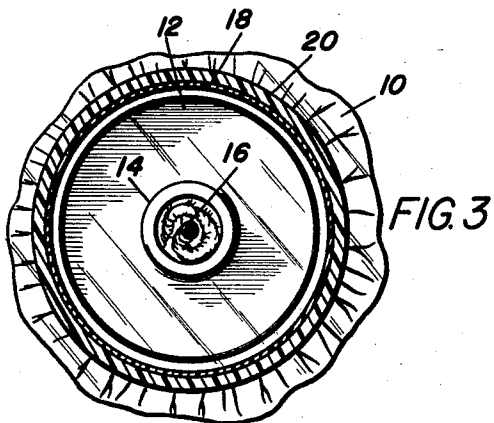
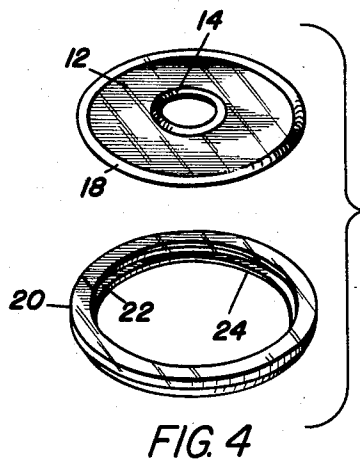
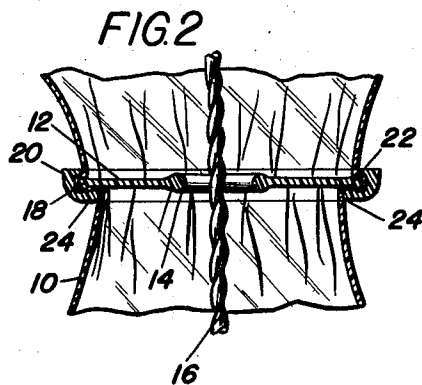
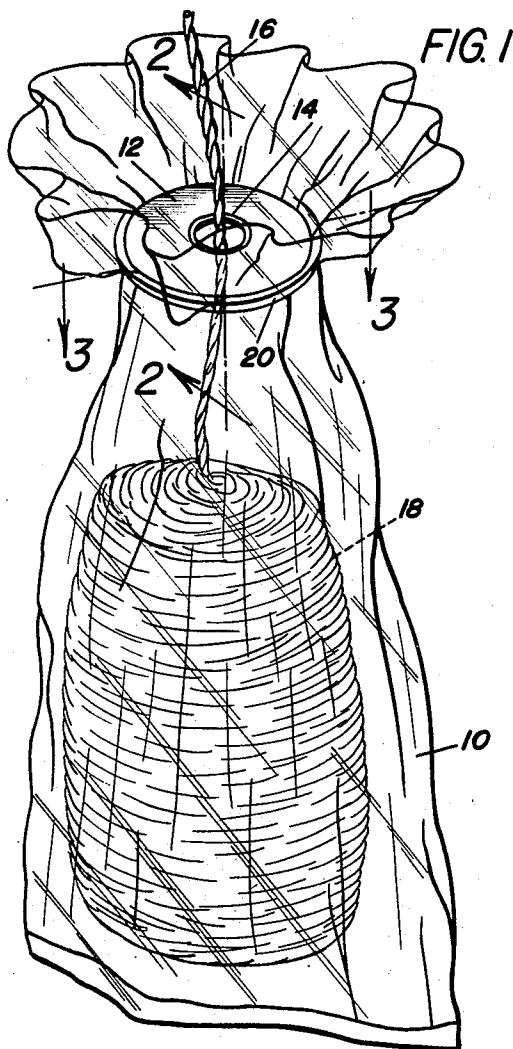


June 14, 1960

E. WINDISCH
EASY-PULL WOOL PROTECTOR

2,940,686

Filed May 29, 1957



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2,940,686

EASY-PULL WOOL PROTECTOR

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Filed May 29, 1957, Ser. No. 662,355

3 Claims. (Cl. 242—146)

This invention relates to a protective device, designed to enclose a skein or ball of knitting wool, while one is knitting a garment or other article.

During the knitting of an article, the ball of wool generally is permitted to lie loosely in a knitting basket or similar container, or alternatively, may be left to rest in one's lap, on a chair, or on the floor.

This has certain disadvantages, since the ball tends to turn each time a portion of the wool is pulled upwardly. This causes the ball to move about, often resulting in its becoming entangled with adjacent objects, becoming dusty, dirty, etc.

The main object of the present invention, in view of the above, is to provide an enclosure for a ball of wool, so designed that the wool will be conveniently kept in place, will stay clean, and will be properly engaged against slippage from its assigned position.

