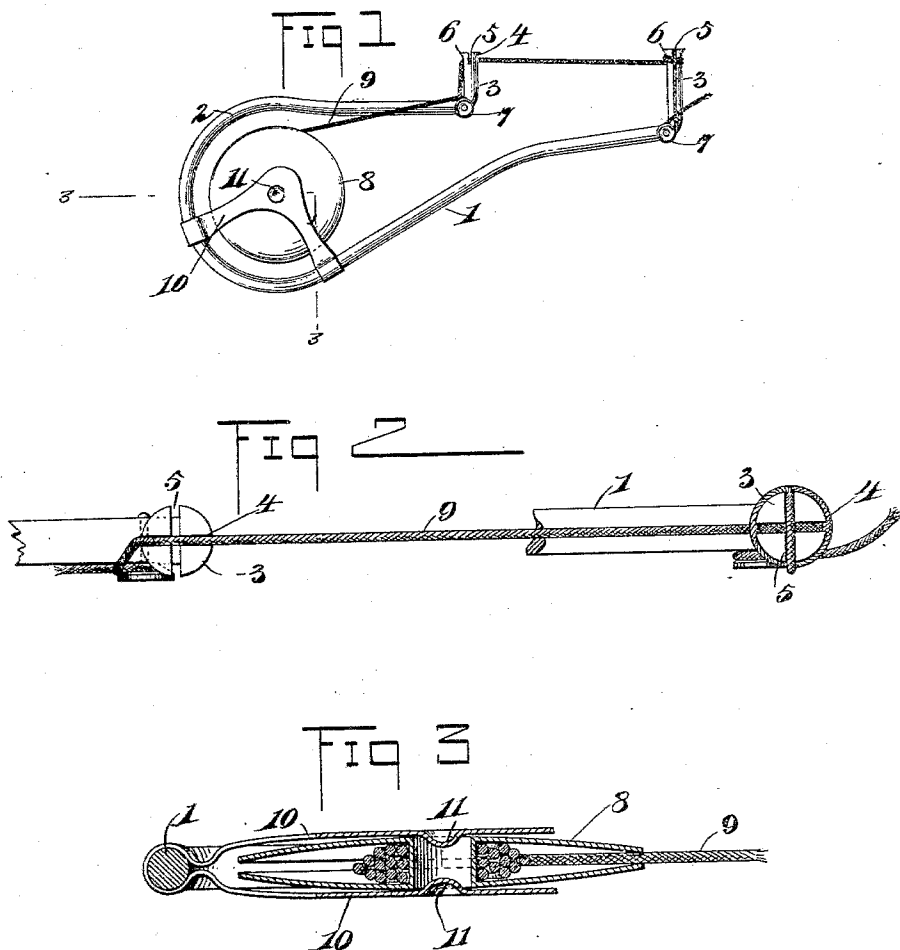


(No Model.)

J. D. CUTTER.
DENTAL FLOSS HOLDER.

No. 566,667.

Patented Aug. 25, 1896.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN D. CUTTER, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO ADELAIDE C. CUTTER, OF SAME PLACE.

DENTAL FLOSS-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 566,667, dated August 25, 1896.

Application filed June 12, 1896. Serial No. 595,311. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN D. CUTTER, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Floss-Holder, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates particularly to floss-holders for tooth-cleaning purposes; and the object is to provide a simple and convenient device by means of which a small stretch of floss or similar material may be held rigidly and in such a position as to be easily inserted between the teeth.

I will describe a floss-holder embodying my invention, and then point out the novel features in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof, drawn on an enlarged scale and with certain parts broken away; and Fig. 3 is a section through the line 3 3 of Fig. 1, and drawn on an enlarged scale.

The device comprises a frame 1 of suitable metal, such, for instance, as wire, bent to form a handle portion 2, and having the end of each member turned upward, as at 3. These upwardly-turned portions 3 are parallel one with the other, and each one at its end is provided with a kerf 4, and also, as here shown, with a kerf 5, extended at right angles to the kerf 4. Preferably the end will be flared outward to form a head, as shown at 6, the purpose of which will be hereinafter stated. Attached to the base of each portion 3 is a lug or button 7, around which the floss may be turned.

Within the body or handle portion is mounted to rotate a bobbin 8, designed to hold a supply of floss or similar material 9. As here shown, this bobbin 8 is mounted to rotate between spring yielding arms 10, extended from the body or handle portion and having inwardly-extended bosses 11, which project into a central opening in the bobbin, forming trunnions therefor.

In use the floss 9 is carried from the bobbin 8 and given one turn around the first button or lug 7. Thence the floss is carried through the kerf 4 of the projection 3, thence through the kerf 4 of the other projection 3,

and then the end is turned once or twice around the second button 7.

It may sometimes happen under undue pressure that the floss when inserted through the kerfs, as described, will slip off the end of the projections. To prevent this, or to provide means for more firmly securing the floss, the said floss may be first passed through the kerf 4, then turned once or twice around the projections underneath the head portion, and then through the kerf 5 to the button 7, as indicated at the right-hand end of the enlarged view, Fig. 2.

I have mentioned floss in connection with this device because it is a preferred material, as it may be inserted in very narrow spaces between teeth. In fact it may be inserted where it would be impossible to insert cotton or linen thread. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the use or employment of floss.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A floss-holder, comprising a frame consisting of a single strip of wire bent to form a handle portion and two outwardly-extended portions, the end of each outwardly-extended portion being flared outward and provided with a transverse kerf, a lug attached to the base of each outwardly-extended portion, and a bobbin removably supported within the handle portion of the frame, substantially as specified.

2. A device of the class described, comprising a frame having outwardly-extended portions each provided at its end with two kerfs, one kerf being transverse to the other, buttons or lugs on said portions, and a holder for floss or similar material supported in the frame, substantially as specified.

3. A floss-holder, comprising a frame bent to form a handle, spring-arms extended from said handle portion and having inwardly-extended bosses, a bobbin between said arms and having a central opening to receive the bosses of the arms, and the outwardly-extended ends of the frame provided with means to engage floss or the like, substantially as specified.

JOHN D. CUTTER.

Witnesses:

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