Nov. 6, 1951 V. L. KELLY 2,573,715

DIGIT GUARD

Filed Dec. 22, 1947 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

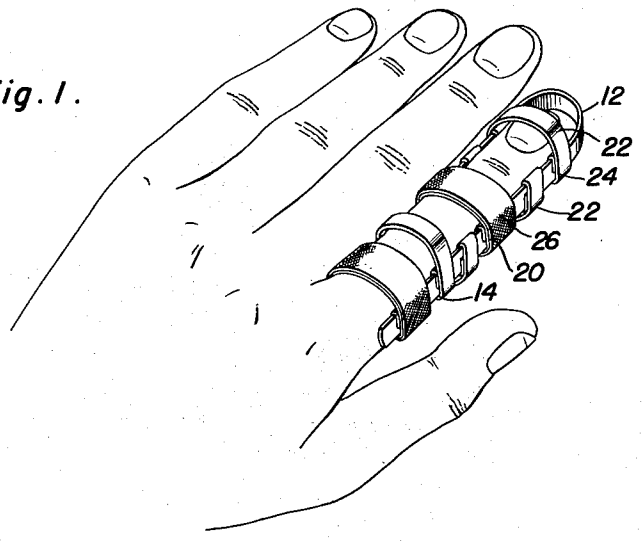


Fig. 2.

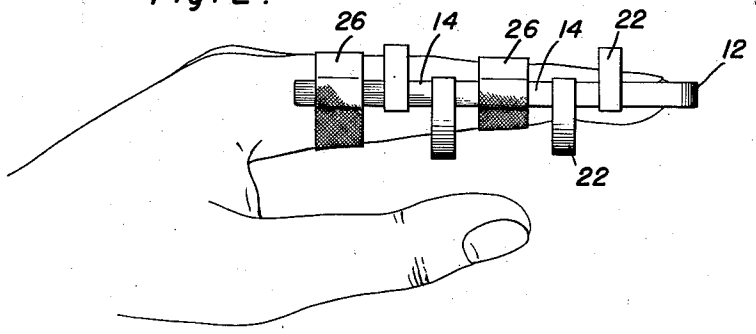
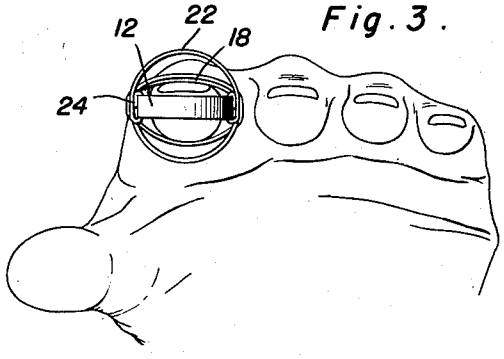


