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APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURE OF POMPON

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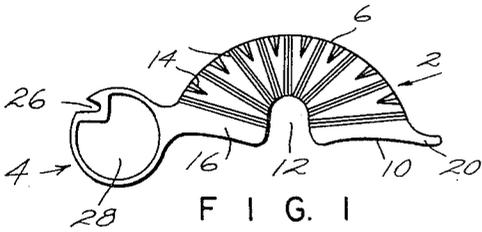


FIG. 1

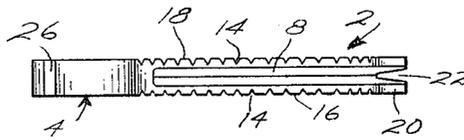


FIG. 2

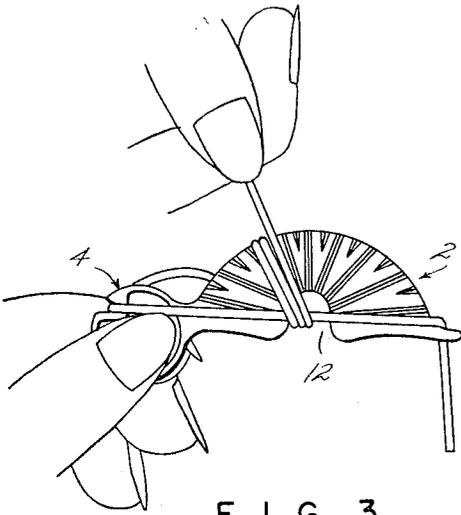


FIG. 3

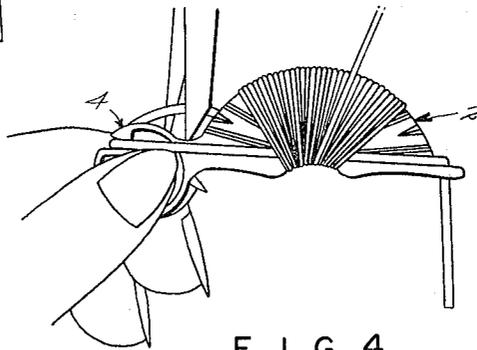


FIG. 4

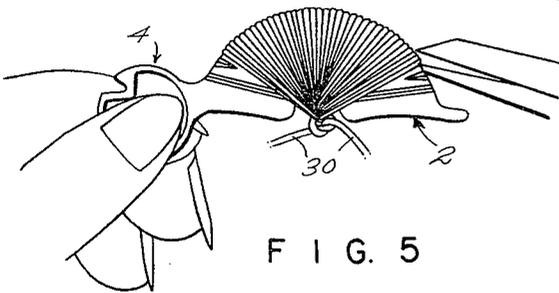


FIG. 5

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APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURE
OF POMPON

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This invention relates to the art of forming pompons
with yarn.

More particularly this invention relates to apparatus
and method for forming pompons from yarn.

An object of this invention is to facilitate the manu-
facture of pompons.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide a
simple and inexpensive tool for manufacturing pompons
by hand.

Other objects and many of the attendant advantages
of this invention will be readily appreciated as the same
becomes better understood by reference to the following
detailed description when considered in connection with
the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a view in elevation of a tool for forming pom-
pons constructed according to this invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the tool illustrated in FIG. 1;
and

FIGS. 3, 4, and 5 are views schematically showing how
the device of FIGS. 1 and 2 is used to make a pompon
from yarn according to the present invention.

Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 2 specifically, there is
illustrated a pompon maker in the form of a tool which
preferably is constructed of plastic but may be made of
other suitable materials as, for example, aluminum. The
tool consists of a body portion identified generally at 2
and a handle portion identified generally at 4. The body
portion 2 has a curved upper surface 6 which is provided
with a V-shaped groove 8 (FIG. 2). Preferably the up-
per surface 6 has a circular curvature. The bottom
surface 10 of the body portion is provided with a recess
12 which is located approximately equidistant between
the ends of the upper surface. The tool also is provided
with a series of grooves 14 in its opposite side surfaces
16 and 18. Alternate ones of the grooves 14 emanate
from a substantially common point in the recess 12. The
other grooves 14 are of shorter length and are located
adjacent upper surface 6. The effect of the grooves 14
intersecting upper surface 6 is to provide the opposite
top edges with a scalloped effect as seen in FIG. 2. The
end of the body portion 2 opposite the handle portion 4
is provided with an extension 20 having a notch 22 as
shown in FIG. 2. Notch 22 is at the end of and provides
a lead-in to the V-shaped groove 8.

The handle portion 4 is provided with a notch 26 which
is oriented at an angle of 90° to notch 22. Both notches
are at substantially the same level in line with recess 12.
Preferably, but not necessarily, handle portion 4 is pro-
vided with an indentation 28 on each side thereof to
permit grasping by the fingers of the user as shown in
FIG. 3.

The method of using the novel tool of FIGS. 1 and 2
forms part of the invention and will be readily under-
stood by the following description which is to be consid-
ered in connection with FIGS. 3, 4, and 5.

