Jan. 20, 1953 N. W. KNOWLES 2,626,199

TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER

Filed Oct. 20, 1948

FIG. 1.

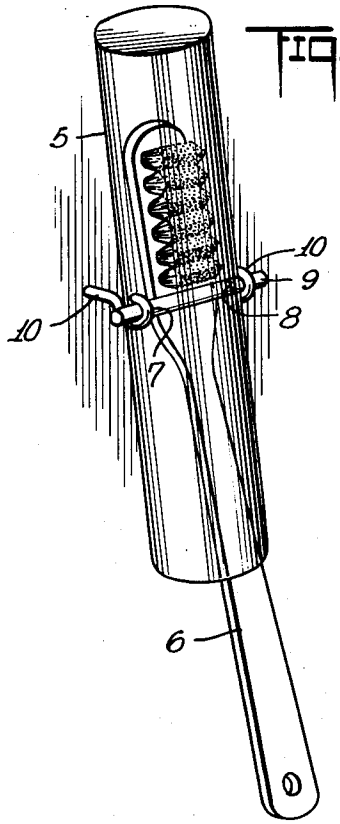


FIG. 2.

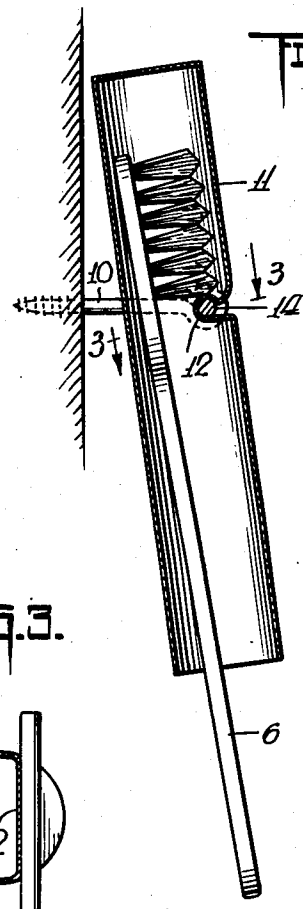


FIG. 3.

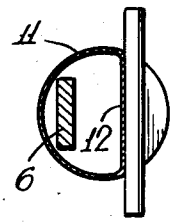


FIG. 4.

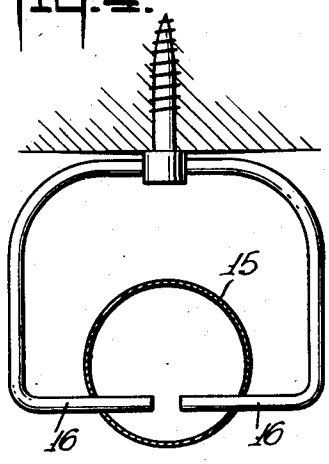
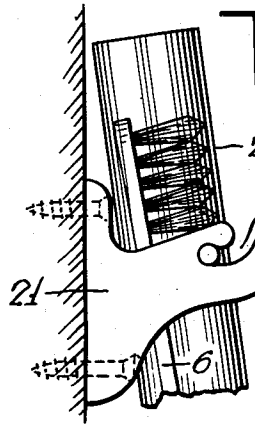


FIG. 5.



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Patented Jan. 20, 1953 2,626,199

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,626,199

TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER

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Application October 20, 1948, Serial No. 55,451

1 Claim. (Cl. 312—207)

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My invention relates to a toothbrush holder.

Toothbrushes as ordinarily supported in racks on walls are exposed to contamination by dust and germs carried in the air, by contact of persons and insects, and when several brushes are held in the same rack, one toothbrush is often subject to contamination by its neighbor.

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved toothbrush holder, which will enhouse an individual toothbrush and protect it against contamination.

It is another object to provide an improved toothbrush holder, which will automatically hang in position to facilitate insertion and withdrawal of the toothbrush.

Another object is to provide a toothbrush holder which may serve as a sanitary container for a toothbrush in a store, and which may later be employed as a sanitary and convenient wall holder or housing for a toothbrush in the home.

Other objects and features of invention will be hereinafter pointed out or will become apparent to those skilled in the art.

