Aug. 19, 1969 H. W. COVENEY 3,461,885

COSMETIC FINGERNAIL MASK ASSEMBLY

Filed May 9, 1967

Fig. 1

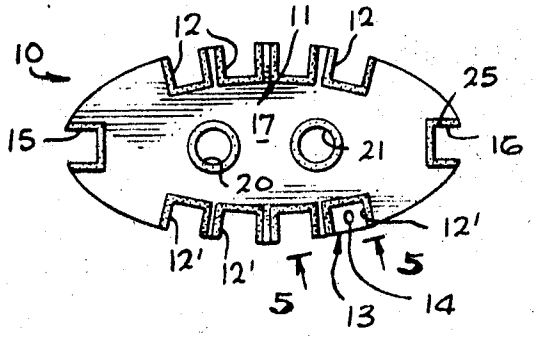


Fig. 2

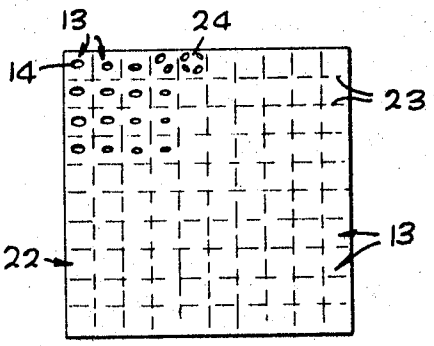


Fig. 3

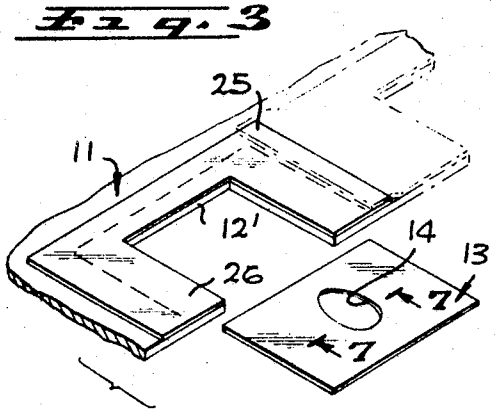


Fig. 5

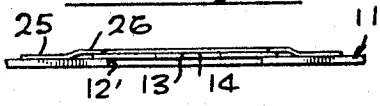


Fig. 6

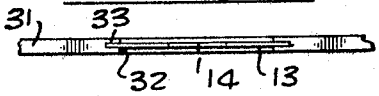


Fig. 7

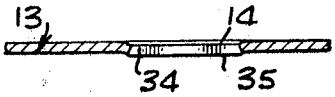


Fig. 8

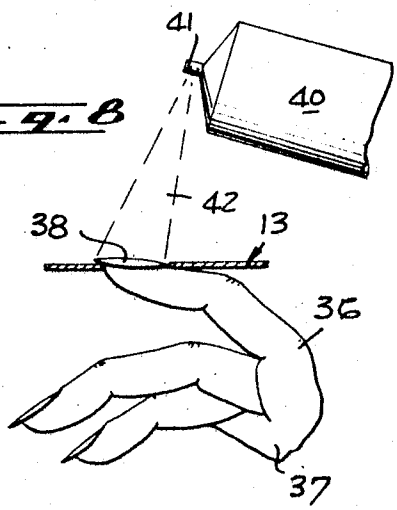
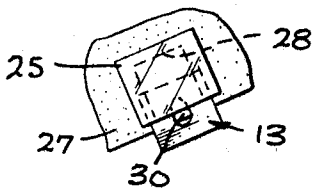


Fig. 4



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COSMETIC FINGERNAIL MASK ASSEMBLY

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The cosmetic fingernail mask assembly disclosed herein provides a base member having a plurality of receptacles disposed about the perimeter thereof for insertably receiving individual masks or templates. Each mask is formed with a preformed aperture shaped to correspond to the user's particular fingernail contour or shape so that only the nail portion of the finger is exposed from one side of the mask towards which a relatively narrow spray of a cosmetic preparation is directed. A central portion of the base member is formed with a pair of openings adapted to receive the thumbs of the user's hand so that the entire assembly can be hand-held. The central openings may include receptacles for insertably receiving selected masks therein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to an improved fingernail mask for use in manicuring or pedicuring and, more particularly, to a novel hand-held device which will enable women to decorate and treat their fingernails without affecting the skin or cuticle and without encountering unnecessary sputtering or undesired deposition of the cosmetic agent. The invention has application for uses in instances where coloring, staining, tinting or lacquering is applied to the nail and it is desired to prevent the tint, stain, lacquer or pigment or other material from coloring the adjacent flesh surrounding the nail.

