

# The CANACLA®

## What is the CANACLA®?

It is the French acronym for "canari à clapet". In francophone West Africa, the "canari" refers to a traditional jar made of terracotta. This bowl was the base of the invention of Canacla®. Its inventor is Jacques Vanhercke, who had the idea to provide the canary with a "clapet," or valve. Thanks to the valve and to the small pipe that pierces the wall of the canary, the water comes out in a small jet as our wrists lift it (so our hands don't even need to touch the valve!)

## Why do we like the CANACLA®?

We like the ceramic Canacla first because it is a **beautiful art object**, but also because it has 4 very useful virtues: It helps **protect our health**, it is **ecological** and **economic**, and...it is **playful**!

### 1. It helps protect our health

With a Canacla,

- 👍 we wash our hands **better** than under the faucet (more on this later),
- 👍 we wash our hands **at the right time** (for example, just before eating) and **in the right place** (for example, two meters from where we eat). Since the canacla is an ornamental object, it looks good in a dining room or restaurant, places where there are often no faucets for washing hands.

(This absence poses a serious public health problem, particularly in Africa, where infectious diseases are frequently passed on by unwashed hands).

- 👍 we wash hands **more often** since a canacla is very accessible (because it is installed in the most frequented place in the house), "I am going to wash my hands" is replaced by "I wash my hands, right here and at once!"

So the Canacla revolutionizes an act of everyday life: Washing your hands is no longer a hidden act, done a few times a day in another room, far away from other people.

### 2. the Canacla is ecological

With a Canacla,

- 👍 we wash hands correctly while using **very little water**, (more on this later), a precious natural resource which we should stop wasting.

### 3. the Canacla is economical

- 👍 It decreases the overall **health** bill by decreasing the risk of contamination by a "disease of unwashed hands";
- 👍 it decreases the overall **water** bill. This is particularly the case for restaurants, where many customers don't turn off the faucet for reasons of hygiene: considering the faucet dirty—and it is!-- they do not want to touch it with their ... washed hands!



We like it !



We use it !

#### 4. the Canacla is playful

- 👍 It is fun "to play" with the valve.
- 👍 It makes the hands "sing" (more on this later).

#### Why are hands better washed when using the Canacla?

- 👍 The Canacla is super hygienic, because hands don't touch anything! The Canacla offers the same hygiene as the touchless faucet (automatic faucet with infrared sensor).
- 👍 By using the Canacla, it's easy to achieve the 30 seconds of friction necessary for *correctly* washed hands, never achieved with our typical 3 seconds wash under the faucet.

#### Did you know...

- 👍 That to correctly wash our hands under the faucet, we use on average 3 liters of water (3,000 ml)? What an *enormous waste!* 3L is **2,900%** (30 times) more than we need to correctly wash with the Canacla which uses barely 100 ml of water.
- 👍 That even when using the automatic faucet, the waste of water is still important: it uses on average 1 L of water, which is **900%** (10 times) more than the Canacla
- 👍 that "canaclacking" means to wash one's hands with the Canacla? A "canaclacker"

is a male or female person who knows how to "canaclack" and who has already done it.

#### Canaclacking, how do we do it?

Nadège shows you how:

- 1) I take a small piece of soap, which I place in the palm of my hand.
- 2) OOP! OOP! OOP! Using my wrists, I lift the valve three times for about one second (waiting a few seconds in between). The water falls in the palm of my hands. With the valve closed, I soap up my palms, making foam. After I opened the valve the third time, I keep scrubbing the soap on my hands until the foam covers both hands completely.
- 3) I put the piece of soap back.
- 4) Now the second stage of handwashing begins (see photo below):



I move away from the Canacla, making way for others. I stand up and I scrub my foam

covered hands energetically for about 30 seconds (Why not with a little singing and dancing?). By this *prolonged* friction the bad germs (the pathogenic germs) leave my skin and enter the soap foam.

5) The third stage: I rinse my hands. My wrists lift the valve (meanwhile I continue rubbing my hands!), until I notice that **all** the soap has disappeared.

6) Now, I dry my hands. The most hygienic and the most ecological method is "to drain" hands by shaking them, and then to let them dry by air drying -another change of behavior! It is especially necessary to avoid wiping hands on a hand towel already used by other people.

#### 7) My hands *sing!*

After a few seconds of air drying, my hands- "so satisfied to have been so well washed and with so little water"-sing: My hands (by rubbing the clean thumb against the clean folded fingers) my hands sing "the song of clean hands." It is the beautiful reward hands offer to "canaclacking" people...

For more info :

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