April 5, 1932. E. G. STOCKERT 1,852,223

STROP

Filed March 10, 1930

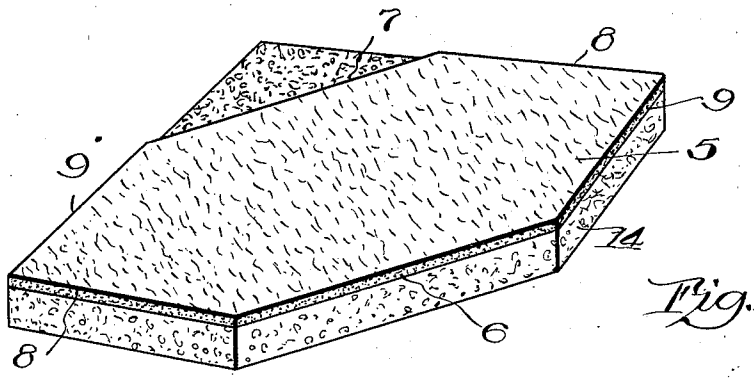

Fig. 1

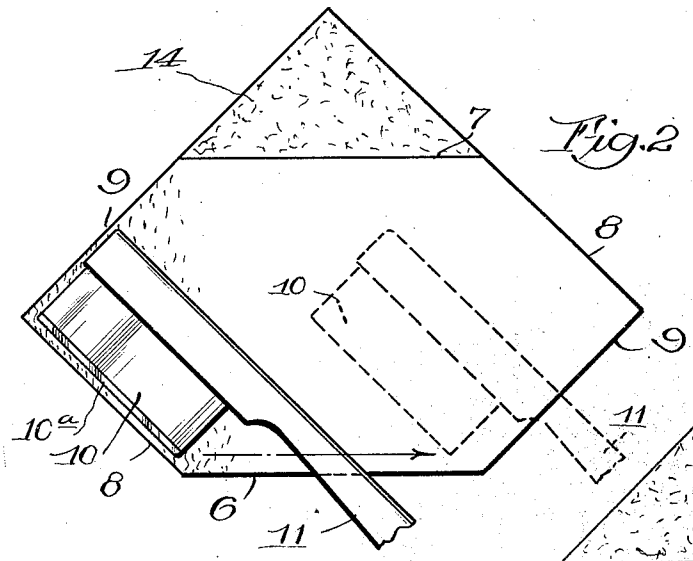

Fig. 2

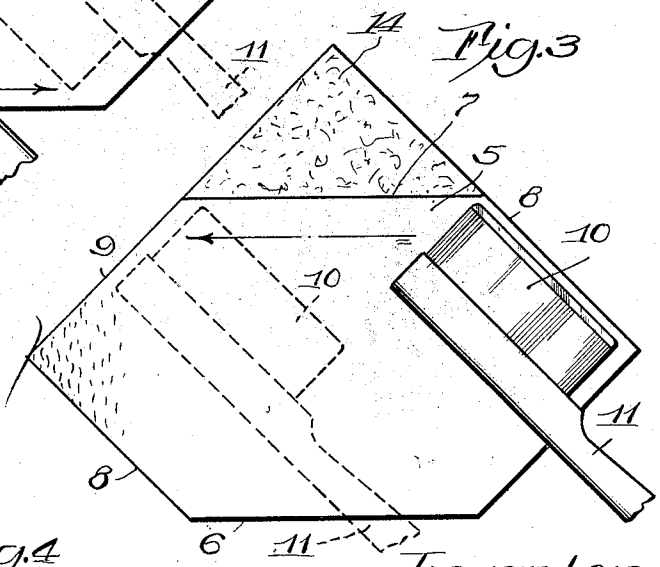

Fig. 3

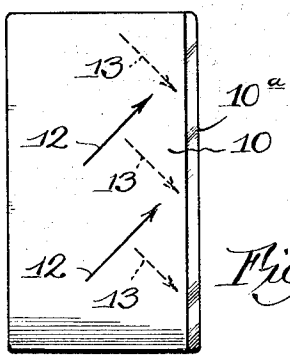

Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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STROP

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My present invention relates to improvements in strops for dressing the edges of fine cutting instruments such as razors. It has been generally known for a very long time that the cutting edges of fine and delicate cutting instruments were minutely serrated, and barbers have generally conformed to this knowledge or theory of the presence of the serrations on the cutting edge by holding the razor at an angle with the strop while stropping, because in shaving with an old fashioned or ordinary razor, the blade is usually held at an angle with the stroke so as to secure a shearing. It is thought, and generally believed, that the shearing action of an ordinary razor is somewhat improved by stropping the razor at an angle with the strop.

