

F. Z. HANSCOM.
DENTAL TAPE OR FLOSS.
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Patented Aug. 12, 1913.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

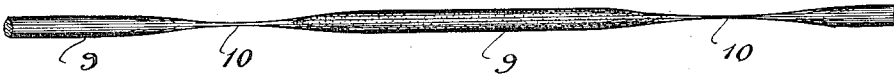
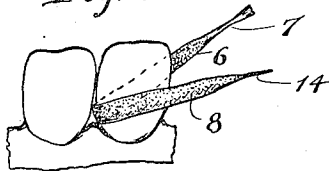


Fig. 3



Witnesses:

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Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK Z. HANSCOM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

DENTAL TAPE OR FLOSS.

1,069,874.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 12, 1913.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK Z. HANSCOM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dental Tape or Floss, of which the following is a specification.

Among the objects of the present invention are to provide a tape or floss of such form that it may be readily-inserted between the teeth and will also have widened or enlarged cleaning portions, this result being obtained by making the tape or floss small at certain points and wider or larger at other points; to provide a dental floss or tape of such form with dentifrice either of an antiseptic or abrasive character or of both antiseptic and abrasive character, or having such other qualities as may be desirable in suitable dentifrice or cleaning material; in some instances, to provide a dental tape or floss having reduced waxed portions and enlarged intermediate portions having a suitable dentifrice incorporated therein; and to provide such other advantages as will appear from the following description of my invention.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a side view of one form of my improved tape or floss made in a substantially flat form; Fig. 2 shows a modified form which is substantially circular in cross-section; Fig. 3 is a sketch showing the method of using my improved tape.

As shown in Fig. 1, 6 indicates an improved form of tape made in accordance with my invention, this tape having narrow sections 7 and widened flat sections 8. The narrow sections 7, for instance as indicated between the points *a* and *b*, are preferably treated with paraffin, or other suitable wax-like material, to assist the passage of these sections through the narrow contact point between the teeth. The intermediate flat, wider sections 8 are impregnated wholly or in part with any suitable dentifrice, which dentifrice I prefer to be of an antiseptic or abrasive or both antiseptic and abrasive character. The floss acts as a carrying medium for the dentifrice, the latter preferably consisting of a powder which acts as a carrier for some suitable antiseptic. All of such wider sections may be impregnated or treated with the same kind of dentifrice, or alternating sections may be treated or impregnated with different kinds; or,

if desired, part of the sections may be treated with dentifrice and other sections left without any.

The form of my improved tape or floss shown in Fig. 2 differs from that shown in Fig. 1 in being made substantially round, that is, of circular cross-section. In this instance, the enlarged portions 9 are separated by intermediate, comparatively small thread-like portions 10, such intermediate portions being preferably waxed, while the enlarged portions are treated with suitable dentifrice as above described. In all cases, I prefer to have the material of which the tape or floss may be formed, thoroughly impregnated with the dentifrice, so that where an abrasive dentifrice is used, the particles will be thoroughly embedded or pressed into the material. In order to accomplish this, the dentifrice may be applied while the tape is being made, or may be thoroughly pressed or worked into the tape after the same has been formed.

My improved tape or floss may be made in long, continuous strips and rolled or otherwise arranged for convenience in handling, or may be made in short sections, as desired.

From the above description, it will be readily seen that I have provided a tape of such form that it may be readily inserted between the teeth, and then by drawing the tape along until an enlarged or widened portion is brought into proper position for engagement with the tooth, the tooth may be readily and quickly cleaned by drawing such widened portion backward and forward over the surface thereof. For instance, as indicated in Fig. 5, the narrow or reduced portion of the tape has been passed down past the contact point between the teeth, and then the widened or enlarged portion brought into engagement with the lower surface of the tooth, and as such widened portion is drawn back and forth, it will readily clean such surface. Then, after one tooth has been cleaned, the tape may be swung over so that the opposite side engages with the other tooth, thereby both opposed surfaces between the teeth may be quickly cleaned. The reduced portions of the tape may be made somewhat weaker than the widened portions, if desired, so that the user may break off any desired length of tape by breaking it at one of such points. It will also be noted that where the teeth come in actual contact so that it

is impossible to pass a thread or tape down between the same, this reduced portion may be formed into a somewhat needle-like point, as indicated at 14, Fig. 5, and this point may then be inserted between the teeth, below the contact point, and the tape drawn through into cleaning position.

It will be seen that my improved invention provides a tape which is so formed that it may be readily inserted between the teeth and which has sufficiently large cleaning portions so that it will not require any special skill to use the same but may be used by the average person, and by providing the tape with suitable dentifrice its use will greatly assist in cleaning and preserving the teeth. This tape may be made in various sizes and forms suitable for teeth of different kinds, the principal objects being to arrange the same so that it may be readily inserted between the teeth; and to

provide substantial cleaning portions which may be used without danger of injury to the gums. Therefore, I do not wish to limit myself to any particular size or to the exact form shown herein, except as set forth in the appended claims, in which—

I claim:

1. A tape or floss for the purposes set forth, having enlarged cleaning sections and smaller intermediate sections.

2. A flat tape for dental purposes, said tape having relatively wide cleaning portions and narrow intermediate portions.

3. A dental tape or floss having enlarged cleaning portions impregnated with dentifrice and having reduced waxed or paraffined intermediate portions.

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Witnesses:

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