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I, Herman Kahn, hereby declare:

That I possess advanced knowledge of the Japanese and English languages. This declaration certifies that the attached English language documents, identified as JP H11-266035 and JP H11-268570 (attached as Appendix A), are a true and accurate translation of the original Japanese language documents JP H11-266035 and JP H11-268570 (attached as Appendix B), to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statements made in this Declaration are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code. Furthermore, all statements made of Declarant's own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

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# APPENDIX A

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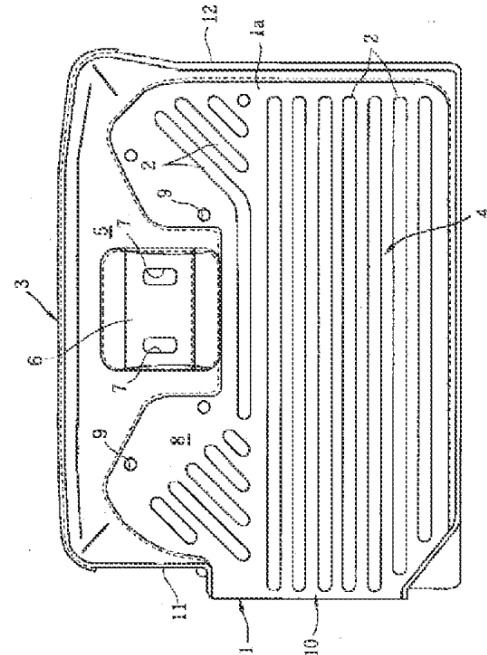
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(54) [Title of the invention] Vehicle floor mat

(57) [Abstract]

[Problem] To provide a vehicle floor mat which can be washed without much effort.

[Solution] There is provided a concave area 4, formed by a bottom wall 1 and an upright wall 3 disposed along the peripheral edge of the bottom wall 1. Furthermore, a discharge part 10, for discharging water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is provided in a portion of the upright wall 3 forming the concave area 4.



[Scope of patent claims]

[Claim 1] A vehicle floor mat characterized in that it comprises a bottom wall 1 with anti-slip convex parts 2... provided on its top surface 1a; an upright wall 3 disposed along the peripheral edge of said bottom wall 1; and a concave area 4 formed by said upright wall 3 and said bottom wall 1, wherein a discharge part 10, for discharging water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is furthermore provided in a portion of said upright wall 3 or bottom wall 1 forming said concave area 4.

[Claim 2] A vehicle floor mat characterized in that it comprises a bottom wall 1 with anti-slip convex parts 2... provided on its top surface 1a; an upright wall 3 disposed along the peripheral edge of said bottom wall 1; and a concave area 4 formed by said upright wall 3 and said bottom wall 1, wherein a discharge part 10, for discharging water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is furthermore provided in a portion of said upright wall 3 or bottom wall 1 forming said concave area 4, and a plate 13, removable from above, is attached to one of the left or right side wall parts 11, 12 of the upright wall 3.

[Claim 3] A vehicle floor mat as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein a slope descending toward the discharge part 10 is formed in the bottom wall 1.

[Claim 4] A vehicle floor mat as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the discharge part 10 is formed by notching the operator entry/exit side of the upright wall 3 from an upper edge 18 to a lower edge 19.

[Claim 5] A vehicle floor mat as set forth in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein a raised part 6 is provided in a front part of the bottom wall 1, and an opening 7 for passing through a vehicle control element is formed in said raised part 6.

[Detailed description of the invention]

[0001]

[Technical field of the invention] The present invention relates to a vehicle floor mat which is installed on the floor surface of the operator's seat of vehicles such as construction machines and industrial machines.

[0002]

[Prior art] Conventional vehicle floor mats installed on the floor surface of the operator's seat (driver's seat) of construction machines and industrial machines, such as bulldozers, excavators and cranes, have generally been made of rubber, with anti-slip convex parts formed on the top surface.

[0003]

[Problem to be solved by the invention] However, whenever a conventional vehicle floor mat becomes dirtied with soil, mud, etc. and is to be washed with water, it needs to be removed from the vehicle, which is laborious. Furthermore, there is the disadvantage that even when such a floor mat has been installed, the floor surface ends up being dirtied by soil and mud penetrating through gaps.

[0004] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a vehicle floor mat which can be washed without much effort.

