C. F. BILLAU.

FRUIT AND FLOWER CUTTER.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 6, 1912.

1,068,848.

Patented July 29, 1913.

Fig. 1.

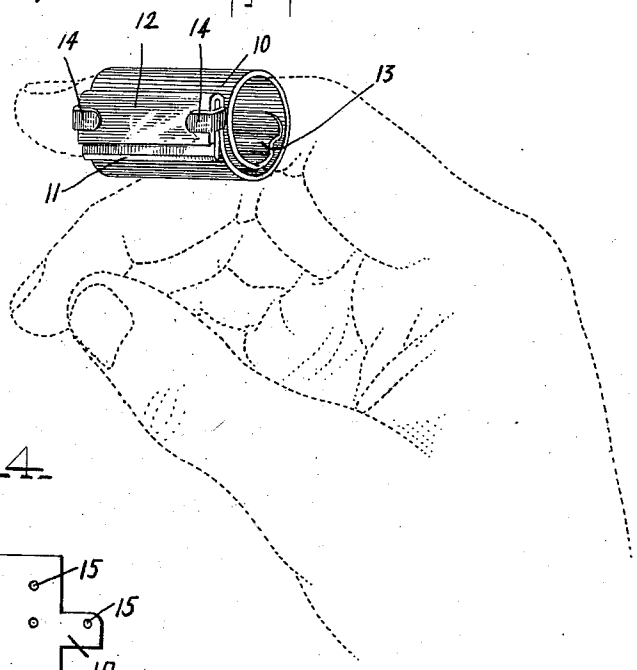


Fig. 4.

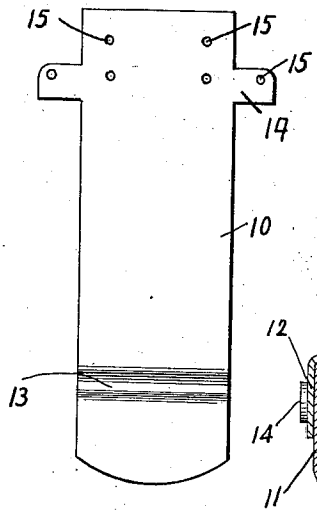


Fig. 2.

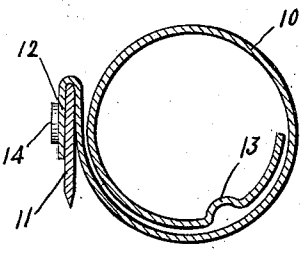
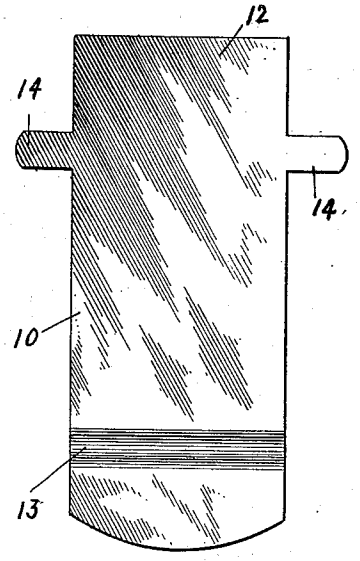


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

Frank C. Palmer

L. J. Gallagher.

INVENTOR

Charles F. Billau.

BY Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS

COLUMBIA PLANOGRAPH CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. BILLAU, OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

FRUIT AND FLOWER CUTTER.

1,068,848. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1913.

Application filed August 6, 1912. Serial No. 713,573.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. BILLAU, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Cedar Rapids, in the county of Linn and State of Iowa, have invented a new and Improved Fruit and Flower Cutter, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates generally to a cutting device adapted to be held on the finger, and, more particularly, to one especially adapted for use in cutting fruit and flowers.

The principal object of my invention is the provision of a cutting device adapted to be placed on the finger, the body member of which is made of resilient material and of spiral conformation, the said body member having a longitudinally extending bearing portion against which the finger may engage when the device is in use, thereby providing for more secure holding of the device on the finger at such time. It is also of some importance in the production of devices in this class that a simple structure be devised, thereby providing for low cost of manufacture and consequent low selling price.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in position on the index finger; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the device; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank from which the device is made; Fig. 4 is a plan view of a modified form of blank.

The cutter comprises the body member 10 and the blade 11 with holding means for the blade, such holding means 12 being preferably integral with the body member 10. The body member 10 is preferably in the form of a single sheet of resilient material and adjacent one end is provided with a bearing portion which takes the form of a corrugation 13. The body portion is bent into a form which is substantially cylindrical but which at the same time is substantially spiral, due to the fact that the interior diameter is constantly decreasing, as shown particularly in Fig. 2. The end of the body member remote from the said bearing portion 13 is overturned or bent, thereby providing a pocket which serves as a blade holding means 12, the material of the said body member 10 forming the side walls of the pocket. In order to retain these side walls closely and yet resiliently adjacent each other, lugs 14, preferably integral with the body member 10, are bent upwardly and over the outer wall of the said pocket, whereby the blade 11, which may be of thickness substantially equal to or greater than the width of the said pocket, will be firmly held in position between the side walls thereof.

The device is intended for use as shown particularly in Fig. 1. It will be noted that the said bearing portion or corrugation 13 will extend longitudinally of and in engagement with the finger so that when pressure is brought to bear on the cutting edge of the blade 11, the said blade will tend to move upwardly, thereby bringing the body member 10 into a more firm engagement with the finger, the said bearing portion 13 preventing turning of the device relatively to the finger.

The particular form of the blank shown in Fig. 4 contemplates the continued use of the same blade used with the device even after it has been sharpened a number of times, whereby its width has been materially lessened. The blank shown in this figure is provided with a number of openings 15, those at each side of the blank registering when the parts are folded as shown in Fig. 1; it will be obvious that after the blade has been lessened in width, due to the sharpening and grinding, that the width of the pocket into which the blade fits is too great to permit the cutting edge to project sufficiently. Suitable stops, such as screws or pins, may be inserted in each set of registering openings, thereby providing for engagement with the rear edge portion of the blade, thereby insuring the proper projection of the cutting edge into position for convenient use.

While the cutter has been gotten up especially for the use of fruit and flower pickers, it is, of course, clear that it may be put to a variety of uses, such as cutting twine, thread, etc.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

A fruit and flower cutter made of a single piece of resilient material, lugs on opposite sides of the said piece of material and spaced from one end thereof, the said end being adapted to be bent adjacent the lugs,

and the lugs being also adapted to be bent toward each other into engagement with the said bent end, whereby a pocket is formed adapted to receive a blade, the said lugs and the said end portion of the said piece of material being provided with a number of openings adapted for registration, the said openings being adapted to receive elements against which the rear portion of the blade may engage, whereby the cutting edge portion of the blade is removed sufficiently from the said pocket to be available for use.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES F. BILLAU.

Witnesses:
WALTER ALLISON,
JOHN B. EMERY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."