May 25, 1954 J. PALMA, JR., ET AL 2,679,064

SPONGE CLEANER DEVICE

Filed July 31, 1951

Fig. 1

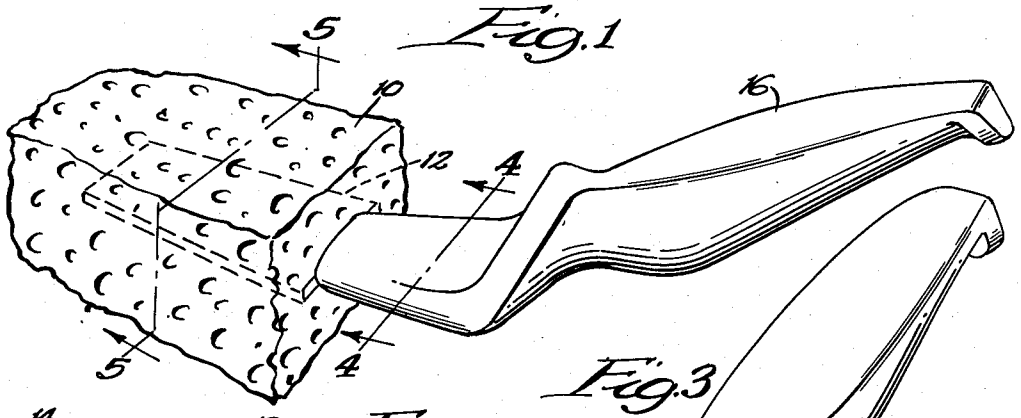


Fig. 2

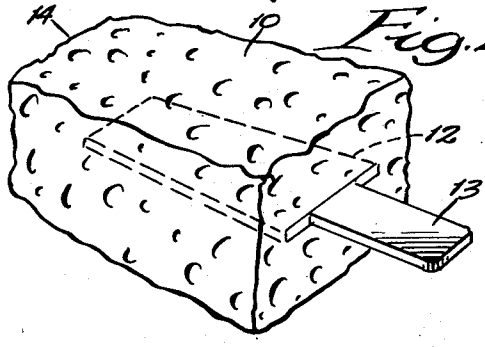


Fig. 3

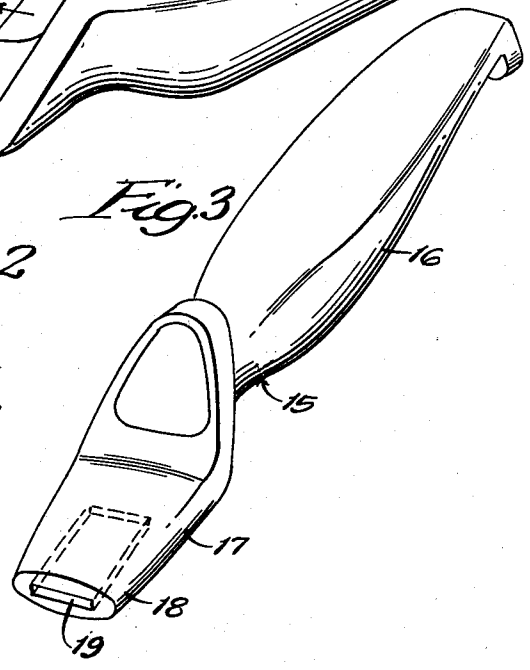


Fig. 4

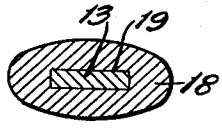
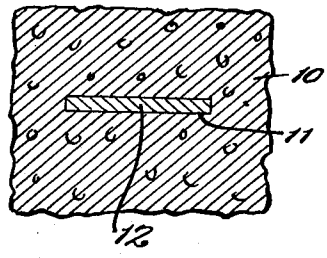


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,679,064

SPONGE CLEANER DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 15—244)

1

This invention relates to a sponge cleaner device. The device is useful in the washing of dishes and cleaning other surfaces and articles.