Description of the prior art

In present cosmetic applications, it is desirable to apply various types of nail polishes or other types of cosmetic preparations directly to the fingernails for decorative purposes by means of a spray. Normally, the spray is dispensed from a container in bursts of relatively short duration. However, such sprays are difficult to control and frequently result in deposition of the cosmetic agent upon the fingers or portions thereof away from the nails and are not restricted to application to the nails. At the present time, various desirable lacquers, stains and pigments cannot be employed for the purpose of manicuring or pedicuring or decoration because these substances frequently impregnate and stain the flesh readily and are not easily removed.

Although a variety of masks and templates have been provided in the past to overcome these difficulties, such previously provided masks employ standard preformed apertures through which the fingernail is disposed. However, inasmuch as no two individuals have fingernails of identical shape and form, no standard template or mask has been developed which will accommodate or be common to all users. Consequently, whenever fingernail masks of previous design have been employed, these masks are not individually suited in contour and shape to perfectly match the fingernail contour and shape of the user so that various portions of the skin adjacent to the fingernail are exposed to receive undesired amounts of the cosmetic preparation. By use of the present invention, however, it is possible to employ many lacquers, stains and pigments not now employed because contact between the flesh and such stains or pigments is completely prevented by the use of templates or masks which are selected by the user and individually matched to the shape and contour of the user's fingernails.

Illustrations of prior art masks and devices which suffer from the aforementioned problems and difficulties are represented in the devices set forth in U.S. Letters Patent 2,323,145; 2,722,224; 3,130,734; 2,709,443; and 2,396,154.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the novel cosmetic fingernail mask assembly of the present invention obviates the problems encountered with conventional finger masking devices which provide a plurality of individual stencils or masks which are detachably connected together in the form of a sheet wherein each stencil or mask is formed with an opening of different size so as to correspond in general contour with the specific shape of a user's fingernail. Selected ones of the stencils are adapted to be insertably received within selected ones of a plurality of receptacles formed about the periphery of a base member so that an assemblage is produced comprising a plurality of the selected masks which are individually matched to correspond with the fingernails of the right and left hands of the user and the thumb nails of the right and left hands of the user.

Once the user's fingernails have been inserted into the apertures provided in each of the masks, the assemblage can be hand-held in the hand presenting the fingernails to be sprayed, while the other hand is employed to operate a spray container holding the cosmetic preparation. The spray issuing from the container is intended to be a spray of relatively narrow beam so that the preparation will be applied directly to the nail and not to surrounding structure of the assemblage or onto the garment or other portions of the user's body.

Therefore, it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a novel cosmetic fingernail assemblage adapted to accommodate a plurality of individual stencils, each having a preformed aperture to receive a selected nail of the user's hand and which provides close adherence to the adjacent surrounding flesh of the nail so as to prevent seepage of the cosmetic preparation against the flesh.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel cosmetic fingernail assemblage incorporating a plurality of individually shaped apertured masks or stencils wherein the edge marginal region of the aperture is compressible so as to make a close and practically impermeable junction between the outer edge defining the aperture and the cuticle so that liquid, lacquer or other cosmetic preparation will be prevented from leaking or seeping beneath the mask into contact with the flesh.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a novel cosmetic fingernail mask arrangement which may be readily held by the hand of the user that may be readily fitted to the individual fingernails of the hand and which will permit spray application of a cosmetic preparation directly to the nails with assurance that a predetermined pattern will be formed thereon and without the need of masking tapes or adhesive securing means.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a novel fingernail mask assembly incorporating a base member having a plurality of receptacles for receiving selected ones of a plurality of fingernail masks which are provided in the form of a sheet having perforations separating the variety of masks so that a variety of sizes and shapes of fingernails may be readily coated with a cosmetic preparation by liquid pressure spray with assurance that a predetermined configuration will result on the fingernails and without deposition of the cosmetic preparation upon the unwanted finger areas.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the novel cosmetic spray mask holder incorporated in the assemblage of the present invention showing a plurality of receptacles adapted to insertably receive selected and individual fingernail masks;

