Sept. 8, 1959 P. GIPSLIS 2,902,849

WICK INSERTING INSTRUMENT

Filed June 13, 1955

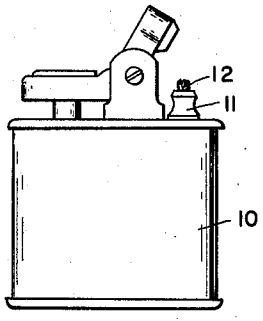


Fig. 1.

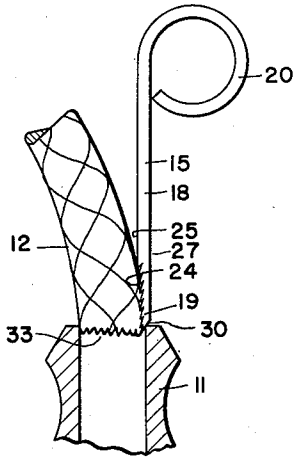


Fig. 2.

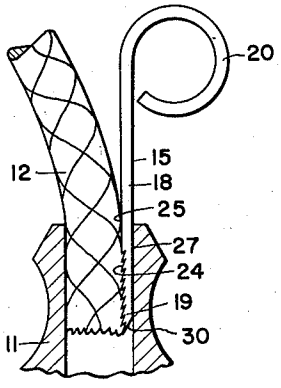


Fig. 3.

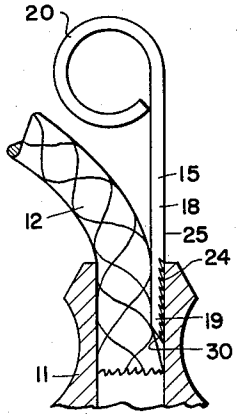


Fig. 4.

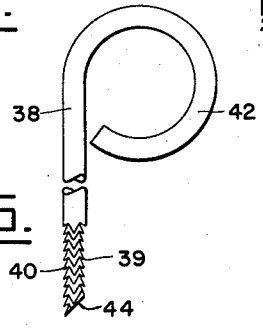


Fig. 5.

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WICK INSERTING INSTRUMENT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 67—67)

This invention relates to an instrument for inserting a wick into a cigarette lighter through the small wick tube thereof.

At the present time, lighters of the type commonly called cigarette lighters, are used universally by a very large number of people. These lighters have wicks which gradually burn away and have to be replaced from time to time. As these wicks are made of an absorbent material, they tend to fray or unravel at the ends so that it is difficult to insert them into the lighter tubes. People used pins and the like for inserting the wicks, and some companies supply small wire rods for this purpose. However, the ends of the pins or rods tend to go through the wick material so that it is always a bothersome operation. Many times when a wick is partially inserted, it comes back out of the tube when the pin or rod is withdrawn therefrom.

The main object of the present invention is the provision of an instrument by means of which a wick may be quickly and easily inserted in a lighter tube. This instrument is designed so that the wick is completely and properly inserted by very few movements of the instrument through the tube. Furthermore, it may be manipulated so that there is no danger of drawing the wick back out of the tube when the instrument is withdrawn.

A wick inserting instrument according to this invention comprises a rod having a thickness considerably less than that of a normal lighter wick. The rod has a plurality of serrations on one side near an end thereof, the side of the rod opposite the serrations preferably being smooth. The rod may be provided with a handle loop at the end thereof remote from the serrations. In the preferred form of the invention, the end of the rod near which the serrations are located is formed with a bevel which extends outwardly from the side of the rod opposite the serrations to the serrated side at the outer end of the latter.

Examples of this invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 illustrates a cigarette lighter with the wick thereof uncovered,

Figure 2 is an enlarged elevation of the wick inserting instrument in position to start moving a wick into a wick tube,

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 with the wick part way in the tube,

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 2 showing the wick completely through the tube and the instrument being withdrawn therefrom, and

Figure 5 is an elevation of an alternative form of instrument.

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, **10** is a cigarette lighter of conventional design having a wick tube **11** which communicates with the interior of the lighter at one end and opens outwardly from the lighter at its opposite end. A wick **12** is normally threaded through this tube and projects from the outer end thereof. As is well-known, the wick absorbs lighter fluid from within the lighter,

and its outer end is ignited by a spark when the lighter is operated.

