

July 2, 1929.

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1,718,996

INSTRUMENT HOLDER

Filed Sept. 3, 1927

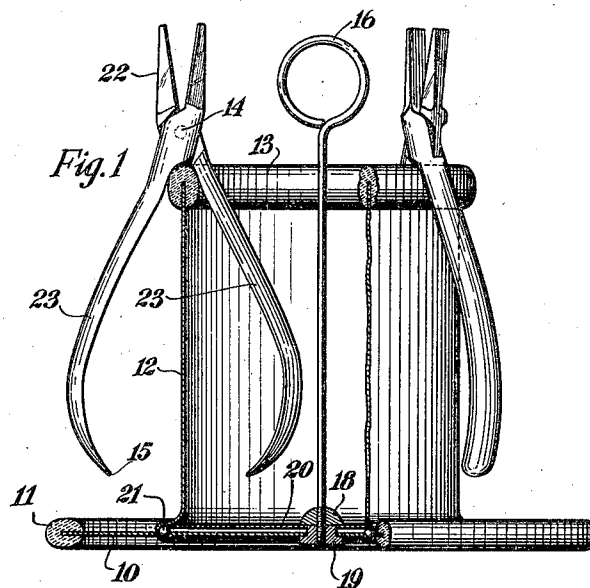
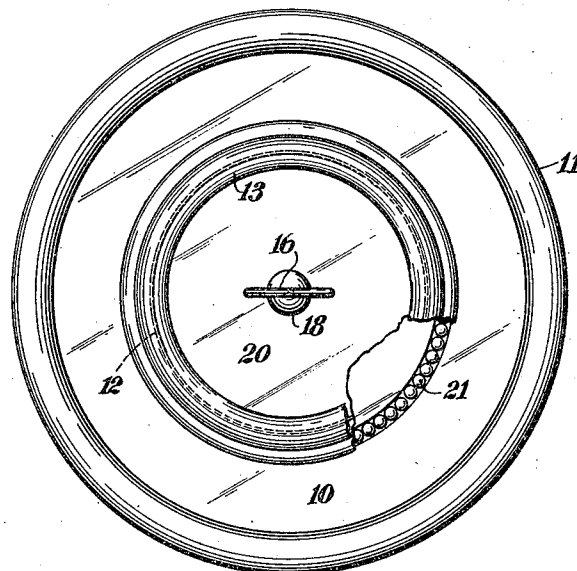


Fig. 2



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INSTRUMENT HOLDER.

Application filed September 3, 1927. Serial No. 217,514.

My present invention relates to instrument holders, and has particular reference to a device designed primarily for use by opticians for the support of pliers sets.

Every optician is provided with a set of pliers which he employs when fitting and adjusting glasses. Inasmuch as the table at which he sits, with the customer opposite him must of necessity be small; and inasmuch as the top of the table is generally highly polished or glass-covered; and for obvious reasons of appearance and neatness, it has been customary to retain these pliers and instruments in a drawer of the table. Much annoyance is caused, and much time is wasted, because of the constant necessity to replace and select desired instruments during a fitting operation.

It is an object of my present invention to provide a holder for such instruments, the holder being of a character which can be set upon the table top and allowed to remain there without impairing the neat and workmanlike appearance of the table, and without endangering the table top or any delicate lenses or glasses that may be thereon. The holder is designed to retain the instrument set in ready available condition for use, thereby obviating the necessity for annoying and possibly noisy selection and replacement of instruments from a drawer. Furthermore, the holder is so designed as to be easily portable without disturbing the supported instruments.

One feature of my invention resides in the provision of a cup whose upper edge is adapted to receive the pliers in a straddled supported manner thereon; and in rendering said edge yieldable and padded so as to enhance its supporting function and so as to render the selection and replacement of instruments or pliers noiseless.

Another feature of my invention lies in providing a relatively large disc-like base for the cup, thereby increasing the stability of the entire device and preventing accidental upset. The base is also provided with a padded edge which increases the stability of the device by providing a peripheral support for it. The padded edge also protects the table top and renders the movement of the holder from place to place noiseless and unobjectionable.

Another feature of my invention lies in the

provision of a handle for carrying the holder about, the handle extending axially through the cup from the center of the base.

In a preferred form of my invention, the cup is rotatably mounted upon the base so as to increase the facility with which the optician may select a desired instrument.

Where the cup is rotatably mounted, it is a feature of my invention to construct the handle as a pivot axis and to provide a roller bearing arrangement beneath the periphery of the cup bottom, thereby assuring easy rotation regardless of the disposition of supported instruments.

In general, it is an object of my invention to provide a device which is of simple construction, of attractive appearance, and of great utility.

For the attainment of the foregoing objects and such other objects as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, I have illustrated one embodiment of my invention in the accompanying drawings in which—

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a holder embodying the features of my invention and showing two pairs of pliers supported thereon in the manner contemplated. A portion of this figure is broken away and is illustrated in vertical cross-sections; and

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the holder shown in Figure 1 with the omission of the pliers, and with a portion broken away to disclose the roller bearing arrangement.

