July 20, 1948. E. W. TURNER 2,445,373

HAIRPIN OPENER

Filed May 2, 1947

Fig. 1.

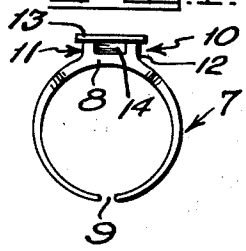


Fig. 2.

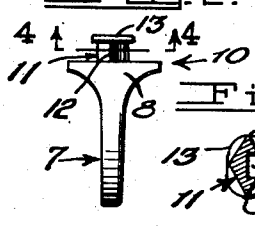


Fig. 3.

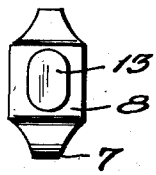


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

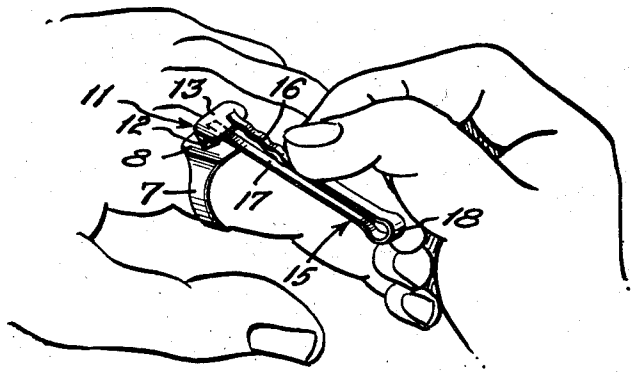
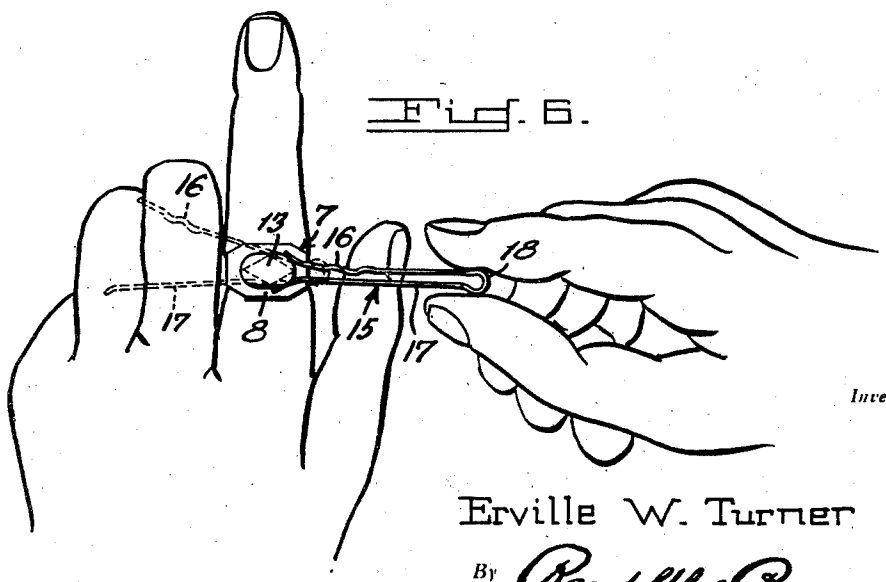


Fig. 6.



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HAIRPIN OPENER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 132—1)

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This invention relates to a device for use in opening hair pins and has particular reference to an article adapted to be worn on the finger and which is especially constructed for opening or spreading the members of a bobby pin.

More particularly, it is an object of the invention to provide a device especially adapted for use by hairdressers or beauticians to facilitate the opening of bobby pins and which will eliminate the use of the finger nails for this purpose which frequently results in breaking the finger nails and otherwise injuring the fingers, sometimes causing infection, and which will likewise discourage the practice, illegally in most states, of using the teeth for this purpose, by affording a means whereby bobby pins may be quickly and easily opened or spread to a desired extent preparatory to being applied to the hair.

More particularly, it is an object of the invention to provide a ring having a spreader or opening thereon by means of which a bobby pin may be quickly and easily opened with the thumb and index finger of one hand and engaged and held in an open position and thereafter readily removed from the spreader or opener for application to the hair.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a spreader or opener mounted upon a split finger ring adjustable to be worn on the index finger or thumb of either hand for convenient use by either right or left handed persons.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating a preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the opener or spreader;

Figure 2 is an edge elevational view thereof;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the opener or spreader;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the opener or spreader applied to the index finger and being employed in one manner for opening a bobby pin, and

Figure 6 is a top plan view showing the spreader or opener applied to the index finger and being utilized in another manner for opening a bobby pin.

Referring more specifically to the drawing, the numeral 7 designates generally a finger ring having a laterally enlarged head portion 8 and which

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is split at 9 substantially opposite to the head portion 8 to allow the ring 7 to be increased or decreased in size for fitting either the index finger or thumb of either hand and for snugly engaging fingers and thumbs of different sizes.

The ring 7 constitutes a support for the spreader or opener, designated generally 10, and of which the head portion 8 forms a part, as will hereinafter become more fully apparent. The opener or spreader 10 includes a stem, designated generally 11, which is preferably formed integral with and rises from the outer side of the head 8. The stem 11, as best seen in Figure 4, comprises corresponding tapered end portions formed by converging side walls and which form edges 12 at each end thereof. As seen in Figure 4, the stem 11 is generally in the form of an elongated diamond in cross section and the longitudinal axis thereof is disposed circumferentially of the ring 7 and longitudinally of the head 8 thereof and comprises complementary outwardly converging end portions each constituting a half of said stem. The stem 11 is provided at its outer end with a cap or enlargement 13 which overlies the converging side walls thereof, as seen in Figure 4, for a purpose which will hereinafter become apparent. As seen in Figure 3, the cap or enlargement 13 is generally oval shape.