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

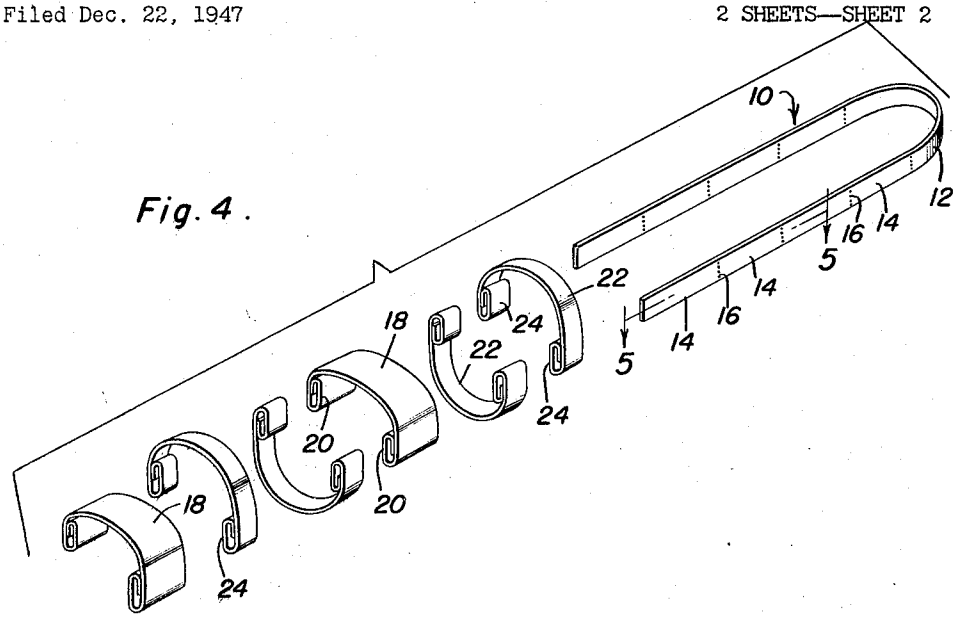


Fig. 5.

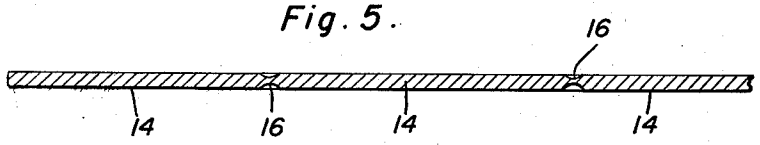


Fig. 6.

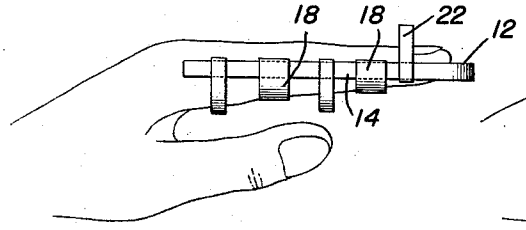


Fig. 7.

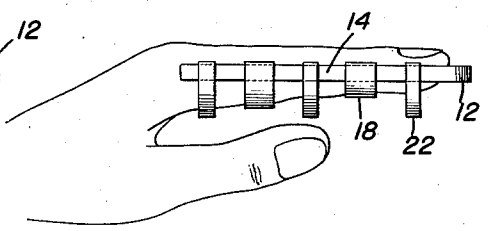
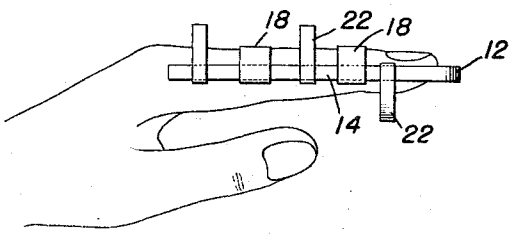


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,573,715

DIGIT GUARD

Victor Leroy Kelly, Houston, Tex.

Application December 22, 1947, Serial No. 793,223

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—89)

1

This invention relates to novel and useful improvements in devices for covering and protecting various portions of the anatomy against jars, shock, inadvertent exposure to vermin as by preventing direct contact with unclean articles and the like.

An object of this invention is to protect and guard a selected portion of the anatomy.

Another object of this invention is to provide a splint having an arcuate portion for protection purposes, segments in the said splint which are readily detachable for adjusting the splint to a selected size and improved means for retaining the splint on a portion of the anatomy.

Another object of this invention is to provide a cradle for use in association with the splint, the said cradle forming a bearing surface for the anatomy portion.

Another object of this invention is to provide a plurality of guards slidably and adjustably received on the said splint for further protection purposes.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device which may be readily attached and detached to a selected portion of the anatomy such as a finger, either with or without a bandage therebeneath and either with or without a bandage thereon.

Another purpose of this invention is to provide improved means for carrying out the above mentioned functions.

Another object of this invention is to provide an extremely simple device of the character described which lends itself well to commercial manufacture.

Ancillary objects and features of novelty will become apparent to those skilled in the art, and following the description of the preferred form of the invention, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form of the invention, showing the same utilized in association with a digit;

Figure 2 is a side view in elevation of the invention illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an end view of the invention illustrated in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of one form of the invention;

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Figure 4 and in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 6 is an elevational view of the preferred form of the invention, showing one use thereof for use when the injury is in a selected position;

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Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 6 and illustrating a second arrangement of the elements of the invention; and,

Figure 8 is a third view of the invention and illustrating a further arrangement of elements.

