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- (71) Applicant(s)
Uni-Charm Corporation
- (72) Inventor(s)
Tsuchiya, Akemi; Tanaka, Yoshinori
- (74) Agent/Attorney
Watermark Patent & Trademark Attorneys, 290 Burwood Road,
Hawthorn, VIC, 3122
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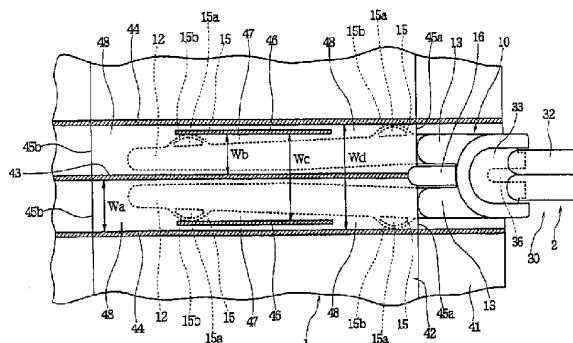
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- (74) Agent: NOZAKI, Teruo; 3rd Floor, Nishiwaki Building, 1-4, Kojimachi 4-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083 (JP).
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): UNI-CHARM CORPORATION [JP/IP]; 182, Shimobun, Kinsei-cho, Kawano-shi, Ehime 799-0111 (JP).
- (71) Applicants and
(72) Inventors: TANAKA, Yoshinori [JP/IP]; c/o Technical Center of UNI-CHARM CORPORATION, 1531-7, Takasuka, Wadahama, Toyohama-cho, Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa 769-1602 (JP). TSUCHIYA, Akemi [JP/IP]; c/o Technical Center of UNI-CHARM CORPORATION, 1531-7, Takasuka, Wadahama, Toyohama-cho, Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa 769-1602 (JP).
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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR HOLDING CLEANING WIPER AND CLEANING ARTICLE EMPLOYING HOLDING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a device (2) for holding a cleaning wiper (1). The holding device includes: a synthetic resin body portion (10) bifurcated to have a pair of support plates (12) to be inserted into a tube (45) of the wiper; and a handle portion (30) extending from the body portion to be held by hand. Each support plate is in an elongated plate form having a width (W1) larger than a thickness (T1). The paired support plates extend parallel with each other to have inner side edges (12b) facing each other and outer side edges (12a) facing in opposite directions. Protrusions (15) having convexly curved edges are integrally formed on the respective outer side edges of the support plates. The paired support plates are elastically deformable to permit tip ends thereof to approach each other.

DESCRIPTION

DEVICE FOR HOLDING CLEANING WIPER AND CLEANING ARTICLE
EMPLOYING HOLDING DEVICE

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a device for holding
a disposable or reusable cleaning wiper, and also relates to
10 a cleaning article composed of the holding device and the wiper.

Description of the Related Art

Devices for detachably holding wipers are disclosed in
Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. H8-336493
(336493/1996) and Japanese Utility-Model Registration No.
15 3043196, for example.

In Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. H8-336493,
there is disclosed a mop holder having a pair of ring-shaped
support members, which are integrally formed with a handle.
When the paired support members are inserted into a bag-shaped
20 attachment portion formed in a mop, the ring-shaped support
members are elastically deformed, so that the mop can be held
by the mop holder.

In Japanese Utility-Model Registration No. 3043196, on
the other hand, there is disclosed a cleaning device for holding
25 a cleaning sheet. This cleaning device has arm portions curved
to extend rearwardly. These arm portions are covered with the
cleaning sheet.

In these prior arts, elastic deformation of the ring-shaped support members or the arm portions upon attachment of the mop or the cleaning sheet makes it possible to firmly hold the mop or the cleaning sheet.

5 However, in the mop holder disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. H8-336493, when the ring-shaped support members are attached to the bag-shaped holding portion of the mop, the outer peripheral edges of the ring-shaped support members are brought into direct contact
10 with the inner face of the bag-shaped holding portion to slide almost entirely along the inner face of the bag-shaped holding portion of the mop. At this time, due to the elastic repulsive force of the elastically deformed support members, the sliding resistance between the outer peripheral edges of the support
15 members and the bag-shaped holding portion becomes very large. Therefore, it requires a large force to insert the support members into the bag-shaped holding portion of the mop till the end, thereby making it difficult to attach the mop holder to the mop.