FIGURE 2 is an elevational view illustrating a stencil sheet having a variety of individual stencils or masks, each having perforations therebetween to permit their separate detachment;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the holder shown in FIGURE 1 illustrating a typical mask receptacle incorporated thereon and a separate mask preparatory to being inserted therein;

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to that of FIGURE 3 illustrating an alternate version of a mask receptacle;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged side view of a mask receptacle as taken in the direction of arrows 5—5 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 6 is a side view of another embodiment of a mask receptacle;

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view of a fingernail mask shown in FIGURE 3 as taken in the direction of arrows 7—7 thereof; and

FIGURE 8 is a perspective view of the mask employed in a typical application of a cosmetic spray being applied directly to a fingernail of a user.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring in detail to the drawings, and with respect to FIGURE 1 in particular, in which like characters of reference denote similar and like parts throughout the several views thereof, the novel cosmetic fingernail mask assembly of the present invention is illustrated in the general direction of arrow **10**. The assemblage includes a base member **11** preferably of oblong configuration composed of form-sustaining but flexible material, such as Celluloid, other plastic material, fiber or cardboard (treated or untreated), metal or the like having its peripheral edge formed with a series of spaced notches or recesses **12** which constitute a plurality of receivers.

The base member **11** is a relatively stiff thin sheet having opposite planar surfaces somewhat palette-form in shape wherein four receivers **12** are provided along the edge marginal region on one side of the base member and four receivers **12'** are provided along the opposite edge marginal regions of the palette in opposite alignment relationship. Each of the receivers is formed to open outwardly so that each receiver is adapted to insertably accept a selected stencil or mask **13**. Each of the selected stencils or masks **13** are preformed with an aperture **14** of suitable shape and contour generally corresponding to the area of a fingernail to be coated with a desired cosmetic preparation.

The four finger receptacles **12** along one edge of the base member **11** are adapted to receive stencils or masks **13** having apertures **14** formed therein suitable to accommodate the four fingernails of the left hand while the four finger receivers **12'** on the opposite edge of the base member **11** are adapted to receive another set of stencils or masks having apertures **14** formed therein adapted to correspond to the four fingernails of the right hand. A pair of receptacles **15** and **16** are provided at the extreme opposite ends of the base member **11** and are adapted to receive suitable stencils or masks **13** having apertures therein for receiving the right and left thumb nails respectively.

Each mask **13** includes a preformed aperture **14** which is sized to receive therein only the fingernail of a particular finger with the peripheral edge of the mask defining the aperture extending between the underside of the nail tip and the adjacent flesh of the finger.

A central portion of the base member **11** as indicated by numeral **17** includes a pair of openings **20** and **21** which may be employed to be used by the thumb of one hand when the fingers of that hand are disposed within the apertures of the respective masks associated with one side of the base member. For example, when the fingernails of one hand are within the respective apertures of the mask retained within receivers **12**, thumb hole **21** may be employed so that the assemblage is carried and supported by one hand of the user. However, when the fingernails of the other hand are in the apertures of masks disposed within receptacles **12'**, the thumb of that hand may be placed through opening **20** so that the assemblage is hand-held. Furthermore, when the thumb nail of one hand is within the aperture of a mask carried in receiver **16**, the index finger of that hand may be located through the opening **21** so that the assemblage is supported by that hand. The mask within receiver **15** and opening **20** may be employed in the same fashion as for the thumb and index finger of the other hand.

