

Aug. 14, 1951

R. J. HUTSON
TELEPHONE HANDSET GUARD

2,564,262

Filed July 22, 1949

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

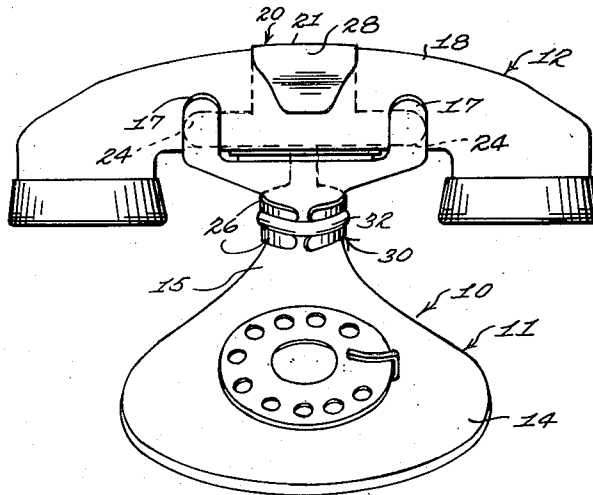


FIG. 2.

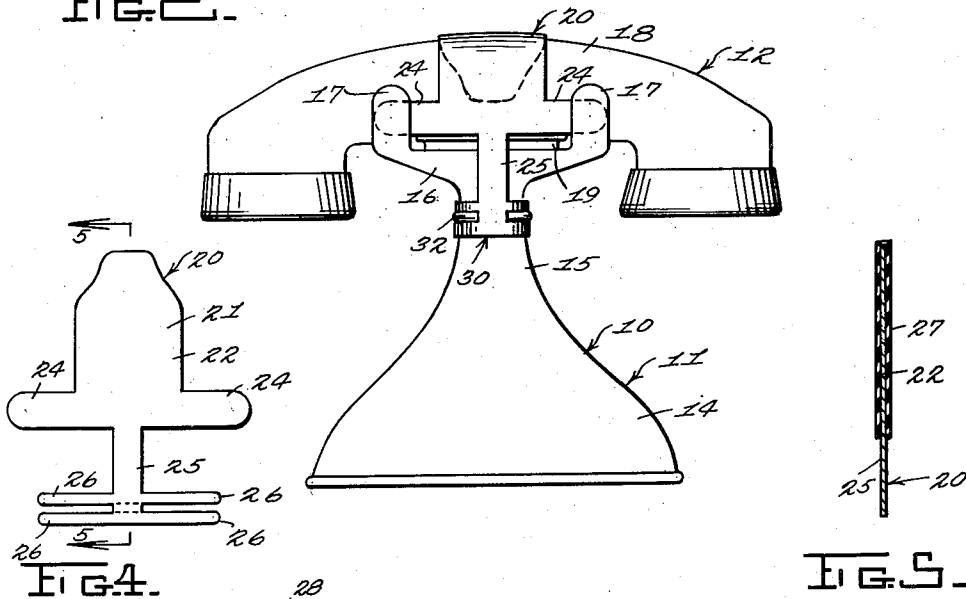


FIG. 4.

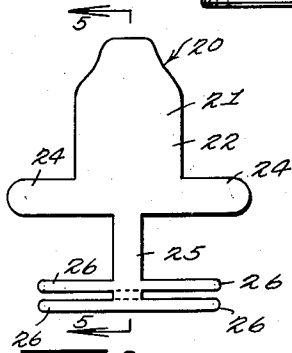


FIG. 3.

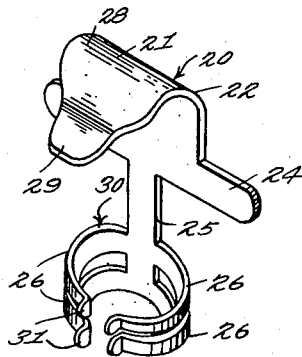
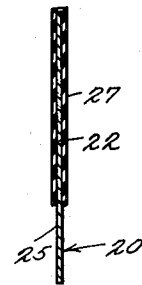


FIG. 5.