20 This is also true for the cleaning device disclosed in Japanese Utility-Model Registration No. 3043196. When the arm portions are elastically deformed with the cleaning sheet to be put thereon, the cleaning sheet has to be slid over almost the entire outer peripheral edges of the arm portions for
25 attachment. Therefore, the attachment requires a large force, thereby making it difficult to attach the arm portions to the cleaning sheet.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been worked out in view of the shortcoming in the prior art set forth above. It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a holding device utilizing elastic deformation thereof for reliably holding a wiper, in which a sliding resistance upon attachment of the wiper can be minimized for facilitating the attachment of the wiper, and a cleaning article employing the holding device.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for holding a cleaning wiper, the holding device including: a synthetic resin body portion bifurcated to have a pair of support plates to be inserted into a tube of the wiper; and a handle portion extending from the body portion to be held by hand,

each support plate being in an elongated plate form having a width larger than a thickness, the paired support plates extending parallel with each other to have inner side edges facing each other and outer side edges facing in opposite directions, protrusions having convexly curved edges being integrally formed on the respective outer side edges of the support plates, the paired support plates being elastically deformable to permit tip ends thereof to approach each other, wherein the support plate has a length of 70-170 mm, and a load required to bring the tip ends of the support plates into contact with each other is 2.4 N to 7.4 N.

When the support plates of the holding device of the present invention are inserted into the tube of the wiper, the support plates are deformed, and then, the protrusions whose edges are convexly curved slide on the inner face of the tube. Therefore, although the protrusions are brought into contact with the inner face of the tube by an elastic repulsive force of the support plates, only the protrusions

slide on the inner face of the tube, thereby reducing sliding resistance and facilitating attachment of the wiper.

With the length of the support plate and the load being set within the foregoing ranges, the support plates can be smoothly inserted into the tube.

It is also preferred that the protrusion includes an elastically deformable rib defining a hollow in the protrusion. With such construction, the sliding resistance between the protrusions and the inner face of the tube can be reduced by deformation of the ribs upon insertion of the support plates into the tube.

Also preferably, the support plate is provided at a root portion thereof with a thick portion in which the thickness of the plate is increased. In this case, the tube of the wiper can be certainly held with the support plates by widening the end of the tube of the wiper with the thick portions.

It is also preferred that the body portion and the handle portion are detachably connected through a first coupling on the side closer to an upper surface of the body portion and a second coupling on the side closer to a lower surface of the body portion, and the second coupling uses a coupling configuration different from that of the first coupling, thereby eliminating the possibility of connecting the handle portion to the body portion upside down. With such construction, the body portion and the handle portion can be prevented from being assembled upside down by a user.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cleaning article including: the holding device as set forth above; and the wiper to be attached to the holding device, the wiper having two tubes extending parallel with each other, each tube having an internal width larger than the width of the support plate of the holding device so that when the respective support plates are

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inserted into the tubes, the protrusions formed on the support plates slidably move in the tubes, thereby deforming the support plates to approach each other.

5 In this case, it is preferred that narrow internal width portions, in which the internal width of the tube is reduced, are provided in intermediate positions of the respective two tubes of the wiper in a longitudinal direction thereof so that when the protrusions formed on the support plates pass the narrow internal width portions, the
10 paired support plates are deformed to approach each other, and then, when the support plates are completely inserted and the protrusions come out of the narrow internal width portions, the paired support plates move away from each other, thereby holding the wiper to prevent detachment
15 thereof from the holding device. With the narrow

internal width portions being thus provided, the wiper can be certainly held by the holding device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 The present invention will be understood more fully from the detailed description given hereinafter and from the accompanying drawings of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, which, however, should not be taken to be
10 understanding only.

 In the drawings:

 Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a cleaning article comprising a holding device and a wiper according to one embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing the holding device alone;

 Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C are a top plan view, a sectional view and a bottom plan view of a body portion of the holding device;

20 Figs. 4A, 4B and 4C are a top plan view, a side view and a bottom plan view of a handle portion of the holding device;

 Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing a connecting portion of the handle portion, taken along line V - V of Fig. 4A;

 Fig. 6 illustrates a condition where the wiper is in the middle of attachment to the holding device; and

25 Fig. 7A illustrates a condition where the wiper is attached to the holding device, and Fig. 7B is a sectional view of Fig. 7A.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention will be discussed hereinafter in detail in terms of the preferred embodiment according to the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be obvious, however, to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instance, well-known structures are not shown in detail in order to avoid unnecessary obscurity of the present invention.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a cleaning article comprising a holding device and a wiper according to one embodiment of the present invention; Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing the holding device alone; Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C are a top plan view, a sectional view and a bottom plan view of a body portion of the holding device; Figs. 4A, 4B and 4C are a top plan view, a side view and a bottom plan view of a handle portion of the holding device; Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing a connecting portion of the handle portion, taken along line V - V of Fig. 4A; Fig. 6 illustrates a condition where the wiper is in the middle of attachment to the holding device; and Fig. 7A illustrates a condition where the wiper is attached to the holding device, and Fig. 7B is a sectional view of Fig. 7A.

