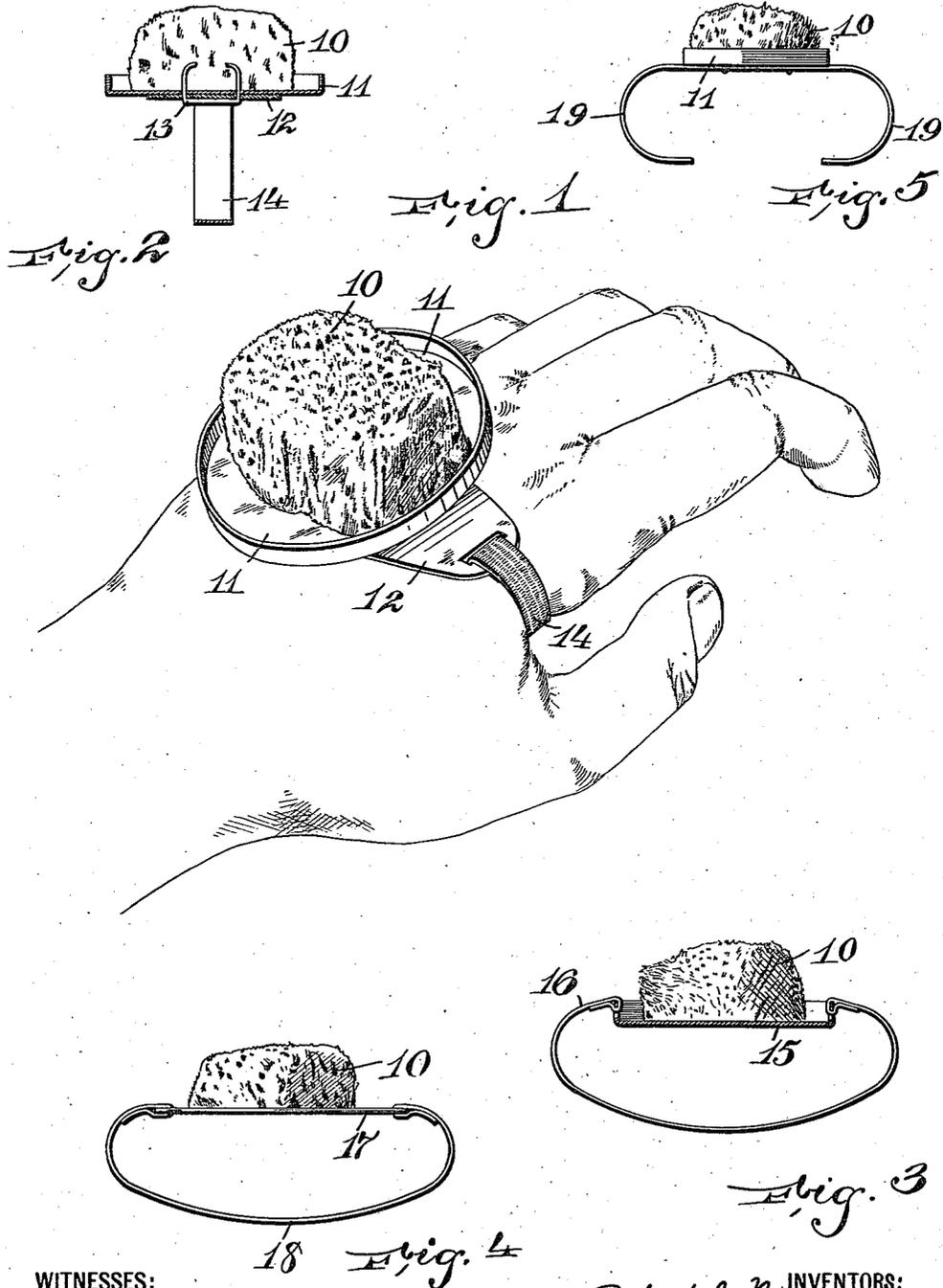


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 MOISTENING DEVICE.
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 8, 1913.

