Oct. 17, 1961 T. F. COTE 3,005,091

ADJUSTABLE FLASHLIGHT HOLDER

Filed April 24, 1959

Fig. 1.

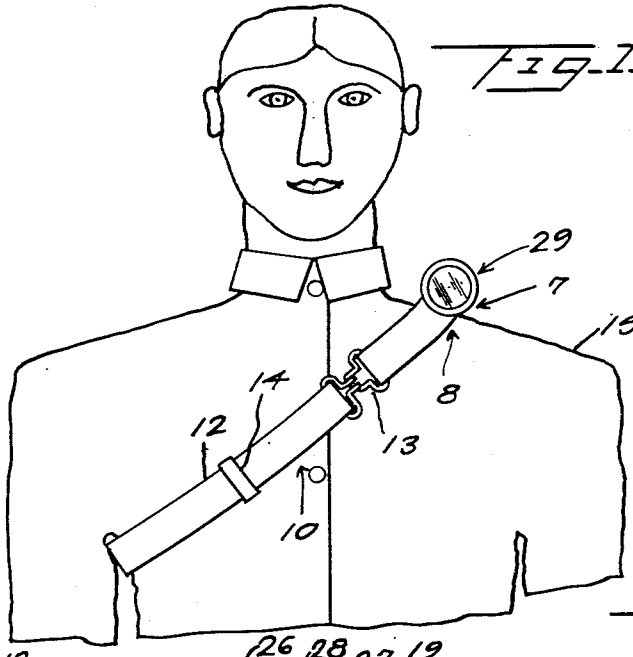


Fig. 5.

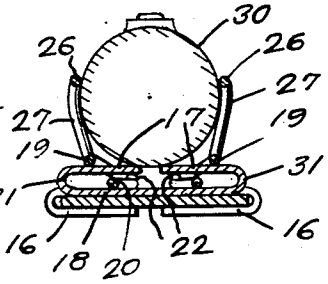
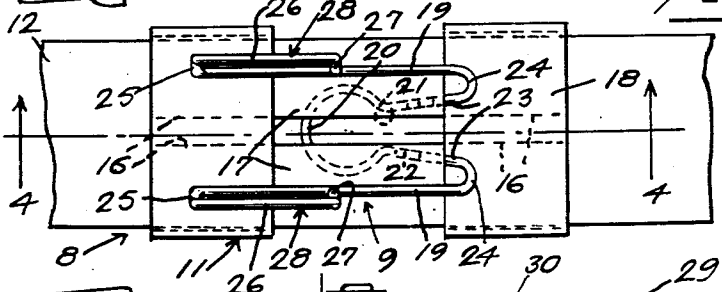


Fig. 2.



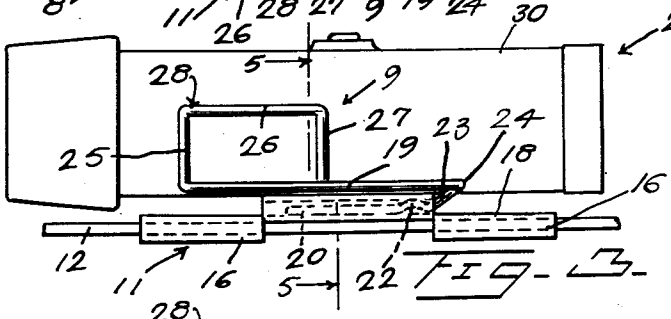


Fig. 3.

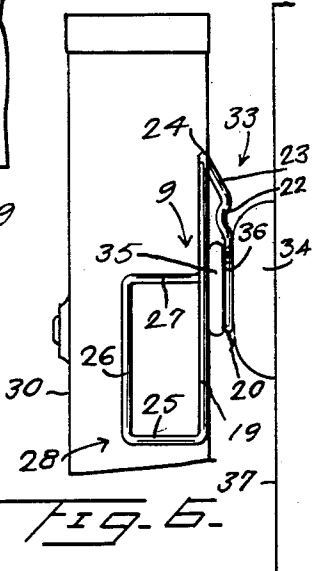


Fig. 6.

