Feb. 11, 1930. G. H. HEYMANN ET AL 1,746,591

TOOTHPICK

Filed July 23, 1929

Fig. 1.

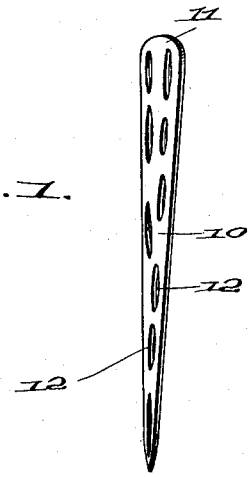

Fig. 2.

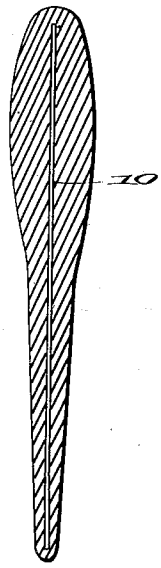

Fig. 3.

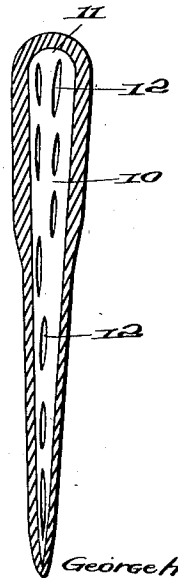

Fig. 4.

Inventors
George H. Heymann,
Howard D. Rose

By Wolfe, Littlehales & Hellmann
Attorneys

Patented Feb. 11, 1930

1,746,591

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GEORGE H. HEYMANN, OF LOUISVILLE, AND EDWARD D. ROSE, OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

TOOTHPICK

Application filed July 23, 1929. Serial No. 380,406.

This invention relates to toothpicks and more particularly to a toothpick having a resilient or semi-rigid core of metal, wood or celluloid and a coating of rubber, gelatine, celluloid or other substance which may be made to adhere to the core, thus providing a toothpick which will not irritate or injure the gum tissue and which does not easily absorb or become contaminated with infection, all as will be described more fully hereinafter and as claimed.

It is an object of our invention to provide a non-breakable toothpick of sufficient rigidity to withstand repeated use, but having a surface comparatively soft and elastic to prevent mutilation of the gum tissue.

Another object of our invention is to provide a rubber covered toothpick which, in use, stimulates the gum tissue and raises its resistance to infection.

A further object is to provide a toothpick having a flexible, non-absorbing point suitable for removing food particles from between the lower anterior teeth, the point being formed by a dipping or molding operation.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description and drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of one of the toothpicks made in accordance with this invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a core piece;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view through a finished toothpick and core piece which is embedded therein;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view through a finished toothpick, taken at right angles to the sectional view shown in Figure 3.

Referring more particularly to the drawing:

The core piece 10 which is shown in Figure 2 is flat and is shaped to taper off to a point at one end while the other end is rounded as at 11. A plurality of elongated slots 12 are punched in the body of the core, these serving not only to make the core more light but, also, to more securely bind the coating to the core. The core piece 10 is preferably punched from a sheet of metal such as thin sheet steel or aluminum, but good results are also obtained with core pieces made of wood and celluloid.

In the best form of our invention now known to us the core piece 10 is dipped into a rubber solution and a coating of soft rubber is, thus, built up upon the core. The coating is, advantageously, thicker at the blunt end of the toothpick so that it can be readily held in the fingers and more easily manipulated.

Instead of a rubber coating our invention contemplates a surface of celluloid, gelatine, vulcanite or other substance which will suitably adhere to the core piece 10, and it is therefore not confined to a coating formed by dipping, since the manner in which the coating is applied depends upon the substance used.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that our invention provides a toothpick which will not break or splinter and which, being impervious or substantially impervious to moisture, can easily be cleaned and will not become contaminated with infection while at the same time the coating will not injure the gums, but being relatively soft massages them and promotes a healthy condition which raises their resistance to disease.

What we claim as our invention is:

A toothpick comprising a tapered, sheet metal core formed with elongated perforations, a soft rubber coating entirely surrounding and embedding said core, being bonded thereto by interlocking in said perforations, the handle portion of the toothpick being thicker than its point by added thickness of coating, thereby to facilitate its manipulation.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

GEORGE H. HEYMANN.
EDWARD D. ROSE.