[0005]

[Means for solving the problem] To achieve the aforesaid object, a vehicle floor mat according to the present invention comprises a bottom wall with anti-slip convex parts provided

on its top surface; an upright wall disposed along the peripheral edge of said bottom wall; and a concave area formed by said upright wall and said bottom wall, wherein a discharge part, for discharging water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is furthermore provided in a portion of said upright wall or bottom wall forming said concave area.

[0006] Furthermore, a vehicle floor mat according to the present invention comprises a bottom wall with anti-slip convex parts provided on its top surface; an upright wall disposed along the peripheral edge of said bottom wall; and a concave area formed by said upright wall and said bottom wall, wherein a discharge part, for discharging water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is furthermore provided in a portion of said upright wall or bottom wall forming said concave area, and a plate, removable from above, is attached to one of the left or right side wall parts of the upright wall.

[0007] Furthermore, a slope descending toward the discharge part may be formed in the bottom wall. Furthermore, the discharge part may be formed by notching the operator entry/exit side of the upright wall from an upper edge to a lower edge. Furthermore, a raised part may be provided in a front part of the bottom wall, with an opening for passing through a vehicle control element being formed in said raised part.

[0008]

[Embodiments of the invention] The present invention will be described below based on drawings illustrating embodiments.

[0009] FIG. 1 through FIG. 3 illustrate an embodiment of a vehicle floor mat of the present invention. This vehicle floor mat is installed by laying on the floor surface B of the cabin A (operator's seat) of a construction machine, industrial machine, etc.—for example, a bulldozer, excavator or crane—and has a bottom wall 1 with anti-slip convex parts 2 provided on its top surface 1a, and an upright wall 3 disposed along the peripheral edge of the bottom wall 1, such that a concave area 4 is formed by the bottom wall 1 and upright wall 3.

[0010] To describe this more concretely, this floor mat is formed integrally from plastic, FRP, hard rubber or the like, and its bottom wall 1 has a footrest part 8, substantially U-shaped in plan view, on which a plurality of linear aforementioned concave parts 2... are formed, and a stepped part 5 which is formed on the periphery of the footrest part 8 so as to be at a higher level. Furthermore, 9... are openings for passing through bolts for securing to the floor surface B of the vehicle, and when installing the floor mat, it is preferable, for example, to seal the space between the bolt and the bottom wall 1 with a gasket through which the bolt has been inserted, so as to prevent water from leaking through to the floor surface B side.

[0011] Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 1, FIG. 2 and FIG. 4, in the stepped part 5 located in the middle in the left-right direction of the front part of the bottom wall 1, an upwardly bulging raised part 6 is provided, and openings 7, 7 for passing through vehicle control elements—for example, control levers D, D (shown by imaginary lines) or accelerator and brake arms, etc.—are formed in the top part of the raised part 6.

[0012] Furthermore, in the vehicle floor mat of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 1 through FIG. 3, a discharge part 10, for discharging, water, mud, etc. to the outside during washing, is formed in a portion of the upright wall 3 forming

the concave area 4. Namely, the discharge part 10 is formed by notching the left or right side wall part 11 or 12 of the upright wall 3 which is the operator entry/exit C side (in the drawings, the left side wall part 11) from the upper edge 18 to the lower edge 19. Moreover, a slope descending toward the discharge part 10 is formed in the bottom wall 1 (the top surface 1a of the bottom wall 1 descends toward the discharge part 10).

[0013] As a result, water 16 can be poured directly into the concave area 4 with a hose 17 to wash away soil, mud, dirt and the like, with the floor mat remaining installed on the floor surface B of the vehicle. Namely, the floor mat prevents water 16 from contacting the floor surface B and the various electronic devices installed nearby, and the water 16, mud, etc. during washing flows down to the outside through the discharge part 10 without pooling in the concave area 4.

[0014] It should be noted that the openings 7, 7 of the raised part 6 are formed at a higher position than the top surface 1a of the bottom wall 1, so water does not flow to the floor surface B side through the openings 7, 7, but one may optionally cover the openings 7, 7 for control elements (control levers D, D) with a waterproof cover member.

