May 14, 1957 C. SADOWSKY 2,792,186

TAPE HOLDER

Filed March 11, 1954

FIG. 1.

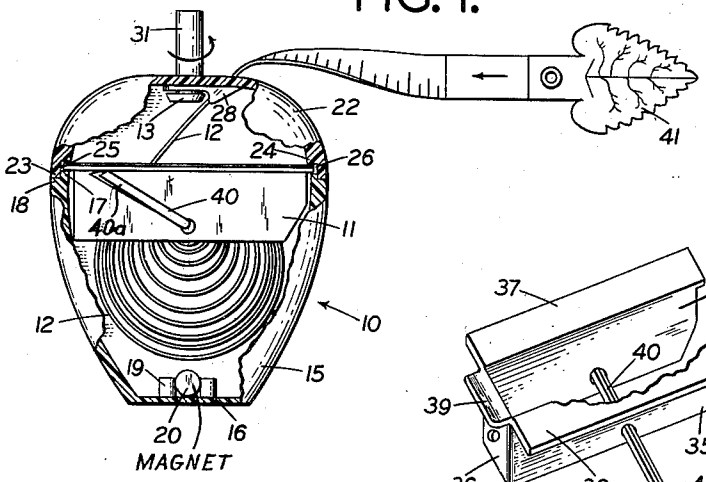
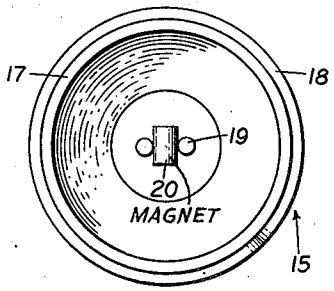


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



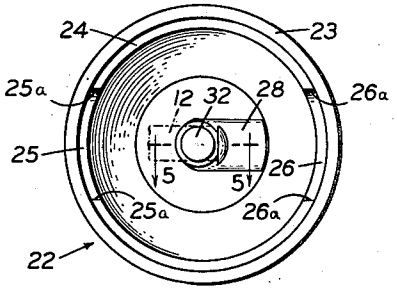
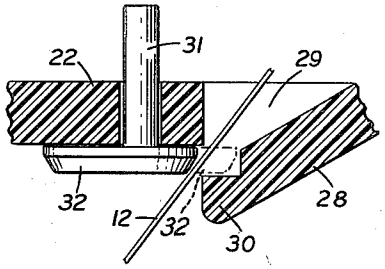


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.



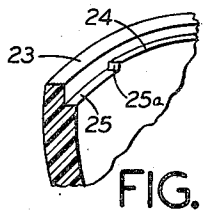


FIG. 6.

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TAPE HOLDER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 242—84.9)

This invention relates generally to sewing devices, and is particularly directed to a novel combination sewing accessory.

The particular embodiment of the present invention, which is illustrated in the drawings and which will be described hereinafter in greater detail, comprises generally, a casing, a spirally wound resilient strip disposed within the casing and having its outer end extending through and out of the casing for manual extension against the self-retracting force of the strip, and means for locking the strip in any desired position of its extensile and retractile movement.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a combination device of the type described in the foregoing paragraph, which includes novel structure adapted for locking the strip in any selected position of its extensile and retractile movement, so that maximum manual freedom is afforded the user to permit the performance of operations accompanying the measuring operation. Stated otherwise, the device of the present invention combines the space saving advantages of a wound or retractable tape with the ease and convenience of use of a straight or unwound tape.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a sewing device having the abovementioned advantages, which is simple in construction and operation, and which lends itself to manufacture in a variety of neat and attractive, aesthetic forms and configurations. The device of the present invention is additionally characterized by durability in use, requiring a minimum of relatively simple parts, and by assembly, manufacture and sale at a reasonable cost.