A modification to the base member **11** may be made by forming the openings **20** and **21** into receivers so as to accept the insertion of a selected mask or stencil **13** whereby the thumb nail may be exposed through the aperture of the mask when the fingernails of the fingers of the same hand are disposed within apertures of masks associated with either of the finger mask receptacles located along either one of the opposite edges of the base member. The construction of such a receiver or receptacle will be described later. When this modification is employed, receivers **15** and **16** need not be provided on the base member.

Referring now to FIGURE 2, a plurality of stencils or masks **13** are arranged in a sheet **22** in a predetermined arrangement of rows and columns with perforations indicated by numeral **23** between the respective masks so as to permit detachment thereof from the sheet. Preferably, the sheet **23** and hence the individual masks **13**, is made of any suitable semi-rigid or rigid material which can easily be manipulated to fit snugly and tightly under and about the tip of the nail and along the flesh adjacent the nail. Each individual mask includes the aperture **14** which is different in size and contour from other mask apertures provided in the sheet. Each opening or aperture corresponds generally with the contour of the nail of one of the fingers. However, in some instances, it may be the user's desire to decorate the nail with a pattern and to this end, some of the masks, as represented by numeral **24**, may be provided with several apertures so that an overall composite design may be produced to so decorate the individual's nails.

A primary feature of the invention resides in the fact that the individual may readily select certain ones of the masks having the exact size and contoured aperture corresponding to the size and contour of an individual fingernail. In this manner, the individual may detach selected masks from the sheet and insert these selected ones into the receivers on the base member **11**. In this fashion, the apertures **14** may vary in size from different individual masks to accommodate the different shapes of nails. The individual masks are readily detached by means of the perforations **23** and when so detached, leave a border of mask material about each aperture of sufficient dimension to cover the cuticle and the flesh around the nail and to protect the same from any contact with the cosmetic preparation that may be employed.

Referring now to FIGURE 3, a receiver **12** is illustrated which is formed at the edge of base **11** and is completed by means of a U-shaped sheet **25** which is adhesively secured about the notch so as to leave a por-

tion of the sheet immediately surrounding the notch unsecured from the base **11** whereby a flap indicated by numeral **26** is provided. The sheet is formed with a cut-out substantially corresponding to the notch. The flap **26** may be readily raised to accept the insertion of the mask **13** between its undersurface and the upper surface of the base member **11** immediately surrounding the notch **12**. The flap is directed to substantially lie against the base **11** until the thickness of the mask **13** causes the flap to raise slightly as the mask is forcibly urged into the receiver. Sufficient binding will occur between the thickness of the mask and the flap due to the adhesive securement of the sheet **25** to the base member so that the inserted mask will be retained within the receiver during use. The pressure of flap **26** against an inserted mask **13** is shown in FIGURE 5. Sheet **25** may be composed of any suitable material such as paper, plastic or the like. Adjacent receiver sheets may overlap along common edge marginal regions so that the base member portions between adjacent notches are reinforced and stiffened.

Referring now to FIGURE 4, a modification of the invention is shown wherein the U-shaped sheet **25** is shown as being adhesively attached on three sides to a base member **27** which is provided with a hole **28** of smaller dimension than the sheet. The open end of the sheet **25** is adapted to slidably receive the mask **13**. The distinction between the base member **11** and the base member **27** resides in the fact that base member **27** provides a segment **30** of material between the hole **28** and the edge of the base member. Such construction gives added rigidity to the base member and therefore improves support for holding the base member and the assemblage of masks in the hand of the user.

Referring now to FIGURE 6, another embodiment of a receiver for accepting an individual mask **13** from the sheet **22** is illustrated wherein a base member **31** includes a notch **32** opening through the edge thereof. The edges of the notch **32** are provided with a continuous slot **33** into which the edge marginal regions on opposite sides of a selected mask are slidably inserted. The mask is held in place by the friction encountered by its dimensional thickness with respect to the width of the slot **33** in a form of interference type fit. If more convenient, the base member may be composed of three layers of material such that the inner layer sandwiched between the two outer layers is shorter in dimension than the outer layers so as to provide a gap constituting the slot **33**.