[0015] It will be noted that the bottom wall 1 is formed to such a shape that the area of the discharge part 10 juts out somewhat from the cabin A of the vehicle, so that water can be reliably discharged to outside the cabin A. Moreover, the anti-slip convex parts 2... provided on the bottom wall 1 are arranged in a linear pattern oriented toward the discharge part 10, so that water can flow readily, but with regard to the shape, one is free to also provide a plurality of interspersed convex parts which are round, elliptical, triangular, etc. in plan view, so long as a pattern arrangement is provided which makes it easy for water to flow to the discharge part 10. Furthermore, the discharge part 10 may be provided on the opposite side in the left-right direction, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0016] Next, FIG. 5 through FIG. 8 illustrate another embodiment of a vehicle floor mat of the present invention, in which a plate 13, removable from above, is attached to one of the left or right side wall parts 11, 12 of the upright wall 3. Namely, the left side wall part 11 of the upright wall 3 is notched from the upper edge to the lower edge (as described above) to form the discharge part 10, and the aforementioned plate 13 is attached to the right side wall part 12 opposite the discharge part 10.

[0017] To described this in more detail, the right side wall part 12 is notched downward from its upper edge 18 to form a notched part 14, and a concave groove 15 is provided along the edge of the notched part 14. A plate 13 is then installed by inserting into this concave groove 15 from above. It will be noted that the right side wall part 12 is formed thicker along the notched part 14.

[0018] Employing such a configuration makes it possible to attach the plate 13 to the right side wall part 12 when washing the concave area 4, and to remove the plate 13 during vehicle use so that it does not interfere with surrounding equipment.

[0019] It should be noted that the present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiments. For example, one may form the discharge part 10 in the right side wall part 12 and attach the plate 13 to the left side wall part 11. Furthermore, it may be preferable to create a bathtub style

floor mat by providing the upright wall 3 along the entire peripheral edge of the bottom wall 1 and providing the discharge part 10 in a portion of the bottom wall 1. For example, a drainage opening may be formed in the rear part of the bottom wall 1, and a hose may be attached to the drainage opening to drain water to outside the cabin A.

[0020]

[Effect of the invention] The present invention, being configured as described above, provides the effects indicated below.

[0021] (According to claim 1) Water 16 can be poured directly into the concave area 4 with a hose 17 to wash away soil, mud, dirt and the like, with the floor mat remaining installed on the floor surface B of the vehicle's cabin A, without wetting the floor surface B or the electronic equipment installed nearby. Therefore, washing of the floor mat does not require much effort and is simple and can be accomplished in a short time.

[0022] (According to claim 2) When the plate 13 is in an attached state, water 16 can be poured directly into the concave area 4 with a hose 17 to wash away soil, mud, dirt and the like, with the floor mat remaining installed on the floor surface B of the vehicle's cabin A, without wetting the floor surface B or the electronic equipment installed nearby. Therefore, washing of the floor mat is simple and can be accomplished in a short time. Furthermore, during use (driving) of the vehicle, the plate 13 can be removed so that it does not interfere with surrounding equipment.

[0023] (According to claim 3) The slope of the bottom wall 1 allows water, mud, etc. during washing to readily flow down to the outside through the discharge part 10 without pooling in the concave area 4. (According to claim 4) The structure of the discharge part 10 is simple and can be formed easily. Furthermore, it is convenient for sweeping out dirt which has accumulated in the concave area 4 using a broom.

[0024] (According to claim 5) Installation of the floor mat is possible even if control elements such as control levers are protruding from the floor surface B of the vehicle's cabin A. Furthermore, since the location of the openings 7, 7 on the raised part 6 is made higher, during washing, water does not flow through the openings 7, 7 to the floor surface B side.

[Brief description of the drawings]

[FIG. 1] is a plan view illustrating an embodiment of a vehicle floor mat of the present invention.

[FIG. 2] is a cross-sectional front view.

[FIG. 3] is a side view.

[FIG. 4] is a cross-sectional side view of the main parts, illustrating the raised part.

[FIG. 5] is a plan view illustrating another embodiment.

[FIG. 6] is a cross-sectional front view.

[FIG. 7] is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the main parts, illustrating the state with a plate attached.

[FIG. 8] is a cross-sectional side view illustrating the state with the plate removed.

[Explanation of references]

- 1 Bottom wall
- 1a Top surface
- 2 Convex part
- 3 Upright wall
- 4 Concave area
- 6 Raised part

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