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D. TROMPETER

1,898,698

STEEL WOOL HOLDER

Filed Nov. 19, 1930

FIG. 1.

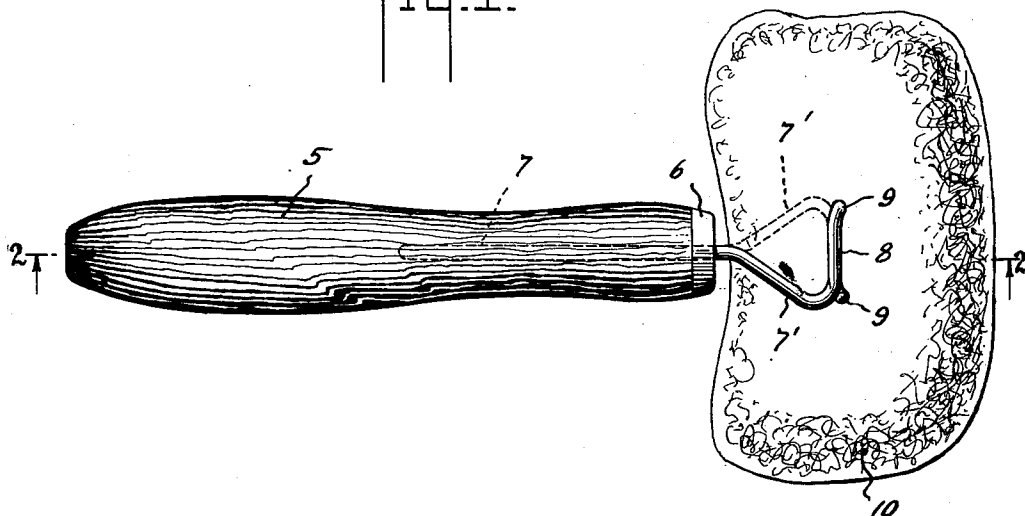


FIG. 2.

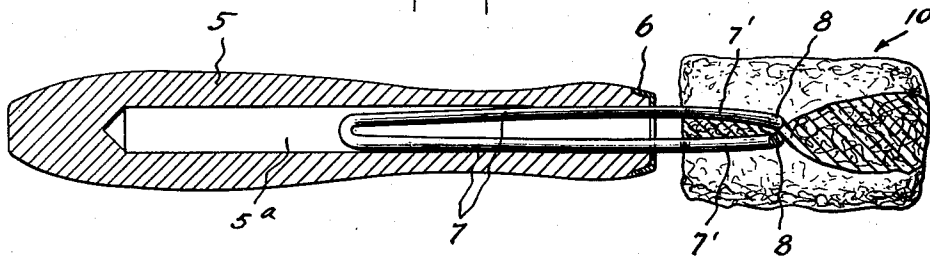


FIG. 3.

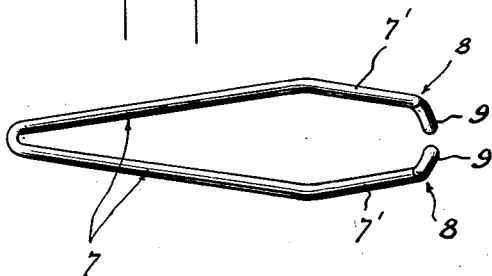
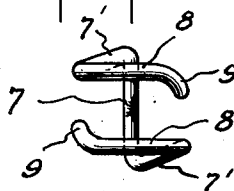


FIG. 4.



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STEEL WOOL HOLDER

Application filed November 19, 1930. Serial No. 496,789.

The subject of this invention is a new and improved applicator for steel wool; and the leading object of the invention is to provide a very inexpensive and conveniently manipulated applicator particularly designed for having a renewable working agent, preferably a mass of steel wool or the like, carried thereby.

A more particular object of the invention is to provide a simple and efficient combination of a preferably bored handle, and a preferably unitary bent wire holder or tool for a mass of steel wool, such holder being of the resilient type and acting as a clamp to seize the wool when inserted in the holder and when the holder is inserted in the bore of the handle after portions at the outer end of the tool have been arranged embracingly of the wool, and when, thereafter, the preferably integral shank portion of the holder has been inserted in said bore and thereby has been squeezed together to grip the wool securely.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter specifically pointed out, or will become apparent, as the specification proceeds.

