Oct. 12, 1971 A. J. BELLI 3,611,469

SASH PAINT APPLICATOR

Filed May 1, 1970

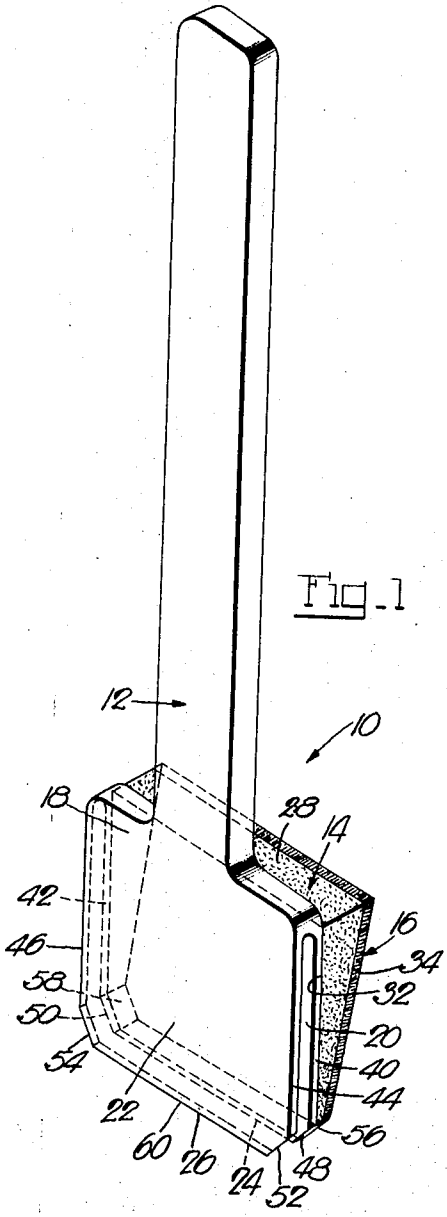


Fig. 1

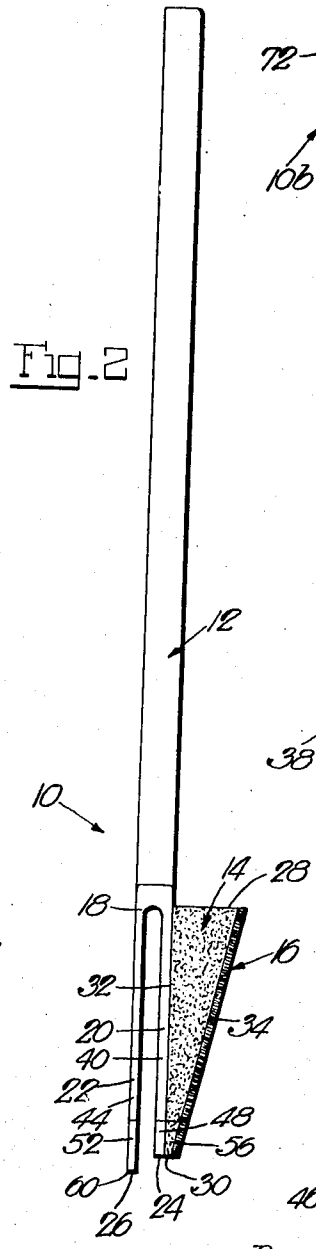


Fig. 2

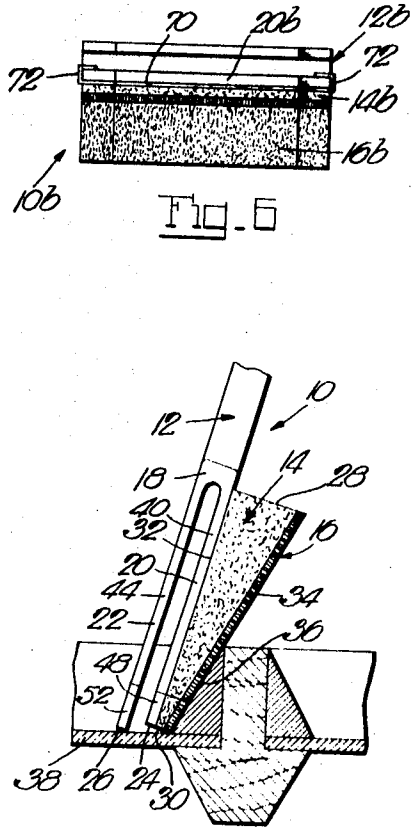


Fig. 3

Fig. 6

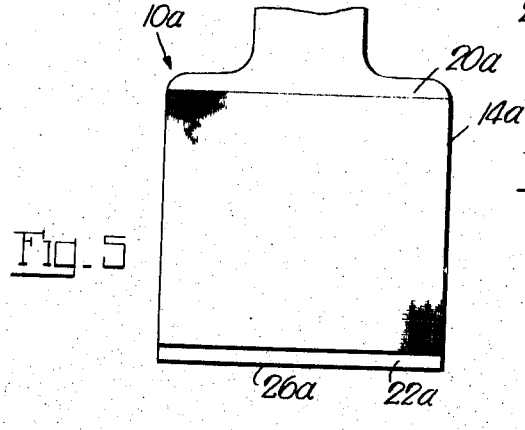


Fig. 5

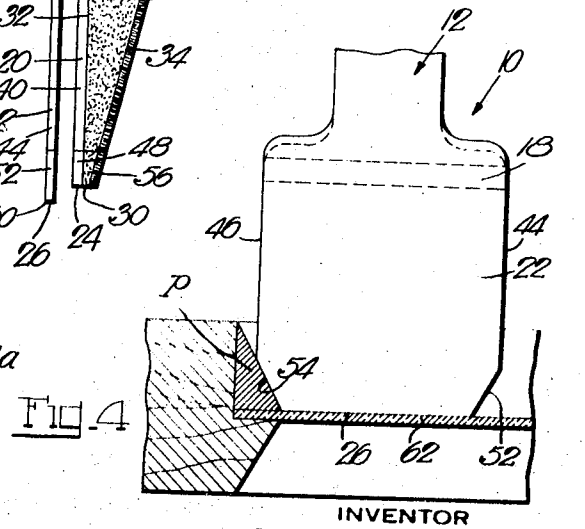


Fig. 4

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SASH PAINT APPLICATOR

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A paint applicator providing a resilient pad of truncated wedge shape carrying on one face a paint absorbing and applying cover sheet, and a handle with opposite end prongs, with the pad being mounted with its other face on the front of one of the prongs with its narrow end extending to the end of this prong, and the other prong being spaced rearwardly from the one prong and extending with its end beyond that of the one prong to serve as a guide in use of the applicator.

This invention relates to paint applicators in general, and to sash paint applicators in particular.

The invention is concerned with a paint applicator of a type used especially but not exclusively, for the bevelled sash trim surrounding a pane of glass. The painting of sash trim is a time-consuming task in any event, and requires considerable skill and also patience if excessive smearing of the glass with paint is to be avoided. To simplify this task, a few special sash paint applicators of this type have become known. However, while these prior paint applicators are satisfactory in some respects, they are more or less unsatisfactory in other respects. Thus, while these prior paint applicators afford some guidance on the sash or window pane intended to keep their paint-applying surface in contact with the trim, such guidance will, in manipulating the applicator at at fully expected faster pace than an ordinary bristle brush, not prevent the smearing of paint on the window, or leave non-painted areas on the trim especially where it joins the window pane, or both.

It is among the objects of the present invention to provide a paint applicator of this type which has all the advantages, but none of the aforementioned and also other unsatisfactory aspects, of prior paint applicators of this type.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a paint applicator of this type which, virtually by feel of touch alone and without the need of paying difficult visual attention to that part of sash trim being painted at any instant, will apply paint evenly to the trim throughout its width but not therebeyond to the window pane, whereby manipulation of the applicator at a fast pace for entirely satisfactory painting of the trim is also reduced to a simple task requiring little skill. This is achieved by providing a pad of truncated wedge shape with wide and narrow ends and opposite faces forming the wedge angle, and a handle with spaced end prongs on one of which the pad is backed and mounted with one face so that its narrow end is next to the terminating end of the backing prong, with the pad being of any suitable resilient material and carrying on its other face a paint absorbing and applying cover sheet, and the other prong extending with its terminal end beyond that of the pad-backing prong and serving with its terminal end as a guide for the applicator on the window pane. With this arrangement, the pad is over its entire contact area with sash trim, and right up to the window pane, resilient for evenly drawing all paint from the absorbent cover sheet and as evenly applying it to the trim throughout, and in use of the applicator on sash trim the handle rests with its guide prong on the window pane in a more or less