As shown in Fig. 1, the cleaning article is composed of

a disposable wiper 1 and a holding device 2 to which the wiper 1 is to be attached. As shown in Fig. 2, the holding device 2 can be disassembled into a body portion 10 and a handle portion 30.

5 The individual body portion 10 and handle portion 30 are injection molded of polyolefin resin, such as polypropylene (PP).

As shown in Fig. 3A, the body portion 10 has a connecting portion 11 of a length L0 at its root portion, and bifurcated, 10 forwardly of the connecting portion 11, to have a pair of support plates 12 and 12 of a length L1. Outer side edges 12a and 12a of the support plates 12 and 12 extend generally linearly and parallel with each other.

The individual support plates 12 and 12 have a constant 15 width W1 over a predetermined length range, forwardly of the connecting portion 11, so that inner side edges 12b and 12b of the support plates 12 and 12 extend parallel with each other over the range. Therefore, the spacing W2 between the inner side edges 12b and 12b facing each other is constant. Over a 20 range of length L2 at the tips of the support plates 12 and 12, the inner side edges of the support plates 12 and 12 are tapered (hereinafter, referred to as tapered side edges 12c and 12c). The tapered side edges 12c and 12c are formed such that the spacing W3 therebetween gradually increases as 25 approaching the tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12. Therefore, over the range of the length L2, the width of the individual support plates 12 gradually decreases as

approaching the tip end thereof.

As shown in Fig. 3B, the support plates 12 and 12 have a generally constant thickness T1 over a predetermined length range. Here, the support plates 12 and 12 have longitudinally
5 elongated recesses 12d on their lower surfaces, as shown in Fig. 3C, but the thickness T1 refers to a thickness of the portions surrounding the recesses 12d of the support plates 12 and 12. The support plates 12 and 12 are formed at their root portions with thick portions 13 and 13, which have a
10 thickness T2 larger than the thickness T1. The front ends 14 and 14 of the thick portions 13 and 13 are curved to gradually increase in thickness rearwardly. In the top plan view of Fig. 3A, the front ends 14 and 14 are arcuate or convexly curved.

On the respective outer side edges 12a and 12a of the
15 support plates 12 and 12, there are formed protrusions 15 projecting outwardly. The protrusion 15 has a length L3. The protrusions 15 are disposed in two positions on the respective outer side edges 12a and 12a of the support plates 12 and 12. The peak to peak distance W4 between the protrusion 15 disposed
20 on one support plate 12 and the protrusion 15 disposed on the other support plate 12 is larger than the distance W5 between the outer side edges 12a and 12a.

The edge of the protrusion 15 is convexly curved, and a hollow 15a is formed in the protrusion 15. The portion
25 defining the hollow 15a is referred to as rib 15b. The rib 15b is elastically deformable in such a direction that the hollow 15a can decrease in volume.

Between the paired support plates 12 and 12, a holding plate 16 is integrally formed to extend from the connecting portion 11. As shown in Fig. 3B, the holding plate 16 is downwardly convexly curved, and integrally formed at its lower surface with an engaging protrusion 16a which will engage the wiper 1 when the body portion 10 moves rightward as seen in the drawing.

The connecting portion 11 of the body portion 10 has a first mating recess 21 on the side closer to the upper surface and a second mating recess 22 on the side closer to the lower surface. As seen from Figs. 3A and 3C, the first and second mating recesses 21 and 22 are different in outline: the first mating recess 21 being of a generally round outline; the second mating recess 22 being of a generally rectangular outline.

Between the first and second mating recesses 21 and 22, a mating plate 23 is integrally formed. The mating plate 23 is formed with a recess 24. As shown in Figs. 3B and 3C, moreover, a pair of retaining projections 25 and 25 are formed to project from the lower surface of the mating plate 23. These retaining projections 25 and 25 have edges 25a and 25a directed toward the support plates 12 and 12.

As shown in Figs. 4A, 4B and 4C, for the handle portion 30, a connecting portion 31 and a handle 32 are integrally formed.

The connecting portion 31 has a first mating protrusion 33 on the side closer to the upper surface and a second mating protrusion 34 on the side closer to the lower surface. Between

the first and second mating protrusions 33 and 34, there is left a clearance 35, except for a mating protrusion 36 integrally formed therebetween. As shown in Fig. 4C, moreover, the second mating protrusion 34 is formed with two retaining
5 holes 37 and 37.