INVENTOR.
ROBERT J. HUTSON
BY

McCormack, Burman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

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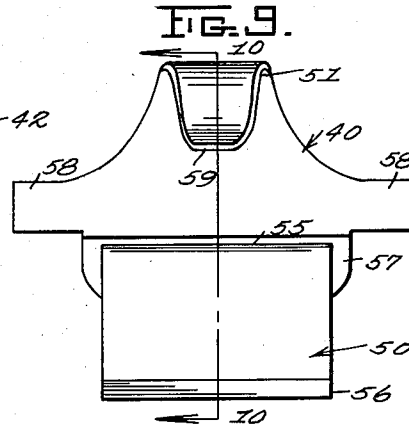
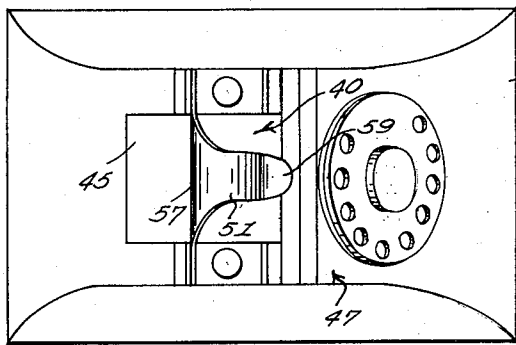
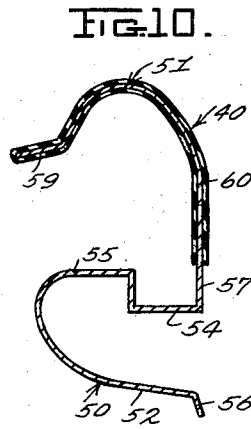
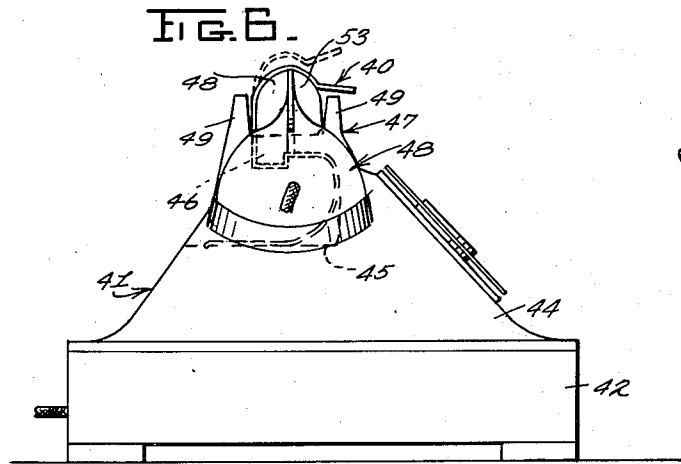


FIG. 7.

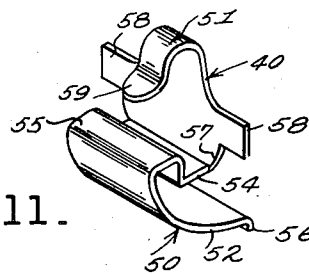
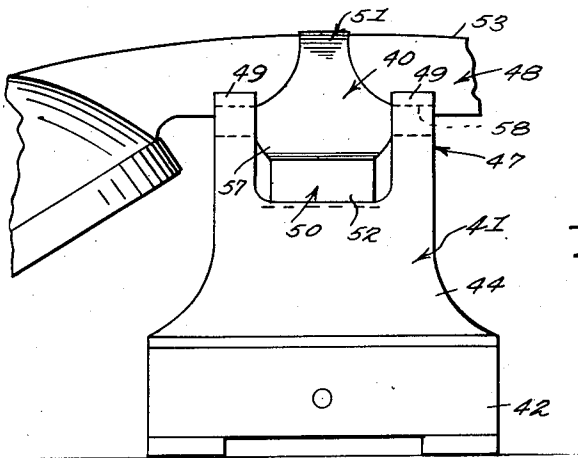


FIG. 11.

FIG. 8.

INVENTOR.
ROBERT J. HUTSON
BY

McCormack, Rosman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TELEPHONE HANDSET GUARD

Robert J. Hutson, Los Angeles, Calif.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 179—178)

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This invention relates to a telephone guard, and more particularly to a spring guard for securing the hand sets of hand telephones to the proper cradle therefor against inadvertent or accidental removal.

