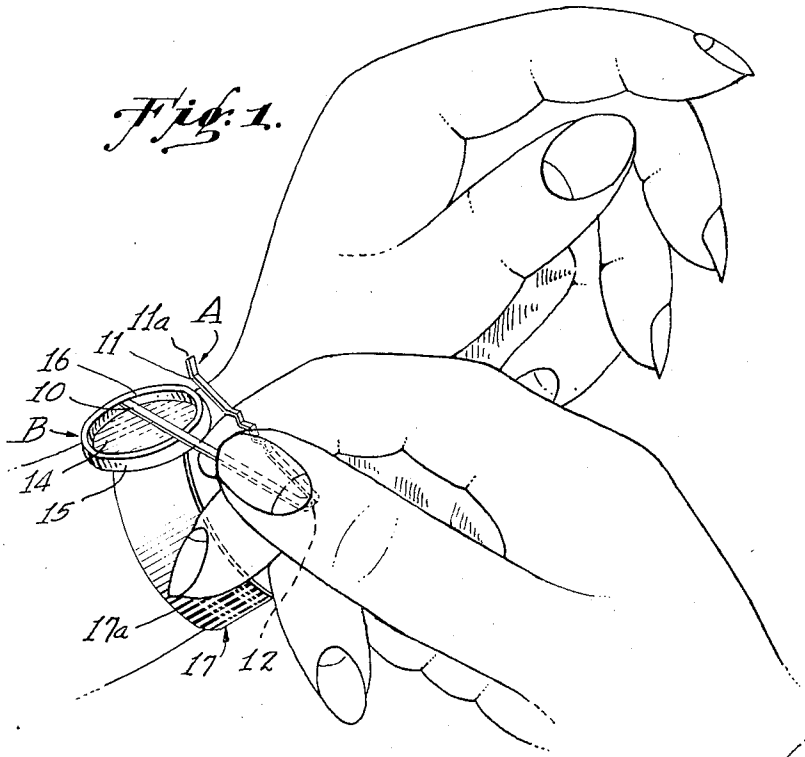
March 27, 1951 J. R. SNYDER 2,546,528

BOBBY PIN OPENER

Filed June 25, 1949

Fig. 1.



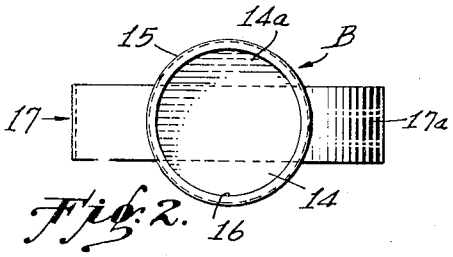


Fig. 2.

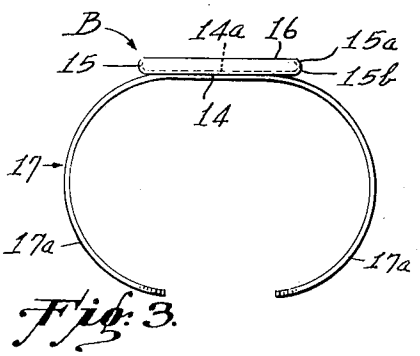


Fig. 3.

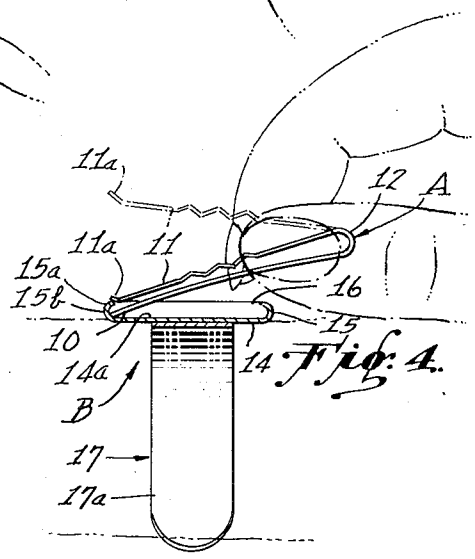


Fig. 4.

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BOBBY PIN OPENER

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Application June 25, 1949, Serial No. 101,289

2 Claims. (Cl. 132—1)

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The present invention relates to improvements in a bobby pin opener. It consists of the combinations, constructions, and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described and claimed.

It is an object of this invention to provide an opener that is adapted for use in spreading the side members of a normally-closed bobby pin, preparatory to application of the pin to the hair. Normally, such a task is difficult to accomplish by a hair dresser; and, considering the number of bobby pins that must be used during a normal working day, the fingers of the operator are often injured.

More specifically, this invention concerns a bobby pin opener adapted to be worn on the wrist of an operator. The opener includes a disc having a circumferential flange rising therefrom, the upper section of the flange being curved inwardly toward the center of the disc. This construction defines an annular hook extending around the entire circumference of the disc. One side member of a bobby pin may be engaged under this hook, and then the operator may separate the side members of the pin with facility and ease. The opener may be used, regardless of the angle of the wrist on which the opener is worn, and it will not interfere with other tasks being carried out by the operator.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the specification continues. The novel features will be set forth in the claims hereunto appended.