The outline of the first mating recess 21 of the body portion 10 and the outline of the first mating protrusion 33 of the handle portion 30 are identical to thereby form a first coupling. The outline of the second mating recess 22 of the
10 body portion 10 and the outline of the second mating protrusion 34 of the handle portion 30 are identical to thereby form a second coupling. Thus, the second coupling uses a coupling configuration different from that of the first coupling

For connecting the body portion 10 to the handle portion
15 30, the first mating protrusion 33 of the handle portion 30 is fitted in the first mating recess 21 of the body portion 10; and the second mating protrusion 34 of the handle portion 30 is fitted in the second mating recess 22 of the body portion 10. At this time, the mating plate 23 of the body portion 10
20 is inserted into the clearance 35 of the handle portion 30, and the mating protrusion 36 of the handle portion 30 is mated with the recess 24 of body portion 10. In addition, the retaining projections 25 provided on the lower surface of the mating plate 23 of the body portion 10 engage the retaining
25 holes 37 and 37 formed in the second mating protrusion 34 of the handle portion 30. Thus, the body portion 10 and the handle portion 30 are firmly engaged.

The body portion 10 and the handle portion 30 thus connected can be forcibly separated by disengaging the coupling between the retaining projections 25, 25 and the retaining holes 37, 37.

5 It should be noted that even if a user tries to connect the body portion 10 and the handle portion 30 upside down, the second mating protrusion 34 of the handle portion 30 can not enter the first mating recess 21 of the body portion 10, thereby preventing the body portion 10 and the handle portion 30 from
10 being connected upside down.

 In the body portion 10, the support plates 12 and 12 are in the form of thin elongated plate, and elastically deformable in directions α so that the tapered side edges 12c and 12c may come into contact with each other. In order to make the support
15 plates 12 and 12 deformable in the directions α to the extent that permits the tapered side edges 12c and 12c to come into contact with each other, it is preferred that the width W1 of the respective support plates 12 and 12 is in a range of 5 to 20 mm and the length L1 is in a range of 70 to 170 mm. It is
20 also preferred that a load required to deform the support plates 12 and 12 in the directions α and bring the tapered side edges 12c and 12c into contact with each other, is from 2.4 to 7.4 N. Below the foregoing limit, the wiper 1 can not be firmly held with the support plates 12 and 12. In excess of the
25 foregoing limit, it requires too much force to deform the support plates 12 and 12 in the directions α for attachment

of the wiper 1, making it difficult to attach the wiper 1.

Here, the load can be measured using a measuring instrument such that the outer side edge 12a of one support plate 12 is supported by the measuring instrument, the outer side edge 12a of the other support plate 12 is pushed, and the scale of the measuring instrument is read when the tapered side edges 12c and 12c come into contact with each other.

The support plates 12 and 12 are also deformable to bend upwardly in the drawing of Fig. 3B. To this end, the thicknesses T1 and T2 are set smaller than the width W1. For example, it is preferred that the thickness T1 is of the order of 1 to 4 mm and the thickness T2 is of the order of T1 + 1 to 5 mm.

On the other hand, when a value measured using a measuring instrument such that the lower surfaces of the support plates 12 and 12 are supported on the measuring instrument over a range of one-half of the length L1 from the tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12 and then the rear end of the connecting portion 11 is lifted up by 25 mm from the surface of the measuring instrument, is taken as bending strength, the bending resistance preferably ranges between 3 and 15 N. Below the foregoing limit, the support plates 12 and 12 are too soft to certainly press the wiper 1 against an object to be cleaned by holding the handle 32. This results in decreasing the wiping effect due to the wiper 1. In excess of the foregoing limit, the support plates 12 and 12 are excessively hard and a reaction force of pressing against the object to be cleaned directly acts on the hand holding the handle 32, so that the wiping

operation becomes difficult.

On the other hand, the length L3 of the protrusion 15 is about 8 to 25 mm. In addition, the protrusion 15 protrudes from the outer side edge 12a of the support plate 12 by about 3 to 10 mm. Moreover, the rib 15b of the protrusion 15 has a thickness of about 0.5 to 2 mm.

Next, the wiper 1 shown in Figs. 1, 6 and 7 comprises a body portion 41, which is formed from a nonwoven fabric, a laminate of nonwoven fabrics, a foamed resin material, or any other suitable materials. On the upper face of the body portion 41, there is disposed a holding sheet 42.

The body portion 41 and the holding sheet 42 are joined to each other at a center fusion-bond line 43 extending longitudinally of the wiper 1 and a pair of side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44 which are spaced apart from the center fusion-bond line 43 by W_a sidewardly. Between the center fusion-bond line 43 and the respective side fusion-bond lines 44, 44, there are formed a pair of elongated tubes (holding spaces) 45 and 45.

The body portion 41 and the holding sheet 42 are further joined to each other at narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46, which are located in intermediate positions of the tubes 45 and 45 in the longitudinal (lengthwise) direction thereof and between the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44. In the positions where the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 are provided, therefore, there are formed narrow internal width portions 47 and 47 having an internal width W_b between the center

fusion-bond line 43 and the respective narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46. In the front and rear portions outside of the narrow internal width portions 47 and 47, on the other hand, the tubes 45 and 45 provide wide internal width portions 48 and 48 having the internal width W_a . The tubes 45 and 45 have openings 45a and 45b at their front and rear ends.

