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(54) Title: TOP LOADING WASHING MACHINE**(57) Abstract**

A laundry washing machine has a cabinet (2) and a drum (1) suspended within the cabinet for rotation about a horizontal axis. The drum (1) includes a pair of drum ends with a pair of vanes (110, 111) extending between the drum ends (11, 12) rigidly connecting the drum ends together. The drum (1) has a substantially cylindrical perforated skin (22) having a main section (34) and a hatch section (35). The main section (34) and hatch section (35) connect along the edges to form the complete drum skin. In an opening operation the drum (1) is opened by disconnecting the edges of the main section (34) and hatch section (35) of the drum skin (22), retaining the hatch section (35) in a fixed position relative to the cabinet (2) and rotating the drum (1) such that the main section (34) of the drum skin (22) moves apart from the hatch section (35) to provide an opening into the drum. The opening is provided in conjunction with an opening into the cabinet, normally closed by a lockable lid (4). The cabinet (2) may comprise a rectangular folded up wrapper (32) together with a water collecting tray (28) fitting within the lower end (33) of the rectangular wrapper. Laundry load guiding flaps (18, 19) are disclosed which hide from view the spaces between the drum (1) and the cabinet (2) with the lid (4) open and the drum (1) in its open condition. These flaps also provide laundry guiding and scraping functions during the opening and closing operations.