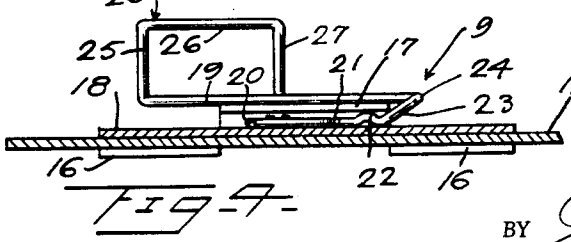


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR

THOMAS F. COTE

BY John N. Randolph

ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 3,005,091 Patented Oct. 17, 1961

3,005,091

ADJUSTABLE FLASHLIGHT HOLDER

Thomas F. Cote, 1230 Hood St., Chicago, Ill.

Filed Apr. 24, 1959, Ser. No. 808,598
8 Claims. (Cl. 240—52.5)

This invention relates to a flashlight holder of extremely simple construction in which a conventional flashlight is detachably mounted and yieldably gripped for supporting the flashlight in a desired position for use and so that both hands of the user will be left free.

Another object of the invention is to provide a flashlight holder including a resilient part for releasably and yieldably gripping and holding a flashlight and a second part, to which said resilient part is detachably connected and which second part can be adjustably positioned for supporting the flashlight with the axis thereof at a desired angle for directing the light beam from the flashlight in a desired direction.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating presently preferred embodiments thereof, and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the flashlight holder, shown in an applied position supporting a flashlight;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of a portion of the flashlight holder of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevational view of the portion of the flashlight holder, illustrated in FIGURE 2, and showing a flashlight applied thereto;

FIGURE 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 4—4 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a cross sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 5—5 of FIGURE 3, and

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a slightly modified form of the flashlight holder.

Referring more specifically to the drawing and first with reference to the embodiment of the invention as illustrated in FIGURES 1 to 5, the flashlight holder in its entirety is designated generally **7** and includes a support, designated generally **8**, and a flashlight engaging member, designated generally **9**.

The flashlight support **8** includes a strap loop **10** and a slide **11**. The strap loop **10** is composed of a flexible strap **12** formed of a nonelastic material such as fabric or leather having a conventional hook and eye connection **13** for detachably connecting the ends of the strap **12** together, and an adjustable slide **14**, of a conventional type, for varying the length of the strap between the halves of the hook and eye connection **13**. The strap loop **10** is adapted to be worn over one shoulder and under the other arm, as illustrated in FIGURE 1, and the slide **11** is mounted on the portion of the strap loop **10** which extends over the shoulder, and may obviously be disposed on the right shoulder rather than the left shoulder **15**, as illustrated.

The slide **11** is formed from a single piece of sheet metal which is cut transversely at the two side edges thereof to provide pairs of end flaps **16** and a pair of intermediate flaps **17**. The end flaps **16** are folded downwardly and inwardly under an intermediate portion **18** of the slide **11**, which extends from end-to-end thereof. The intermediate flaps **17** are folded upwardly and inwardly to overlie the intermediate part of the slide portion **18**. The adjacent ends or edges of the flaps **17** and **16** are disposed in slightly spaced apart relation to one another, as best illustrated in FIGURE 5, and the flaps **16** are spaced from the underside of the slide portion **18** while the flaps **17** are spaced from the upper side thereof,

as seen in FIGURES 4 and 5. A portion of the strap **12** extends through the slide **11** between the base portion **18** thereof and the lower flaps **16** and is frictionally gripped by the parts **16** and **18** to retain the slide in any adjusted position on the strap loop **10** to which it is moved, but to permit the slide to be forcibly moved longitudinally of the strap loop. The sheet metal of which the slide **11** is formed is sufficiently bendable so that the flaps **16** can be bent toward or away from the base **18** to provide a desired frictional contact of the slide with the strap **12**.