With the above indicated objects in view, the invention resides in certain novel constructions and combinations and arrangements of parts, clearly described in the following specification and fully illustrated in the accompanying drawing, which latter shows an embodiment of the invention as at present preferred.

In said drawing,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of said embodiment, gripping a mass of steel wool;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a tool made of a unitary length of bent wire, viewed as in Fig. 2, but in expanded condition because removed from the bore of the handle; and

Fig. 4 is an end elevation of said tool, looking to the left in Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawing more in detail, the reference character 5 indicates a wood handle, which is bored as indicated at 5a, and which desirably may include a metal fer-

rule surrounding the open end of the bore, as at 6.

The tool for coaction with such bore in the present case includes a unitary length of spring wire having an intermediate portion bent into an attenuated U-shaped shank 7, upwardly merged preferably into somewhat converging shank-prolongations 7'; such length of wire also having terminal subdivisions shaped to include a pair of oppositely extended lateral extensions 8, and which extensions here have end portions 9 which are offset. Said extensions may well be arranged, as shown, to lie in substantially the same plane, and such plane may well be a plane perpendicular to the axis of the handle. Said end portions 9 are preferably doubly offset as illustrated; that is, oppositely, so that each extends toward the other extension 8 (Fig. 4),—and also away from the plane containing said extension, this last-mentioned shaping being illustrated in the present case (Fig. 3) as such as to cant said end portions 9 both away from the same side on said plane.

The mass of steel wool is indicated at 10. As the parts are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the combination of the handle, tool and steel wool is complete, in working assembly; the shank portion 7—7' being squeezed together by the bore 5a of the handle, and consequently the extensions 8 being forced into close adjacency, with the result that not only is the steel wool clampingly engaged by and between said extensions but the end portions 9 are thrust at their points fairly deep into the wool, and at the same time the natural resiliency of the wool is coacting with the tendency of the legs of the shank portion of the tool to expand to the condition shown in Figs. 3 and 4, to frictionally lock the tool in the handle.

When a new mass of wool is to be substituted, finger pressure against the shank portions 7', to force them abnormally toward each other, will release such frictional lock so that the tool and the wool may be quite easily slipped out of the bore of the handle; whereupon the tool will spring open at the extensions 8 so that the old wool may be easily withdrawn and a new mass of wool easily inserted.

Considerable particularities of description, as to materials, part details, dimensions, capacities and utilities may have been herein indulged in, but it will be understood that these statements made with particular reference to that one, and the one now preferred, of the many possible embodiments of the invention which is illustrated in the drawing, are not in any way to be taken as definitive or
10 limitative of the invention. Inasmuch as many apparently widely different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying
15 drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the language contained in the following claim is intended
20 to cover all the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

25 In other words, the scope of protection contemplated is to be taken solely from the appended claim, interpreted as broadly as is consistent with the prior art.

I claim:

30 In a device of the character described, the combination with a handle having a bore therein, of a tool formed completely from a single length of stiff spring wire, said wire being reversely bent at an intermediate portion to provide an elongate shank including a
35 pair of legs, said shank being slidable into and out of said bore but said legs being urged to a greater separation at the outer end of said shank than the diameter of said bore by the
40 inherent resiliency of said wire, thereby to cause said legs to be frictionally seized by the bore when said shank is inserted therein, said legs adjacent their free ends and beyond the handle when the shank is fully inserted in
45 the bore of the handle being divergently bent away from opposite sides of the plane of resilient spread of said shank, each said leg then being bent laterally of the length of the shank to provide elongate portions adapted
50 to squeeze therebetween an interposed fibrous mass, such squeezing portions being substantially parallel and opposite each other but oppositely extended along a line substantially perpendicular to said plane, each of said legs
55 beyond its squeezing portion carrying a terminally offset portion, said offset portions being oppositely bent so that both project substantially perpendicularly to said line, thereby to constitute spurs to pierce said fibrous
60 mass and so prevent the latter when squeezed between the squeezing portions from shifting relatively thereto.

In testimony whereof I hereby affix my signature.

65 DAVID TROMPETER.