Another object is to so design the enclosure that it will fully protect the ball of wool regardless of the size of said ball.

Another object is to provide a protector as described that will be capable of manufacture at a cost sufficiently low to make the same commercially feasible, while at the same time producing a device that will be simple, useful, and wholly efficient in operation.

A further object is to provide a protector for wool that will include a guide ring assembly so designed as to insure that the strand of wool emanating from the ball will not be restricted or hampered in any way during its free movement from the ball to the knitting needles.

Another object is to provide a protector as described in which the guide means will be associated with a flexible container for the ball of wool, in such a manner that the rigidly constituted, sectionally formed guide means will be swiftly assembled with the flexible container for the ball of wool.

Another object is to provide, in a device of the character stated, a guide means for the strand of wool which can be associated with a flexible, transparent container of any size, thus to permit a single guide means to be used interchangeably with containers of various sizes, thereby further reducing the cost and increasing the versatility of the device.

These together with other objects and advantages which will subsequently become apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a protector for wool according to the present invention, as it appears when in use;

Figure 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary longitudinal sectional view through the protector, taken substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view, on the same

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scale as Figure 2, taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the guide means.

Referring to the drawings in detail, designated at 10 is a flexible, protective container which in the illustrated example is a transparent bag of thin plastic material. The bag can be of any desired size, and will ordinarily be sufficient to hold the ball of wool when the ball is at its maximum size.

In any event, the bag or sack 10 is associated with a guide means that includes a flat, relatively thin, plastic disc 12 having a center opening 14 bounded by a thickened lip or flange of the disc or plate 12. Loosely movable through the opening 14 is a strand 16 extending from the ball of wool 18. The strand and the ball, of course, do not constitute a part of the present invention.

At its outer periphery, the plate 12 is circularly shaped in the illustrated example, and is integrally formed with a thickened peripheral lip 18. Lip 18 is engageable with a clamping ring 20, said clamping ring having an inwardly facing clamping groove 22 receiving the lip, the clamping ring at its underside having an inwardly directed flange 24 that projects radially inwardly of the plate 12 so as to terminate at its inner edge inwardly from the lip 18, as best shown in Figure 2.

The construction is such that the plate 12 may be slightly deformed, so as to force the same into the undercut clamping groove 22. As a result, when the device is in use, the ball of wool is first placed in the container 10. Then the mouth portion of the container is gathered and is extended through the clamping ring 20. Then, with the strand 16 extended through the opening 14, the plate 12 is shifted downwardly and snapped into the clamping ring 20, said plate 12 moving downwardly within the gathered mouth of the container. As a result, the portion of the container between the periphery of plate 12 and ring 20 is deformed as shown in Figure 2 so as to be tightly clamped between the ring and the plate. The plate is thus held in the desired position, as is the ring, and the plate thus extends across the container as a closure therefor.

The device is now ready for use, and it will be seen that the ball of wool will be fully protected, despite the fact that the strand 16 can be pulled outwardly freely, and with no more difficulty than is experienced when the ball is left free and unprotected. Further, the closure can be moved downwardly along the length of the container to any location desired, according to the size of the ball, and still further, the closure is swiftly disengaged from the sack or container 10 when the ball of wool is completely exhausted.

In this way, the wool is fully protected, and only so much wool as is desired at the particular moment need be pulled out of the sack, as distinguished from the ordinary arrangement in which the ball may tend to roll across the floor, causing an excessive amount of wool to be unwound therefrom. At the same time, there is no catching or tangling of the wool, and the wool is kept completely clean, thereby making a highly desirable knitting accessory.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A protector for a ball of wool from which a strand

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is unwound, comprising a flexible, thin-walled container having a circumferentially contractable open mouth portion, said container being adapted to hold a ball of wool with the strand extending through said mouth portion; a thin closure plate extending across said mouth portion and having a center opening circumferentially bounded by a thickened lip having a substantially circular cross-section for reducing friction on the strand passing there-through and for receiving said strand therethrough, said plate being resiliently deformable out of a normally plani-
 10 form condition; and a clamping ring having an inwardly and upwardly facing groove, said clamping ring receiving the mouth portion of the container therethrough with disposition of the material of the mouth portion between the clamping ring and the periphery of said plate, said
 15 plate being temporarily deformable to snap into the groove.

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2. A protector as in claim 1 wherein said groove is undercut, the plate being thickened at its periphery to engage in the undercut groove.

3. A protector as in claim 2 wherein said clamping ring has an inwardly directed, circumferential flange at its underside projecting inwardly from the periphery of the closure plate.

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