

[54] GUITAR PICK DEVICE

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[58] Field of Search 84/320-322

[56] References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,776,592 1/1957 Di Preta 84/322

3,319,505 5/1967 Galetzky 84/322
3,442,169 5/1969 Bowers 84/322

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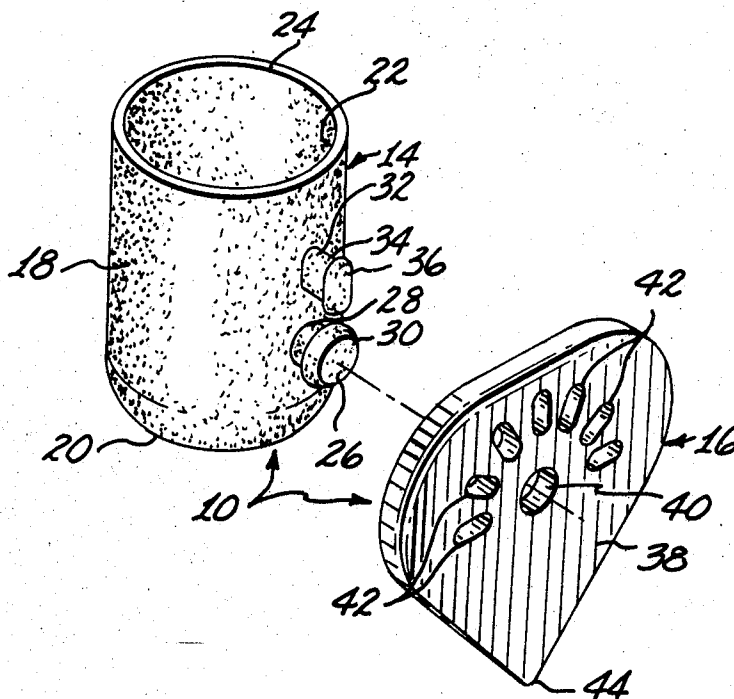
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[57]

ABSTRACT

A device for plucking a stringed instrument having a deformably resilient thimble for wearing on the finger of a player and to which a guitar pick is demountably attached and lockably movable into several angular positions relative to the thimble as dictated by the personal preference of the player.