1,139,942.

Patented May 18, 1915.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT J. WIGHTMAN, OF NEWARK, AND WILLIAM B. POWELL, OF EAST ORANGE,
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MOISTENING DEVICE.

1,139,942.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROBERT J. WIGHTMAN and WILLIAM B. POWELL, citizens of the United States, residing at Newark and East Orange, respectively, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Moistening Devices; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to figures of reference marked thereon, which forms a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a moistening device which is adapted to provide an absorbent pad, such as a sponge, which is mounted on a suitable backing, the backing in turn being adapted to be placed on the back of the hand of the user and to be detachably secured to the hand so that it does not interfere with the use of the fingers on both hands and can be carried about by the user. Such moistening device is adapted for use by postal clerks, clerks in banks, clerks who are engaged in filing, and in numerous other positions where a moistening of the fingers is a constant necessity, which moistening is difficult if the clerk is not in a stationary position, but must move about with papers.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hand showing the moistener in place on the back of it. Fig. 2 is a section through the moistening device shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a modified form of construction, and Fig. 4 is a still further modified form of construction. Fig. 5 shows a modified form of fastening means.

In the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2 we provide an absorbent pad 10 which may be a made-up pad, or it can be a sponge as shown, the absorbent pad being placed in a cup 11, which cup has a marginal rim so as to confine some water, the cup sitting on a strip 12, the cup and the strip together forming a backing for the pad 10. The sponge can be secured to the backing in any way, but we prefer to do it as shown in Fig. 2 which illustrates a staple 13 which is driven through the backing and into the sponge, having its ends clenched in the

sponge so that the whole device is secure. Any required number of staples 13 can be used. The strip 12 is somewhat flexible so that it conforms better to the back of the hand, the ends of the strip being secured to a band 14 which can be a strap with fastening means, such as a buckle, or it can be as shown in the drawing, comprising an elastic band which can be snapped over the hand and which holds itself in place by its elasticity. The backing, particularly the cup 11, is made of material that is impervious to water, the preferred material being light, such as celluloid, and similar materials, and we may also make the backing of metal.

In Fig. 3 we show the pad 10 placed in a cup 15 with marginal flanges, the cup itself being provided, at opposite sides, with means for securing ends of the band 16, which is preferably an elastic band, although it may be a band or strap with fastening means attached.

In Fig. 4 is illustrated the pad 10 mounted on a strip 17 which is simply a flat strip without a marginal bead, the strip forming the backing being provided with a band 18 for securing it to the hand. The backing being impervious to water, makes the device more comfortable, since any pressure by moistening the fingers on the pad will sometimes force some water from the sponge when the pressure is a little heavy, and the backing prevents the water from being forced out on the back of the hand. The cup-shaped backing has a further advantage in that it permits the moistening of the sponge while it is on the hand without wetting the hand, since any slight amount of excess water which would not be at once absorbed by the sponge would be retained by the cup until the sponge was pressed once or twice until its capillary attraction would be increased.

In Fig. 5 we show a clamp or holder 19 made of a band of spring material, as metal, which can be easily slipped or snapped over the hand to hold the backing and pad in place. We show a band that is not continuous, but other forms can be used.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:—

A moistening device comprising a broad thin strip of material flexible enough to conform to the back of the hand and approximately as long as the width of the hand, an

open cup substantially centrally arranged
on the strip, the cup having a vertical mar-
ginal rim, a fastening means arranged sub-
stantially central of the cup and securing it
5 to the strip, a compressible absorbent pad
arranged in the cup, and a fastening means
connecting the ends of the strip.

In testimony, that we claim the forego-

ing, we have hereunto set our hands this
28th day of December, 1912.

ROBERT J. WIGHTMAN.
WILLIAM B. POWELL.

Witnesses:

WM. H. CAMFIELD,
M. A. JOHNSON.