Referring now to FIGURE 7, each mask **13** is formed with the aperture **14** wherein the edge of the mask defining the aperture is slightly inclined or tapered to form a slightly downwardly projecting contoured ridge **34**. The extreme edge **35** of the ridge comes into direct contact with the surface of the nail and as the user applies more or less pressure against the underside of the mask, the edge **35** will advance or retract in minute increments so that the user can be assured that the mating edge **35** with the fingernail extends precisely along the fingernail line adjacent the flesh.

In FIGURE 8, a typical application of the mask **13** is illustrated in which a finger **36** of the user's hand **37** is deployed beneath the undersurface of the mask **13** so that only a fingernail **38** is exposed from the upper side of the mask **13**. A pressure container **40** containing a quantity of liquid cosmetic preparation is provided with a spray nozzle **41** for dispensing a spray **42** of the cosmetic preparation. It is to be particularly noted that the spray beam is narrow and confined so that the preparation is deposited only on the nail **38**. However, the preparation may also be deposited on the mask without fear of spoiling the preparation deposited on the nail.

Therefore, it can be seen that the cosmetic mask assemblage of the present invention is particularly suited to the individual requirements of a user and that the exposure of a particular fingernail is precise so that the exposed portion of the nail may be the only portion of the finger available to receive a deposit of the preparation. The assemblage may be held in either hand of the user and supported thereby. A variety of masks, such as employed on sheet **22**, may be readily detached therefrom and readily inserted in the receptacles provided.

What is claimed is:

1. In a cosmetic mask assemblage adapted to expose the fingernails of the user to the deposition of a cosmetic preparation while interfering with and blocking the deposition from flesh areas surrounding the fingernails, the combination comprising:

an oblong shaped base member having a plurality of notches formed about the edge thereof in fixed spaced apart relationship;

a plurality of masks, each having an aperture formed therein adapted to expose a fingernail from one side of said mask;

a receiver secured to said base member at the location of each of said notches adapted to slidably receive and retain a selected one of said masks; and wherein

each of said masks includes a continuous downwardly depending ridge having a terminating edge defining the size and contour of said aperture adapted to engage with the edge portion of the fingernail and bear thereagainst whereby upward pressure urged by the finger causes said ridge to be movably displaced inwardly to reduce the size of said aperture and whereby release of finger pressure causes said ridge to assume its natural location to increase the size of said aperture so as to assure a precise corresponding fit between said terminating edge and the mating line of flesh and the fingernail.

2. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein

said plurality of masks are arranged in a predetermined order of rows and columns constituting a sheet; and wherein

said sheet is provided with a plurality of perforations separating said masks into individual masks whereby selected ones of said masks may be readily detached from said sheet preparatory to insertion into selected ones of said receivers.

3. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein

said apertures in each of said masks are different in size and contour so as to be readily selectible by the user to the user's precise fingernail size and contour.

4. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein

said notches and said receivers are aligned along the opposite elongated edges of said base member conforming to the index, first, second and little fingers of the user's hands.

5. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein

said base member includes a notch and a receiver at the opposite ends thereof adapted to mount selected masks for protecting the thumb nails of the user.

6. The invention as defined in claim **1** where

said member includes a central portion formed with a pair of openings adapted to receive the thumb of one hand when the fingernails are deployed in selected ones of said masks along one side of said base member so that the mask assemblage may be supported and carried by the grasp of the user's hand.

7. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein

said receiver comprises a U-shaped sheet having an outer edge marginal region adhesively secured to said base member about each of said notches so as to leave a portion of said base member between said securement and the edge of said notch covered by an inner edge marginal region of said U-shaped sheet which constitutes a U-shaped flap adapted to retain said inserted selected mask in place by interference fit.

8. The invention as defined in claim **7** including

a pressure container for holding the cosmetic preparation and having a spray nozzle for discharging a

spray of the preparation characterized by a narrow beam substantially the same width as the width of said mask aperture.

9. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein said receiver comprises a slot formed in said base member opening into each of said notches and adapted to slidably accept the opposite edges of said selected one of said masks in an interference fit to retain said selected mask therein.

10. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein said base member includes a segment portion disposed between each of said notches and the outer edge of said base member so that each notch constitutes a

hole in said base member in fixed spaced relationship to the edge of said base member.

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