7 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



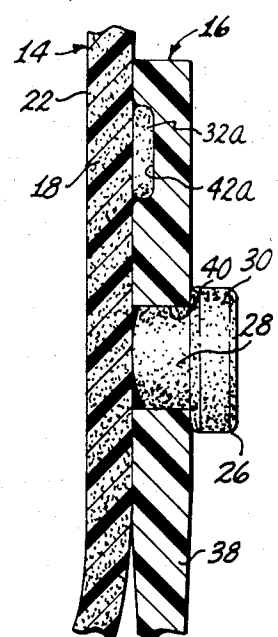
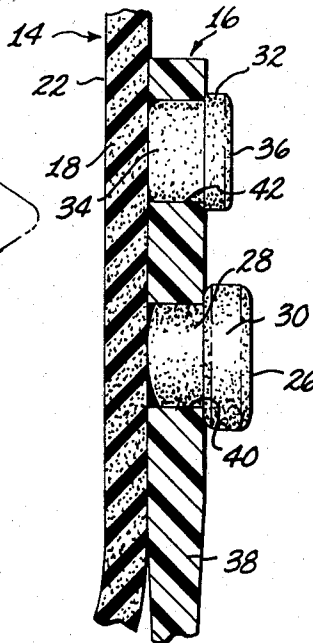
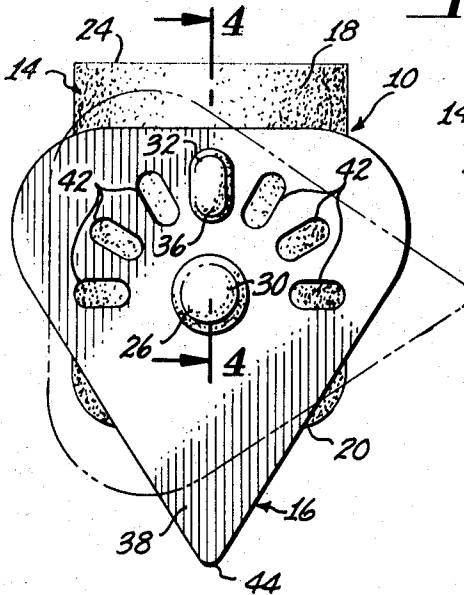
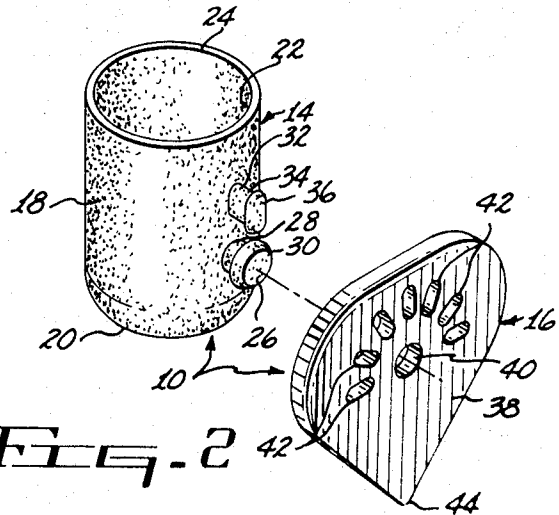
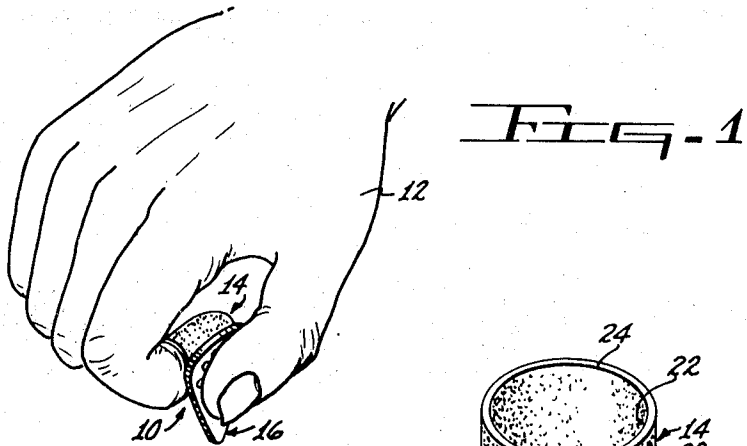


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

GUITAR PICK DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to guitar pick devices and more particularly to a thimble for releasably holding a guitar pick on the finger of a player in any of several positions desired by the player.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In the playing of guitars, banjos and similar stringed instruments it is a common practice to use a semirigid hand held pick to pluck the strings by appropriate manual manipulations. The picks made for this purpose, as is well known in the art, are relatively small, thin planar structures of generally triangular configuration. This type of guitar pick is normally held between the thumb and forefinger of a player and requires some effort and training for proper usage thereof.

The effort required to hold a guitar pick stems from the thinness of the pick structure and that it is held by a squeezing force applied by the thumb and forefinger. This squeezing force in many instances, particularly during prolonged periods of playing, results in decreased manual dexterity due to muscular tension and oftentimes the pick is dropped due to perspiration and numbness of the player's fingers.

The training needed to achieve proper holding and usage of the guitar pick involves determining the most natural and comfortable position while simultaneously considering the correct distance that the pick should extend from between the player's thumb and forefinger. This distance is critical for achieving proper tone and enabling the player to easily reach the several strings of the instrument.

Various devices have been developed to assist the player in holding a guitar pick and ease some of the above discussed problems. These prior art devices are generally divided into two main classes, the first being a one piece device and the second being two or more pieces which are assembled to form the guitar pick device.

Generally, the guitar pick devices of the above described first type includes a ring for wearing on the end of one of the player's fingers, the ring structure has the pick formed integral therewith. Due to the one piece construction, the tone quality is quite different, and due to its integral construction, the player must adapt to its pick angle and the like rather than the pick device adapting to the player.