One side of the stem 11 is provided with an outwardly opening recess 14 disposed intermediate of the ends thereof and terminating in spaced relationship to the edges 12.

The ring 7 may be applied to the index finger or thumb of either hand, always with the recess 14 facing outwardly or toward the tip of the thumb or finger, and for left handed persons, the ring 7 is applied to the right hand, and for right handed persons to the left hand.

The opener or spreader 10 is adapted to be utilized in either of two ways, one shown in Figure 5 and the other in Figure 6, for opening a bobby pin 15. As illustrated in Figure 5, the ring 7 is shown applied to the left index finger and the bobby pin 15 is engaged by the thumb and index finger of the right hand with the two members of the bobby pin 15 disposed between the tips of the thumb and finger and with the wavy member 16 uppermost and the longer, substantially straight member 17 lowermost or adjacent the left index finger. The loop or intermediate portion 18 of the bobby pin is pressed against the middle finger of the right hand for effectively guiding the bobby pin and the protruding end of the longer member 17 is then inserted into the recess 14. The thumb and index finger of the

right hand are then slid along the pin 15 toward the opener or spreader and at the same time an upward pull is exerted on the upper, wavy leg or member 16 for spreading the member 16 away from the member 17 which is held by its free end engaging in the recess 14 until the members 16 and 17 are spread sufficiently so that the index finger of the right hand may be inserted therebetween. With the end of the index finger disposed between the members 16 and 17, the bobby pin 15 is withdrawn from engagement with the opener 10 and while thus held spread is ready to be inserted into a curl or wave that is being held in place by the hand upon which the ring 7 is worn.

When utilizing the opener 10 in the manner as illustrated in Figure 6, the loop portion 18 of the bobby pin 15 is engaged between the thumb and index finger of the hand, not wearing the ring 7, and the free ends of the members 16 and 17 are moved into engagement with one of the edges 12, as seen in Figure 6. Such free ends of the members 16 and 17 are normally flared outwardly so that either of the sharpened edges 12 may be readily inserted therebetween and by advancing the bobby pin 15 inwardly of the stem 11, the members 16 and 17 will be spread by engagement with the wide, intermediate portion of said stem, as illustrated in dotted lines in Figure 6. The enlarged head 8 will effectively function to prevent the members 16 and 17 from slipping downwardly off of the stem 11 and the enlargement or cap 13 will overlie said members 16 and 17 to prevent them from accidentally slipping upwardly and off of the stem. The index finger and thumb may then be removed from the loop portion 18 and the index finger is then inserted between the legs or members 16 and 17, to the left of the opener 10 as seen in Figure 6, and a slight upward pull or movement from left to right of the bobby pin 15 will readily cause it to be disengaged from the opener 10 and removable therefrom over the cap or enlargement 13 to be applied to the hair in the manner as previously described. The stem 11, if desired, may be formed of a magnetized material for attracting the hair or bobby pin thereto to thereby automatically guide the pin toward the spreading edge 12, and various other modifications and changes are likewise contemplated and may obviously be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In an opener or spreader for hair pins of the bobby pin type, a finger engaging supporting member, a spreader element rising therefrom, a cap or enlargement on the outer end of said spreader element, and means forming a part of said spreader element for engaging a portion of at least one member or leg of a hair pin of the bobby pin type for spreading the legs thereof,

said cap or enlargement overlying said spreader means to prevent the spread hair pin from sliding off the outer end of the spreader element.

2. In an opener or spreader for hair pins of the bobby pin type, comprising a finger engaging supporting member, an elongated opener member rising therefrom and having its longitudinal axis extending in a direction circumferentially of the finger engaging member and provided with a laterally opening recess in one side thereof adapted to receive the free end of one leg or member of a bobby pin for holding or anchoring said leg while the other leg is moved relatively thereto for spreading said legs or members sufficiently to permit a finger to be inserted therebetween, said recess being disposed to open transversely of the plane of the finger engaging supporting member.

3. In an opener or spreader for hair pins of the bobby pin type, a finger engaging supporting member having a stem projecting from a portion thereof, said stem being disposed to project radially outwardly from the supporting member and being elongated in a direction circumferential of the supporting member and being provided with side walls converging toward one end thereof to provide an edge adapted to engage between the free ends of the legs or members of a bobby pin for spreading said legs when the bobby pin is moved inwardly of said stem.

4. An opener or spreader as in claim 3, said stem having an enlargement or cap on its outer end beneath which the bobby pin is adapted to be disposed for retaining the bobby pin in engagement with the stem during the spreading or opening operation.

5. An opener or spreader as in claim 3, said stem having an enlargement or cap on its outer end beneath which the bobby pin is adapted to be disposed for retaining the bobby pin in engagement with the stem during the spreading or opening operation, and said finger engaging supporting member having an enlarged portion or head contiguous with said stem and combining with said enlargement or cap for guiding the bobby pin into engagement with the stem.

6. An opener or spreader as in claim 3, and said stem having tapered side walls converging toward the opposite end thereof for forming a second edge for receiving and opening a bobby pin.

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