erect disposition thereon, so that on slight deviation of the handle from this erect disposition, especially at a fast pace of the applicator along the trim, the ensuing lateral creep of the paint-applying pad on the trim is minimal and will not give rise either to unsightly painting of the window pane or unsightly non-painted spots on the trim along the window pane. Moreover, the featured wedge formation of the pad and correspondingly more erect operational disposition of the guide prong of the handle makes it easy to hold the pad in motion squarely on the trim without danger of deviating therefrom, on merely forcing the pad flat against the trim by convenient finger pressure on the guide prong opposite the trim.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a paint applicator of this type of which the opposite side edges of the prongs of the handle are over some distance from their terminal edges tapered toward the latter, and the opposite sides of the pad are over the tapered extent of the prongs similarly tapered. With this arrangement, the sides of the pad are fashioned substantially to fit in the corners of sash trim especially in the otherwise difficult-to-reach places next to the window pane.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a paint applicator of this type of which the terminal end of the guide prong of the handle may be used as a scraper.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a paint applicator of this type of which either of the aforementioned tapered sides of the guide prong of the handle may be used to good advantage as a putty knife with guidance on the window pane for particularly smooth and even, single-stroke putty application and simultaneous scraping of excess putty from the window pane which otherwise would have to be removed subsequently.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a paint applicator of this type of which the wedge-shaped pad carrying the paint absorbing and applying cover sheet, besides being resilient, is also paint absorbing, and is to this end made of synthetic sponge or other cellular absorbent material. With this arrangement, the applying pad may hold more paint with each dip into a supply, and it will be possible to paint an entire straight length of sash trim in one stroke, especially since with diminishing paint in the thinner paint-applying end of the pad, paint may be pumped thereto from the thicker pad part by compressive and decompressive manipulation of the pad while moving the applicator along the trim.

Further objects and advantages will appear to those skilled in the art from the following, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

In the accompanying drawings, in which certain modes of carrying out the present invention are shown for illustrative purposes:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a paint applicator embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the paint applicator;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary side view of the paint applicator in use on sash trim surrounding a window;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary rear view of the applicator in use to apply putty to a window sash;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary front view of a paint applicator embodying the invention in a modified manner; and

FIG. 6 is an end view of a paint applicator embodying the invention in another modified manner.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGS. 1 and 2 thereof, the reference numeral **10** designates a paint applicator having a handle **12**, a resilient pad **14**, and a paint absorbing and applying cover sheet **16**. The handle **12**, which may be of any suitable material, provides a forked end **18** with spaced opposite prongs **20** and **22** which in this instance are parallel to each other and have straight terminal ends **24** and **26**.

The pad **14**, which if of any suitable resilient material, such as polyurethane, for example, is of truncated wedge shape, having wide and narrow ends **28** and **30** opposite faces **32** and **34**. The pad **14** is with its face **32** backed and suitably mounted, as by cementing, on the prong **20** of the handle **12**, with the narrow end **30** of the pad extending along the terminal end **24** of this prong .

The cover sheet **16**, which is suitably attached to the face **34** of the pad **14**, as by cementing, for example, is of any suitable paint-absorbing material which has also good paint-applying properties, such as felt, for instance.

To use the applicator **10**, the same is with the cover sheet **16** dipped into a preferably rather shallow supply of paint, which in the broader sense may be some coating substance other than paint as commonly understood, such as varnish, for example. In thus dipping the cover sheet **16** in paint, such paint is kept from the spaced guide prong **22** and, hence, from the window pane in subsequently painting sash trim. Once the cover sheet **16** is supplied with paint in this manner, the applicator is used for painting sash trim **36**, for example (FIG. 3). To this end, the applicator **10** is with the paint-applying cover sheet **16** placed squarely against the trim over its entire width as shown, with the prong **22** of the handle **12** then resting with its terminal end **26** on the window pane **38**. The applicator is then moved along the trim **36** to paint the same, with the prong **22** being retained in sliding engagement with the window pane **38** to serve as a positive guide for holding the paint-applying cover sheet **16** fully and squarely against the trim **36** at most any speed of the applicator along the trim. The paint is thus evenly applied to the trim **36**, especially since light pressure on the pad **14** in moving the applicator along the trim will not only urge the cover sheet **16** into reach of all uneven surface parts of the trim, but will also force all paint from this cover sheet and onto the trim **36** including that usually most difficult-to-paint part thereof at the window pane **38**. Thus, with a little experience in manipulating the applicator **10**, a length of sash trim may be painted evenly and fully in a single stroke at quite considerable speed of the applicator therealong. Of course, while the applicator **10** is particularly advantageous for painting sash trim, the same is obviously also useful for painting other parts of sash or other structures.

It will be noted in FIG. 3 that the wedge shape of the pad **14** places the handle **12**, and more particularly its guide prong **22**, into a more erect operational disposition on the window pane **38** than if the pad were of uniform thickness throughout. This is highly advantageous in that it lends considerable stability to the manual guidance of the applicator in accurate paint-applying relation with the trim **36**. In this connection, such guide stability of the applicator is particularly high on applying light finger pressure to the guide prong **22** in a region directly opposite to the trim surface being painted, for at the then prevailing angles between the trim surface and window pane **38** and between the guide prong **22** and window pane (FIG. 3) the cover sheet **16** will, under the exerted pressure on the guide prong, become virtually locked to the trim surface in accurate paint-applying relation therewith at most any, and even the highest, speed of the applicator along the trim. Further, if the bevel of the trim **36** should be different from that shown, the wedge shape of the pad **14** is further advantageous, in that in the placement of the applicator in proper guide relation with the window pane in which the same is in square engagement with the trim surface, its engagement with the trim surface will then at the most deviate so slightly from that shown in FIG. 3 as to preclude unsightly painting onto the window pane or an unsightly unpainted strip of the trim surface next to the window pane.