Both the internal width W_b of the narrow internal width portions 47 and the internal width W_a of the wide internal width portions 48 are larger than the width W_1 of the support plates 12 and 12 of the holding device 2. In addition, the distance W_d between the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44 is larger than the distance W_5 between the outer side edges 12a and 12a shown in Fig. 3A and substantially equal to or slightly smaller than the peak to peak distance W_4 between the protrusions 15 and 15. Moreover, the distance W_c between the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 is equal to or slightly larger than the distance W_5 between the outer side edges 12a and 12a shown in Fig. 3A and sufficiently smaller than the peak to peak distance W_4 between the protrusions 15 and 15.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 6, the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 are provided between and separately from the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44. However, it is also possible to integrate the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 with the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44. That is, the line width of the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44 may be increased toward the center fusion-bond line 43 in the narrow internal width portions 47 to provide the internal width W_b , while

maintaining the internal width W_a between the center fusion-bond line 43 and the respective side fusion-bond lines 44 in the wide internal width portions 48.

Fig. 6 illustrates a condition where the wiper 1 is in the middle of attachment to the holding device 2.

The tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12 of the holding device 2 are inserted into the tubes 45 and 45 of the wiper 1 through the openings 45a (insertion through the openings 45b is also possible). As the protrusions 15 and 15 provided close to the tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12 enter the wide internal width portions 48 and 48 of the tubes 45 and 45, the support plates 12 and 12 are slightly deformed in the directions α , and the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 slide along the inner sides of the side fusion-bond lines 44 and 44.

When the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 are brought into contact with the ends of the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46, then, the force to insert the support plates 12 and 12 is converted into a force to deform the support plates 12 and 12 in the directions α due to the convexly curved shape of the protrusions 15 and 15. Therefore, the support plates 12 and 12 are largely deformed in the directions α to bring the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 into contact with the inner sides of the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46. As the support plates 12 and 12 are inserted farther, then, the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 slide along the inner sides of the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 due to the elastic recovery force of the support plates 12 and 12 tending to move

away from each other.

Thus, the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 slide along the inner sides of the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 while being pressed against them due to the elastic recovery force of the support plates 12 and 12. However, since the length L3 of the protrusions 15 and 15 is not large and the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 are convexly curved, the sliding area between the edges of the protrusions 15, 15 and the inner sides of the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46, 46 is always small. In addition, since the support plates 12 and 12 are of the elongated plate form, the elastic repulsive force when the support plates 12 and 12 are deformed in the directions α is not very large. Accordingly, the sliding load between the edges of the protrusions 15, 15 and the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46, 46 is not heavy, so that it requires only a small force to insert the holding device 2 into the wiper 1 farther than the state shown in Fig. 6 to the end.

Here, it may possibly happen that although the support plates 12 and 12 are deformed to the maximum limit in the directions α for insertion into the narrow internal width portions 47 and 47, the peak to peak distance between the protrusions 15 and 15 is still slightly larger than the distance Wc between the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46. In this case, the ribs 15b and 15b of the protrusions 15 and 15 are deformed in directions to decrease the areas of the hollows 15a and 15a, thereby enabling the protrusions 15 and 15 to pass through the narrow internal width portions 47 and 47.

When the protrusions 15 and 15 provided close to the tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12 go beyond the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 to complete the insertion of the holding device 2 into the wiper 1, as shown in Fig. 7A, the support plates 12 and 12 move away from each other due to the elastic recovery force of the support plates 12 and 12, so that the respective narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 are sandwiched between the two protrusions 15 and 15 of the respective support plates 12 and 12, thereby holding the wiper 1 so as not to detach from the holding device 2.

At this time, at the openings 45a and 45a of the tubes 45 and 45, the holding sheet 42 is placed below the holding plate 16 and firmly retained by the engaging protrusion 16a provided on the lower surface of the holding plate 16, as shown in Fig. 7B. In addition, the thick portions 13 and 13 of the body portion 10 of the holding device 2 enter the openings 45a and 45a of the tubes 45 and 45 to increase the pressure to the holding plate 16 and the holding sheet 42, thereby increasing the clamping force of the holding plate 16 against the holding sheet 42. Thus, the wiper 1 can be certainly held by the holding device 2, preventing undesirable separation of the wiper 1 from the holding device 2 during wiping operation.