For a better understanding of my invention, reference should be had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this application, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, illustrating my bobby pin opener supported on one of the operator's wrists and the other hand being used for opening the bobby pin;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the bobby pin opener;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view thereof; and

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken through the device, and illustrates a bobby pin being opened by an operator.

While I have shown only the preferred form of my invention, it should be understood that various changes, or modifications, may be made within the scope of the annexed claims without departing from the spirit thereof.

Detailed description

Referring to the drawing, it will be noted that I have disclosed a conventional bobby pin indicated generally at A. This pin includes a pair of coacting side members 10 and 11, which are interconnected by a spring loop 12 so as to yieldingly urge them toward one another. In actual practice, the side 10 is made slightly longer than the side 11, and the latter is provided with an up-turned end 11*a*. Of course, I do not desire to be limited to this particular type of bobby pin, since it has been selected for the purpose of illustration only.

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My bobby pin opener is designated generally by the reference character B. It includes a disc 14 having a circumferential flange 15 rising therefrom. This flange defines an opening 16 at its top. As clearly shown in Figures 3 and 4, the upper section 15*a* of this flange is curved inwardly toward the center of the disc 14 to define an annular hook extending around the entire circumference of the disc. The upper surface 14*a* of the disc is flat and leads to the lower curved section 15*b* of the annular flange without interruption.

For the purpose of supporting the opener B at a convenient position on an operator's arm, I provide a split wrist-engaging band 17. This band is spot-welded or otherwise secured to the underneath side of the disc 14. The arms 17*a* of the band may be sprung so as to accommodate the band to the wearer's wrist; also, to allow placement of the band over the wrist or removal therefrom.

The bobby pin opener may be worn while the operator is giving a shampoo, drying the hair, etc., without the customer's hair becoming entangled in the device. It will not interfere with the duties of the hair dresser, since it is mounted in an out-of-the-way position on the wearer's wrist.

Detailed operation

The operation of my bobby pin opener is summarized briefly as follows:

In applying the device to a person's wrist—for example, the left wrist as shown in Figure 1—the arms 17*a* of the split band 17 are sprung over the wrist. This will mount the opener B at a convenient place on the wearer's wrist.

It will be found convenient to hold the bobby pin A in the other hand, placing the end of the side member 10 at the central part of the disc 14, and thereafter slide this side member over the flat surface 14*a* toward the circumferential flange 15. The end of the side member 10 is engaged under the annular hook-like upper section 15*a* of this flange, as suggested in Figures 1 and 4.

With the side member 10 thus anchored, the thumb and index finger are utilized to raise the side member 11 into open position, as shown by the dot-dash line illustration in Figure 4.

The thumb and index finger are pressed against the side members 10 and 11 to hold them in open position. This will permit the operator to place the bobby pin in the customer's hair, all with facility and ease.

Inasmuch as the flange 15 extends around the entire circumference of the disc 14, the bobby pin A may be inserted through the opening 16 from any direction and the bobby pin leg member 10 engaged underneath the in-turned section of the annular flange.

When the bobby pin A occupies its normal position, as indicated by the full lines in Figure 4, the free ends of the side members 10 and 11 thereof are arranged in juxtaposition. It will be noted that upon disposing the bobby pin at an acute angle relative to the disc 14, as the free end of the side member 10 slides over the flat upper surface 14*a* in contact therewith and into engagement underneath the annular hook-like section 15*a*, the up-turned end 11*a* will pass above the section 15*a*. In other words, the circumferential flange 15 is relatively short in height so that the free ends of the bobby pin can straddle the hook-shaped section 15*a*, with the end of the side member 10 still resting on the disc. It will be observed that an unobstructed circumferential groove is provided below the hook-like section 15*a* to receive the free end of the side member 10 of the bobby pin.

I claim:

1. An opener for separating side members of a resilient bobby pin, the latter having juxtapositioned free ends; the opener including: a disc having a circumferential flange rising therefrom and defining an opening at its top; the upper section of the flange curving inwardly toward the center of the disc to define an annular hook, with an unobstructed circumferential recess disposed below this hook; the hook being dimensionally spaced above the disc at a distance so that the free ends of the bobby pin can straddle the hook with these ends still juxtapositioned, when the bobby pin is disposed at an acute angle relative to the disc, and the free end of one of the side members is moved along the disc in contact therewith into engagement underneath the annular hook, with the free end of the other member passing above the hook.

2. An opener for separating side members of a resilient bobby pin, the latter having juxtapositioned free ends; the opener including: a disc having a circumferential flange rising therefrom and defining an opening at its top; the upper section of the flange curving inwardly toward the center of the disc to define the annular hook, with an unobstructed circumferential recess disposed below this hook; the hook being dimensionally spaced above the disc at a distance so that the free ends of the bobby pin can straddle the hook with these ends still juxtapositioned, when the bobby pin is disposed at an acute angle relative to the disc, and the free end of one of the side members is moved along the disc in contact therewith into engagement underneath the annular hook, with the free end of the other member passing above the hook; in combination with means for supporting the opener on the wrist of a wearer.

JOHN R. SNYDER.

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