The second type of guitar pick device employs a ring structure to which a pick is adjustably removably mounted. A particular patent disclosing this latter type of structure is U.S. Pat. No. 3,442,169, issued May 6, 1969 to C. E. Bowers. This device includes a deformable ring from which a threaded stud radially extends. A guitar pick having a hole therein is mounted on the stud between a pair of friction washers and is held in place by a nut. The mechanism of this patent is comparatively expensive to manufacture due to the number of parts required and the time needed to weld or otherwise attach the threaded stud to the ring. Also, this structure is rather cumbersome in that the stud, pick, washers and nut make a bulky assembly which presents the player with an awkward unnatural feel to which he must become accustomed. By employing a deformable ring structure, the player is able to mount the device at any location on his finger which presents no problem

with an experienced player as he knows the optimum location. However, the beginner must learn by trial and error exactly where this optimum placement is so as to achieve the correct amount of pick extension from between the fingers.

It would therefore be desirable to provide a new and useful guitar pick device which overcomes some of the problems of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a guitar pick device is disclosed which employs a thimble formed of deformable resilient material for wearing on the finger of a guitar player. The thimble is integrally provided with a radially outwardly extending trunion of the same material having a spindle portion and an enlarged outer end. A guitar pick having a hole formed therein is rotatably mounted on the spindle of the trunion and is demountably frictionally held against axial movement by the enlarged outer end of the trunion. The thimble is also provided with a radially outwardly extending projection which is engagable with any of a plurality of projection engaging means formed on the guitar pick so that the pick may be selectively positioned and disengagably held at various angles with respect to the thimble.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and useful guitar pick device.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and useful guitar pick device which is simple of structure and economical to manufacture.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and useful guitar pick device which assists the player of a stringed instrument in holding the pick.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and useful guitar pick device which is worn on the finger of a player and may be adjusted to suit the desired position of that player.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a new and useful guitar pick device which automatically positions the pick for the proper amount of extension from between the holder's fingers.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a device of the above described character which employs a thimble structure to which a guitar pick is demountably rotatably attached and has means by which the pick is selectively positionable and disengagably held in any of several desired positions.

The foregoing and other objects of the present invention, as well as the invention itself, may be more fully understood from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the guitar pick device of the present invention being held by the hand of a player as is customary in the playing of a stringed instrument.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged exploded isometric view of the guitar pick device of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an orthographic view of the guitar pick of the present invention illustrating two of the several positions into which the pick may be moved.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a view similar to FIG. 4 illustrating a modification of that structure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings in more detail, FIG. 1 illustrates the guitar pick device of the present invention, indicated generally by the reference numeral 10, as being held in the right hand 12 of a player. It should be understood that the position of the hand 12 and the guitar pick device 10 shown in FIG. 1 is but one of many positions, as the playing style, individual preference and the like will differ from player to player.

As best seen in FIG. 2, the guitar pick device comprises a thimble indicated generally by the reference numeral 14 and a guitar pick indicated generally by the numeral 16.

The thimble 14 may be fabricated of any desired material which may be defined as being easily deformed and resilient so that it will conform to the end of the player's finger and will not be subject to unintentional dislodgement. The material, ideally, should also be porous to enhance the player's comfort. Examples of materials suitable for this application would be of a porous rubber, synthetic rubber, or any of the synthetic materials of the thermosetting or thermoplastic classes which possess the above described characteristics.

The physical configuration of the thimble 14 is similar to other structures of this well known type in that it has a tubular body 18 with a closed end 20, an internal bore 22 and an open end 24. In addition to these well known characteristics, the thimble 14 is integrally formed, such as by any of the well known processes of molding and the like, with a radially outwardly extending trunion 26. The trunion has a spindle 28 of circular cross section disposed adjacent the body 18 and an enlarged outer end or nob 30. The thimble 14 is also provided with an integrally formed radially outwardly extending projection means 32 positioned adjacent the trunion 26 and in alignment therewith longitudinally of the body 18. The projection 32 is formed in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2, 3, and 4 with an inwardly disposed oval shaped in cross section shank 34 and has an enlarged outwardly disposed head 36 of the same general cross sectional configuration.

The guitar pick 16 is of conventional materials such as plastic, celluloid, tortoise-shell, and the like. Also, the pick 16 is of the same size and general configuration as is common in devices of this type. The pick may be described as having a generally triangular planar body 38 with rounded apexes. The pick 16 is provided with an aperture 40 formed therethrough in a substantially central location. The aperture 40 is provided with a diameter approximately equal to the diameter of the spindle 28 of trunion 26 so that the pick may be mounted on the spindle so as to be rotatable about the axis thereof. Mounting of the pick 16 is accomplished by simply pushing the nob 30 of the trunion 26 through the aperture 40, the nob will compress due to the nature of the material of which it is formed and will return to its original shape after having passed through the aperture. Thus, the pick will be rotatably demountably attached to the trunion 26 of the thimble 14.

