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M. J. ZULLO

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FINGER GUARD FOR KNIVES

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Fig.1

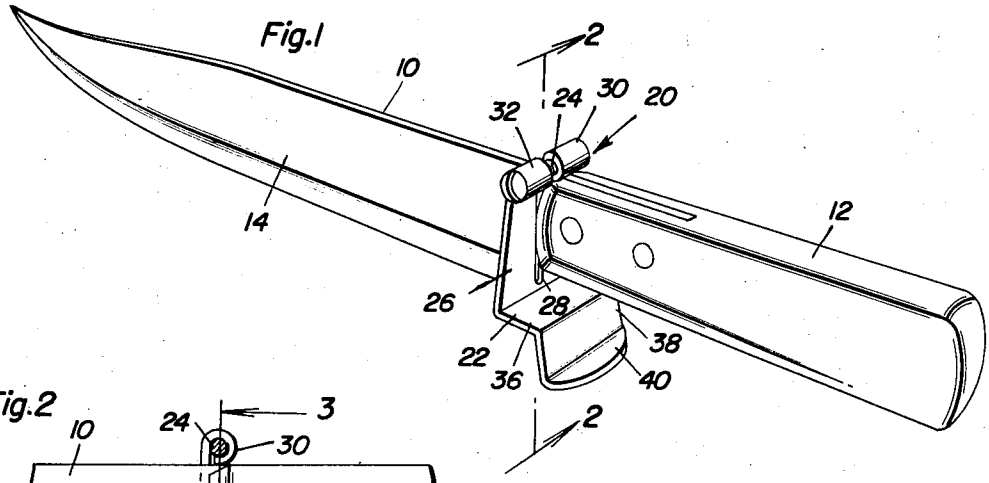


Fig.2

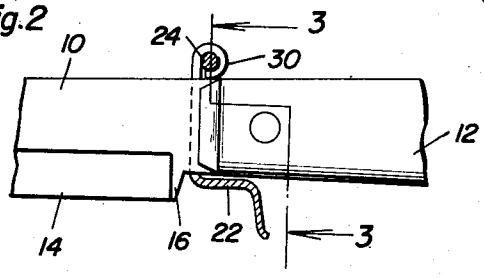


Fig.3

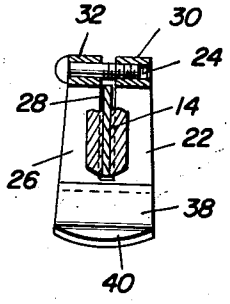


Fig.4

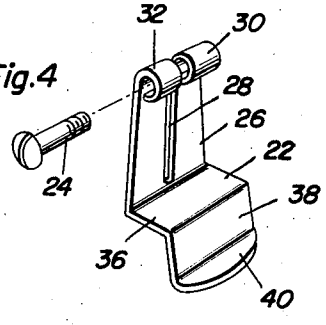
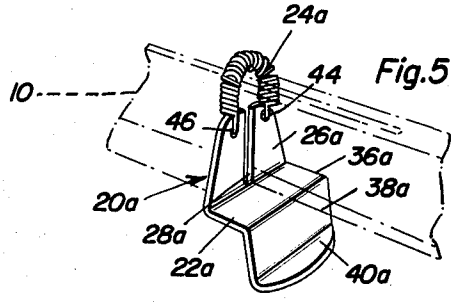


Fig.5



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FINGER GUARD FOR KNIVES

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4 Claims. (Cl. 30—295)

This invention relates to a safety device and more particularly to a fingerguard for a knife.

An object of the invention is to provide a device for protecting or safeguarding a person's finger or fingers when using a knife that has the corner of the blade protruding beyond the beginning of the handle. The invention is especially useful when a person's hands are wet or otherwise lubricated, for instance when slicing ham.

A further object of the invention is to provide a quickly applied and easily attached and detached guard for a knife to protect the fingers of the user of the knife.

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 typical knife with one of the guards thereon.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the guard in Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a modification of the guard.

In the accompanying drawings there is a conventional knife **10** having a handle **12** and a blade **14**. The blade **14** has a corner **16** which protrudes downwardly beyond the lower edge of handle **12** when the knife is in the orientation of Figure 1. The corner **16** protrudes laterally outwardly from the handle **12** and often nicks or cuts the finger or fingers of the user or the knife, especially when the hands are lubricated. Guard **20** is adapted to be placed on the knife in order to protect the fingers of the knife user. In order to be practical and commercially salable, the guard has to be simple, easy to apply and must serve its intended purpose. Therefore, only two parts are in the construction. There is guard plate **22** and a bolt **24**. The guard plate has a flat part **26** with a slot **28** which opens through one edge of this part. Two small sleeves **30** and **32** in alignment with each other are at the same edge of the part of plate **22** through which slot **28** opens. The slot is between the sleeves, spacing them sufficiently so that the blade **14** of the knife may pass therebetween. Bolt **24** is adapted to be inserted in the sleeves and be fastened in place by threading into sleeve **30**. Therefore, a part of the bolt extends across slot **28** and is used to lock the guard in place on the knife.