My improved toothbrush holder for use in the home comprises a housing of generally tubular form such as round, oval, rectangular, etc., and preferably of glass, plastic, rubber, or similar material, which will be supported on a wall. The housing is preferably pivotally supported, and pin means may extend transversely of the housing and generally chordally thereof, and either the pin means or the housing surrounding the pin means may serve as a support for the toothbrush in the housing. The support point for the housing is preferably above and to the outside of the center of gravity of the housing so that the housing assembly will hang at an angle with the open bottom extending away from the wall. The housing may be pivotally supported in various ways and will always be conveniently positioned for withdrawal or insertion of a toothbrush.

In the drawings which show, for illustrative purposes only, preferred forms of the invention—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of my improved toothbrush holder, supported in place on a wall, and having a toothbrush enhoused therein;

Fig. 2 is a vertical, sectional view of a housing of the type shown in Fig. 1, but illustrating a slightly modified form;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view, taken susbtantially in the plane of the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view through a tubular holder, showing a modified method of support; and

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Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view in side elevation of a tubular support of the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and illustrating an alternative bracket or support means for the holder.

In the form shown in Fig. 1, I employ a tubular support 5, which is preferably closed at the top and open at the bottom for the insertion of a toothbrush 6. The housing 5 may be formed of glass, plastic, rubber, or other material, and may be transparent or translucent and, if desired, of course may be decorated. The housing intermediate the ends, and preferably outwardly of the axis thereof, has two aligned holes 7—8 therein for the reception of a supporting pin 9, which will of course extend chordally across the inside of the housing 5. The pin 9 may be supported from a wall by any suitable means, such as the screw hooks 10—10, which may be open sufficiently to permit the transverse insertion of the pin 9 or one or both of which may be closed and the pin inserted through an eye and through the holes in the tube, all as will be understood. The location of the pin 9 in the housing 5 is preferably such that it is above and outward of the center of gravity so that the housing will swing outwardly at the bottom, more or less as shown in Fig. 2, and be in position for convenient removal of the toothbrush from the housing or for insertion of the toothbrush into the housing. When the toothbrush is to be removed, it may be drawn downwardly from the position shown in Fig. 1, but it is preferable to turn the toothbrush 90° so as to free the bristles from the pin 9 supporting them, after which the toothbrush may be very easily withdrawn.

It will be seen that in the form shown in Fig. 1, a chordal pin serves as a very convenient support for the toothbrush, as well as for the housing.

In the form shown in Fig. 2, the housing 11, instead of having holes therein, has the wall deformed as shown at 12, so as to provide a transversely extending or chordal channel in the tube. This channel is of a size to receive a pin 14, say, of the type shown in Fig. 1, and the pin 14 may be supported as heretofore described. In the form shown in Fig. 2, the toothbrush is supported by the deformed wall forming part of a support for the housing, and no apertures through the wall, to communicate with the interior, are necessary.

In the form shown in Fig. 4, the housing 15 might be of either the type shown in Fig. 1, with apertures, or with a deformed wall as shown in Fig. 2. In any event, a bearing or channel for

the pin means is provided in the housing **15**, and pin means **16—16** may extend into the apertures or channels in the housing for supporting the housing, as will be clear. The pin means **16—16** are preferably supported on spring arms, as shown, so as to spring into place.

In the form shown in Fig. 5, the housing **20** may be of the forms shown in Figs. 1 or 2, and the pin means may be supported in a pair of opposite brackets such as **21**, having an opening **22**, for the transverse passage of the pin **21**. The opening **22** as it proceeds inwardly may be undercut so that it will securely hold the pin against dislodgment either when pulling the toothbrush from the holder or when inserting a toothbrush into the holder.

In all forms illustrated, it will be apparent that the supporting means for the housing serves also as a supporting means for the toothbrush. My improved toothbrush holder will always provide a sanitary covering for the toothbrush and tend to prevent contamination thereof.

It should be understood that while my invention is in a toothbrush holder for the home, the holder could form part of or be a sanitary container for a toothbrush in the store, merely by providing a telescopic cap to house the bottom of the handle of the toothbrush.

While the invention has been described in considerable detail and preferred forms illustrated, it is to be understood that changes may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

I claim:

In a toothbrush holder, a tubular housing for a toothbrush and having an open end for the insertion of a toothbrush, the wall of said housing having an inwardly deformed portion extending directly chordally across the inside of said housing and forming a channel for pin means, and open to the outside of said housing, said channel being characterized by an opening converging at the mouth thereof, whereby said deformed wall will serve as a support for a toothbrush in said housing, and pin means housed in said channel for supporting said housing from a wall.

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