It is an object of this invention to provide a spring clip for hand set telephones of the general Monophone-type to prevent the removal of the hand set by small children, and for holding the hand set on the base or support against accidental displacement therefrom.

Another object of this invention is to provide a telephone hand set guard which is of a spring-clip type which may be applied to the base or pedestal in a manner which requires no modification of the base or re-work thereof, and which may be readily removed from the hand set and base, leaving them in their original condition.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a telephone hand set guard of this kind which may be readily manufactured at a low cost by simple manufacturing means, as stamping and fabrication, the formation of each guard unit being of a unitary nature which requires no assembly or adjustment, either initially or during and after operative use.

A further object of this invention is to provide a spring-clip hand set guard of this kind which is applicable in its several forms for attachment to the various types of telephone hand set cradles or bases, and is operable in the same manner for each type of hand telephone.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a spring clip which is covered with a suitable coating to prevent scratching or other damage to the telephone pieces while providing for the spring-clip attachment to the supporting means and the spring-clip engagement with the hand set for removably securing the hand set on the base.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portable hand telephone having a telephone hand set guard constructed according to an embodiment of my invention;

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of the hand telephone shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the hand set guard removed from the telephone units;

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Figure 4 is a top plan view of the blank from which the hand set guard is formed;

Figure 5 is a transverse section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a side elevation of a modified form of telephone hand set guard constructed according to an embodiment of this invention for attachment to a second type of hand telephone;

Figure 7 is a top plan view of the telephone base and hand set guard shown in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a rear elevation, partly broken away, of the modified form of telephone and hand set guard;

Figure 9 is a front elevation of the modified form of hand set guard removed from the form of the telephone assembly shown in Figures 6 to 8;

Figure 10 is a transverse section taken on the line 10—10 of Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a perspective view of the modified hand set guard removed from the telephone.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figures 1 to 5, inclusive, of the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally a conventional form of hand telephone including a base member 11 and a removable hand set 12 engageable thereon. The base member 11 is formed with a substantially conical base portion 14 tapering upwardly to form a substantial pedestal or supporting column 15 on the upper end thereof. A cradle 16 is fixedly secured, or preferably formed integrally with, the upper end of the pedestal 15 and extends outwardly therefrom on the opposite sides thereof. The cradle 16 includes a pair of transversely-spaced-apart cradle-forming arms or members 17 at each end thereof for receiving therebetween the handle portion 18 of the hand set 12. The communications switch 19 is slidably supported in the cradle 16 and engages in the upper end of the pedestal 15 to be depressed when the hand set 12 is engaged in the cradle. The lower side of the handle 18 is engaged with the upper side of the switch member 19 for opening the switch in its substantially conventional manner.

A telephone hand set guard 20 formed according to an embodiment of this invention is adapted to be clampingly engaged on the pedestal 15 and engageable over the upper side of the cradle 16 for resiliently securing the handle 18 of the hand set 12 in its nested position within the cradle 17.

The hand set guard 20 is preferably formed of a single sheet of substantially resilient metal or other suitable resilient material which is bent to

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the desired shape to be more particularly described hereinafter, and particularly shown in its blank form in Figure 4 of the drawings.

The blank sheet 21 from which the hand set guard 20 is formed is initially stamped into a flat strip, as clearly shown in Figure 4 of the drawings which includes a substantially rectangular upper portion 22 and a pair of outwardly-extending fingers or bars 24 on the opposite side of the lower end thereof. A vertical or longitudinally-extending bar or arm 25 is formed on the lower end of the rectangular member 22 between the transverse bars 24 and a pair of outwardly-extending fingers or clamping elements 26 are formed on the extreme lower end of the supporting bar 25. The supporting bar 25 will constitute the main supporting member or connection between the upper hand set clamping element, to be described hereinafter, and the lower base or pedestal-engaging member.

After the blank 21 has been bent to the desired shape, as clearly shown in Figure 3 of the drawings, the upper portion or member 22 is dipped into a solution of rubber or other suitable resilient material to define an outer coating 27 on the member 22.

