

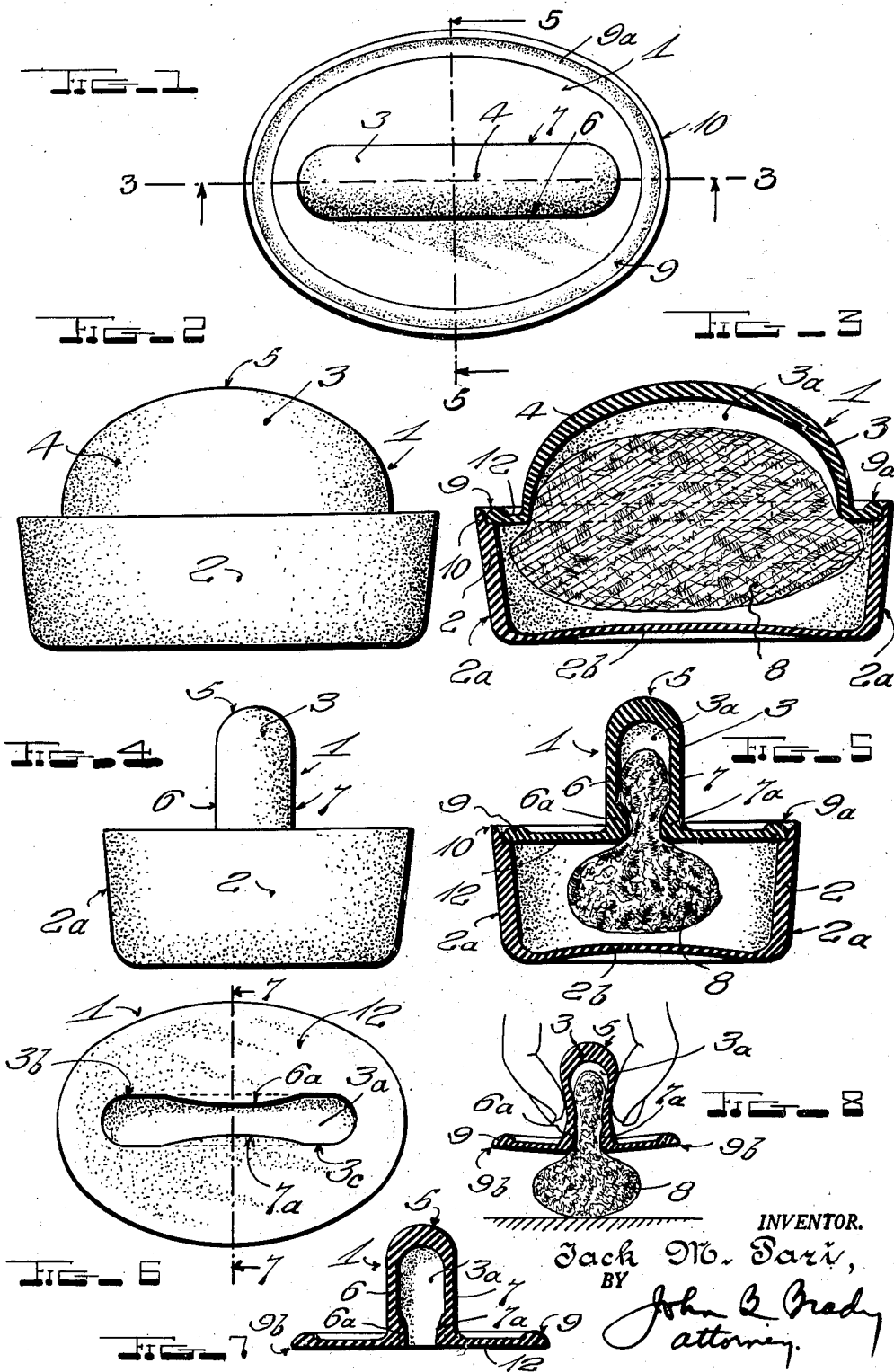
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FLEXIBLE HOLDER FOR CLEANING MATERIAL

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FLEXIBLE HOLDER FOR CLEANING MATERIAL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 15-209)

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My invention relates broadly to utility receptacles and more particularly to a receptacle and holder for cleaning and polishing materials.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide an improved construction of utility receptacle which may be conveniently used as a protective appliance for the hands in cleaning and polishing operations, using cleaning and polishing materials such as steel wool, fabric, sponges and the like.