In using the novel tool the first step is to provide a
length of yarn of suitable length, e.g., 40 inches. The
length of yarn will vary in accordance with the size of the
pompon desired to be made. The tool is held in one
hand, e.g., the left hand as shown in FIG. 3. Then one
end of the yarn is placed in notch 22 so as to leave ap-
proximately one-two inches of yarn extending below the

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notch. With the one end of the yarn secured in notch
22, the yarn is extended across the front face of the body
portion of the tool and hooked around the handle by
way of notch 26. The yarn then is extended behind and
under the body into the recess 12. Thereafter it is
brought up and around the body portion in the grooves
14 nearest the handle portion. Successive turns are made
with the yarn along the curved surface 6, with the turns
spaced according to grooves 14. The latter not only
facilitate even spacing of the turns but also prevent them
from slipping. Winding of the yarn is continued back and
forth so as to provide several overlays. The length of
yarn is wound around the tool until no further turns
can be made. Thereafter, the yarn is cut at a suitable
point behind the handle short of curved surface 6, as
demonstrated in FIG. 4. This act of cutting makes that
portion of the yarn which extends across the front face
of the tool a separate piece without disturbing its posi-
tion within the turns of yarn. The ends of this separate
piece, the end originally secured in notch 22 and the end
secured in notch 26, are then brought together and
knotted as demonstrated by FIG. 5. Thereafter, the
turns of yarn are cut with a scissors along the groove or
channel 8 so as to free the yarn from the tool. Once this
has been accomplished, the pompon is essentially com-
plete, except that uneven ends are snipped off and a
wide-tooth comb is used to fluff out the pompon for a
uniform texture. The pompon after combing out may
be used for a variety of purposes as, for example, to make
small ornamental articles or dolls or accessories for
clothing. The knotted ends shown at 30 in FIG. 5 facili-
tate attaching the pompon to a supporting structure such
as a wire frame.

It is recognized that the groove 8 in the upper curved-
edge surface of the body portion of the tool need not be
V-shaped but in fact U-shaped or have a semicircular
configuration in cross-section. The essential thing is that
the groove be deep enough to permit entry of the point
of a pair of scissors so as to facilitate cutting with the
scissors. Alternatively, the turns of the yarn may be
cut with a razor blade, in which case the depth of the
groove 8 need not be as deep as is required for scissors.
It is appreciated also that the length and cross-section
of the grooves on the side faces of the body portion of
the tool may be different from as shown. The essential
thing is that the grooves cooperate with the curved top
surface to form serrated top-edge surfaces which will pre-
vent the yarn from slipping so as to get the fan-shaped
arrangement shown in the drawings. It is believed obvi-
ous that the size of the tool can be varied so as to make
larger or smaller pompons. Similarly the handle portion
need not have the form shown in the drawings and may
in fact be formed as a projection from the bottom edge
of the body portion. Changes also may be made with
regard to notches 22 and 26 without departing from the
invention. Thus notch 26 may be formed at a different
angle or even on the body portion.

In the course of using the tool shown in FIGS. 1 and
2, it is possible to employ multi-colored yarn or even sev-
eral short sections of yarn of different colors. In the
latter case only the first colored strand is anchored in
notches 22 and 26. The second, third, and additional
strands of different colors are simply wound around the
body portion. When the first wound length of yarn is
severed and tied in the manner demonstrated in FIGS.
4 and 5, all of the turns of the several strands of yarn
wound on the body portion of the tool will be tied to-
gether.

Obviously many modifications and variations of the
present invention are possible in the light of the above
teachings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the

invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts, or the specific steps, described or illustrated, and that within the scope of the appended claims it may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described or illustrated.

I claim:

1. Method of making a pompon comprising the steps of providing a length of yarn, temporarily securing one end of said yarn to an elongated supporting member, extending said yarn so that a portion thereof adjacent said one end extends lengthwise along said supporting member, winding the remainder of said yarn about said supporting member and said lengthwise-extending portion, severing said lengthwise-extending portion from the remainder of said yarn, tying together the ends of said severed portion, and slitting the turns of said yarn wound about said supporting member to provide a pompon.

2. Method of claim 1 wherein said yarn is wound on said supporting member so that the resulting turns of yarn form a fan-shaped array.

3. A one-piece tool for making pompons comprising an elongate body portion having opposite side surfaces, a convex top surface curved lengthwise thereof, and a bottom surface; first means at one end of said body portion for anchoring a length of yarn; second means located at the other end of said body portion providing a hook around which said length of yarn can be hitched; a plurality of grooves in said side surfaces for preventing slippage along said top surface of successive turns of said yarn wound about said side surfaces and said top and bottom surfaces; and third means common to said bottom surface for holding said turns of yarn in closer spacing at said bottom surface than at said top surface.

4. A tool as defined by claim 3 wherein said third means is a recess formed at the bottom side of said body portion.

5. A tool as defined by claim 3 wherein said top surface is provided with a longitudinally-extending groove to facilitate slitting of said turns of the yarn.

6. A one-piece tool as defined by claim 5 wherein said first means is a notch and further wherein said longitudinally-extending groove extends to said notch.

7. A one-piece tool for making pompons comprising an elongate body portion with an integral handle portion at one end thereof and a notch at the opposite end thereof for anchoring a length of yarn; said body portion having opposite side surfaces, a substantially convex top surface, and a bottom surface defining a recess; means at said one end of said body portion providing a hook around which yarn can be hitched; and means for preventing slippage along said top surface of turns of yarn wound about said side surfaces and said top and bottom surfaces with each turn disposed in said recess.

8. A tool as defined by claim 7 wherein said top surface is provided with a longitudinally-extending groove to facilitate slitting of said turns of yarn.

9. A tool as defined by claim 7 wherein said last-mentioned means comprises serrations in at least one edge of said top surface.

10. A tool as defined by claim 7 wherein said last-mentioned means comprises grooves in said side surfaces, at least some of said grooves oriented so as to converge toward said recess.

11. A tool as defined by claim 7 wherein said last-mentioned means comprises grooves in at least one of said side surfaces that extend to said top surface.

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