The flashlight engaging member **9** is formed from a single elongated strand of a relatively heavy gauge spring wire and is bent to provide two corresponding legs **19** which are normally disposed substantially parallel to one another. An intermediate portion of the strand is bent to provide an open loop **20**, which is located between portions of the legs **19** and which has a restricted opening **21** at one end thereof, formed by adjacently disposed portions **22** of the strand. Said strand includes corresponding portions **23** which extend in diverging relation to one another from said neck forming portions **22** and in a direction away from the loop **20**, and which have outwardly curved diverging end portions **24** which merge integrally with corresponding ends of the legs **19**. The strand portions **23** are inclined downwardly, relative to the plane of the legs **19**, from their arcuately bent outer ends **24** toward the neck forming portions **22**. Said neck forming portions **22** are bowed upwardly relative to the parts of the strand portions **23** which merge therewith and relative to the loop **20**, which is disposed below the level of the strand portions **23**. The terminal portions of the strand form extensions of the ends of the legs **19** which are located remote from the bends **24**, and each of said terminal portions includes a part **25** which extends upwardly from the forward or distal end of the leg **19** thereof, a part **26** which is bent backwardly from the part **25** and which is disposed above and spaced from the leg **19**, and a terminal part **27** which extends downwardly from the inner or rear end of the part **26**, back to an intermediate portion of the leg **19**. The parts **25**, **26** and **27** and the portion of the leg **19**, disposed between the parts **25** and **27**, constitute a resilient flashlight gripping jaw, designated generally **28**. The jaw portions **25** and **27** are bowed outwardly and the portions **19** of said jaws are disposed closer together than the upper portions **26** thereof. The closed forward end of the loop **20** terminates between portions of the legs **19**, substantially behind or rearwardly of the forward ends **25** of the jaws **28**, as best seen in FIGURES 2 and 4.

The flashlight engaging member **9** is detachably connected to a conventional flashlight **29** by forcing a part of the flashlight barrel **30** between the clamping jaws **28** for causing the clamping jaws to be yieldably spread thereby so that the flashlight will be gripped therebetween. The loop **20** of the member **9** is then inserted under the upwardly turned back flaps **17** and the member **9** is displaced longitudinally of the slide **11** to advance the loop **20** into a position beneath said flaps **17**. As the upwardly bowed neck portions **22** assume positions under the flaps **17** said portions **22** will be displaced downwardly by contact with the flaps **17** for forcing the loop **20** downwardly into frictional engagement with a part of the base **18**, which is located beneath the flaps **17**, and so that the upwardly bowed neck portions **22** will frictionally engage the undersides of the flaps **17**. As the member **9** is further advanced longitudinally of the slide **11**, parts of the upwardly and rearwardly inclined strand portions **23** will contact and assume frictional engagement with the edges of the flaps **17**, toward which said portions **23** are advanced. Thus, the member **9** will be in this manner frictionally connected to the

slide 11 for supporting the flashlight above the slide, as best illustrated in FIGURE 3. The spacing between the strand portions 23 is substantially less than the spacing between the arcuately bent outer edges 31 of the flaps 17, so that the flashlight engaging member 9 may be turned to assume a position at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the slide 11, for positioning the axis of the flashlight 29 at desired angles for directing the light beams therefrom in any desired direction. The member 9 will be frictionally held, as previously described, in its different angularly adjusted positions relative to the slide 11. Also, since the slide 11 can be adjusted along the strap 12, said slide can be adjusted relative to the shoulder 15 so that it will be inclined either upwardly or downwardly to thus vary the vertical angle of the light beams. It will thus be readily apparent that the flashlight holder 7 can effectively function for supporting a flashlight in a desired position so that the light beams therefrom will be directed to a desired point where illumination is needed and so that both hands of the user will be left free.

It will also be apparent that the flashlight engaging member 9 may be applied to the slide 11, and the flashlight 29 thereafter engaged with the member 9, or the flashlight may be removed from the member 9 while said member is connected to the slide 11.

FIGURE 6 illustrates a modification of the flashlight holder, designated generally 33, and wherein the strap loop 10 and slide 11 are omitted and replaced by a suction cup 34 which is provided on its convex side with a head 35. The head 35 is connected to the body of the suction cup by a restricted neck 36 which is sized to fit snugly in the loop 20 and which can be forcibly passed through the opening 21 between the neck forming portions 22, for detachably connecting the flashlight engaging member 9 to the suction cup 34. The suction cup 34 can be secured in a conventional manner to any flat surface 37 which may be either a horizontal, vertical or inclined surface and so that the longitudinal axis of the member 9 will be disposed to extend in any desired direction. The flashlight 29 is mounted in the member 9 in the same manner as previously described and is supported thereby so that the light beams from the flashlight will be directed toward a desired area.

