Dec. 21, 1943. R. R. HAWKINS 2,337,388

MANICURING DEVICE

Filed June 16, 1942

Fig. 1

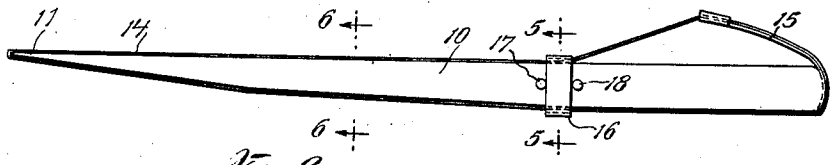


Fig. 2

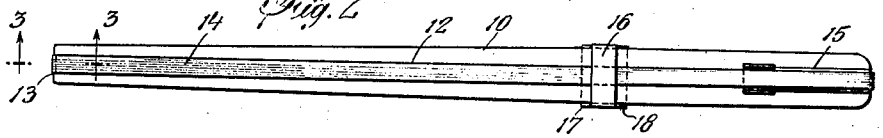


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

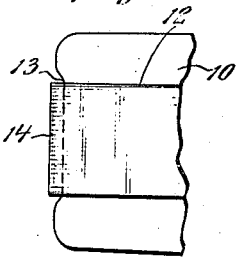


Fig. 5

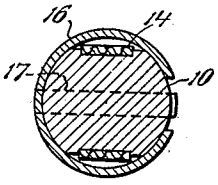


Fig. 6

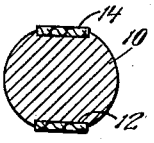


Fig. 7

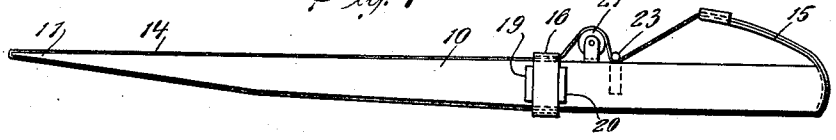


Fig. 8

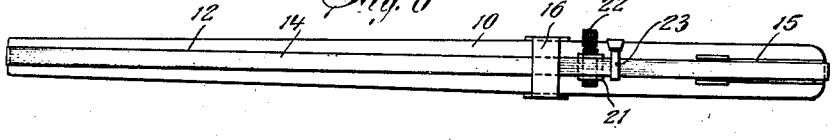
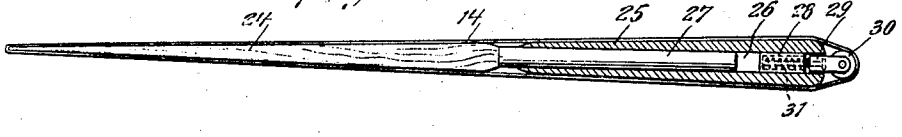


Fig. 9



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2,337,388

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,337,388

MANICURING DEVICE

Reginald R. Hawkins, Eastchester, N. Y.

Application June 16, 1942, Serial No. 447,209

9 Claims. (Cl. 132—76.4)

This invention relates to a new and useful device for treating and cleaning toe and finger nails.

Nails are now cleaned and treated by means of the well-known nail files, orange-wood sticks, and other devices, but none of these devices provides a simple and efficient single means for also using water, soap, and other cleansing materials under and around the nails, nor do any of them provide a convenient and simple means whereby a moderate amount of friction, such as is afforded by a washcloth in bathing the skin, may be used in cleaning the nails and the skin under them.

The main objects of this invention are to provide a simple, efficient and convenient means for the application of soap, water, and other cleaning pastes, powders, and fluids to the nails and to the skin under and around them as well as to provide a means of employing a mild amount of friction in nail cleaning operations.

Further objects, features, and advantages will more clearly appear from a consideration of the specification which follows especially when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing which forms part of the specification and which illustrates a few preferred forms which the invention may assume in actual practice.

Generally and in rather broad langauge, the invention comprises a nail-treating element, conveniently shaped for handling and with one end shaped so that it may be introduced under the nail, which is designed not only for cleaning and scraping in the usual manner, but also to support and hold in an appropriate position an absorbent and cleaning element such as a tape or strip of textile fabric or other suitable material that will take up cleaning powders, fluids, and pastes, and also afford the desired amount of friction in the cleaning operations.

In the particular form shown in the drawing, the strip of material is mounted to extend longitudinally along the surface of the support. In this position it may lie in a longitudinal groove formed in the support. It extends over and around the tapered end portion and is subjected to a certain amount of tension by any suitable device to keep it in a desired stated of tension. Preferably the material may be moved from time to time to present a fresh clean portion of the strip over the end and this is continued until the entire strip is used up when it can be removed and a clean strip put in its place.

Several forms of the invention are illustrated in the drawing, but of course it is to be understood that these are merely for the purpose of showing how the invention may be applied in practical forms. Other forms may be employed as long as they come within the broad scope of the idea above mentioned.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a preferred form of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a partial plan view, enlarged, of the end of the device shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a vertical cross section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a vertical cross section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of another form of the invention;

Fig. 8 is a plan view thereof; and,

Fig. 9 is a side elevation, partly in section, through a still further modified form of the invention.

