This invention relates to a holder for steel wool, and more particularly to such a holder for use in scouring cooking utensils and the like.

Steel wool or like abrasive material is eminently suitable for scouring cooking utensils, but is very annoying, if not actually dangerous, to use, owing to the tendency of the steel wool fibres to prick into the hands of the user.

It has heretofore been suggested to use a steel wool holder for the purpose of preventing such injury, and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a different form of steel wool holder which is better, simpler, and cheaper than other steel wool holders now known. My invention may utilize some or all of such elements as a handle, a protective flange or apron for protecting the hands of the user, fastening means for holding a body or pad of steel wool on the holder, and a projection or buffer for preventing the fastening means from scratching or otherwise injuring the surface being cleaned. The fastening means, in accordance with my present invention, consists essentially of hook means positioned around the projection or buffer, and preferably of hook means extending spirally around the peripheral wall of the projection or buffer.

A further object of my invention is to provide a very secure gripping action upon the steel wool, and this I do by compressing an annular portion thereof between the hook means and the wall of the said projection or buffer, the hook means being so shaped as to attain this result, and so mounted as to permit of a relatively uniform distribution of the gripping pressure on the steel wool.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and such other objects as will hereinafter appear, my invention consists in the holder and fastening elements, and their relation one to the other, as hereinafter are more particularly described in the specification and sought to be defined in the claims. The specification is accompanied by a drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of one form of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same form of the invention with the pad of steel wool removed;

Fig. 3 is a partially sectioned elevation of a modified form of the invention;

Fig. 4 is a bottom view thereof;

Fig. 5 is a section taken in the plane of the line 5—5 in Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a bottom view of a holder having a modified hook arrangement; and

Fig. 7 is an elevation thereof, the apron being removed in both Figs. 6 and 7.

Referring to the drawing, it will be seen that in each case the holder consists of a body member having a handle A at one end thereof, a projection or buffer B at the other end thereof, a flange or apron C intermediate the handle A and the projection B, and fastening means D for anchoring a body or pad of steel wool E to the holder. In general, the fastening means consists of one or more hook elements distributed around and outside of the walls of the projection or buffer.

Referring now more particularly to the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing, the handle A, projection B, and flange C are all formed integrally out of a single body of material, preferably, a moderately hard rubber, while the fastening means D consists of a spiral spring wire hook which extends around but is spaced from the walls of the projection B. The hook is held to the body of the holder by a relatively straight portion 2 of the hook wire, only one end thereof being visible, which straight portion is fitted in a transverse or diametrical hole drilled through the projection or buffer B near the face of the flange C. In the particular case here shown the spiral hook is one and one-half turns in length, but this, obviously, may be varied.

Figs. 3, 4, and 5 illustrate a modification of the invention the manufacturing cost of which is greatly reduced by making the apron C separately from the body member of the holder. The latter in this case is preferably turned out of wood, and consists of a handle A at one extremity thereof, a projection or buffer B at the other extremity thereof, and a recessed portion 4 intermediate the handle and projection. An apron C, as in Figs. 3, 4, and 5, is shown attached to the projecting portion of the holder.

United States Patent Office

Thomas Cahill, of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, Assignor to Newton & Thompson Manufacturing Company, of Brandon, Vermont, a Corporation of Vermont

Steel-Wool Holder

Application filed June 4, 1929. Serial No. 368,354.

1. A holder for steel wool for use in scouring cooking utensils, comprising a body member having a handle at one end thereof and a projection or buffer at the other end thereof, a flange or apron intermediate the handle and projection, means for anchoring a body or pad of steel wool to the holder, said anchoring means comprising a projection or buffer, the hook means being so shaped as to provide a very secure gripping action upon the steel wool, and this I do by compressing an annular portion thereof between the hook means and the wall of the said projection or buffer, and wherein said projection consists essentially of hook means positioned around the projection or buffer, said hook means being so shaped as to attain the gripping result and so mounted as to permit of a relatively uniform distribution of the gripping pressure on the steel wool, said projection being held to the body of the holder by a relatively straight portion of the hook wire, only one end thereof being visible, which straight portion is fitted in a transverse or diametrical hole drilled through the projection or buffer near the face of the flange, said body member being preferably turned out of wood and consisting of a handle at one extremity thereof, a projection or buffer at the other extremity thereof, and a recessed portion intermediate the handle and projection, an apron being attached to the projecting portion of the holder.
which preferably is an annular disc of flexible rubber, is pulled over the handle A and 
est in the recessed portion 4, the resulting flange or apron guarding the fingers and 
hand of the user during the scouring operation, and yet permitting pressure to be 
plied thereto directly and over a considerable working area.