Plate **22** has an angular part **36** at the edge of part **26** opposite to the edge that has sleeves **30** and **32**. The angular part is approximately at right angles (Figure 2) and has a downturned part **38** at its edge and a smoothly curved tab **40** at its outer edge. This forms a stepped arrangement which provides ample protection for the user of the knife preventing the hand from slipping and becoming cut by the blade of the knife when the knife is in normal use.

As indicated previously, the cutting usually occurs at the corner **16** of the blade.

The guard **20***a* of Figure 5 is practically identical to the embodiment of Figure 1. The guard plate **22***a* has parts **26***a*, **36***a*, **38***a* and **40***a* which respond directly to the corresponding parts of guard **20**. However, guard **20***a* has no screw, nor does it have sleeves to accommodate the screw. In place of it, there is a single spring **24***a* attached, for instance by having the ends fitted in apertures **44** and **46** in part **26***a*, to the guard plate **22***a*. The spring **24***a* extends over the outer end of the slot **28***a* and is adapted to extend over the handle **12** of a typical knife **10**. When attaching the guard **20** to the knife, screw or bolt **24** is removed and the blade of the knife is slipped into the slot **28**. When the guard occupies a plate on the blade of the knife against the front end of handle **12**, the screw **24** is replaced. Accordingly, the guard is now very securely attached to the knife and in the proper position.

When applying guard **20***a* to the knife, the procedure is slightly simpler. The knife blade is merely slid through slot **28***a* with the spring stretching slightly over the blade at its junction with the handle. The spring tension holds the guard fastened on the knife.

In use, the guards fit all or almost all blades with a protruding corner regardless of the type of knife or knife handle. Further, the guards **20** and **20***a* function as a stand for the knife when a person does not wish to lay the knife flat on its side.

The guard is used as such, having a mechanical movement on the knife. When a person's finger hits a part of the guard, for instance part **38** or part **38***a*, the guard is sent forward against the corner **16** of the blade and at the same time oscillating flat parts **26** and **26***a* against the inner end of the knife handle. Accordingly, there is a certain amount of rocking movement between the guard and knife to achieve the optimum performance.

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. An attachment for a knife that has a blade and a handle with a corner of the blade protruding laterally outwardly from the handle at least at the junction of the handle with the blade, said attachment comprising a guard provided with a guard plate having a flat part abutting the forward end of the handle and provided with a slot through which the blade extends, an angular part lying under a portion of the handle adjacent to the blade corner, a downturned part at the rear edge of said angular part and located directly behind said corner of the blade providing a finger protector, and means attached to said guard plate on opposite sides of said slot and extending across said slot and the upper edge of said blade for holding said plate fastened to said knife with said plate occupying a position between said corner of said blade and said handle.

2. The attachment of claim 1 wherein said means comprise a bolt, said plate having a pair of sleeves spaced from each othere and in axial alignment with the space between said sleeves being in alignment with said slot, and said bolt carried by said sleeves and when attached to said sleeves having a portion thereof extend-

ing across said slot in said space between said sleeves thereby closing one end of said slot.

3. An attachment for a knife that has a blade and a handle with a part of the blade protruding laterally outwardly from the handle at least at the junction of the handle with the blade, said attachment comprising a guard having a guard plate provided with a slot through which the blade extends, and means connected with said plate for holding said plate fastened to said knife with said plate occupying a position between said part of said blade and said handle, said means comprising a spring having ends attached to said plate on opposite sides of said slot and adapted to be stretched over said knife and retain the plate fastened thereto.

4. An attachment for a knife that has a blade and a handle with a parrt of the blade protruding laterally outwardly from the handle at least at the junction of the handle with the blade, said attachment comprising a guard having a guard plate provided with a slot through which the blade extends, and means connected with said plate for holding said plate fastened to said knife and said plate occupying a position between said part of said blade and said handle, said means comprising a spring having ends attached to said plate on opposite sides of said slot and adapted to be stretched over said knife and retain the plate fastened thereto, said plate having parts in approximately stepped formation which are located between the corner of the blade nearest to said handle and which protrude laterally from the handle.

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