March 19, 1963 A. MOSHEIM 3,081,476

SPONGE TYPE APPLICATOR

Filed Aug. 16, 1961 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

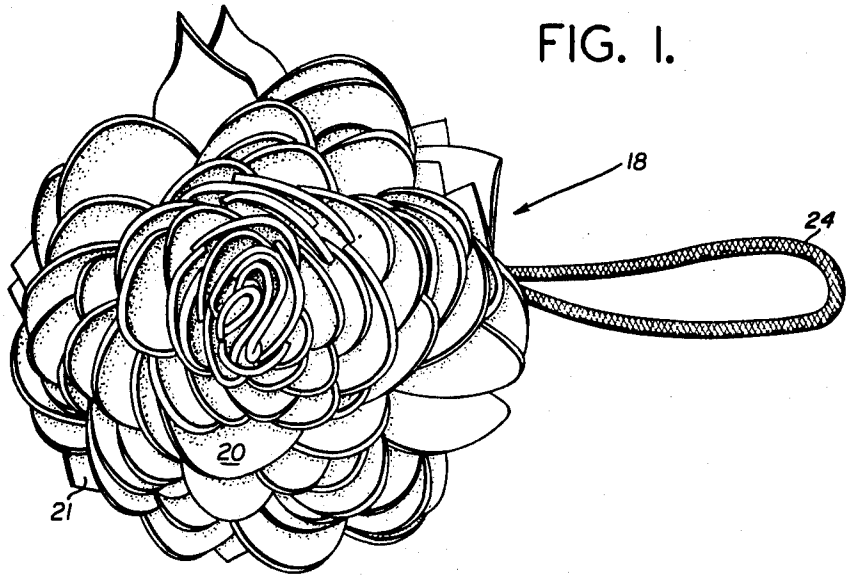


FIG. 2.

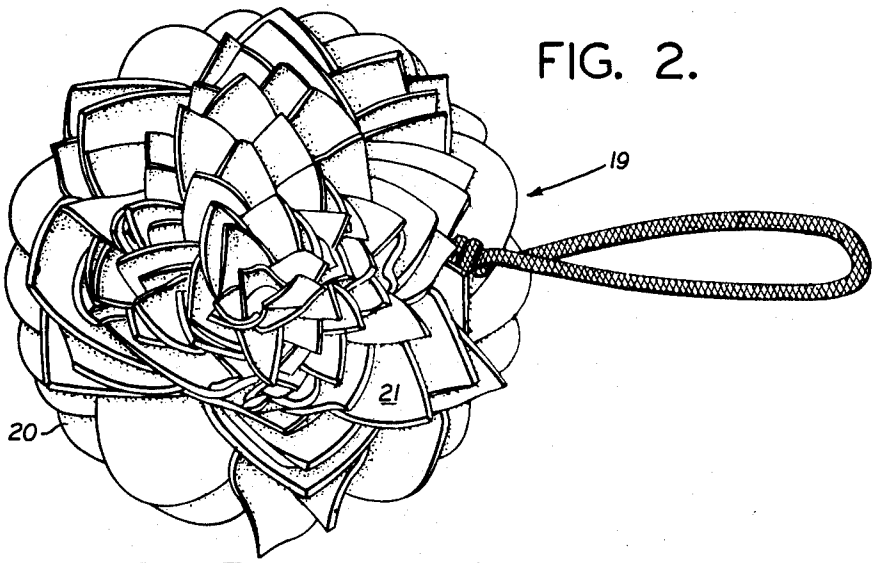
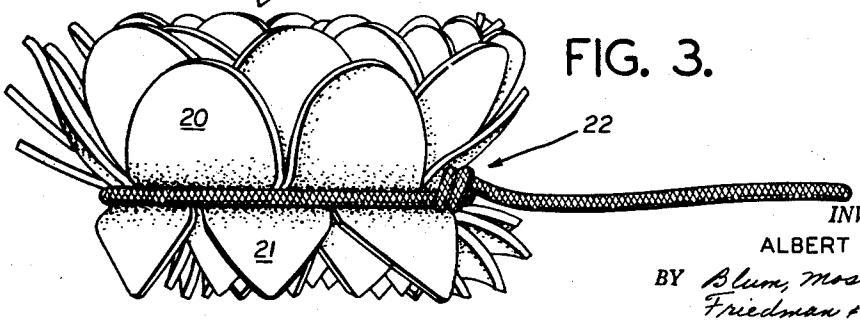


FIG. 3.



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March 19, 1963 A. MOSHEIM 3,081,476

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Filed Aug. 16, 1961 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 4.