Other objects of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following specification and referring to the accompanying drawings, which form a material part of this disclosure.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangements of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope will be indicated by the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the sewing device of the present invention, with the casing partly broken away for clarity of understanding;

Fig. 2 is a top perspective view, partly broken away, showing a supporting member removed from the assembled device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the casing bottom section of Fig. 1, with the wound strip and supporting member removed therefrom;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the casing top section removed from the assembled device;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view, greatly enlarged, taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4 and showing the strip locking means of the present invention; and

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the casing top section in inverted disposition.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the

embodiment of the invention illustrated therein comprises a casing, generally designated 10, a chassis or supporting member 11 disposed within the casing, a spirally wound or coiled, resilient strip 12 supported in the chassis, and a manually actuable strip locking member 13.

The casing 10 includes a lower, cup-shaped section 15, which is preferably but not necessarily fabricated of plastic material and has a relatively thin bottom wall 16, for a purpose appearing presently. The upper edge portion or rim of the casing section 15 is provided with an annular, upstanding ridge 17, which is spaced inwardly from the outer surface of the lower casing section to define an annular, upwardly facing, external shoulder 18. The casing section bottom wall 16 is formed on its inner face with a pair of upstanding pins or lugs 19, which are spaced apart sufficiently to frictionally grasp and retain therebetween a permanent magnet 20, the latter being preferably in abutting engagement with the inner surface of the bottom wall 16.

The top or upper casing section 22 is also cupped, and disposed in inverted, facing relation with respect to the bottom section 15. The edge portion of the upper casing section 22 is formed with a depending, annular wall or skirt 23 which is spaced from the inner surface of the upper casing section to define a downwardly facing internal shoulder 24. It will now be understood that the depending wall or skirt 23 of the upper casing section 22 is adapted to embracingly engage about the upstanding ridge 17 of the lower casing section and abut against the external shoulder 18. Thus, the edges of the casing sections are adapted for interfitting engagement with each other to define a closed casing, and may be fixedly secured in their interfitting engagement, as by adhesive or other suitable means. The internal shoulder 24 of the upper casing section is provided with a pair of oppositely disposed, arcuate recessed portions 25 and 26, which preferably have their end walls 25*a* and 25*a* in parallel spaced relation with respect to each other, all for reasons appearing in detail hereinafter.

Generally centrally of the upper casing section 22 is formed an inwardly depressed portion 28, see Fig. 5, which opens into the casing interior, as at 29. An inwardly offset jaw portion, locking shoulder or lip 30 is spaced beneath the opening 29. Adjacent to the depressed portion 28 of the casing section 22, and journaled therein, is a stem or shank 31 which has a generally disc shaped locking member or plate 32 eccentrically secured on the inner shank end, the outer shank end extending exteriorly of the casing 10. As shown in dot-and-dash outline in Fig. 5, rotative movement of the shank 31 will effect swinging action of the locking member 32 into the space between the jaw portion 30 and the opening 29, to close the latter, all for purposes appearing more fully hereinafter.

The chassis or supporting member 11 is best seen in Fig. 2, and includes a pair of parallel spaced side walls 34 and 35 interconnected and spaced apart by an end wall 36. Laterally outwardly projecting wall portions or flanges 37 and 38 are formed on the upper edges of the spaced walls 34 and 35, respectively; and, an outwardly projecting flange 39 is formed on the upper edge of the end wall 36. It will be noted that the flanges 37 and 38 are substantially rectangular in configuration, so that their corner portions will seat on the ridge 17 and be conformably received in the end portions of the recesses 25 and 26. By this construction, the chassis 11 is firmly held between the engaging edge portions of the upper and lower casing sections and fixedly positioned with respect to the casing. The flange 39 extends into and is clamped within the recess 25 to further secure the chassis in the casing.

Disposed in the space between the chassis side walls 34 and 35 is the spirally wound resilient strip or tape 12.