On the other hand, when the wiper 1 is detached from the holding device 2, the protrusions 15 and 15 provided close to the tip ends of the support plates 12 and 12 of the holding device 2 slide into the space between the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46, and the support plates 12 and 12 are deformed

in the directions α , as shown in Fig. 6. At this time, too, since the edges of the protrusions 15 and 15 are convexly curved, the protrusions 15 and 15 can enter the space between the narrowing fusion-bond lines 46 and 46 smoothly. Therefore, the
5 wiper 1 can be easily detached from the holding device 2.

As another embodiment of the present invention, it is also possible that the holding device 2 has a single support plate, two protrusions 15 and 15, which are shown in the embodiment of Fig. 1 and so on, are formed on each side edge
10 of the single support plate, and the protrusions 15 are constructed to have a hollow 15a and a rib 15b. In this case, the wiper 1 is provided with a single tube. When the support plate is inserted into the tube, the ribs are elastically deformed so that the support plate may pass through the narrow
15 internal width portion. When the support plate is completely inserted into the tube, on the other hand, the ribs are elastically recovered in the wide internal width portion to hold the wiper.

According to the present invention, as has been described
20 above, the holding device can be smoothly attached to the wiper and the wiper can be certainly held by the holding device.

Although the present invention has been illustrated and described with respect to exemplary embodiment thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the
25 foregoing and various other changes, omission and additions may be made therein and thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Therefore, the

present invention should not be understood as limited to the specific embodiment set out above but to include all possible embodiments which can be embodied within a scope encompassed and equivalent thereof with respect to the feature set out in
5 the appended claims.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A device for holding a cleaning wiper, the holding device including: a synthetic resin body portion bifurcated to have a pair of support plates to be inserted into a tube
5 of the wiper; and a handle portion extending from the body portion to be held by hand,
each support plate being in an elongated plate form having a width larger than a thickness, the paired support plates extending parallel with each other to have inner side
10 edges facing each other and outer side edges facing in opposite directions, protrusions having convexly curved edges being integrally formed on the respective outer side edges of the support plates,
the paired support being elastically deformable to
15 permit tip ends thereof to approach each other,
wherein the support plate has a length of 70-170 mm and load required to bring the tip ends of the support plates into contact with each other is 2.4-7.4 N.
2. The holding device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
20 protrusion includes an elastically deformable rib defining a hollow in the protrusion.
3. The holding device as set forth in any of claims 1 or 2, wherein the support plate is provided at a root portion thereof with a thick portion in which the thickness of the
25 plate is increased.
4. The holding device as set forth in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the body portion and the handle portion are detachably connected through a first coupling on the side closer to an upper surface of the body portion and a second
30 coupling on the side closer to a lower surface of the body

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portion, the second coupling using a coupling configuration different from that of the first coupling, thereby eliminating the possibility of connecting the handle portion to the body portion upside down.

5 5. A cleaning article including: the holding device as set forth in any of claims 1 to 4; and the wiper to be attached to the holding device, the wiper having two tubes extending parallel with each other, each tube having an internal width larger than the width of the support plate of the holding
10 device so that when the respective support plates are inserted into the tubes, the protrusions formed on the support plates slidably move in the tubes, thereby deforming the support plates to approach each other.

6. The cleaning article as set forth in claim 5, wherein
15 narrow internal width portions, in which the internal width of the tube is reduced, are provided in intermediate positions of the respective two tubes of the wiper in a longitudinal direction thereof so that when the protrusions formed on the support plates pass the narrow internal width
20 portions, the paired support plates are deformed to approach each other, and then, when the support plates are completely inserted and the protrusions come out of the narrow internal width portions, the paired support plates move away from each other, thereby holding the wiper to prevent detachment
25 thereof from the holding device.

7. A device for holding a cleaning wiper substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the embodiments shown in accompanying Figures nos. 1-7.

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8. A cleaning article substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the embodiments shown in accompanying Figures nos. 1, 6 or 7.

DATED this 9th day of June 2006

UNI-CHARM CORPORATION

WATERMARK PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS
290 Burwood Road
Hawthorn Victoria 3122
Australia