Considering the various forms of the invention set forth in the drawing, it will be seen in Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive, that I provide a main body portion 10 which is shaped generally similar to the shape of the usual orange-wood sticks and other nail cleaning and treating instruments and has a preferably tapered and flat end 11 which is to be introduced under the nail in ordinary circumstances to remove therefrom the dirt and other material which collects thereunder. In the present invention this body portion or support 10 is provided with a longitudinal groove or recess 12, especially over the end, and this groove at the end is numbered 13. In some instances the groove along the main body portion may be omitted if desired. There is disposed and supported on the body portion 10 a strip or tape of narrow material such as 14 which may be of linen, cotton, or any other suitable material for the purpose of expediting the removal of matter from beneath the nail. Preferably this material is of an absorbing nature and capable of producing mild friction when introduced under the nail. It is to be here noted that (see Fig. 4), the strip of cleaning material does not occupy the whole width of the front end of the device and that the side portions of this end are curved and may be employed to scrape dirt from beneath the nail in the usual manner. At the same time it is to be noticed that the material is of such thickness and the groove in which it lies is of such depth dimension that the material extends at the end slightly beyond the plane of the line passing across the front end of the support 10. This will more efficiently allow the material to get in under the nail and remove all the dirt and to wash the skin under the nail thoroughly.

In use the pointed or tapered end of the device may first be used by inserting the side portions of the end under the nail to remove dirt in the usual manner. Then the end may be dipped into any suitable liquid or paste so as to wet the strip of absorbent material at the end thereof

so as to enable the dirt and similar matter more readily to be removed from beneath the nail and at the same time causing the skin beneath the nail to be frictionally rubbed by the moist strip to cleanse the skin.

In order to place the material 14 under the proper tension on the support there is provided a resilient means such as a spring 15 which is suitably supported on the rear end of the support 10 and over which the material is adapted to pass and be thus kept under desired tension. Midway of the support 10 there is preferably disposed a split ring 16 which in the position shown in Fig. 5 will hold the strip in position on the support but which when moved to a position at right angles to the indicated position will permit the material to be readily removed from the support. This ring is kept in position by a pair of projecting studs 17 and 18 disposed on opposite sides thereof as shown in Figs. 5 and 1.

In the operation of this form of the invention, the material is dipped in a suitable liquid, paste, or powder and then the nails are treated therewith as above described. When the operation is completed the material may be moved by the fingers to present an adjacent portion of the strip over the end of the support 10 and thus dispose a clean piece of the strip for successive cleansing operations.

In the modified form of the invention shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the structure is essentially the same as before except that the ring is held in place by two ribs 19 and 20 and the material may in this form be moved by operating a roller 21 which may be provided with a knurled hand piece 22 and the material immediately adjacent thereto may pass under a small tensioning roller 23. In other respects the structure is the same as before as well as the general operation.

In the form shown in Fig. 9 the purpose is to provide a support made in two sections. The outer section 24 is made of wood or similar material and the rear section may be made of stronger and more durable material such as metal 25. The rear section is therefore provided with a socket 26 to receive the rear end 27 of the front portion 24. This connection may be tapered or not as shown but in either case it should result in a snug fit. The front section therefore can be readily removed from time to time as the point wears out without the necessity of replacing the entire device. In this form of the invention the material may be tensioned by the same means as above described but it also may be tensioned by the modified form of the tensioning means shown which comprises a tube 28 snugly fitted into the rear end of the socket 26 and containing stem 29 the outer end of which supports a tensioning roller 30 to engage the material to keep it under tension and this tension is created by the outward pressure of a spring 31 disposed in the tube 28 and pressing outwardly against the stem and the roller 30.

While the invention has been described in detail and with respect to the main and modified structures shown, it is not to be limited to such details and modifications, since many changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention in its broadest aspects. Therefore it is not desired to limit the invention to the details and modifications shown except as the invention may be limited by the scope of any one or more of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element having a longitudinal groove or recess therein, and a strip of cleansing material disposed in said groove and extending around and over the end of the element.

2. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element having a longitudinal groove or recess therein, said groove extending over and around the central portion of the end of the element, and a strip of absorbent cleansing material disposed in said groove and extending around and over the end of the element.

3. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element having a longitudinal groove therein, a strip of cleansing material disposed in said groove and extending around and over the end of the element, and spring means on said element and engaging the material to keep it in a state of regulated tension.

4. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element having a longitudinal groove therein, a strip of cleansing material disposed in said groove and extending around and over the end of the element, and manipulable means on the element and engaging the strip to enable it to be moved to present successive portions of the material over and around the end of the element.

5. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element having a longitudinal groove therein, a strip of material for cleansing purposes disposed in said groove and extending around and over the end of the element, manipulable means on the element and engaging the strip to enable it to be moved to present successive portions of the material over and around the end of the element, and spring means on said element and engaging the material to keep it in a state of regulated tension.

6. In a manicuring device, an element having an end adapted to be inserted under the nail, said element comprising a front tapered portion of non-metallic material, and a rear portion of metallic material, the front portion being removably connected to the rear portion, and a portion of cleaning material supported on said element and extending over the end thereof.

7. In a manicuring device, an elongated element having a grooved end adapted to be inserted under a nail, and a strip of material extending longitudinally around the periphery of said element and over the end thereof in said groove.

8. In a manicuring device, an elongated element having a grooved end adapted to be inserted under a nail, and a continuous strip of material extending longitudinally around the periphery of said element and over the end thereof in said groove.

9. In a manicuring device, an elongated element having a grooved end adapted to be inserted under a nail, a continuous strip of material extending longitudinally around the periphery of said element and over the end thereof in said groove, and adjustable means on said element and engaging the strip to permit movement of the strip to present new portions of the material over the end and to maintain the strip under regulated tension.

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