The tape has its pole or inner end and anchored to the chassis **11** by means of a cotter pin **40**, which extends transversely across the chassis. More particularly, the cotter pin **40** projects through and beyond opposite sides of the chassis walls **34** and **35**; and, the inner end of the strip **12** is extended between the legs of the cotter pin intermediate the chassis walls, and thus fixedly secured to the cotter pin. The outer end of the spirally coiled strip **12** extends through the casing opening **29** and is provided with a finger tab or stop **41** exteriorily of the casing. The coiled strip **12** is initially set in tension, even in its fully retracted condition, and is maintained in tension by the cotter pin **40**. That is, the free ends **40***a* of the cotter pin legs are bent toward the chassis wall **35** to the position shown in Fig. 1. The coil tension serves then to maintain the cotter pin legs in bearing engagement with the flange **38**, and prevent unwinding of the strip. However, upon manual grasping of the leaf-shaped tab **41**, the strip may be withdrawn through the opening **29** to any desired extended position, which withdrawal serves to increase the coil tension. Upon release of the tab **41**, the coil tension will serve to retract the strip inwardly through the opening **29** until the leaf **41** engages with the casing **10** to prevent further retraction. The chassis side walls, disposed on opposite sides of the spiral strips, maintain the latter in properly coiled condition while permitting extension and retraction thereof.

It will be noted that the shank **31** may be manually rotated from exteriorly of the casing **10** with the strip **12** in any position of its extensile and retractile movement. That is, the shank may be rotated until the lobe or outer portion of the eccentric disc **32** engages with the adjacent strip portion to clamp the latter between the locking member and jaw, and thus lock the strip in any desired position of movement. Of course, rotation of the shank **31** in an opposite direction will disengage the disc **32** from the strip **12** to unlock the latter and permit free extension and retraction thereof.

It will now be seen that the magnet **20** permits the magnetic retention of needles, pins and other sewing supplies on the outer surface of the bottom wall **16**, so that such supplies will be always disposed adjacent to the terminating point of a measured distance. As the strip **12** may be locked in any desired position of its movement by the locking member **32**, the operator may release the strip without retraction thereof, and thereby permit the use of an additional hand in any accompanying operation, such as pinning, marking, basting or the like, in the same manner as with a conventional, non-retractable tape.

While the particular embodiment shown in the drawings has been illustrated in the configuration of an apple, it will now be apparent that the hereinbefore described construction is equally well adapted for manufacture in a wide variety of other fruits and different shapes and styles.

From the foregoing, it is seen that the present invention provides a combination sewing accessory which fully accomplishes its intended objects, and which is well adapted to meet practical conditions of manufacture and use.

Although the present invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding, it is understood that certain changes and modifications may be made within the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a pair of cupped sections arranged in edge to edge interfitting engagement and defining a casing, said casing having an opening, a locking shoulder fixed in said casing adjacent to said opening, a chassis having projecting portions held between the interfitting edges of said cupped sections to fixedly position said chassis in said casing, a spirally wound resilient strip having a pole end anchored in said chassis and having its outer convolution extending through the opening and outwardly beyond said casing, the outer end of said strip being manually extensible against the resilient self-retracting force of said strip, a locking member mounted in said casing in the region of egress of said strip and movable into and out of clamping relationship with the shoulder for releasably holding the strip against the shoulder in any selected position of its extensile and retractile movement, and hand actuable means extending through the casing and connected to the locking member for selectively effecting movement of said locking member.

2. The combination according to claim 1, said hand actuable means comprising a rotatable shank having one end extending into said casing, said locking member being eccentrically mounted on the end of the shank for locking and releasing movement upon rotary movement of said shank in opposite directions.

3. The combination according to claim 1, said chassis being transversely mounted in the casing and comprising a pair of facing, spaced walls, and a transverse member extending between said walls and fixedly secured to the pole end of said spiral strip, whereby said spiral strip is mounted in the space between said walls and the latter serve to maintain said strip in its spirally wound condition.

4. The combination according to claim 3, said transverse member comprising a cotter pin extending through and beyond the walls of said chassis, the pole end of said strip extending between and being secured to the legs of said cotter pin in the space between said walls, the free ends of said cotter pin legs being engageable with said chassis to limit rotation of said strip upon said extensile and contractile movement.

5. A measuring device comprising a casing, a supporting member mounted in the casing, a spirally wound tape carried by the supporting member and having self-retracting means, said casing having an opening through which the tape passes exteriorly of the casing, a shoulder formed in the casing below the opening and paralleling the opening, a rotatable pin carried by the casing and extending exteriorly thereof for manual manipulation and a locking member eccentrically mounted on the pin within the casing and movable into and out of clamping relationship with the shoulder to bind the tape thereagainst and hold the tape in selected extended positions.

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