Aug. 9, 1966 E. L. GORDON 3,265,078

DEVICE FOR HANDLING DENTURES

Filed May 26, 1964

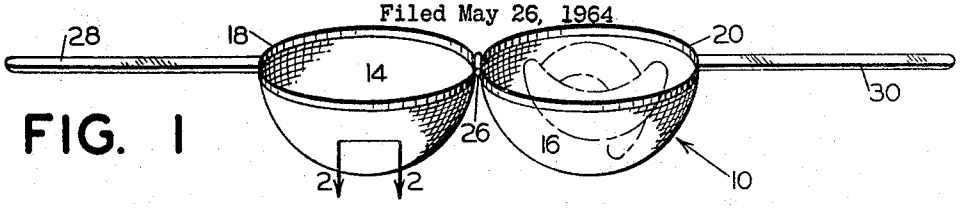


FIG. 1

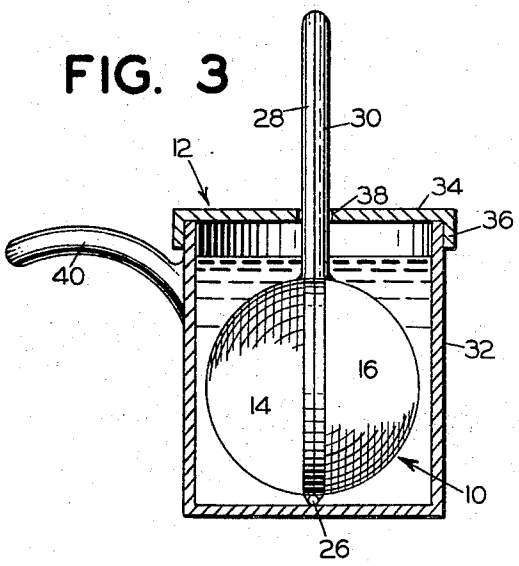
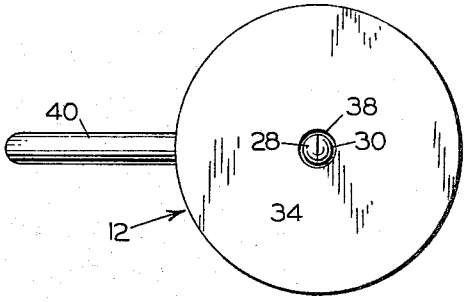


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



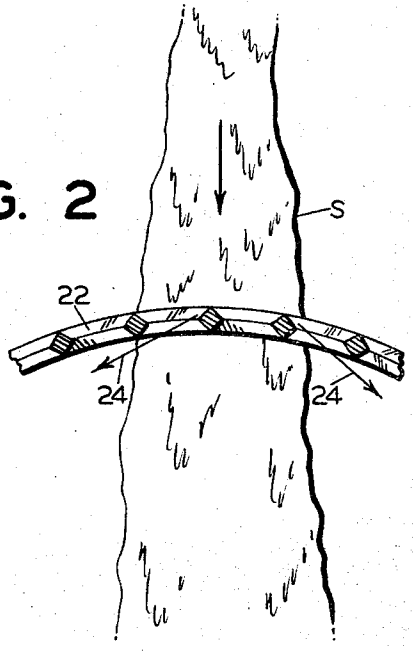


FIG. 2

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DEVICE FOR HANDLING DENTURES

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The present invention relates to a device for handling dentures.

A primary objective of the present invention is to provide a device for handling dentures wherein cleaning of said dentures can be accomplished without touching them once they have been removed from the mouth.

Another object is to provide a device of the type described which employs a first holder comprising a pair of denture receiving receptacles connected together in hinged relation and adapted to be closed by hingedly moving them together for confining dentures therein; and further to provide a lattice or perforate type wall structure for said receptacles wherein a cleaning fluid may be forced therethrough to accomplish an initial cleaning of the dentures; and further yet to provide said receptacles with handle members arranged to be disposed in closely associated, parallel relation when the receptacles are closed whereby the latter are adapted to be held closed when being handled.

A further object is to provide a device for handling dentures having a pair of perforate receptacles as aforesaid and including an imperforate soaking container arranged to receive said receptacles in closed position, said container having a cover provided with an aperture arranged to receive the handles of said receptacles in their closely associated relation to hold the latter closed when disposed in the container.

It is still a further object to provide a device of the type described employing a pair of denture receiving receptacles which have lattice or perforate type walls of a novel construction such that there is a minimum of back splash of cleaning fluid forcefully projected through the receptacles from their outer surface.

Briefly stated, the invention comprises a first holder which comprises a pair of perforate receptacles hingedly connected together and having open ends which are adapted to be closed by pivoting the receptacles together. Dentures are confined in the first holder for initial cleaning which may be accomplished by forcing a cleaning fluid through the perforate receptacles. Each of the receptacles has a handle, and these handles are disposed in closely associated relation when the receptacles are closed. The invention also includes a second holder comprising an imperforate soaking container in which the first holder may be inserted when in closed condition. The second holder has a cover provided with an aperture for receiving both the handles of the receptacles to maintain the latter in closed condition when disposed in the second holder.

