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Perley D. Cummings

PATENTED
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Imp'd Needle Cushion

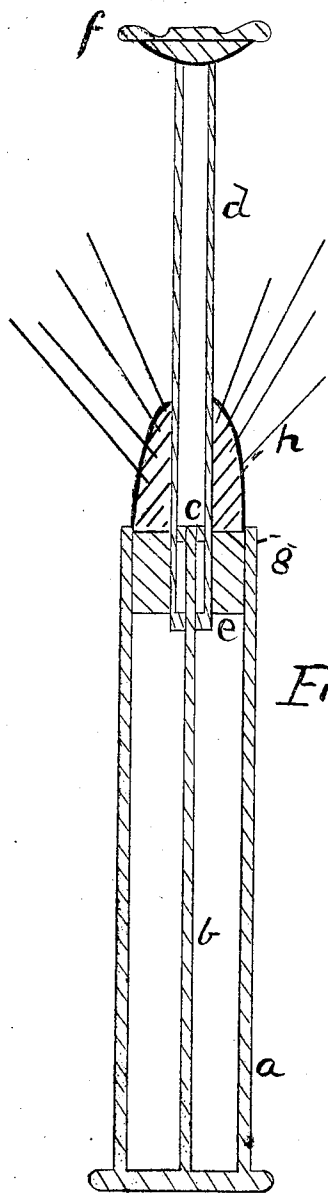


Fig. 1.

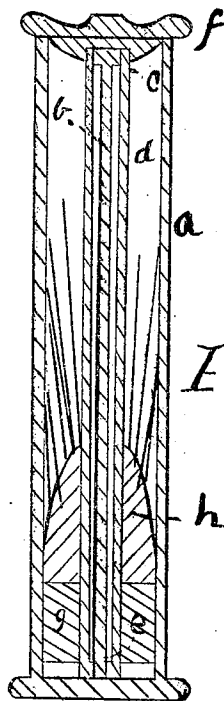


Fig. 2.

Witness

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Inventor

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United States Patent Office.

PERLEY D. CUMMINGS, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

Letters Patent No. 72,271, dated December 17, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN NEEDLE-CASES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, PERLEY D. CUMMINGS, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland, and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improved Needle-Cushion; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others to make and use my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a section of my invention as it appears when open.

Figure 2 is a section of the same, showing its appearance when closed.

The needle-books, cases, and cushions now in use all have numerous objectionable features. In needle-books it is a work of much time to place the needles in the several leaves, and it is usually the case that a number have to be taken out and replaced before the kind required can be found. In needle-cases the needles are easily put in and taken out, but as they are loose, it is difficult to distinguish and separate the different sizes, and they are liable to be dropped and lost. Cushions, again, besides being clumsy, are soon worn out, and on being cut open, after having been in use for any length of time, are found to contain a greater or less number of needles, which have worked through the cover into the material with which the cushion is filled or stuffed.

The object of my invention is to furnish a needle-cushion, which will be at once convenient, durable, and compact, and which will allow the needles to be securely fastened in, and the different sizes easily and quickly selected and removed when needed. To obtain this result, I have united the compactness of the needle-case with the convenience of the cushion, and at the same time have obviated the objections to which they are open. I will now proceed to describe more particularly the construction and operation of my invention, reference being made to the accompanying drawings.

a is the outside case or cylinder; *b*, a rod, rigidly attached to the same at the bottom, and extending to the top, having at *c* a small projection or shoulder; *d* is a tube, sliding over the rod *b*, and also having a shoulder at *c*, which, acting in connection with the shoulder *c*, prevents a too great extension of these parts. This tube *d* also has a cover at *f*, fitting closely over the cylinder when the case is shut, as seen in fig. 2. To the lower end of the tube *d* is attached a wooden casing, *g*, fitting tightly the outer cylinder and sliding in it. To this casing *g* is fastened the cushion proper, which is composed of rubber or some elastic material, and which tapers gradually from the wooden casing *g*, which forms its base, to the point of junction with the tube *d*, at *i*. The cushion is shown at *h*.

The operation of my invention is as follows: The needles are to be placed in the cushion *h* at any desired angle. Upon the tube *d* being pushed down within the cylinder *a*, the elasticity of the rubber allows it to yield, and to permit the needles, upon striking the upper edge of the cylinder *a*, to assume an upright position, thus bringing metal against metal, and reducing the friction. When the cylinder is closed, the needles are perpendicular, as shown in fig. 2, but upon again drawing out the tube *d* they will spring out to their former positions, making an angle with the tube. When thus placed, it will be seen that each needle may be distinctly seen, and by turning the case in the hand each may be brought to view in turn, and its size readily discerned. Each particular needle will present itself in such a way that it can be readily grasped by the thumb and finger, and drawn from the cushion, while at the same time the danger of its becoming accidentally loosened is much diminished, from its being held quite firmly where the point is inserted into the rubber or other elastic substance. By removing the sharp edge of the cylinder *a*, and making it somewhat bell-muzzled, it will be capable of receiving pins as well as needles.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the cylinder *a*, rod *b*, tube *d*, and cushion *h*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

PERLEY D. CUMMINGS.

Witnesses:

W. H. CLIFFORD,

HENRY C. HOUSTON.