

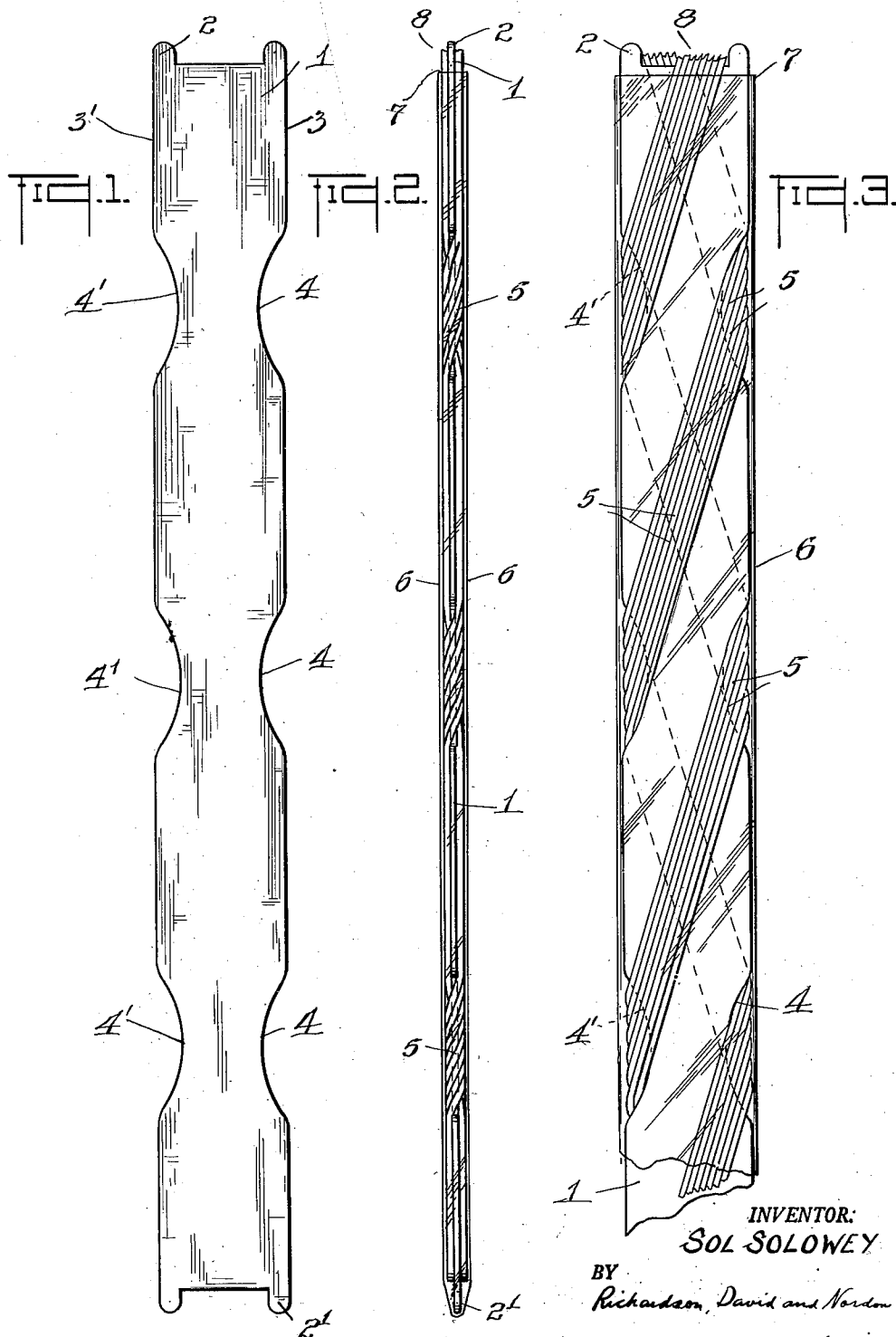
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SUTURE PACKAGE HOLDER

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SUTURE PACKAGE HOLDER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 206—63.3)

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The present invention relates to a suture package holder, and more particularly to a package holder for removable sutures of predetermined length.

Heretofore, no suitable suture package holder has been known for removable sutures of predetermined length. Nor has a suture package holder been known wherein a single suture may be removed without disturbing the other sutures in the holder.

An object of the invention is to provide a suture package holder for sutures of predetermined length.

Another object of the invention is to provide a suture package holder of simple construction.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a suture package holder, in which a single suture may be removed without disturbing the other sutures in the holder.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of the elongated member,

Fig. 2 is a side view of the suture package holder, and

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the suture package holder.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, 1 is an elongated member of metal, resin, cardboard etc., and having U-shaped top and bottom portions 2, 2'. One edge 3 of the elongated member 1 has a plurality of relatively small curved portions 4, while the other edge 3' of the elongated member has a plurality of relatively small curved portions 4'. Preferably, the curved portions 4 are opposed to the curved portions 4'.

A plurality of removable sutures 5 extend spirally in the curved portions 4 and 4' for the entire length of the elongated member 1. Preferably, the sutures extend in alternate curved portions 4 and 4', as is shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

The elongated member 1 and the sutures 5 are enclosed by a wrapper 6 for substantially the entire length of the elongated member 1 and the sutures 5. The wrapper terminates at 7, leaving the sutures exposed, as at 8.

The operation of the device is as follows: The sutures 5 are wound spirally, and preferably in alternate curved portions 4 and 4'. The wrapper 6 is then added to cover the elongated member 1 and the sutures 5 up to the point 7, leaving sutures exposed as at 8. The wrapper is preferably of transparent material, such as cellophane.

A single suture may be removed at 8, without disturbing the remaining sutures due to the spiral arrangement.

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Modifications may be made in carrying out the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, and I am to be limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A suture package holder comprising an elongated member having side edges, each side edge having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in said curved portions of opposite edges for the entire length of said member, and a wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member.

2. A suture package holder comprising an elongated member having side edges, each side edge having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, said curved portions on one edge being in direct opposed positions to the curved portions of the other edge, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in alternate curved portions of each edge for the entire length of said member, and a wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member.

3. A suture package holder comprising an elongated member having side edges, each side having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, said curved portions on one edge being in direct opposed positions to the curved portions of the other edge, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in alternate curved portions for the entire length of said member, and a transparent wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member.

4. A suture package holder comprising an elongated member having side edges, each side edge having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, said curved portions on one edge being in direct opposed positions to the curved portions of the other edge, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in alternate curved portions for the entire length of said member, and a cellophane wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member.

5. A suture package holder comprising an

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elongated member having side edges, each side having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, said curved portions on one edge being in direct opposed positions to the curved portions of the other edge, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in alternate curved portions for the entire length of said member, and a transparent wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member, the top and bottom portions of said member being U-shaped.

6. A suture package holder comprising an elongated metal member having side edges, each side edge having a plurality of relatively small inwardly curved portions, said curved portions on one edge being in direct opposed positions to the curved portions of the other edge, a plurality of removable greater length sutures extending spirally in alternate curved portions for the entire length of said member, and a transparent wrapper for said member and said sutures extending substantially the entire length of said member, said sutures being exposed at least at one end of said member.

7. A suture package holder comprising an elongated member, having opposite edges provided

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with inwardly disposed portions, at least one of said portions having a straight bottom line, a plurality of removable sutures wrapped about said member in the location of the inwardly disposed portions, and a wrapper enclosing the elongated member and sutures leaving the latter exposed along a portion of their length and over the said straight bottom line of the inward portion to indicate where to sever the sutures when shorter lengths are required and to permit access to and withdrawal of a suture from the package.

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