Various modifications and changes in the embodiments of the invention as disclosed are contemplated and may be resorted to, without departing from the function or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A flashlight holder comprising a flashlight engaging member formed from a single strand of resilient wire including a pair of corresponding elongated transversely spaced legs having outwardly turned back portions at corresponding ends thereof combining with complementary portions of said legs to form opposed clamping jaws which are elongated in a direction lengthwise of the legs and between which a flashlight is adapted to be releasably clamped, said flashlight engaging member including a loop formed by the intermediate portion of said strand, said loop being disposed between portions of said legs, being offset from the plane of the legs in a direction away from the clamping jaws and having an open end opening in a direction away from said jaws, said strand including portions forming diverging extensions of the open end of said loop and merging with the other ends of said legs, and a support to which said loop is detachably connected.

2. A flashlight holder as in claim 1, said support comprising a suction cup having a restricted neck fitting detachably in said loop, said suction cup opening in a direction away from said jaws.

3. A flashlight holder as in claim 1, said support including a shoulder strap and a slide, said slide being elongated and having sleeve portions at the ends thereof for slidably and frictionally engaging the shoulder strap, said slide including a substantially flat base extending from end-to-end thereof and having end portions forming upper portions of said sleeves, said slide having intermediate flaps overlying an intermediate part of said base portion and combining therewith to form an upper sleeve having open ends disposed crosswise of the slide, said loop frictionally and detachably engaging in said upper sleeve for mounting the flashlight engaging member on the slide.

4. A flashlight holder as in claim 3, said loop being offset relative to the plane of said legs whereby portions of said legs are disposed on the upper side of the upper sleeve when said loop is disposed within the upper sleeve.

5. A flashlight holder as in claim 4, portions of said strand, defining the open end of said loop, being upwardly offset relative to the remainder of the loop for frictionally engaging the underside of the upper portion of said upper sleeve and for maintaining the remainder of said loop in frictional engagement with a part of the lower portion of said upper sleeve.

6. A flashlight holder as in claim 5, said loop being turnable to a limited extent within the upper sleeve for positioning the longitudnial axis of said flashlight engaging member at an angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the slide.

7. An article holder formed from a single strand of resilient wire including a pair of elongated transversely spaced legs having outwardly turned back portions at corresponding ends thereof combining with complementary portions of said legs to form opposed clamping jaws between which an article to be supported is adapted to be releasably clamped, said article holder including a loop formed by the intermediate portion of said strand and disposed between portions of said legs and offset from the plane of the legs in a direction away from said clamping jaws, said loop having an open end opening in a direction away from the clamping jaws, said strand including portions forming diverging extensions of the open end of said loop and merging with the other ends of said legs; a shoulder strap, and a slide supported by said shoulder strap and detachably supporting said article holder, said slide including an elongated substantially flat base and parts cooperating with an intermediate portion of said base to form a sleeve disposed above base and longitudinally thereof, said sleeve having open ends, said loop frictionally and detachably engaging in said sleeve for mounting the article holder on the slide, and the end portions of said base including means through which parts of the shoulder strap extend and in which said shoulder strap parts are frictionally engaged for adjustably mounting the slide on the shoulder strap.

8. A flashlight holder comprising a flashlight engaging member formed from a single strand of resilient wire including a pair of corresponding elongated transversely spaced legs having outwardly turned back portions at corresponding ends thereof combining with complementary portions of said legs to form opposed clamping jaws which are elongated in a direction lengthwise of the legs and between which a flashlight is adapted to be releasably clamped, said flashlight engaging member including a loop formed by the intermediate portion of said strand, said loop being disposed between portions of said legs, being offset from the plane of the legs in a direction away from the clamping jaws, and having an open end opening in a direction away from said jaws, said strand including portions forming diverging extensions of the open end of said loop and merging with the other ends of said legs, and a slide member adapted to be adjustably mounted on and supported by a strap member and defining a sleeve in which said loop is frictionally mounted for mounting the flashlight engaging member on the slide member.

(References on following page)

5

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,197,427	Arnold	Sept. 5, 1916
1,318,850	DeYoung	Oct. 14, 1919
1,540,372	Sears	June 2, 1925
1,555,004	Gregory	Sept. 29, 1925
1,717,386	Kaplan	June 18, 1929
1,746,113	Gracomini	Feb. 4, 1930
2,036,655	Storaasli	Apr. 7, 1936
2,402,877	Dial	June 25, 1946

FOREIGN PATENTS

681,221	Great Britian	Oct. 22, 1952
526,436	Canada	June 19, 1956