United States Patent

[11] 3,557,776

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[73] Assignee **said Willis assignor to said Boots**

[54] **HAND-HOLDABLE PACIFIER**
6 Claims, 7 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **128/1,** 272/68
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A61b 19/00**
[50] **Field of Search** 128/1, 26, 303, 359; 272/68; 401/6; 35/22

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ABSTRACT: An elongated hand-holdable pacifier shaped to conform to a comfortable hand grip with a thumb-engageable open-ended groove at one end and a handle portion at the other end.

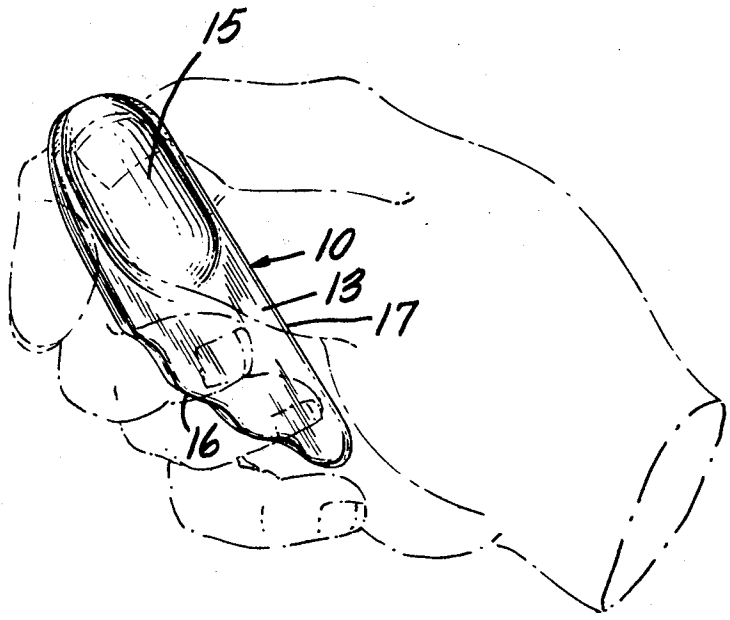


FIG. 2

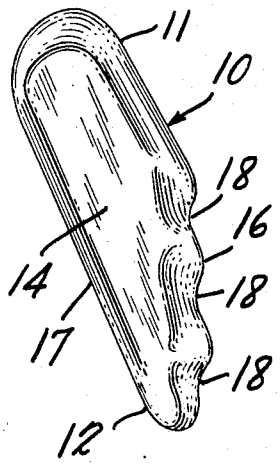


FIG. 1

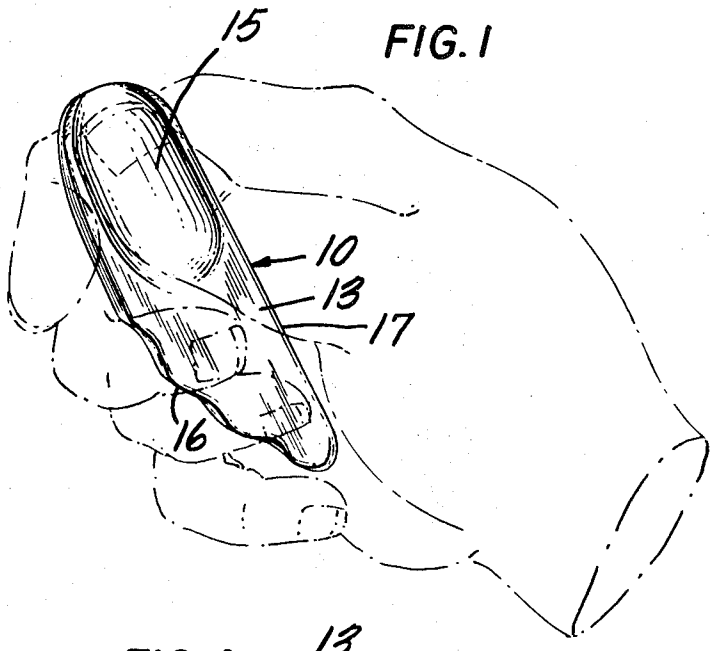


FIG. 3

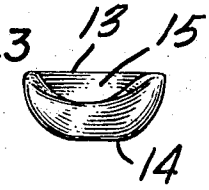


FIG. 4

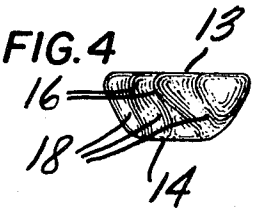


FIG. 5

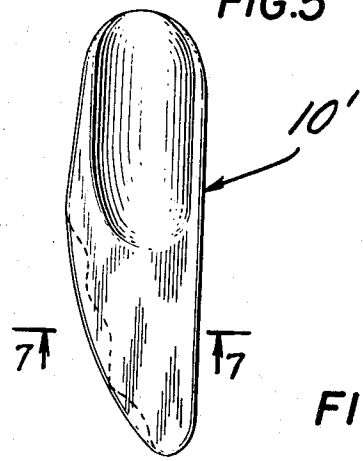


FIG. 6

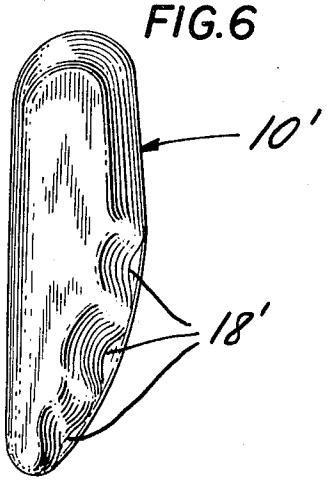
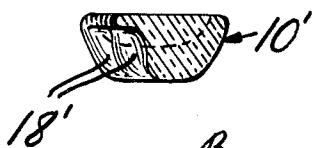


FIG. 7



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HAND-HOLDABLE PACIFIER

This invention relates to a pacifier shaped to be comfortably held in one hand while it is stroked by the thumb to have a calming or settling effect on the user.