Figures 2 to 4 illustrate a wick inserting instrument **15** in operation. This instrument consists of a thin rod **18** having a working end **19**. If desired, the opposite end of the rod may be bent into substantially a circle to form a handle loop **20**.

A plurality of serrations **24** are formed in the side **25** of the rod near the end **19** thereof. These serrations preferably start at said end and extend inwardly therefrom. It will be noted that the tips or outer ends of the serrations are within the rod, as clearly shown in Figures 2 to 4. The side **27** of the rod opposite the serrations is preferably smooth, as shown.

In the preferred form of the invention, a bevel **30** is formed on the end **19** of the rod and extends from the smooth side **27** outwardly to the opposite side **25** at the outer end of the latter.

Figures 2 to 4 diagrammatically illustrate the lighter tube **11** and wick **12**.

When it is desired to insert the wick into the tube, the end of the wick is held at the tube entrance **33**. Then the end **19** of instrument **15** is also inserted in the tube entrance beside the wick, see Figure 2. The serrations **24** face the wick, and the bevel **30** is placed against the side of the tube entrance. When the instrument is moved downwardly into the tube, the bevel causes it to shift laterally towards the wick so that the serrations extend into and engage the latter. Further downward movement of the instrument causes the wick to move with it, as clearly shown in Figure 3. There is no difficulty trying to get the rod to grip the wick in order to prevent the former from moving therethrough. The serrations positively grip the wick and it must move with the instrument. It will be noted that the thickness of rod **18** is considerably less than that of wick **12** so that the instrument takes up very little room in tube **11**. By the time the ends of the wick and the instrument clear the tube, the serrations are so firmly embedded into the wick that the latter continues to move with the instrument.

The instrument may be withdrawn by rotating the rod around its longitudinal axis to bring the smooth side **27** against the wick, as shown in Figure 4. This withdraws the serrations from the wick, and the instrument may be withdrawn from the tube without pulling the wick with it. This operation may be repeated until most of the wick has been moved into the lighter.

While the instrument has been described as moving down the side of the wick tube outside the wick, it may be inserted into the wick in the same manner as a pin. The bevel forms a point on the working end of the rod so that it readily penetrates the material of the wick. As the rod is moved downwardly in the wick, the bevel causes the pin to shift laterally, thereby ensuring the serrations catching in the material so that the latter moves with the rod. The rod may be withdrawn while the wick is held against movement in the tube by hand.

If desired, the serrations **24** may be barbed towards end **19** of the rod. This helps the serrations to free the wick during withdrawal of the rod when it is within the wick.

Figure 5 illustrates an alternative form of the invention. This wick inserting instrument includes a rod **38** having a plurality of serrations **39** near its working end **40**. These serrations are barbed so that they point towards this end. If desired, the opposite end of the rod may be bent into a handle loop **42**. The end **40** is preferably formed with a bevel **44** extending transversely of the rod.

The instrument of Figure 5 is not considered as good as that of Figures 2 to 4. However, it is used in practically the same way. The bevel **44** shifts rod **38** lateral-

ly when the instrument is inserted into the entrance of a wick tube. This causes serrations **39** to grip or engage the wick, and inward movement of the instrument moves the wick in the same direction. It is not necessary to rotate the rod when it is desired to withdraw the instrument. The fact that the serrations **39** are barbed in the direction of end **40**, permits the rod to be withdrawn from the wick tube with little chance of moving the wick in the same direction.

This form of instrument may be inserted into the wick, in which case, the barbed serrations shift the wick when the rod is moved in one direction, and free it when the rod is moved in the opposite direction.

What I claim as my invention is:

An instrument for inserting a wick into a cigarette lighter through the small wick tube thereof, comprising a rod having a constant thickness considerably less than that of a normal lighter wick, a bevel at one end of the rod extending from one side thereof outwardly to the opposite side at the outer end of the latter side to form a tip at said outer end, and a plurality of serrations formed in the side of the rod having the tip at its outer end, said serrations being near and in line with the tip and being barbed towards said tipped end and being within the cross sectional area of the rod, and the side of the rod opposite the serrations and inwardly of the bevel being smooth, whereby the rod may be turned about the axis thereof to bring the serrations into engagement with a wick when the rod is used to move the latter through the wick tube of a lighter and turned again to bring its smooth side against the wick thereby freeing the serrations from the latter when the rod is withdrawn from the tube.

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