Another object of my invention is to provide a construction of utility receptacle formed in two complementary parts, one of which is shaped to form a convenient finger grip for gripping the cleaning or polishing material, and the other of which is shaped to form a coacting closure for the protection of the cleaning or polishing material and for the protection of surfaces with which the cleaning and polishing material would ordinarily come into contact.

Another object of my invention is to provide a construction of utility receptacle which may be readily molded from rubber or synthetic resilient material and shaped to form a hand grip for cleaning and polishing material, and a resilient enclosure for such material.

Other and further objects of my invention reside in the construction of the molded parts of a two-part utility receptacle, as set forth more fully in the specification hereinafter following by referring to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the utility receptacle in closed position for enclosing the cleaning and polishing material when the material is not in use; Fig. 2 is a side elevation view of the utility receptacle illustrated in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is an end view of the utility receptacle; Fig. 5 is a transverse, vertical, sectional view taken on line 5-5 of Fig. 1; Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of the hand grip portion of the utility receptacle and illustrates the shape thereof for receiving the cleaning or polishing material which is to be gripped by the device; Fig. 7 is a transverse sectional view through the hand grip portion of the utility receptacle shown on line 7-7 of Fig. 6; and Fig. 8 illustrates the hand grip portion of the receptacle in use and the manner of retaining the cleaning or polishing material therein.

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The utility receptacle of my invention is particularly applicable as a kitchen appliance in facilitating the cleaning, scouring and polishing of kitchen utensils. It is customary to employ a steel wool impregnated with a flaked soap for the cleaning, scouring and polishing of kitchen utensils. It is not unusual for the fine, sharp wire-like particles of the steel wool to imbed themselves into the fingers of the user resulting in undesirable soreness. Moreover, such steel wool often disintegrates when rubbed over the utensils by hand because of the concentrated pressure of the fingers of the user. Such moistened steel wool, when allowed to remain on a table surface or in a soap dish often oxidizes, leaving unsightly rust stains which are difficult to remove. The utility receptacle of my invention eliminates all of these undesirable features and has many advantages.

The utility receptacle is inexpensively made from relatively resilient rubber or synthetics in two parts, one of which constitutes a hand grip portion having a central longitudinally extending hand grip portion terminating in an elliptical shaped flange portion. The flange portion has a shaped beaded edge adapted to establish a snug resilient interfitting connection with a complementary shaped recessed edge of an elliptical shaped resilient protective receptacle. The protective receptacle is formed by a tapered wall structure interconnected with an integrally arranged inwardly directed bottom portion. The shape of the enclosing receptacle is such that the receptacle continuously tends to establish gripping connection with the beaded flange of the hand grip portion of the device when the hand grip portion is inserted into the receptacle portion.

The walls of the hand grip portion are flexible or resilient in structure which facilitates the interwedging of a portion of a mass of steel wool, fabric or sponge for securing the material in position ready for a cleaning or polishing operation. The fingers of the user, when gripped against the opposite sides of the longitudinally extending resilient hand grip and the hand grip portion of the receptacle, serve to clamp the cleaning material in position and permit the cleaning material to be applied against the surface to be cleaned or polished while the hand grip and integrally related elliptical flange thereon protect the user

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against contact with the cleaning material. When the cleaning or polishing operation is complete, the hand grip device is snapped into resilient engagement with the protective receptacle portion of the device, maintaining the cleaning material out of contact with adjacent surfaces. The shape of the protective flange and the protective receptacle are such that the hand grip and the associated receptacle may be maintained in tight engagement while the cleaning or polishing material is not in use.

Referring to the drawings in detail, reference character 1 designates the hand grip portion of the utility receptacle consisting of resilient rubber or synthetic material, while reference character 2 designates the coating protective cover portion of the utility receptacle formed from resilient rubber or synthetic material. The hand grip portion 1 comprises a central longitudinally extending hand grip 3 which is approximately semi-elliptical in contour as represented at 4 along the longitudinal axis thereof, and of approximately semi-circular section at the upper extremity of the transverse axis thereof as represented at 5.