An object of the invention is to provide a sponge cleaner device of extremely simple construction which is useful for the cleaning of dishes and other articles or surfaces while at the same time providing means for quick wringing of the sponge. A further object is to provide a sponge device which is manipulatable by the user without bringing her hands into contact with the washing solution, etc., while at the same time providing means for securing the sponge firmly upon a handle and enabling the operator to wring the sponge readily as desired. A still further object is to provide an improved sponge cleaner device and supporting structure therefor enabling the sponge to be separated from a holder while at the same time providing means for securely retaining the sponge upon the holder during use, etc. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown, in an illustrative embodiment, by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sponge cleaner device embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a perspective view of the sponge and insert support thereof; Fig. 3, a perspective view of the handle or holder for the sponge; Fig. 4, a transverse sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 4—4 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 5, a transverse sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

In the illustration given, 10 designates a sponge which is preferably slitted or recessed from the rear thereof toward the front but terminating short of the front of the sponge, the recess being indicated by the numeral 11. Within the recess is secured a flat plate or blade support 12 which preferably tapers from the rear slightly toward its forward end. The flat blade extends transversely of the sponge 10 and preferably through the greater part of the width of the sponge. It may be secured within the sponge by a friction fit, but I prefer to unite it firmly within the recess by the use of adhesive.

The insert plate 12 may be formed of plastic, metal, or any other suitable material, and is preferably provided with a rearwardly-extending tongue or attachment extension 13.

The sponge 10 may be a natural sponge or it may be an artificial sponge and may be formed of any suitable material. The sponge 10 may be of

2

any suitable shape; I prefer, however, to employ a sponge having the shape illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 with the sides of the sponge tapering inwardly to form a reduced pointed forward end portion 14.

The holder 15 may be of any suitable construction. I prefer to employ a holder having a hand-receiving handle portion 16 and depending therefrom at the forward end a socket portion 17. The socket portion 17 drops downwardly from the forward end of the handle portion 16 with a sharply angled portion and then extends forwardly to provide a horizontal portion 18 provided with a socket 19. The holder or handle member 15 is preferably formed of molded plastic, but may be formed of metal, wood, or any other suitable material. In the illustration given, the socket 19 provides a tight friction fit for the tongue 13 so that the two parts are rigidly held together when tongue 13 is pressed into the socket 19. However, other means may be provided for locking the two parts together. In the operation of the device, the sponge member, as disclosed in Fig. 2, is united to the holder member 15, as shown in Fig. 3, by pressing the tongue 13 tightly within the socket 19. The handle portion may then be grasped and the sponge pressed downwardly into the water. The lower portion of the sponge forms an excellent means for cleaning dishes, cooking vessels, etc., and may be cleaned by immersing it in clear water and repeatedly flushing the sponge. The handle 16 permits the user to press the lower portion of the sponge against a surface for effective flushing of the water therefrom, the broad plate 12 providing a presser surface enabling the operator to squeeze the water from the entire lower portion of the sponge by merely pressing down upon the handle 16. Similarly, the top portion of the sponge may be flushed by pressing it upwardly against a surface.

In cleaning dishes, the pressing of both sides of the sponge can be accomplished against the dish itself by pressing the sponge downwardly against the top surface of the plate and later pressing the sponge against the lower portion of the plate. In actual practice, the user constantly presses the sponge in cleaning the upper and lower surfaces of the plate, and the flushing of the sponge is accomplished automatically.

When a sponge has become worn, it may be removed from the handle and replaced with a new sponge; further, sponges of different sizes may be used interchangeably with the same handle or holder device. By having the hori-

zontal socket portion 18 suspended below the hand-engaging portion 16, we find that in the manipulation of the sponge there is less strain upon the connecting parts and less danger of their becoming separated, while further the user can press the sponge readily in a downward and upward direction to flush the water therefrom against lower and upper abutments.

While in the foregoing specification, we have set forth a specific structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating an embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that such details may be varied substantially by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of our invention.

We claim:

In a sponge cleaner device, a sponge body having a relatively flat work surface, a relatively flat plate embedded within said sponge body and lying in a plane generally parallel to the plane of said work surface, said plate being equipped with a rearwardly-extending tongue projecting outwardly from said sponge body and lying substantially in a plane defined by said plate, a socket having a forwardly-extending portion provided with a recess therein releasably receiving said tongue therein with a frictional grip and having also a sharply angled portion extending upwardly from said forwardly-extending portion, and a handle carried by said angled portion and extending upwardly and rearwardly therefrom.

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