Nov. 20, 1945. J. A. PETRULLO 2,389,237

FINGER COT

Filed May 20, 1943

Fig. 1.

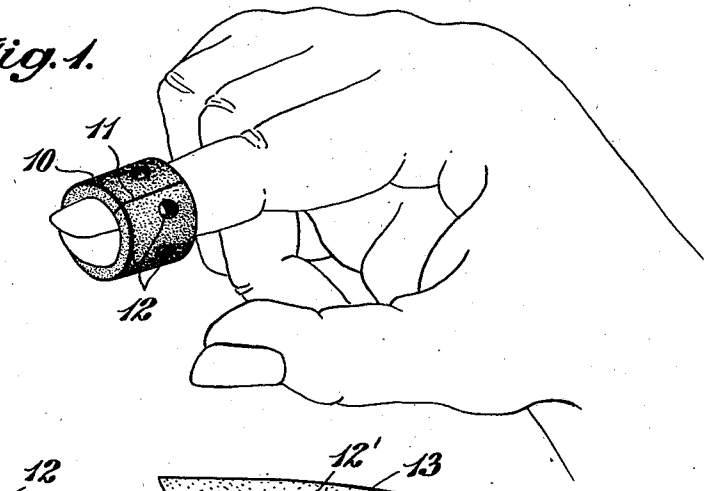
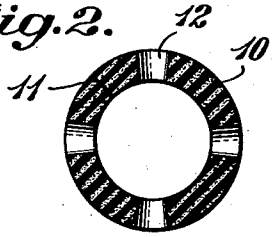


Fig. 2.



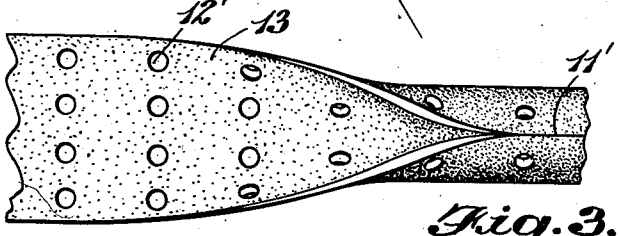


Fig. 3.

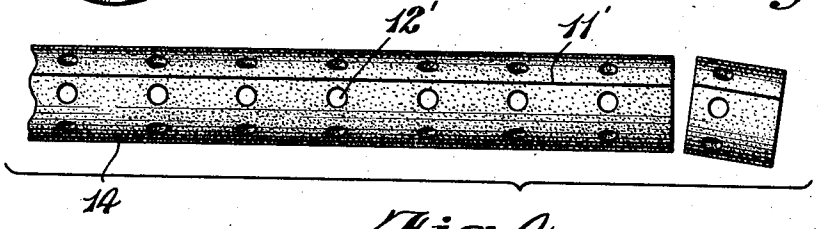


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

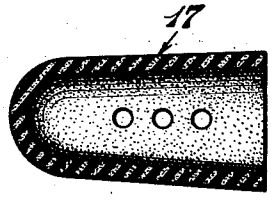
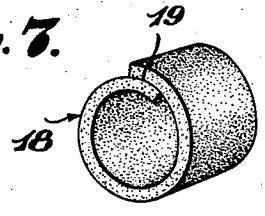


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.



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FINGER COT

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Application May 20, 1943, Serial No. 487,776

2 Claims. (Cl. 294—25)

This invention relates to finger cots or pads, and an object of the same is to generally improve devices of this type.

An outstanding objection to finger cots as heretofore known was the tendency to bind on the finger, with resulting discomfort due to restricted blood circulation and lack of ventilation. Another objection was the tendency of the cot or pad to take on a smooth hardened surface in the area of contact with the work, resulting in lack of "traction" or gripping action.

Further and more specific objects of the present invention, therefore, include the provision of a finger cot or pad which will not bind on the finger even though the cot may have a relatively snug fit, and which at the same time is freely ventilated and easily removed and replaced at will; also a cot or pad which will remain soft and pliable throughout its life and which will not lose its gripping action or "traction" with the work.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages will become apparent in view of the following description taken in conjunction with the drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a finger cot or pad in accordance with the invention shown in applied position;

Fig. 2, a transverse section of the cot of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, a plan view of a piece of stock shown in the process of being formed into a tube from which the cots are subsequently cut in suitable lengths;

Fig. 4, a view of the completed tube showing a cot being cut therefrom;

Fig. 5, a view in perspective of a modification with respect to the cot shown in Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 6, a longitudinal section of a further modified type of cot; and

Fig. 7, is a perspective of a still further modification.