A disc-like and preferably circular base 10 is provided at its edge with a padding or rim 11. The base 10 is preferably of metal or similar rigid material, whereas the padding 11 may be of rubber, leather, or similar yieldable material. The padding 11 has a cross-section which is substantially U-shaped, permitting it to fit over the edge of the base 10 in the manner shown and thereby constituting a base edge which is of greater thickness than the thickness of the main portion of the base.

Mounted upon the base 10 is a cup 12 constructed of substantially the same material as the base 10 and provided at its upper edge with a padding or rim 13 constructed and arranged similarly to the padding 11. The cup 12 is of a height substantially equal to the longitudinal distance of a pair of pliers from the pivot point 14 thereof to the rearmost point 15 thereof. The cup is of a diameter sufficient to permit a set of pliers or similar

instruments to be supported upon the rim 13 in the manner shown in Figure 1. In other words, the radius of the cup must be at least equal to one-half of the transverse dimension of a pair of pliers.

The base 10 is of larger diameter than that of the cup 12, and this diameter is substantially equal to the diameter defined by the outermost portions of a set of supported pliers. 10 The enlarged base imparts stability to the device, and the padding 11 provides an annular support which increases the stability and also prevents injury to the table top.

For grasping the holder as a unit and transporting it from place to place, I provide a handle 16 which comprises a rod 17 extending axially through the cup from the center of the base. The upper end of the rod 17 is, in the illustrated form, bent into the shape of a loop for the reception of a finger, and the handle is of a suitable length to permit easy grasping thereof despite an array of instruments, and to permit removal and replacement of instruments without annoying encounter with the handle.

In the form illustrated, the cup 12 is rotatably mounted with respect to the base 10. I have shown the lower end of the rod 17 externally threaded and I have illustrated two members 18 and 19 threaded thereon. The member 19 constitutes a nut, and the member 18 is in the nature of a lock nut. The members 18 and 19 are so constructed that the bottom 20 of the cup may rotate about a portion of the member 19 as an axis. Beneath the periphery of the bottom 20 I provide a series of ball bearings 21, it being understood that suitable grooves are provided in the base and cup bottom for accommodating these balls.

The device as a whole is approximately six inches high and is designed to accommodate approximately nine or ten pairs of pliers thereon. It will be noted that the pliers are always in available position, and that the selection of any desired one is a simple matter. Its removal is effected by grasping the forward end of the pliers and withdrawing the pliers upward. The replacement of a pair of pliers is an equally simple matter, and the padding 13, together with the weight of the pliers handles causes the pliers to assume and retain the position shown in Figure 1. For example, the pair of pliers 22 may be caused to assume a straddled position over the cup edge, and the weight of the handles 23 will cause the latter to approach each other, thereby grasping the rim 13 and causing the pliers to assume a firm yet easily withdrawable position upon the holder.

It will be obvious that the provision of roller bearings or the like is not essential with respect to certain phases of my invention. For example, the cup may be made integrally with the base. Similarly, the handle 17 may

be modified in construction or character without a departure from the spirit of my invention. Furthermore, the relative sizes may be varied to suit different requirements, although the proportions specified have been found 70 preferable.

It will be obvious that my invention is not necessarily limited to opticians' uses. The holder is applicable generally to the support of instruments of a bifurcated nature. For 75 example, drafting instruments, such as compasses or dividers, might be similarly accommodated and supported.

In general, it will be obvious that many changes in the details herein described and 80 illustrated for the purpose of explaining the nature of my invention may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. It is, 85 therefore intended that these details be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim as new and 90 desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A self-contained instrument holder comprising a cup open at its top, a base member extending out beyond the cup to such an extent that instruments hung on the edge of the cup will not tip the same, a yieldable padding 95 element having a thicker horizontal cross section than that of the cup material on the upper edge of the cup, a means to permit easy rotation of said cup on said base, and 100 a handle to lift the holder extending above the holder.

2. A self-contained holder for supporting pliers, comprising a cup open at its top, a base member extending out beyond the cup to 105 such an extent that pliers straddled over the edge of the cup will not tip the same, a yieldable padding element having a thicker horizontal cross section than that of the cup material and of sufficient dimensions to hold 110 pliers straddling the same in a more or less open position, said padding element being on the upper edge of the cup.

3. A self-contained holder for supporting optician's pliers, comprising a relatively thin 115 upstanding body portion and a horizontal base member supporting said body portion and extending out beyond said body portion to such an extent that optician's pliers straddled over the upper edge of the body portion 120 will not tip the same, a yieldable padding element on the upper edge of said body portion and having a horizontal cross section thicker than that of the body portion and of sufficient size to hold optician's pliers straddling the 125 same in a more or less open position, and a yieldable padding element to support said base.

4. A self-contained holder for supporting pliers, comprising a relatively thin upstand- 130

ing body portion, and a horizontal base member supporting said body portion and extending out beyond said body portion to such an extent that pliers straddled over the upper 5 edge of the body portion will not tip the holder, two yieldable padding elements each having a cross section corresponding to that of a tube having a slit in its wall, one of said padding elements having its slit fitted over the edge of the body portion, and the other having its slit fitted over the edge of the base. 10

In witness whereof I have signed this specification this 2 day of September, 1927.

WALTER BLOCKER.