The pacifier of the present invention is a smooth, hard, elongated body which is wider at one end and narrower at the opposite end. The wider end has a thumb-engageable groove which extends lengthwise along the top of the body to the extreme end thereof to provide a thumb-strokable channel which permits the user to slide the thumb of the hand which holds the pacifier back and forth. The narrower end serves as a handle portion which conforms to the grip of the hand. The bottom is rounded from side to side to rest comfortably between the fingers and palm of the hand of the user while the thumb is stroking the groove.

In a preferred embodiment of the pacifier, one side is generally convexly curved, as viewed from the top, to impart a lengthwise curvature which conforms to the hand grip in which the pacifier is ordinarily held. Also, a plurality of spaced apart finger receiving grooves are preferably provided along the convexly curved side of the handle of the pacifier.

The aesthetic effect of the pacifier can be enhanced by forming it of a precious or semiprecious material. An attractive and relatively inexpensive pacifier can be made of highly polished stone, such as jasper.

For a complete understanding of the invention reference may be made to the detailed description which follows and to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective top view of the pacifier of the present invention showing the hand of the holder in phantom lines;

FIG. **2** is a bottom view of the pacifier;

FIGS. **3** and **4** are end views thereof;

FIGS. **5** and **6** are plan and bottom views, respectively, of an alternative form of the pacifier; and

FIG. **7** is a sectional view taken along the line **7–7** looking in the direction of the arrows.

The pacifier shown in FIGS. **1** to **4** of the drawings is a solid, smooth, hard, elongated body **10**, for example, polished jasper stone. The pacifier has a wider end **11** and a narrower end **12**.

The top surface **13** of the pacifier is generally flat, and the bottom surface **14** is rounded from side to side to enable the pacifier to conform with and rest comfortably in the hand of the holder. Portions of the top surface can, however, be rounded, and portions of the bottom can be flat, as shown in FIG. **4**.

A thumb-engageable groove or channel **15** extends lengthwise along the top of the wider end of the body from about the middle of the body and preferably extends to the extreme end of the body to form an open ended channel, the open end being shown in FIG. **3** of the drawings. The groove or channel **15** has a generally concave curvature from side to side as viewed in FIG. **3**.

The narrower end **12** of the pacifier serves as a handle portion. The handle portion gradually diminishes in width to enable it to be held more comfortably.

The side **16** of the handle of the pacifier which is engaged by the fingers is generally convexly curved and the side **17** which is engaged by the palm portion of the hand, although relatively

straight, is preferably slightly concavely curved so that it will conform more closely to the hand grip of the holder.

The convexly curved side **16** of the handle has a plurality of spaced-apart finger receiving grooves **18** formed therein to improve the comfort of the grip.

The alternative form of the pacifier **10'**, shown in FIGS. **5** to **7** of the drawings, differs chiefly in that the finger grooves **18'** are not visible from the top, as shown in FIG. **5**, whereas the finger grooves **18** of FIG. **1** to **4** embodiment are visible from the top as shown in FIG. **1**.

The user holds the pacifier in the manner shown in FIG. **1** with the thumb-engageable groove or channel **15** facing up, the bottom **14** resting in the crooked portions of the fingers, the convexly curved side **16** engaged by the fingers and the side **17** engaged by the palm. With the fingers curled around the handle, the pacifier can be stroked by the thumb sliding back and forth lengthwise in the groove **15**.

The pacifier of the present invention is intended to afford to the user a pleasurable sensation, a calming effect and a release for nervous energy, thereby contributing to his general sense of well-being. The pacifier may also be used by persons having nervous dispositions, and as a substitute and distraction for harmful habits, such as smoking and finger nail biting. It can be of a size and shape which can be concealed by the hand even when it is being used.

The invention has been shown in preferred forms and by way of example only, and it is obvious that it can take other forms, shapes and be made of other materials. Decorations, emblems or precious stones can be recessed in the top of the handle portion.

I claim:

1. A hand-holdable pacifier comprising an elongated body made of smooth, hard material narrower at one end and wider at the opposite end and having a thumb-engageable groove extending lengthwise along the top of the body at the wider end to enable the thumb of the holder to slide back and forth along the groove when the pacifier is held in the hand, said groove being a channel which extends along the upper surface of the body from an intermediate portion to the extreme wider end thereof forming a groove open at one end, a handle portion of gradually diminishing width at the narrower end, and a bottom surface rounded at the sides to rest in the fingers of the user while the thumb is engageable with the groove.

2. A pacifier as set forth in claim **1** in which one side of the body which is engageable with the fingers is generally convexly curved, as viewed from the top, to conform to the hand grip of the holder.

3. A pacifier as set forth in claim **2** in which the opposite side of the body which normally engages the palm has a slight concave curvature to conform to the hand grip of the holder.

4. A pacifier as set forth in claim **1** including a plurality of spaced-apart finger receiving grooves disposed along one side of the handle portion of the pacifier.

5. A pacifier as set forth in claim **1** in which the elongated body is made of highly polished stone.

6. A pacifier as set forth in claim **5** in which the highly polished stone is jasper.