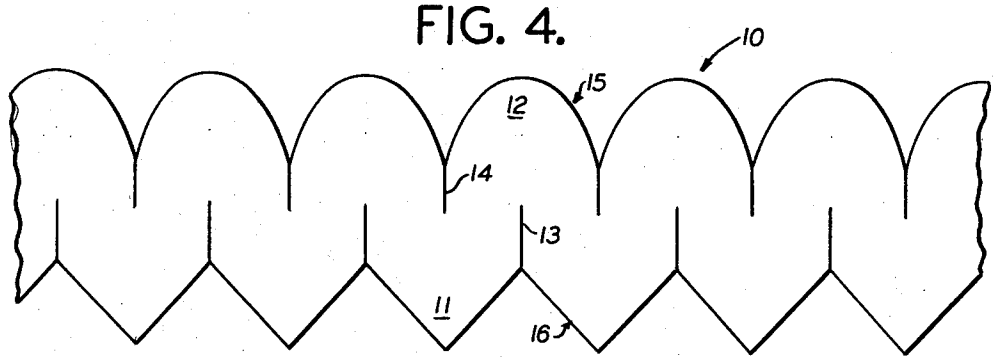


FIG. 5.

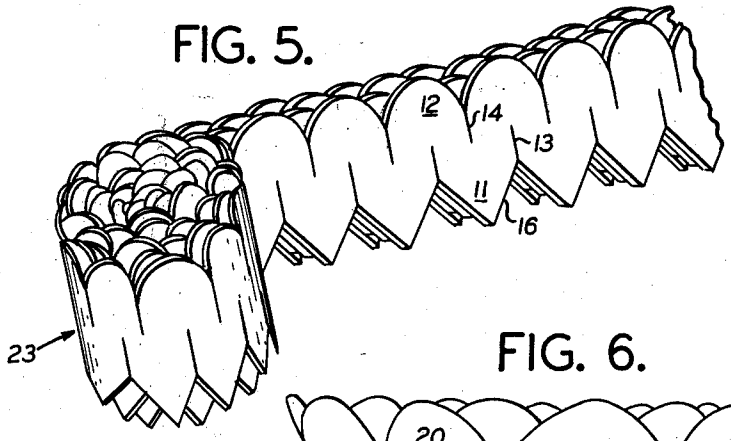


FIG. 6.

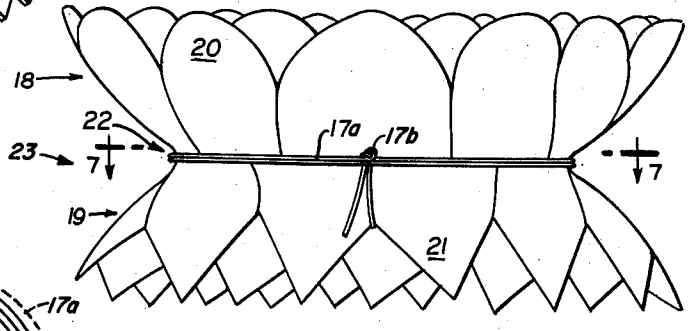
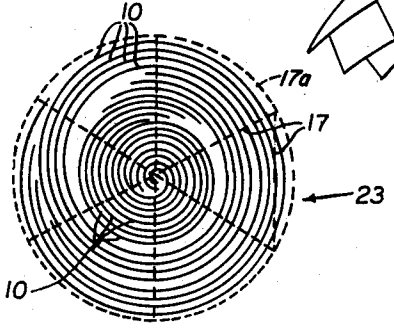


FIG. 7.



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SPONGE TYPE APPLICATOR

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3 Claims. (Cl. 15—244)

This invention relates to improvements in artificial sponge cleaning devices, and in particular relates to a device of this type which is unusually attractive, while at the same time effective in use.

One object of this invention is to provide a sponge-type applicator or cleaning device having a plurality of individual sponge elements adapted to move independently of each other and shaped to produce an over-all attractive appearance, such as the appearance of a simulated flower.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device of the above-described type, wherein the individual elements are of varying colors.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a plurality of strips of thin sheet-like, flexible, resilient, compressible sponge material of various colors are superposed. These strips have spaced transverse cut-outs extending to each elongated edge thereof to define edge elements of the strips between successive cut-outs. The edge elements are preferably shaped to simulate flower petals. The superposed strips are wound spirally on themselves to form a roll, and the roll is gathered and compressed intermediate its ends, by stitching or other suitable means, so that the edge elements are fanned outwardly.

The resulting product is of striking multi-colored, flower petal-like appearance, and it will be apparent that this effect is produced easily and economically. At the same time, the product is extremely effective in use, because the individual petal elements can move independently of each other and are well adapted to scrubbing operations.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description, in conjunction with the annexed drawings which discloses my invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of the product in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear elevation of the product;

FIG. 3 is a side elevation of the product;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of one of the strips from which the applicator is formed;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the partially formed roll formed by winding a plurality of superposed strips;

FIG. 6 is a side elevation of the completed product with the hanging cord omitted, and illustrating a variation of the gathering means position; and

FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic section on line 7—7 of FIG. 6.