Referring to the drawing in detail, and first to Figs. 1 and 2, the cot here illustrated is generally indicated at 10 and comprises a suitable length of sponge rubber made in the form of a band and joined along the line 11 by cementing or vulcanizing. The cot is preferably formed with a series of ventilating openings 12.

I have found that sponge rubber embodies certain characteristics which render such material superior to the type of rubber heretofore used in finger cots. Sponge rubber is soft and unusually pliable and remains in this condition over a long period of time. Furthermore, with this material the cot can be given a relatively snug fit on the finger and will not bind or grip the finger to a point where it stops or retards blood circulation, with resultant inherent discomfort, nor will sponge rubber harden and assume a smooth surface at the area of contact with the work. These advantages combined with the pronounced cushioning action of sponge rubber results in a cot or pad of marked superiority over prior known types.

I have also found that a cot made of sponge rubber is considerably improved by making the same in the form of a band having open ends, permitting the end of the finger to project through the end of the cot as illustrated in Fig. 1. This not only insures adequate ventilation, but also permits the relatively thick sponge rubber to assume a position on the finger which will not bind. Furthermore, the cot may be adjusted along the finger so that the end of the latter will project just the right distance so that it may be used independently of the cot if so desired.

Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a preferred method of making the improved cot. A strip of rubber 13 of suitable width may first be formed with a plurality of ventilating openings 12' and then folded and joined along the line 11 by cementing or vulcanizing, thereby providing a tube 14 of any suitable length as shown in Fig. 4. Cots may then be cut from this tube. Since the sponge rubber automatically adjusts itself to different finger dimensions or sizes of fingers, the diameter of the tube may be to some extent standardized. In other words cots for male sizes may be all cut from the same diameter of tube, while those adapted for female sizes may be cut from a tube of smaller diameter. The result is a method of production whereby the cots may be manufactured and sold at an extremely low cost.

The apertures 12 and 12' are preferably formed in the side walls of the cot intermediate the secured edges and the sheet contact face or "traction" surface of the cot which is continuous. The apertures then do not interfere with the frictional or wear qualities of the sheet contact face and, in addition to providing desirable ventilation, promote expansibility at the side portions whereby to adapt the cot to fingers of various sizes.

Fig. 5 illustrates a finger cot 15 wherein the band is joined by stapling as indicated at 16. While the cot in this instance does not have the neat appearance which prevails when the band is joined by cementing or vulcanizing as in Figs. 1 and 2, yet in this instance the cots may be made where provisions for cementing or vulcanizing are not present. In other respects the cot shown in Fig. 5 is similar to that shown in

Figs. 1 and 2, it being of the open-end type and having ventilating openings therein.

Fig. 6 illustrates a finger cot 17 of the closed-end type. The cot of Fig. 6 is also made of sponge rubber, but in this instance the preferred method of manufacture is by moulding. While the open-ended cots of Figs. 1 and 2 may also be made by moulding, yet they can be manufactured more economically by the method illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4.

Fig. 7 illustrates a finger cot 18 made of sponge rubber wherein the marginal edge portions of the strip from which the cots are made are joined by a lap seam 19. The seam may be made by cementing or vulcanizing. In actual practice I have found cots of this type cheap to manufacture while at the same time the seam is strong and durable. Due to the softness and pliability of sponge rubber, no discomfort ensues from a seam of the lap type.

The cots may be made in shapes other than those illustrated herein and by other methods of manufacture, and these and other minor changes may be adopted without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A finger cot for use as a finger protector and sheet turner comprising an open-ended cylindrical member formed of sponge rubber, said member being expansible to accommodate various sizes of fingers and being compressible to provide a flat frictional surface contact between the member and the sheet to be turned, said member being formed from a flat strip, the edges of which are brought together and permanently secured with their initial surfaces in contact, the securing means comprising a metallic staple passing through the edges of said strip, the sheet contact surface of said member being continuous, and the side walls of said member intermediate the secured edges and the sheet contact surface being apertured.

2. A finger cot for use as a finger protector and sheet turner comprising an open-ended substantially cylindrical member of spongy rubber-like material, said member being expansible to accommodate and conform to various sizes of fingers and being compressible to provide a flat frictional surface for contact between the member and the sheet to be turned, said member being made from a flat strip having its opposite edge portions united with their surfaces in contact, and means permanently securing said contacting portions together, the sheet contact surface of said substantially cylindrical member being continuous and the side walls of said member intermediate the connected edge portions and the sheet contact surface being apertured.

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