Feb. 24, 1931. E. O. HUNTER 1,794,233

FINGER THIMBLE FOR TELEPHONE DIALS

Filed May 27, 1929

FIG. 1.

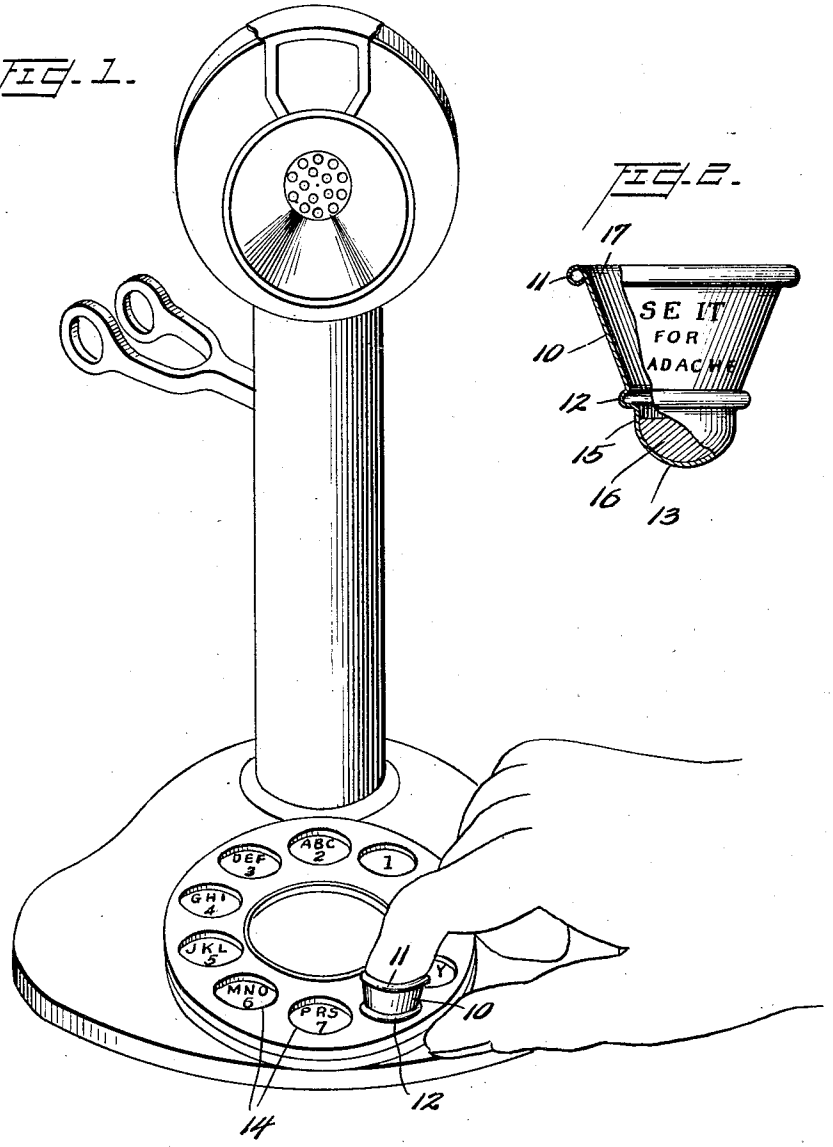


FIG. 2.

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FINGER THIMBLE FOR TELEPHONE DIALS

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This invention relates to a thimble and particularly to such a thimble adapted to be used in connection with an automatic telephone dial.

The object of the invention is to provide a thimble of this type which may be applied to the finger of an operator of an automatic telephone dial in order to assist in the operating of the dial and to prevent injury to the finger in such operation. Another object of the invention is the provision in such a thimble of a means for supporting the thimble, when not in use, in the dial in such a way that it will not be readily removed.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear in the following description and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Like reference numerals indicate like parts throughout the figures of the drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an automatic telephone station illustrating the mode of use of the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a view partly in elevation and partly in section of the thimble removed from the finger and from the dial of the telephone set.

The thimble is formed of any suitable material and by any suitable process. For the purposes of illustration, however, it is shown as being stamped from a sheet of aluminum. The body portion 10 is tapered and provided with a bead 11 at its upper edge, and a supporting bead 12 at the lower portion thereof. The tip 13 is of any suitable shape and constitutes a projection for entering a selected opening 14 in the dial member of the telephone set.

The tip 13 is therefore of a size which will readily enter the opening 14 but which will neatly fit said opening when the portion 15 of the thimble immediately below the bead 12 lies within the opening 14. It will be appreciated that the bead 12 forms a support for the thimble while resting in the said opening 14. While in the opening the thimble is free to rotate and the fit of the thimble is such that in such rotation, necessarily occurring in the operation of the dial, there will be a minimum of friction between the thimble and the dial plate. The tip is shallow enough to avoid reaching to the bottom of the dial when the thimble is in place.

At 16 there is shown a weight which may be applied within the thimble or which may be applied outside of the thimble to act as a stabilizing element so that the thimble when inserted in any opening 14 will lie with its bead 12 in contact at all points with the dial plate, so that the finger may be inserted in the thimble without any delay. This stabilizing element will also act as a positioning means for the thimble in case it is out of the opening 14 as when it is placed on a desk, so that the thimble will always, whether in use or not, present the flared mouth 17 upward, whereby the operator may readily insert the finger.

The body portion 10 as pointed out is flared from the supporting bead 12 to the rolled edge or bead 11 and is of such size that it will accommodate fingers of a variety of sizes. The rolled or beaded edge 11 is provided for the protection of the operator.

The device may be supplied as standard equipment for the set or it may be employed as a novelty on which advertising matter may be applied in any desired manner.

The use of the thimble will be apparent from the foregoing. When it is desired to use the thimble in operating a dial, the finger usually employed by the operator is inserted in the thimble and the friction produced by this insertion is such as to permit the lifting of the finger with the thimble thereon so that it may be transferred from one opening to another in the dial. It will be appreciated that when it is inserted it will rest upon the face of the dial with the supporting bead 12 immediately above said face and that the dial may be rotated by the use of the thimble in the same manner as it would have been rotated without its use, with the advantage that the finger of the operator is protected against friction between the finger and the dial plate. It is also protected from the dust that may accumulate in the dial. There is a further protection against the injury of

fingernails by the use of the thimble with the automatic telephone dial.

When it is desired to remove the thimble from the finger it is only necessary to turn the finger slightly in the thimble so as to reduce the friction between the thimble and the finger, when the thimble will drop from the finger and come to rest in one of the openings 14 in the dial. The weight 16 will contribute to this result because it will cause the thimble to drop in a vertical direction with the tip entering the dial opening. If, however, the thimble should not fall in the opening but upon the desk top or like element then the thimble will present to the operator, when it is desired to again use the thimble in the telephone set, an open mouth upwardly.

What is claimed is:

1. In a thimble for use in operating a dial of an automatic telephone, a flared body for the reception of the finger of the operator, a tip below said body for guiding the entrance of the thimble into the dial opening, and means between said body and tip for removably and rotatably supporting the thimble in the dial opening.

2. In a thimble for use in operating the dial of an automatic telephone a body portion adapted to fit the finger of an operator, a tip below said body portion and a bead between the said body and tip for supporting said thimble in a dial opening.

3. A thimble for use in operating the dial of an automatic telephone having a body portion to receive the end of the finger of an operator, a loaded tip below said body for guiding and righting said thimble in a dial opening, and means between said body and tip for supporting the thimble in said opening.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EDWARD ORMONDE HUNTER.