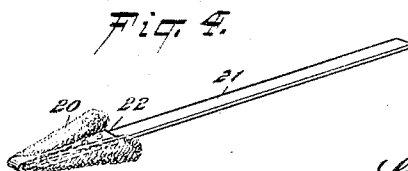
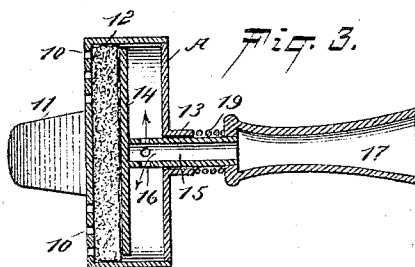
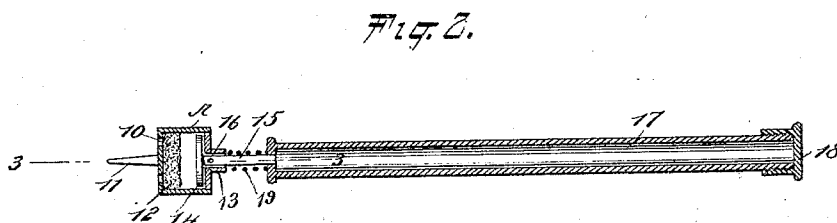
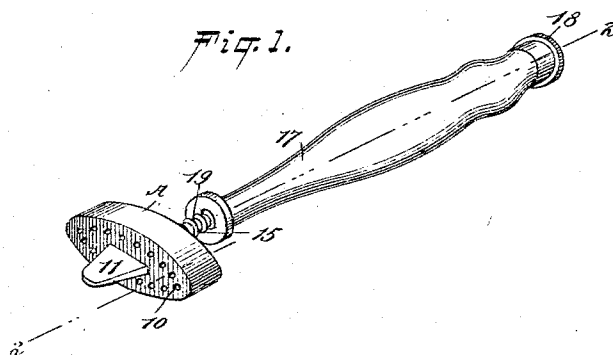


(No Model.)

C. MILLER.
BUTTONHOLE MOISTENER.

No. 548,572.

Patented Oct. 22, 1895.



WITNESSES:

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CHARLES MILLER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BUTTONHOLE-MOISTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 548,572, dated October 22, 1895.

Application filed June 21, 1895. Serial No. 553,605. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES MILLER, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Buttonhole-Moistener, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to a device for moistening buttonholes; and the object of the invention is to provide a device of simple, durable, and economic construction, through the medium of which the starched surface of an article of wearing apparel at the margin of the buttonholes may be expeditiously and conveniently moistened to enable the buttonhole to be more readily manipulated—as, for instance, preparatory to buttoning a garment.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the buttonhole-moistener. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken substantially on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical transverse sectional view taken substantially on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the moistener.

In carrying out the invention in the preferred form of the device, a head A is provided of substantially boxlike construction, and this box may be of any desired shape, that shown in the drawings being somewhat elliptical and is to be preferred. The front face of the said box-body has a series of apertures 10 produced therein, and a lip 11, of substantially wedge-like construction or of tapering form, is made to extend from the central portion of the apertured face of the box-body, being at a right angle to said face, and this lip is adapted to be passed into the buttonhole in order to guide the apertures 10 to the surface of the garment at the margin of the buttonhole. A sponge 12, or other absorbent material, is placed within the chamber of the box-body and in engagement with the apertured face thereof, while an opening is made in the central portion of the back of the body, surrounded by a sleeve or collar 13.

A plunger 14 is held to slide in the chamber of the box-body and is adapted to compress the sponge or absorbent material 12. A tubular rod 15 is attached to the said plunger and extends out through the collared opening in the back of the body, and apertures 16 are made in this hollow or tubular stem or rod 15 at a point near the plunger 14, as is best shown in Fig. 3, the said tubular stem or rod being secured to a hollow handle 17, serving as a reservoir for water, the handle being provided with a suitable cap 18, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. A spring 19 is coiled practically around the outer portion of the tubular stem or rod 15, having a bearing against the head or body A of the device and against the forward end of the handle, and this spring normally draws the plunger 14 to an engagement with the back of the head or body A, as illustrated in Fig. 2, and at that time the apertures in the stem of the plunger will be closed by the collar 13 of the head or body.

In operation, the lip 11 is introduced into the buttonhole and the handle is pressed in the direction of the garment containing the buttonhole, whereby the box-body A is carried in engagement with the buttonhole, around the margin thereof. The plunger will therefore be carried forward against the sponge and at the same time the water from the handle will flow into the head through the openings in the stem of the plunger and will moisten the sponge in advance of its engagement by the plunger, so that when the wet sponge is pressed sufficient water will be forced out through the openings 10 in the body or head to moisten the surface of the garment at the margin of the buttonhole. This device is exceedingly simple and convenient.

In Fig. 4 I have illustrated a slight modification of the device, in which the sponge 20 is given a substantially conical or tapering shape, and is secured upon a handle 21, consisting of a strip of metal bent upon itself to form a parallel member 22 at one end, the sponge being clamped between the body of the handle and the member 22, and the two parts are riveted or otherwise secured. Under this construction the sponge must be dampened from a supply of water near at hand, whereas in the other form of the device

the dampening of the sponge is automatically performed with the moistening of the button-hole. The point of this modified tapering moistener is formed by the metallic handle-strip, which forms a guide to enter the button-hole and cause the sponge to moisten the same.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A device for moistening button holes, the same consisting of a handle having an absorbent material at one of its ends, held for contact with the margin of a button hole, and a guide to enter and open the button-hole, as and for the purpose set forth.
2. In a device for moistening button holes, a reservoir, a moistening material in communication with the reservoir, and adapted to be directed to the margin of a button hole for the purpose of moistening the same, and a guide to enter and open the button hole, as and for the purpose set forth.
3. In a device for moistening button holes, a reservoir for liquid, a moistening material in valved communication with the reservoir and adapted to be directed to the margin of a button-hole, and a guide adapted to enter the button hole, as and for the purpose specified.

4. A device for moistening button holes, the same consisting of a reservoir, an apertured head, an absorbent material contained within the head, a plunger located within the head and adapted to compress the absorbent material, a tubular connection between the reservoir and head, and means, substantially as described, for cutting off the supply of liquid from the reservoir, as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a device for moistening button holes, the combination, with an apertured head or body provided with a guide lip to enter a button hole, the apertures being adapted to be directed to the surface surrounding the button hole, and an absorbent material contained in the head and held in engagement with the apertured face thereof, of a spring-controlled plunger located within the head, having a tubular stem apertured near its inner end, a reservoir connected with the tubular plunger stem, and a cut-off for the apertures in the said stem, as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES MILLER.

Witnesses:

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