The fastening means in this modification comprises a bent spring wire having a 
right portion 6, which preferably is reciprocally mounted in a diametrically drilled 
hole 8 in the projection, and a spiral hook portion 10, which extends around the cir-
cumferential wall of the projection for approximatelv one turn. The reciprocability 
of the hook is indicated by the broken line portion thereof shown in Fig. 4. The wall 
of the buffer is grooved, as at 12, in order to help the hook hold the steel wool.

The fastening means is suitably bent and mounted to obtain a very effectual and evenly 
distributed gripping action on the abrasive pad. When the hook is first turned into the 
end of the steel wool it tends to spring away from the wall of the projection or buffer. 
When the hook has been turned about half a revolution into the steel wool, the straight portion 6 slides within the 
opening 8, permitting the hook to assume a position somewhat as is indicated in the 
broken lines except that the point of the hook will be sprung outwardly. This permits a considerable body of steel wool to be caught 
between the hook and the wall of the projection. As the rotation of the holder is 
completely the body of steel wool initially caught between the hook and the projection tends to 
force the hook back to the position shown in full lines, thereby gripping the steel wool 
tightly at the opposite portion of the periphery of the projection. From another viewpoint, it may be stated that the reciprocable 
mounting of the straight portion 6 in the hole 
permits the hook to readjust itself automatically to that compromise position which insures the most even distribution of pressure 
on the steel wool.

Attention is now directed to the modificatio 
invention illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. In these illustrations the flange or apron 
C has been omitted, but it will be understood that in actual use such an apron may be 
 slipped over the handle A and onto the recessed portion 4 in a manner similar to that 
employed with the preceding modification. The present form of the invention differs from that already described in employing 
two semi-circular hooks 20 and 22, formed at 
the opposite ends of a straight portion 24. Here 
the straight portion is preferably made 
reciprocable in the transverse diametrical 
hole 26 of the projection or buffer B, thereby 
permitting the two hooks to readjust them-

themselves for a most even grip on the body of the 
steel wool. As before, the device is prepared 
for use by pushing the projection B into the 
middle of a body of steel wool, and thereafter 
rotating the handle in order to cause the 
hooks to thread themselves into the steel wool.

It should be observed that in all of the 
forms of the invention the fastening means 
includes one or more hook means positioned 
outside of the end of the holder, and that the 
end of the holder is preferably made to consti-

tute a projection which projects beyond the 
fastening means in order to prevent the 
shower from scratching the surface being 
scoured when the pad of abrasive material 
becomes considerably worn away. Also, the 
walls of the projection form an abutment 
against which the fastening means clamp the 
center portion of the pad.

If the hook has a number of turns, as in 
the first modification described, it may be 
drawn somewhat deeply into the steel wool 
pad, as is indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. Even if this brings the end of the hook 
below the face of the projection no damage is apt to result because during use the pad is 
reasonably compressed, and the spiral hook will like-

wise be compressed nearer to the face of the 
flange, and therefore be brought within the 
end of the projection or buffer. The latter, of course, is made at least sufficiently long to 
accommodate the spiral hook when the latter is compressed toward the flange.

The construction, the mode of operation, 
and the advantages of my present steel wool 
holder will for the most part be apparent 
from the foregoing description. It will be 
understood that any pad may be used, as well 
as steel wool, for any kind of polishing or 
finishing operation, as well as for scouring. It will also be apparent that while I have 
shown and described my invention in the pre-
ferred form, many changes and modifications 
may be made in the structure disclosed with- 
out departing from the spirit of the inven-
tion, defined in the following claims.

1. A holder for steel wool comprising a 
flanged handle, a projection projecting on the side of said flange opposite the handle, and wire hook means inwardly spaced from the end of and positioned around the projection, the projection preventing contact of the hook means with the surface being abraded.

2. A holder for steel wool comprising a 
flanged handle, a cylindrical projection projecting on the side of said flange opposite the handle, and spiral wire hook means positioned circumferentially around the projection.

3. A holder for steel wool comprising a 
flanged handle, a cylindrical projection projecting on the side of said flange opposite the handle, and spiral wire hook means spaced...
from the end of and positioned circumferentially around the projection, the projection preventing contact of the hook means with the surface being abraded.

4. A steel wool holder comprising a body member, shaped to form a handle at one end of the member and a projection at the other end of the member, said member being recessed intermediate said handle and projection, a disc-shaped protective apron fitted into said recess, and wire hook means positioned around said projection.

5. A steel wool holder comprising a body member shaped to form a handle at one end of the member and a projection at the other end of the member, said member being recessed intermediate said handle and projection, a disc-shaped protective apron fitted into said recess, and wire hook means extending spirally around said projection.

6. A steel wool holder comprising a body member shaped to form a handle at one end of the member and a projection at the other end of the member, said member being recessed intermediate said handle and projection, a disc-shaped protective apron fitted into said recess, and bent wire fastening means comprising a straight portion passing diametrically through said projection and a hook portion extending spirally around the wall of said projection.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 31st day of May A. D. 1929.

THOMAS CAHILL.