

No. 837,896.

PATENTED DEC. 4, 1906.

H. BOURNE.
SEWING THIMBLE.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 28, 1906

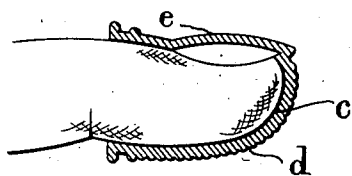


Fig. 1.

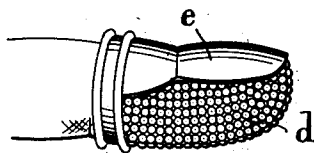


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE BOURNE, OF CATFORD, ENGLAND.

SEWING-THIMBLE.

No. 837,896.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 4, 1906.

Application filed August 28, 1905. Serial No. 276,133.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE BOURNE, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at Lynton, Bromley Road, Catford, in the county of Kent, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sewing-Thimbles, of which the following is a specification.

Hitherto thimbles worn by women while sewing have been of conical shape and circular section on any plane at right angles to the axis. This circular form of thimble does not conform to the shape of the end of the finger and when worn is uncomfortable and conducive to excessive and injurious pressure on the nail and parts of the finger-tip.

My invention has for its object a new and improved shape of thimble partially or entirely in conformity with the shape of the human finger, upon which the thimble is worn in the act of sewing.

By preference the inside of the thimble should follow the contour of the upper end of the finger, being somewhat of an oval in transverse section. The object of producing a thimble of this shape is that it shall not press unevenly and injuriously upon the muscles, tissues, bones, and nail of the finger, and so producing a thimble comfortable and healthy while in use and which will not injure the shape of the finger-tip. I may make the lower or open end of my thimble more or less constricted, if desired, in order to render the thimble to be more securely held upon the finger when in use.

I will now describe my invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a finger with this improved thimble shown in section, and Fig. 2 represents a side elevation of a thimble applied.

It will be understood that the well-known conical shape of thimble now in use causes great compression of the sides of the finger-nail and that the top of the nail is pressed hard. Further, the thimble is apt to tilt,

owing to the end of the finger not fitting the end of the thimble closely. To overcome these disadvantages, I obtain casts or mandrels of the shape of the human finger end. The thimble is then made by molding, pressing, stamping, or otherwise forcing metal, celluloid, composition, or other suitable material on the cast or mandrel. By this means the inside of the thimble will fit the top of the finger perfectly, as at *c*, while suitable outside finish, somewhat after the manner shown in the drawings, may be arranged for by means of an external mold, or the thimble may be worked up, chased, or otherwise finished, as at *d*, by hand.

In some cases and for the more effectual preservation of that part *d* of the thimble which is acted upon by the needle I may cover or cap it with a steel or other surface—corrugated, lined, indented, or otherwise, as at *d*, or I may make the thimble solely and entirely of a suitable hardened substance, or, if necessary, I may line the end where it comes in contact with the needle with a hard metal or other material, the main object being to produce a naturally-shaped thimble of suitable design and material in order to lessen the risk of injury to the finger and render the act of sewing or the like more comfortable and healthy. The part *e* may also be indented or roughened. The thimble may be lined with some non-metallic material, if so desired.

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

A thimble having its interior of the true form of the human nail and of that portion of the finger beyond the first joint.

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

HORACE BOURNE.

Witnesses:

BERTRAM H. MATTHEWS,
WILLIAM HODGE.