The pick 16 is also provided with projection engaging means which in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2, 3, and 4 includes a plurality of slots 42 radially disposed in evenly spaced increments about the aperture 40. Each of the slots 42 is formed of the same general cross section configuration of the shank 34 of the projection

32 of the thimble 14. Each of the slots 42 are radially spaced from the aperture 40 a distance which is equal to the distance of the projection 32 from the trunion 26 of the thimble 14. Thus, rotary movement of the pick 16 about the trunion 26 will sequentially align the slots 42 with the projection 32.

It may now be apparent that the pick 16 may be rotated to various angles relative to the thimble 14 and releasably held in any of these several angles by pushing the projection 32 into the desired slot 42. The head 36 of the projection will deform upon entry into the desired slot 42 and will return to its normal shape upon having passed therethrough.

Two of the several positions into which the pick 16 may be moved relative to the thimble 14 are shown in FIG. 3. The solid line illustration of the pick 16 shows the string striking portion 44 thereof as extending from the thimble 14 in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof. The dash line illustration, shown in the same figure, shows the portion 44 of the pick 16 as being oriented to extend from the thimble at an angle of approximately 90° with respect to the longitudinal axis thereof.

Obviously, the number of slots 42 and the spacing thereof can be altered from the configuration shown in the drawing, as the specific configuration shown was selected for illustrative purposes only.

A modified form of projection means 32a and projection engaging means 42a is shown in FIG. 5. In this form the projection extends from the thimble 14 a distance less than the thickness of the pick 16 and is of oval cross sectional configuration over its entire length. The projection engaging means 42a of this embodiment is in the form of indentations (one shown), which are of an internal shape to receive the projection means 32a therein. These indentations 42a are positioned in the same manner as previously described for the slots 42 and serve the same purpose, that is, releasably hold the pick 16 at various angles relative to the thimble 14 as selected by the player.

While the principles of the invention have now been made clear in an illustrated embodiment, there will be immediately obvious to those skilled in the art, many modifications of structure, arrangements, proportions, the elements, materials, and components used in the practice of the invention, and otherwise, which are particularly adapted for specific environments and operation requirements without departing from those principles. The appended claims are therefore intended to cover and embrace any such modifications within the limits only of the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A guitar pick device comprising:

- a. a thimble of deformable resilient material and having a tubular body;
- b. a trunion extending radially outwardly from the tubular body of said thimble;
- c. a guitar pick demountably attached to said trunion and rotatable about the axis thereof, said pick having an aperture formed therein;
- d. projection means spaced from said trunion and extending radially outwardly from the tubular body of said thimble for engaging said guitar pick; and
- e. projection engaging means on said guitar pick for engaging said projection means to releasably hold

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said guitar pick at various angles relative to said thimble.

2. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said trunion is integrally formed on said thimble and is of deformable resilient material, said trunion comprising a spindle of circular cross section and an enlarged nob formed on the outwardly disposed end thereof.

3. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said projection means is integrally formed on said thimble and is of deformable resilient material, said projection means comprising a shank of substantially oval cross section and an enlarged head formed on the outwardly extending end thereof.

4. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said projection means is integrally formed on said thimble and is of deformable resilient material, said projection means comprising a shank of substantially oval cross section which extends from the tubular body of said thimble a distance less than the thickness of said guitar pick.

5. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein

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said projection means is in alignment with said trunion longitudinally of the tubular body of said thimble.

6. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said projection engaging means comprises a plurality of slots formed through said guitar pick, said slots radially disposed in spaced increments about the aperture formed in said guitar pick, each of said slots spaced from the aperture a distance equal to the space between said projection means and said trunion, each of said slots being configured to receive said projection means therein.

7. A guitar pick device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said projection engaging means comprises a plurality of indentations radially disposed in spaced increments about the aperture formed in said guitar pick, each of said indentations spaced from the aperture a distance equal to the space between said projection means and said trunion, each of said indentations being configured to receive said projection means therein.

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