No. 617,929. Patented Jan. 17, 1899.

O. E. FOWBLE.

FINGER SHIELD OR PROTECTOR.

(Application filed Aug. 22, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

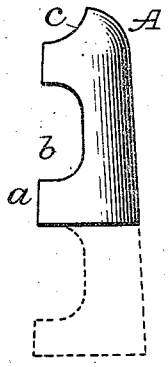


Fig. 2.

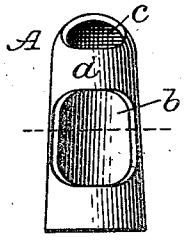


Fig. 3.

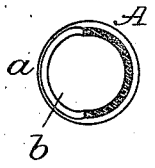


Fig. 4.

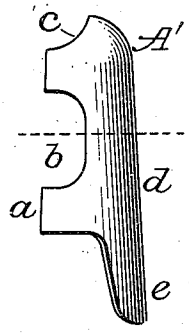
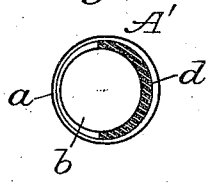


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OTIS EDWIN FOWBLE, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CHARLES C. McLEAN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

FINGER SHIELD OR PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 617,929, dated January 17, 1899.

Application filed August 22, 1898. Serial No. 689,259. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OTIS EDWIN FOWBLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Finger Shields or Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

My improvements relate to finger shields or protectors to be worn by bricklayers, stonemasons, or those engaged in handling material of any kind liable to gall or chafe the fingers.

Gloves for covering the fingers and palm of the hand have been heretofore devised for the same or similar purpose, and the finger portions of ordinary gloves have been used by those engaged in building operations to prevent injury to the fingers incident to the handling of brick, stone, &c. The material of which these devices have been made is necessarily thin and flexible in order to admit of a free bending of the fingers and is consequently soon worn or cut through by constant contact with the rough hard surface of the material handled. A finger-protector constructed in the ordinary manner, but of a material sufficiently thick or tough to withstand the wear to which they are subjected, while affording better protection, would be too rigid or stiff to admit of a free bending of the fingers necessary for the proper handling of brick, &c., in building operations.

The object of my invention is to so construct a finger shield or protector as to admit of the use of a thicker and more rigid material than heretofore employed without in any manner interfering with the bending of the finger, and this I accomplish by cutting away a portion of the shield or protector, at the back thereof, at a point to register with the knuckle or joint of the finger. By this means that portion of the shield or protector offering the greatest resistance to bending is removed and the portion to be bent is so reduced in size as to offer little or no resistance without in the least imparing the value of the shield as a protecting medium.

After a detailed description of my invention the features deemed novel will be duly specified in the claims hereunto annexed.

Referring to the drawings, Figures 1, 2, and 3 in side, rear, and sectional views, respectively, illustrate a finger protector or shield embodying my invention. Figs. 4 and 5, in side and sectional views, respectively, illustrate a finger shield or protector similar to that of Fig. 1, but having an extension at its lower front portion for affording protection to the finger beyond the second joint.

The protector or shield A of Fig. 1, 2, and 3 is a tubular structure adapted to be worn upon the outer end or tip of a finger or thumb and is preferably composed of vulcanized india-rubber of a sufficient degree of hardness to properly withstand the wear incident to the handling of brick, stone, or other material used in building operations. The rear portion *a* of the protector is cut away, as at *b*, at a point to register with the knuckle or joint of the finger or thumb, and at the tip or outer end thereof it is provided with an opening *c* to form an outlet for sand and grit liable to find its way between the protector and finger of the wearer. By this construction I am enabled to make a protector or shield of thicker and more rigid material than heretofore employed without in any manner interfering with the free bending of the finger and shield.

In Figs. 4 and 5 I have illustrated a protector or shield A′ similar in construction to that of Figs. 1, 2, and 3 except that the front portion *d* is reinforced or made thicker than the rear portion *a* and is provided with an extension *e* to afford protection to a portion of the finger beyond the second joint, as clearly shown.

Where it is desirable, the protector may be made of sufficient length to cover the entire finger, in which case two openings will be required to register with the first and second joints of the finger, as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

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

1. A finger shield or protector consisting of a tubular body composed of flexible material adapted to fit over the end or tip of a finger or thumb and having an opening in the rear or back portion thereof to register with the

knuckle or joint of the finger or thumb whereby the shield is permitted to bend at said joint, substantially as described.

2. A finger shield or protector consisting of a tubular body composed of flexible material adapted to fit over the end or tip of a finger or thumb, and having a thick or reinforced front or inner portion and a thinner back or outer portion, the latter being cut away at a point to register with the knuckle or joint of a finger or thumb whereby the shield is permitted to bend at said joint, substantially as described.

3. A finger shield or protector consisting of a tubular body composed of flexible material adapted to fit over the tip or end of a finger or thumb, and having an opening in the back or rear portion thereof to register with the knuckle or joint of a finger or thumb whereby the shield is permitted to bend at said joint and an extension at the lower inner or front portion thereof, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a finger shield or protector consisting of a tubular body composed of vulcanized india-rubber or similar material, adapted to fit over the tip or end of a finger or thumb, and having an opening in the end or tip thereof and an opening in the back or rear portion to register with the knuckle or joint of a finger or thumb whereby the shield is permitted to bend at said joint, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

OTIS EDWIN FOWBLE.

Witnesses:
M. G. MOOR,
F. E. AUSTIN.