The opposite, and in this instance parallel, side edges **40**, **42** and **44**, **46** of the prongs **20** and **22** are over end lengths thereof preferably tapered towards their respective terminal ends **24** and **26** as at **48**, **50**, **52** and **54**, and the opposite sides of the pad **14** and its cover sheet **16** are over the tapered lengthwise extent of the backing prong **20** similarly tapered as the latter as at **56** and **58**. The thus tapered ends of the prongs **20**, **22** and pad **14** with its cover sheet **16** permit guided placement of the applicator against sash trim at any corner thereof in substantial surface fit therewith, so that painting of a trim surface may be started in any corner thereof and continued along the trim surface in a single motion of the applicator and without deviation from its correct guidance on the window pane.

The terminal end **26** of the guide prong **22** of the handle **12** is preferably squared off to provide a scraper edge **60**, thus lending to the applicator **10** the attributes of a combination painting and scraping tool. If desired, the terminal end **26** of the guide prong **22** of the handle may be slightly bevelled for a better scraping edge **60**, without interfering with its guide function in painting sash trim.

The tapered sides **52**, **54** and terminal end **26** of the guide prong **22** of the handle **12** also serve as a putty knife for applying putty *p* (FIG. 4). Thus, the application of putty will be particularly even owing to the guidance of the prong **22** on the window pane **62**, as shown, at least for the greater and most tedious part of the putty application. Also, with the prong **22** being thus guided on the window pane, excess putty that would ordinarily spread onto the window pane is by the terminal edge **62** of the prong wiped from the pane.

FIG. 5 shows an applicator **10***a* which may in all respects be like the described applicator **10** of FIGS. 1 and 2, except that the side edges and sides of the prongs **20***a*, **22***a* and covered pad **14***a* are not slanted but extend straight to their terminal ends, whereby the terminal end **26***a* of the guide prong **22***a* may serve as a scraper to reach into the very corners of a window pane for scraping dirt or even occasional paint therefrom.

Reference is now had to FIG. 6 which shows an applicator **10***b* that may in all respects be like the applicator **10** of FIGS. 1 and 2, except that the pad **14***b* with its cover sheet **16***b* is replaceable on the handle **12***b*. To this end, the pad **14***b* is attached, as by cementing, to a backing plate **70** having in its rear opposite side channel formations **72** which are slid onto the prong **20***b* of the handle for removable mounting of the covered pad **14***b* thereon.

While the pad **14** of the applicator **10** has been described as being of a resilient material, it is also within the ambit of the invention to make this pad of a material which, besides being resilient, is also paint absorbing. Such a material may be sponge or any other suitable absorbent cellular material. In the case of such an absorbent pad, the same may, on dipping into paint, hold extra paint which it will give up to its also paint-absorbing and applying cover sheet as needed. Thus, in painting sash trim, for example, the applicator may well hold sufficient paint to finish an entire trim length with one stroke of the applicator, with paint from the pad being drawn to its cover sheet where engaging the trim, when needed, by exerting slight pressure on the pad and then relieving the pressure without stopping the motion of the applicator along the trim.

What is claimed is:

1. A paint applicator, comprising a pad of truncated wedge shape with wide and narrow ends and opposite faces forming the wedge angle, with said pad being of resilient material; a handle with spaced opposite prongs, of which one prong has a surface facing away from the other prong, and both prongs have terminal edges, with said pad being with one of said faces backed and mounted on said surface of said one prong with said narrow end thereof at the terminal edge of said one prong, and said other prong extending with its terminal edge beyond that of said one prong; and a paint absorbing and applying cover sheet carried by the other face of said pad.

2. A paint applicator as in claim 1, in which said prongs have aligned parallel sides which over a distance from their terminal edges are tapered toward the latter, and said pad has opposite sides aligned with said prong sides and similarly tapered as the latter to said narrow end thereof.

3. A paint applicator as in claim 1, in which said terminal edge of said other prong is formed as a scraper.

4. A paint applicator as in claim 2, in which said tapered sides and terminal edge of said other prong serve as a putty knife.

5. A paint applicator as in claim 1, in which said pad is of resilient and also paint-absorbing cellular material.

6. A paint applicator as in claim 1, which further provides a backing member with a front face on which said pad is mounted with said one face thereof, and having in its rear a guideway formation slidable onto said one prong for removably mounting said pad on said one prong.

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DANIEL BLUM, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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