The purpose of the present invention is to guard a digit or another selected portion of the anatomy such as the leg, arm or the like from inadvertent shock, jars and injury. Often, utilizing a finger for various purposes, a finger becomes injured necessitating a bandage or the like. When a finger is injured in such proportions, pain usually results in inadvertent shock, jars or the like. The present invention is provided as a protection against such jars, since the shock is transmitted to the sound area of the finger adjacent the injury, thereby dissipating the shock to the uninjured area of the injured finger. Of course, the utility of this invention also tends to retain the digit in a more clean condition, which advantages are obvious.

The invention is so constructed as to permit the digit to be bandaged or covered without impeding a harmful amount of ventilation thereto. It being within the purview of the present invention to utilize the same in association with a bandaged finger or an exposed finger. For appearance sake, the invention may be covered with a bandage, if so desired.

A splint, generally indicated at 10 is provided of a substantially U-shaped member 12 consisting of legs or leg segments 14 and a web associated therewith. These segments are readily detachable due to the reduced or weakened portions 16 connecting the said segments. The material and construction of the member 12 is preferably light metal, plastic, wood or fiber. Inspection of the figures in the drawings obviously illustrates the fact that this splint is adapted to be positioned about a digit.

A cradle 18 composed of any suitable material such as light metal or plastic, is slidably received on the said splint and more properly on the detachable segments, through the medium of the curved bosses 20 which are formed at the ends thereof.

A plurality of guards are provided in association with the present invention for use therewith. These guards indicated at 22 are of rather rigid material and are also slidable on the detachable segments 14. It is noted from an inspection of Figure 3 that the said guards are spaced from the injured digit, this construction being insured by forming them of a smaller radius of curvature than the cradles 18. The guards 22 may be ad-

justed on the segments **14** in order that one or more of them may be adapted to protrude over and spaced from the injured area.

The terminals of the guards are preferably formed with bosses **24**, similar to the said bosses **20**. It is noted at this point that it is within the purview of the present invention to obviate these bosses and substitute slits in the ends of the guards and in the cradles, whereby the splint segments may be slid therethrough.

The guards **22** receive the shock directed at the injury, deflect it by transmitting the same with the aid of the splint **14**, to the cradles **18**, which are located on the whole or uninjured portion of the anatomy to transmit the shock to that uninjured portion.

Layers of adhesive material such as well known adhesive tape may be wrapped around the cradles **18** for firm retention of the device to a bandage on the finger or if desired directly on the finger. This adhesive material, seen in Figures 1 and 2 and indicated at **26** is of course detachable for readily removing the invention from the finger.

Further, when the adhesive material (preferably tape) is attached to the injured portion of the anatomy, the part which passes around the cradles **18**, forms an additional cradle on that opposite side which supports the guards **22** on that side, similar to the function of the cradles **18**.

It is apparent that variations may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, limitation is sought only in accordance with the scope of the following claims.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. A cover for an injured member of the anatomy comprising a splint consisting of a pair of substantially parallel legs having transverse weakened parts therein for ready removal of a portion of each leg and said weakened parts defining removable portions of said legs, said legs being connected at one pair of ends thereof by means of an integral part of said splint, cradles having bearings at their ends slidably disposed on said legs so that the cradles may be slidably moved to preselected spaced parts of the injured member, guards, said guards being larger than said cradles so that the guards are spaced farther from the injured member than the cradles, and means fixing said guards to said legs for longitudinal adjustment on said legs.

2. A cover for an injured member of the anatomy comprising a splint consisting of a pair of substantially parallel legs having transverse weakened parts therein for ready removal of a portion of each leg, and said weakened parts defining removable portions of said legs, said legs being connected at one pair of ends thereof by means of an integral part of said splint, cradles having bearings at their ends slidably disposed on said legs so that said cradles may be slidably moved to preselected spaced parts of the injured member, guards, said guards being larger than said cradles so that the guards are spaced farther from the injured member than the cradles, and means fixing said guards to said legs for longitudinal adjustment on said legs, at least one of said guards being disposed on said legs in the opposite direction from at least one other of said guards, and means disposed over said cradles and a part of said legs preventing substantial movement of said cradles on said legs and for retaining said splint on the injured member of the anatomy.

VICTOR LEROY KELLY.

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