P23464AU00 MCQ/RCM/SLB

Fig. 1

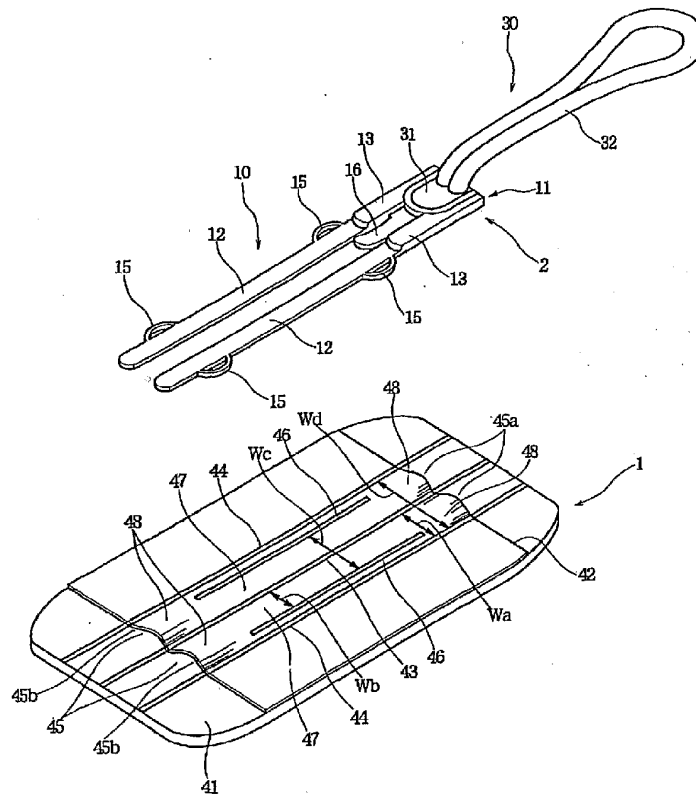
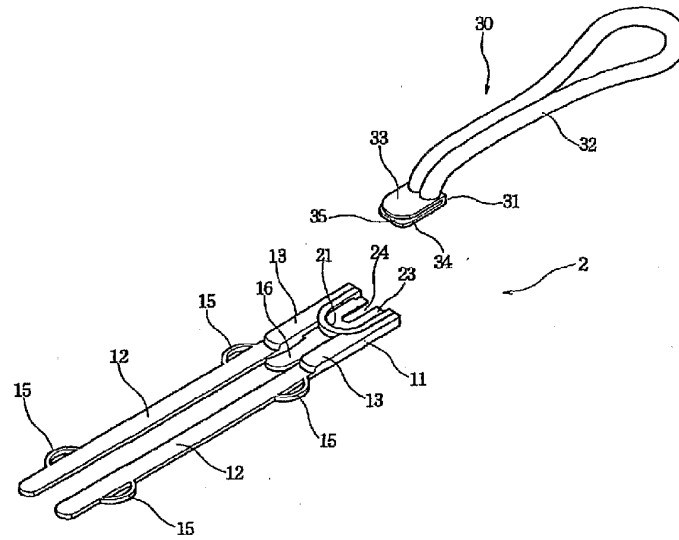


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3A

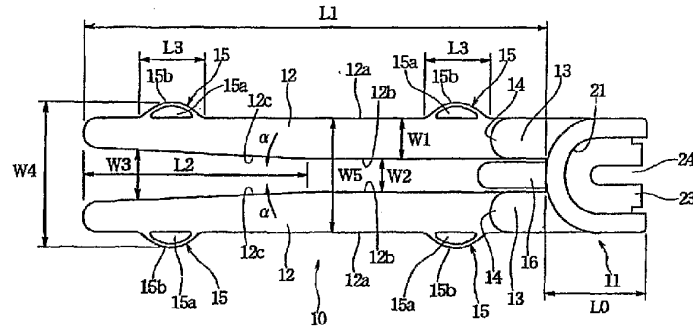


Fig. 3B

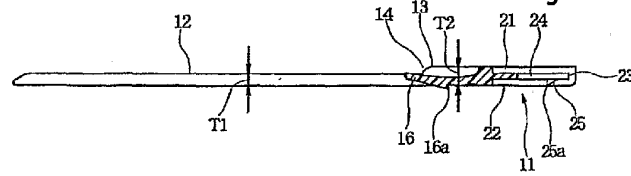
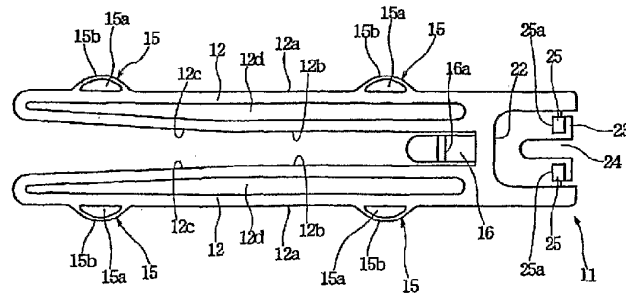