The upper portion 22 of the blank 21 is bent into a downwardly-opening, bowed, resilient clamping member 28 having a downwardly and forwardly-extending entrance lip 29 on the forward end or side thereof. The outwardly-extending fingers or arms 26 are bent into a substantially cylindrical configuration for defining a split clamping member or element 30 formed with forwardly and outwardly-inclined entrance lips 31 on the split ends thereof. The clamping elements 26 on each side of the connecting bar or arm 24 define a pair of vertically-spaced-apart split clamping elements which are engageable about the upper end of the pedestal 15 of the telephone 10 on the respective upper and lower sides of the bead 32 which is formed integrally with the pedestal 15 on the outer periphery thereof, as clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings.

In the use and operation of the telephone hand set guard 20 described above, the clamping member 30 is initially engaged about the pedestal 15 on the base 11 and below the cradle 16. The upwardly-extending arm 25 is positioned on the rear side of the base member 11 and extends upwardly above the upper level of the cradle 16 and the upper ends of the upwardly-extending arms or fingers 17 of the cradle. The pedestal 15 is initially slid between the split ends of the clamping fingers or elements 26 to be positioned within the clamping member 30. The clamping jaw 22 on the upper end of the connecting bar or arm 25 is disposed over the cradle 16 for engagement over the outer surface of the handle 18 of the hand set 12. The outwardly-extending stabilizing arms 24 fixed on the hand set guard 20 below the clamping jaw or element 22 are adapted to be positioned within the cradle 16 on the inner side of the pair of cradle-forming fingers 17.

The clamping member 30 is adapted to be releasably or removably engaged on the pedestal 15, but it is intended that when once applied to the telephone 10, the hand set guard 20 will be permitted to remain thereon for an extended period of time.

In the use of the hand set 12 on the telephone 10 having the hand set guard 20, the handle por-

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tion 18 is adapted to be engaged under the lip 29 for raising the clamping jaw 21 to permit the insertion of the handle 18 between the cradle-forming members 17 and the resilient jaw member 21 will press the hand set 12 downwardly into engagement with the switch 19. For removing the hand set 12 from the cradle 16, the hand set will be rotated about the axis of the handle 18 for resiliently pressing the jaw 28 upwardly and thereby permitting the slidable removal of the hand set 12 forwardly over the forwardmost cradle-forming elements 17.

In Figures 6 to 11, inclusive, there is shown a modified form of this invention wherein the hand set guard 40 is formed for engagement with a modified form of telephone 41. The telephone 41, is formed as a rectangular-type having a substantially rectangular base 42 and a pyramidal pedestal or upper base 44. The upper portion of the base 44 is formed with a rearwardly-opening recess 45 through which the fingers of a person may be engaged for carrying the telephone 41 about as desired. A depending ledge or shoulder 46 is formed on the upper portion of the upper base 44 and extends downwardly on the upper side of the recess 45. A ledge 46 constitutes a finger grip behind which the fingers of a person may be engaged while carrying the telephone 41 for holding the telephone against slipping from his fingers. The upper portion of the base or pedestal 44 constitutes the bottom portion of a cradle 47 on which the hand set 48 is adapted to be seated. The cradle 47 includes a pair of transversely-spaced-apart, upwardly-extending fingers or lugs 49 on the opposite ends thereof between which the handle portion 50 of the hand set 48 is adapted to be engaged for restraining the hand set 48 from sliding movement from the cradle 47.

The hand set guard 40 is formed for engagement within the recess 45 and below the ledge 46 to be extended over the cradle 47 for supporting the hand set 48 thereon. The hand set guard 40 is formed with a lower clamping element 50 for engagement with the base 44 within the recess 45 and an upper clamping jaw 51 for engagement over the intermediate portion of the handle 53 on the hand set 48.

The lower clamping member 50 is formed with a pair of spring-pressed jaws 52 and 54 connected together by a bight portion 55. A downwardly and rearwardly-extending edge 56 on the rear edge of the lower clamping jaw 52 is adapted for engagement with the upper surface of the recess 45 for clampingly securing the hand set guard 40 to the base 44. The connecting member 56 between the lower clamping jaw 52 and upper clamping jaw 54 is arcuate in configuration extending inwardly of the recess 45 and the upper clamping jaw 54 is downwardly offset from the extreme upper end of the connecting member or bight portion 55. The upper clamping jaw 54 is adapted to be seated on the bead or depending bar 46 and the connecting bar 55 is engaged with the clamping jaw 54 being spaced upwardly therefrom inwardly of the transverse bar or finger grip 46.