The invention will be better understood and additional objects will become apparent from the following specification and claim, considered together with the accompanying drawings, wherein the numerals of reference indicate like parts and wherein, in the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the first holder and showing the two receptacles in open condition;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary, sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1 and showing in particular the lattice-type structure of the first holder;

FIGURE 3 is a central, vertical, sectional view of the second holder and showing the first holder placed therein; and

FIGURE 4 is a top plan view of the second holder.

Referring now in particular to the drawings, the numeral **10** designates generally the first holder and the numeral **12** designates generally the second holder. The first holder comprises a pair of receptacles **14** and **16** which are semi-

spherical in shape and have reinforcing rim portions **18** and **20**, respectively, defining an open end of the receptacles.

The wall portions of the receptacles **14** and **16** comprise a lattice-type structure of crossed strips **22**, best shown in FIGURE 2. In a preferred construction, the cross strips **22** are secured to each other and in cross section assume a shape which reduces to a minimum the amount of back splash of a cleaning fluid which may be directed forcefully through the receptacles from their outer surfaces. That is, instead of providing a lattice work of flat strips wherein the faces of the strips are disposed in the plane of the surface of the receptacles, there are employed strips which are rectangular in cross section and disposed such that their flat face portions are not in the plane of said surfaces. Instead, the strips are disposde so that a corner thereof is directed outwardly and, as illustrated in FIGURE 2, when a stream of water, designated by the reference character S, is directed through the receptacle there will be little or no back splash. Thus, substantially all of a washing fluid will pass through the receptacles to provide efficient washing of dentures in the receptacles. There of course will be a slight amount of side splash from the side surfaces of the strips **22**, in the direction of arrows **24**, but such side splash produces angular jets of washing fluid to assist in cleaning the dentures.

The rectangular cross sectional configuration of the strips **22** is only illustrative herein, and it is to be understood that other constructions may be used. For example, the use of round or elliptical strips may be employed since such strip constructions would also produce a minimum of back splash.

The receptacles **14** and **16** are interconnected by a hinge **26** and are adapted to be rotated together in a closed condition wherein the rims **18** and **20** are in abutment. These receptacles have handles **28** and **30**, respectively, leading integrally from the rims which in the closed condition of the receptacles are in closely associated, parallel relation.

The second holder **12** comprises an imperforate container **32** adapted to hold a soaking solution. This container has an open upper end arranged to be closed by a cover **34**. Cover **34** has a downwardly depending peripheral flange **36** engageable with the upper end of the container when the cover is installed thereon. The cover is not fixedly connected to the container **32**.

Cover **34** has a central aperture **38** of a size slightly larger than the combined dimension of the two handles **28** and **30** whereby when the holder **10** is closed and inserted in the holder **12** the cover **34** may be inserted in place with the handles **28** and **30** projecting through the aperture **38**. This serves to maintain the holder **10** in a closed condition when disposed in the holder **12**. Container **32** has an integral handle **40** by means of which it may be carried.

In the use of the present invention the dentures are first inserted in one of the receptacles **14** and **16** and the other receptacle closed over the first receptacle. With the dentures confined therein, and with the operator grasping the holder by the handles **28** and **30**, said holder may be held under a faucet to provide a preliminary cleaning of the dentures, or if desired the holder may be reciprocated in a body of liquid to accomplish the same purpose.

After this initial cleaning step the holder **10** is inserted in the container **32** while still in a closed condition and then the cover **34** inserted on said container with the handles **28** and **30** projecting through the aperture **38**. The holder **10** is thus maintained in a closed condition and the dentures are permitted to remain in a soaking liquid in the container. After the soaking step has been completed, the cover **34** is removed and the holder **10** removed from the container **32** for removal of the dentures. The den-

tures may again be rinsed in clear water while still in holder **10** to remove all cleaning fluid.

By means of the present invention there is provided efficient means for handling dentures for cleaning and soaking and in addition reduces to a minimum the physical handling of the dentures either by the patient or by an attendant.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herein shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A device for handling and cleaning dentures comprising a first holder including a pair of receptacles each having an open end, hinge means connecting said receptacles together adjacent said open ends whereby said receptacles are arranged to be pivoted away from each other to provide an open position of said first holder to receive dentures to be cleaned and arranged to be pivoted together with their open ends in registry to provide a closed position of said first holder to confine dentures therein, each of said receptacles having a plurality of apertures therein for admitting a cleaning fluid, a handle on each of said receptacles of substantially equal length and of substantially uniform cross sectional dimension throughout their length, said handles in the closed position of said first holder being disposed in abutting relation, a second holder having an open upper end and comprising an imperforate container

of a size to freely receive said first holder in closed condition with the handles of the latter projecting upwardly, and a cover arranged for removable mounting on the upper end of said second holder, said cover having a central aperture, the handles on said receptacles being of a sufficient length to project above the upper end of said second holder, the combined cross sectional dimension of said handles being less than the diameter of said cover aperture for reception therein whereby said cover is arranged to be slidably moved down over the projecting ends of said handles for mounting on the second holder and for holding the said handles in abutting relation to maintain the first holder in closed position when the receptacles thereof are disposed in said second holder.

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