Fig. 3C



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Fig. 4A

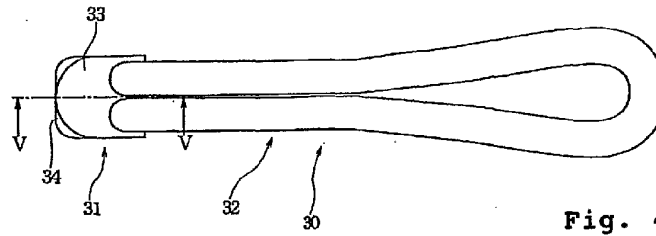


Fig. 4B

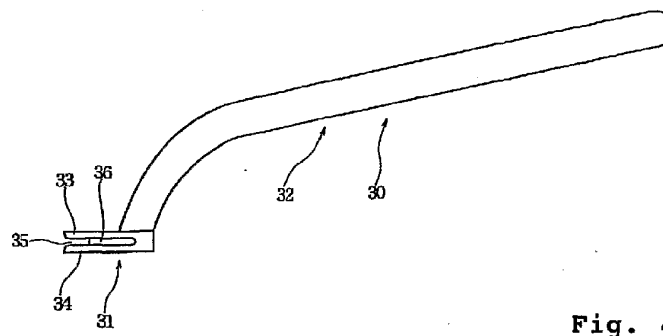
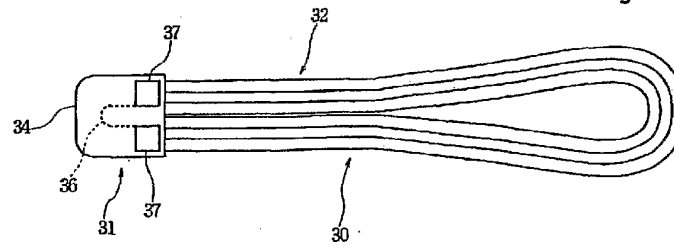


Fig. 4C



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Fig. 5

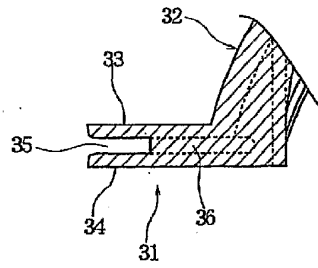


Fig. 6

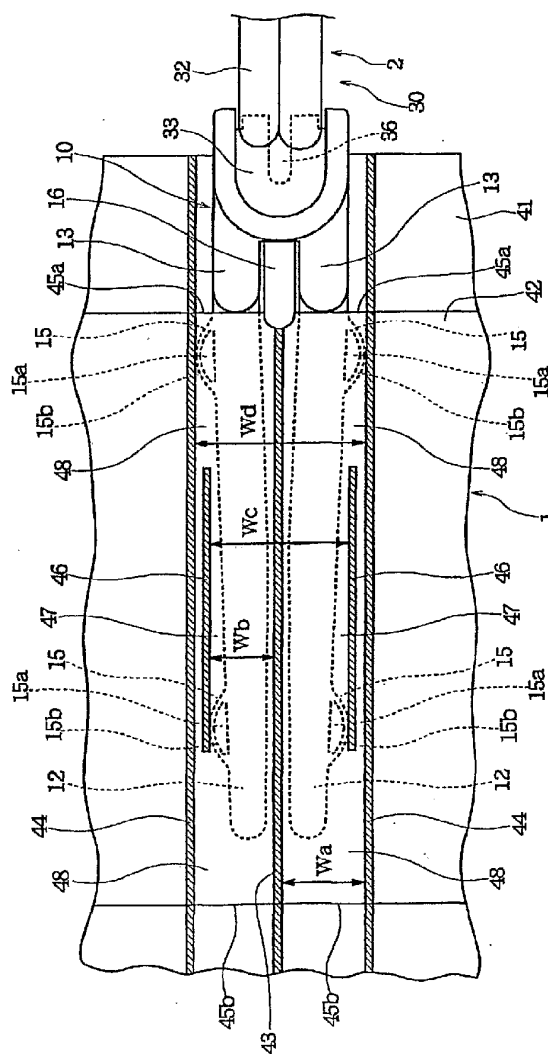


Fig. 7A

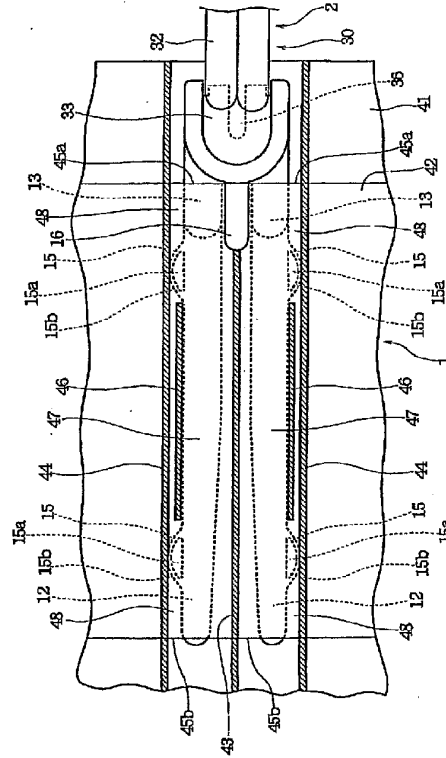


Fig. 7B