The upper clamping jaw 51 is formed integrally with the connecting bar 57 extending upwardly from the outer or rear end of the jaw member 54, and is engageable over the handle 53 of the hand set 48. A pair of outwardly-extending stabilizer bars 58 are formed integrally with the connecting bar 57 for engagement within the cradle 47 on the inner side of the rearmost

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upstanding fingers or lugs 49. A downwardly and forwardly-inclined entrance lip 59 is bent forwardly from the extreme forward end of the clamping jaw 51 to provide for the engagement of the handle 53 of the hand set 48 therebelow when it is desired to engage the hand set in the cradle 47.

The use and operation of the hand set guard 40 described above is substantially the same as the use and operation of the hand set guard 20 previously described; the resilient clamp 50 being engageable with the base 44 and the resilient clamping jaw 51 being engageable with the hand set 48 for removably supporting the hand set thereon and for holding the hand set from inadvertent or accidental removal from the cradle 47. The upper portion of the hand set guard 40 is also covered with a suitable rubberized or resilient and flexible covering 60 for protecting the hand set 40 from being scratched or otherwise marred by its continual engagement and disengagement with the resilient clamping jaw 51.

As the square base model of the Monophone base is in the most current and widest use today, it is felt that the telephone hand set guard 50 described above will be most widely accepted.

I do not mean to confine myself to the exact details of construction herein disclosed, but claim all variations falling within the purview of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. The combination with a telephone having a base including a cradle having laterally spaced forks and a hand set having a handle adapted to rest removably in and between the forks, of a clamp comprising a spring having a lower end securably engaging a portion of said base below said cradle and an upper end formed as a downturned hook engaging over the handle of the hand set, said upper end of the spring being tensioned to hold the hand set in place in said forks by means of said hook, said hook being positioned between said forks, a portion of said spring between its lower end and said hook having laterally projecting arms positioned within said forks and engageable along a side of the hand set handle.

2. The combination with a telephone having a base including a cradle having laterally spaced forks and a reduced neck beneath said cradle, and a hand set having a handle adapted to rest removably in and between said forks, of a spring having a lower end and an upper end, clamping means on said lower end of the spring securably embracing said reduced neck, a downturned hook on the upper end of said spring positioned between said cradle forks and engaging over the hand set handle, said hook being downwardly tensioned to hold said hand set in place in said forks, said spring having laterally projecting arms intermediate said upper and lower ends

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positioned within said forks and engaging along a side of the hand set handle.

3. The combination with a telephone having a base including a cradle having laterally spaced forks, the back of said base being formed with a recess including a bottom wall, a vertical wall, and a top wall, a depending ledge at the rear end of said top wall, and a hand set having a handle adapted to removably rest in and between said forks, of a spring having a lower end portion shaped to conformably and expansively engage the bottom, vertical, and top walls of said recess and having a channel portion embracing said ledge whereby said lower portion is positively maintained in said recess, said spring having an upper end portion formed as a forwardly downturned hook engaging over the hand set handle, said hook being downwardly tensioned to hold the hand set in place in the cradle.

4. The combination with a telephone having a base including a cradle having laterally spaced forks, the back of said base being formed with a recess including a bottom wall, a vertical wall, and a top wall, a depending ledge at the rear end of said top wall, and a hand set having a handle adapted to removably rest in and between said forks, of a spring having a lower end portion shaped to conformably and expansively engage the bottom, vertical, and top walls of said recess and having a channel portion embracing said ledge whereby said lower portion is positively maintained in said recess, said spring having an upper end portion formed as a forwardly downturned hook engaging over the hand set handle, said hook being downwardly tensioned to hold the hand set in place in the cradle, said hook being positioned between the cradle forks, and laterally projecting arms on an intermediate portion of said spring positioned within said yokes and extending along the rear side of the hand set handle.

ROBERT J. HUTSON.

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