When the so-called, safety razor came into generaly use a diversity of opinion arose as to the proper method of stropping the blades, because, with safety razors the blade is, more generally, held at right angles with the direction of the stroke when shaving. One theory with respect to the stropping of safety razors is that as the razor is held at right angles to the stroke in shaving the blade should likewise be held at right angles to the stroke in stropping, and the other theory is that inclining the minute serrations upon the cutting edge more or less obliquely to the cutting edge is of as much advantage in stropping a safety razor as in stropping an ordinary razor.

I have found that for the best and most uniform and dependable results with both old fashioned or ordinary and safety razors the serrations upon the cutting edge influenced by stropping in one direction should be as nearly at right angles as possible with the serrations influenced by stropping the razor upon the other face.

My present invention has for its object the provision of simple means in a strop for razors and other fine edged tools for dependably securing a right angled disposition of the serrations upon the cutting edge in a strop which will be sufficiently yielding to conform to the cutting edge of the blade while stropping.

I have attained the foregoing objects and results by means of the strop illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a strop embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan of the structure shown in Fig. 1 showing the disposition of the razor in full and dotted lines at the commencement and end of a stropping stroke from left to right;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 in which the razor is shown in full and dotted lines at the beginning and end of a stropping stroke from right to left; and

Fig. 4 is a plan of a blade showing the angle of the stroke from left to right to the cutting edge by means of arrows in full lines and the angle of the stroke from right to left to the cutting edge by means of arrows in dotted lines.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the respective views.

My strop consists of a piece of pig skin, or other suitable leather, prepared and dressed in accordance with the usual practice in order to condition it for performing the functions of a strop. This piece of leather, or strop, 5 is longitudinally extended, that is provided with opposite parallel longitudinal edges 6 and 7, terminating at its respective ends in converging edges 8 and 9, which are at right angles to each other.

I have illustrated the operation of my strop in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 in connection with a safety razor blade 10, shown in Figs. 2 and 3, assembled with a stropping holder 11.

In stropping, commencing with the stroke from left to right, the cutting edge 10*a* of the razor blade 10 is placed parallel with the adjacent end edge 8 of the strop and at right angles to the adjacent end edge 9. The blade is then moved from left to right parallel with the edges 6 and 7, as shown by the arrows in Fig. 2, until it reaches the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The blade and handle are then rolled over with the handle as a back until the blade assumes the position shown in full lines in Fig. 3. The blade is then moved from right to left parallel with the edges 6 and 7, as shown by the dotted lines

in Fig. 3. At the end of this stroke the holder is then rotated on its back, which brings the razor in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 2 for another stroke from left to right.

In Fig. 4 the angle of stroke, when stropping as above described, to the cutting edge in a left to right stroke is shown by the arrows 12 in full lines and the angle of the stroke from right to left is shown by the arrows 13 in dotted lines, and as will be seen, these strokes are at substantial right angles and will be found to produce most dependably and uniformly the requisite cutting edges of greatest sharpness.

I am aware that strops are generally held in a more or less swinging condition and also sometimes padded so as to secure the most intimate yielding contact between the strop and blade during stropping. I have secured a similar, but I believe improved, yielding action of the strop by mounting the same upon a base 14 of sponge or gassed rubber. The base 14 I provide in the form of a square, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, with one corner thereof truncated along a longitudinal edge of the strop 5 and having the opposite right angle corners of the base conforming with the right angle end edges 8 and 9 of the strop. Such a strop may be conveniently placed upon any suitable supporting surface or held in the hand while stropping.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the drawings it will be seen that I have provided extremely simple instrumentalities in a strop for securing a right angled relation of the strokes in stropping edged tools.

Having described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A strop for dressing the edges of cutting instruments having parallel longitudinal edges for guiding the movement of the instrument upon the strop and ends the edges whereof converge at right angles for indicating the relation of the cutting edge to the direction of movement during stropping.

2. A strop for dressing the edges of cutting instruments comprising a base of sponge or gassed rubber, the plan whereof is square with a truncated corner and a leather mounted upon said base having parallel edges one whereof coincides with the truncated corner of said base and the ends whereof coincide with opposite corners of said base.

EDWARD G. STOCKERT.