The hand grip 3 includes a pair of substantially parallel extending resilient side wall portions represented at 6 and 7, each of which taper inwardly at the central transverse axis thereof as represented at 6a and 7a and serve as an interlocking and securing means for the cleaning or polishing material represented at 8. The side walls 6 and 7 terminate in the integrally connected flat resilient protective flange 12. The hand grip 3 has a hollow interior represented at 3a which is symmetrical in shape having a pair of lobe sections 3b and 3c at each end interconnected by the narrow central section formed by the inwardly directed tapered portions 6a and 7a of the side walls 6 and 7 of the hand grip 3. These lobe sections facilitate the introduction of a portion of the mass of a cleaning material which may be slid endwise toward the central section of the hand grip and thereby interlocked by the inwardly directed projection 6a and 7a at diametrically opposite portions of the central section of the hand grip. Similarly, when the cleaning material 8 is to be removed, the mass of cleaning material may be compressed toward one end of the hollow interior 3a of the hand grip 3 and the cleaning material removed through one of the lobe sections 3b or 3c.

The cleaning material illustrated at 8 may be steel wool impregnated with flaked soap, a fabric material, a sponge or any other cleaning or polishing or detergent-carrying material.

The resilient flange 12 which is approximately elliptical in shape terminates in a beaded edge represented at 9. The beaded edge 9 has a rounded upper portion 9a and a relatively sharp peripheral edge 9b. The relatively sharp peripheral edge 9b establishes a relatively tight interconnection with a complementary shaped recessed edge portion 10 of the utility receptacle cover portion 2. The depth of the recessed edge 10 is such that the peripheral edge 9 of the hand grip portion 1 forms a snug interfitted relation with the protective receptacle 2 for maintaining cleaning material 8 in substantially suspended position as represented in Fig. 5, substantially spaced from the interior walls of the receptacle 2.

The side walls of the receptacle 2 are tapered downwardly as represented at 2a and integrally connected with the upwardly bowed bottom section 2b. The bowed section of the bottom 2b

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imparts resiliency to the receptacle 2, enabling the tapered walls 2a to spread sufficiently to receive the peripheral edge 9 of the flange 12. Also, the bowed bottom 2b of the receptacle container serves as a suction grip to hold the receptacle or container in position on a flat surface.

When the hand grip device is in use as represented in Fig. 8, the flange 12 serves as a protection means preventing contact between fingers of the user and the cleaning material, or the surface being cleaned.

Wherever in the specification I have referred to cleaning or polishing material, I intend these terms to be regarded as generalizations to denote any kind of abrasive or polishing material. The device of my invention has many applications not hereinbefore mentioned, including the application of abrasive material to painted surfaces for removing grease and old paint therefrom. Likewise, the device of my invention may be applied in the scraping or removal of old putty from windows and in the cleaning of woodwork and metalwork at corner portions thereof where a rubbing action within a small available space is often so tedious and many times injurious to the fingers. The relatively soft pliable material of the protective flange 12 prevents injury to the fingers of the user, even in the most congested work areas where an abrasive is to be vigorously applied with the device of my invention.

Among the advantages of the device of my invention I may mention the following:

1. The resilient flexible walls of the enclosing container do not impede the natural hold provided by the hand grip.

2. The material of the container keeps the fingers and hand dry and away from the lather of the soap which is produced as a result of the vigorous agitation of the material carried by the hand grip over the surface to be cleaned or polished.

3. Greater pressure can be applied to the abrasive material by use of the device of my invention than is possible without the interposition of this device.

4. The receptacle forms a sanitary compact unit.

5. The steel wool or cleaning or polishing material does not disintegrate or rust easily when protected within the receptacle.

6. The polishing material is ready for instant use.

7. Injury to the hand or fingers is prevented in vigorous rubbing action by the protection afforded by the extending flexible flange and the resilient finger grip.

8. By reason of the enclosure of the cleaning or polishing material, odor from the material is suppressed.

While I have described my invention in one of its preferred embodiments, I realize that modifications may be made, and I desire that it be understood that no limitations upon my invention are intended other than may be imposed by the scope of the appended claim.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

In a device of the class described, a flexible holder for cleaning material comprising a substantially elliptical disc-like portion and a hollow finger grip portion extending along the major axis thereof, said finger grip portion having a pair of internally arranged lobes at each of the ends thereof with a pair of curved inwardly directed central projections intermediate said

lobes, whereby, a mass of cleaning material may be introduced into said hollow finger grip portion through either of said end lobes and slid longitudinally to a position frictionally gripped between said centrally disposed inwardly directed curved central projections for securing the cleaning material within the said hollow finger grip portion.

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