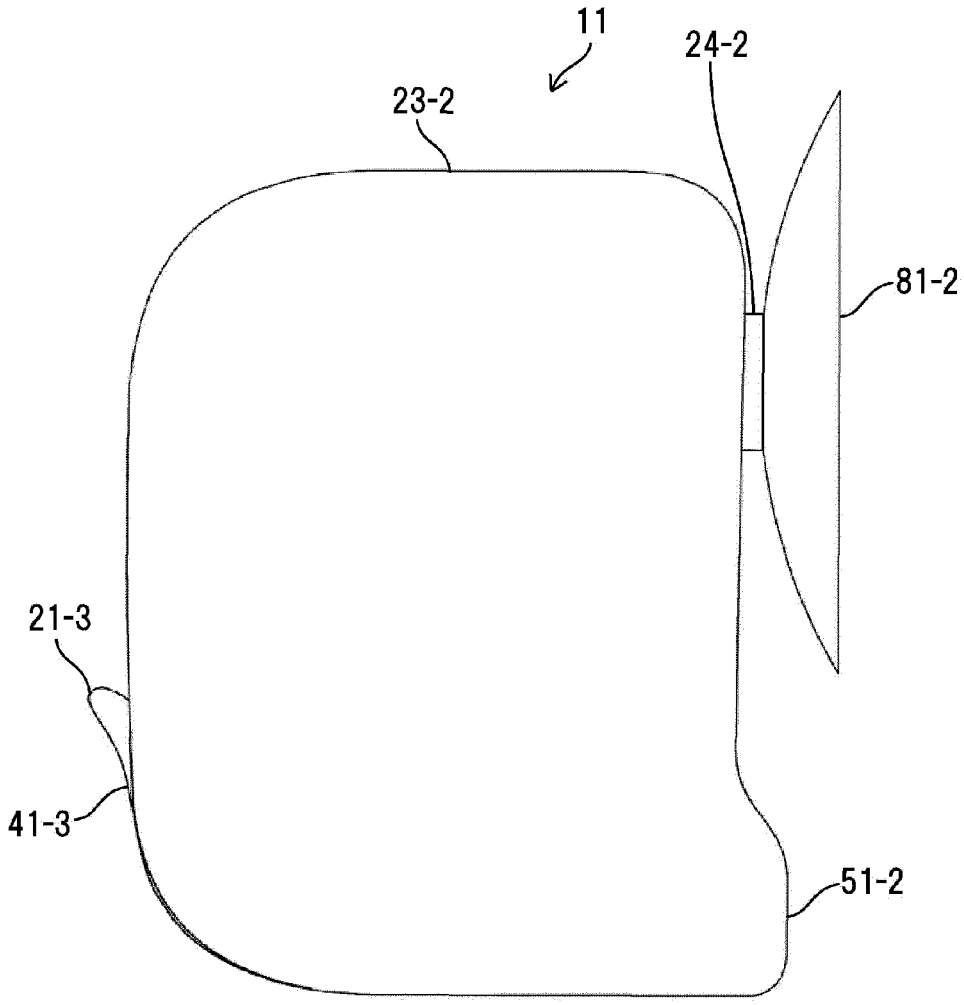

Fig.5

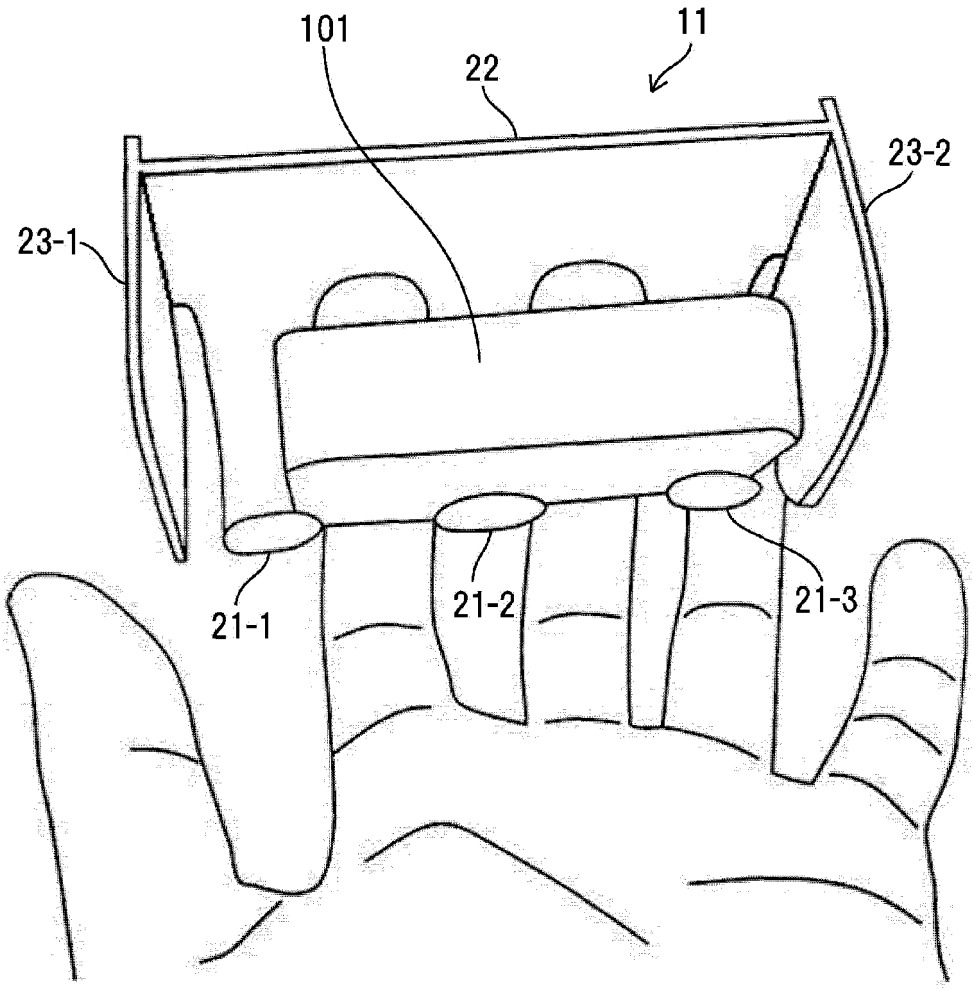

Fig.6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2017/044262

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
A47K5/04(2006.01)i
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A47K5/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Published examined utility model applications of Japan 1922-1996
Published unexamined utility model applications of Japan 1971-2018
Registered utility model specifications of Japan 1996-2018
Published registered utility model applications of Japan 1994-2018

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 6-193108 A (FRIEDRICH GROHE AG) 12 July 1994, paragraphs [0006]-[0011], fig. 1-3 & US 5377367 A, column 2, line 51 to column 3, line 19, fig. 1-3 & EP 597383 A1 & DE 4237738 A & DK 597383 T & AT 147454 T & ES 1026129 U & ES 2098628 T	1-9
A	US 4277042 A (ASH Sr., Arthur.) 07 July 1981, column 2, line 45 to column 3, line 6, fig. 1-2 (Family: none)	1-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Telephone No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2017/044262

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 9-187394 A (TOTO LTD.) 22 July 1997, paragraphs [0012]-[0013], fig. 1-2 (Family: none)	1-9
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 115782/1978 (Laid-open No. 32163/1980) (ANDO, Akira) 1980 March 01, page 2, lines 1-10, fig. 1-3 (Family: none)	1-9
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 130838/1986 (Laid-open No. 36387/1988) (MOURI, Masae) 09 March 1988, page 2, line 15 to page 4, line 1, fig. 1-3 (Family: none)	1-9
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 67468/1988 (Laid-open No. 171289/1989) (BAN, Hajime) 04 December 1989, page 2, line 9 to page 4, line 10, fig. 1-2 (Family: none)	1-9
A	US 2001/0020621 A1 (IMMERMAN, R. A.) 13 September 2001, paragraphs [0057]-[0059], fig. 12-13 & US 5971192 A & US 6279742 B1 & US 5971192 A	1-9

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- JP 2010268931 A **[0005]**
- JP 2011036621 A **[0005]**