The drawings are substantially to scale, and reference is made to the drawings to complete the disclosures herein. More particularly, FIG. 4 discloses a fragmentary portion of the strip from which the applicator is made, indicated generally by **10**. The strip **10** is a generally elongated segment having a serrated bottom edge **16** and scalloped upper edge **15**. Intermediate the integral lower projections **11** the strip is provided with slits **13** extending from the lower edge to the central part of the strip. Similarly, intermediate the integral upper edge projections **12** the strip is provided with slits **14** extending from the upper edge to the central part of the strip. Thus, the respective slits are equally spaced along the length of the strip. The slits are positioned so that the upper and lower edge slits alternate along the length of

the strip, the position of the lower edge slit corresponding substantially with the mid-point of the upper projections and the position of the upper edge slit corresponding substantially with the mid-point of the lower projections.

The strip may be made of any suitable synthetic sponge material, such materials being well known commercially today. For example, strip **10** may be made of a material commonly known as "polyurethane foam."

The applicator is formed, optionally and preferably, of a plurality of superposed strips having different colors. These blanks are then wound spirally upon themselves to form a roll. This is clearly seen in FIG. 5. Generally, two sets of superposed strips are used to form the desired roll. More particularly, the first set is wound as described, the second set then being wound about the roll formed by the first set with its inner end placed in the vicinity of the outer end of the first set. As a result, the final desired roll appears to be formed by one single continuous strip, save for the multi-colored appearance of the roll.

Alternatively, the applicator may be formed of strip material that is not superposed one strip upon another. Instead, a single strip having edge elements and slits similar to those described above may be wound into the desired roll. As is readily apparent, a variation of this alternative method of forming the desired roll might include a series of single strips, not superposed, but rather wound consecutively, in end-to-end fashion, to form the desired roll. This approximates the method preferably employed to form the desired roll, as discussed above, with the sole exception that single strips are wound rather than sets of superposed strips. As in the preferred method, the single strips may be of different colors.

A cord or the like **17***a* is extended around the periphery of roll **23**, drawn tight and knotted at **17***b*, as shown in FIG. 6, so as to compress the center portion **22** of the roll. Also, the petal elements **20**, **21** of both the upper and lower portions, generally indicated respectively by **18** and **19**, of the roll **23** formed from the strips **10** respectively spread radially outwardly, as illustrated by FIGS. 3 and 6. The upper portion **18** creates a floral effect by extending upwardly from said gathering means (FIG. 1) and the lower portion **19** by extending downwardly (FIG. 2). Since the cord **17***a* extends peripherally about the compressed portion of the roll, it maintains the roll in its compressed state and preserves the floral effect thereby created. In order to prevent endwise shifting of the turns of the roll, a thread **17** is extended through the roll and anchored to cord **17***a*, as shown in FIG. 7. This showing is only diagrammatic since the exact manner in which the thread (**17**) is applied is not part of the invention.

As indicated in FIGS. 1 through 3, the applicator, optionally and preferably, may be fashioned with a hanging cord **24** that encircles the compressed portion of the roll and has a loop extending outwardly thereof.

The general appearance of this applicator, as viewed in its final floral configuration (FIGS. 1–3), following its transition from first, a single blank, and second, a loose roll, is that of two flower buds in back-to-back relation. Further, due to the direction of the petal elements **20**, **21** there is a suggestion of a separation between the upper and lower portions of the applicator, or the two buds, in the vicinity of the gathering means.

In the use of the applicator, each petal element **20**, **21** is independently movable, resilient, bendable and flexible. Each finger individually can contact the surface of the object being washed. Accordingly, each petal acts as an individual sponge so that in effect the applicator consists of a plurality of small individual sponges. The provision of the individual petal elements also permits the cleaning

of small crevices. Each petal when struck against the surface of the object being cleaned tends to release water in individual jets. Thus, the fingers exert a cooperatively independent abrasive action upon a surface when moved thereover. However, the surface of the applicator as a whole also serves as a resilient surface for cleaning large areas.

While I have disclosed preferred embodiments of my invention and have indicated various changes, omissions and additions which may be made therein, it will be apparent that various other changes, omissions and additions may be made in the invention without departing from the scope and spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. An applicator comprising a plurality of superposed elongated strips of flexible, compressible, resilient, sponge material wound spirally on themselves to form a roll, said roll having upper and lower end faces defined by the elongated edges of said strips, said strips having spaced transverse cut-outs extending to each elongated edge thereof to define integral edge elements of said strips between successive cut-outs, said strips having slits intermediate said edge elements extending inwardly to the

center of said strip from said elongated edges, and means looped about and compressing said roll intermediate the end faces thereof, said edge elements being thereby fanned outwardly in the respective upward and downward directions from said looped means.

2. An applicator according to claim 1, said integral upper edge elements being generally semi-circular thereby defining a scalloped upper edge, said integral lower edge elements being triangular thereby defining a serrated lower edge.

3. An applicator according to claim 1, said strips being of different colors.

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