

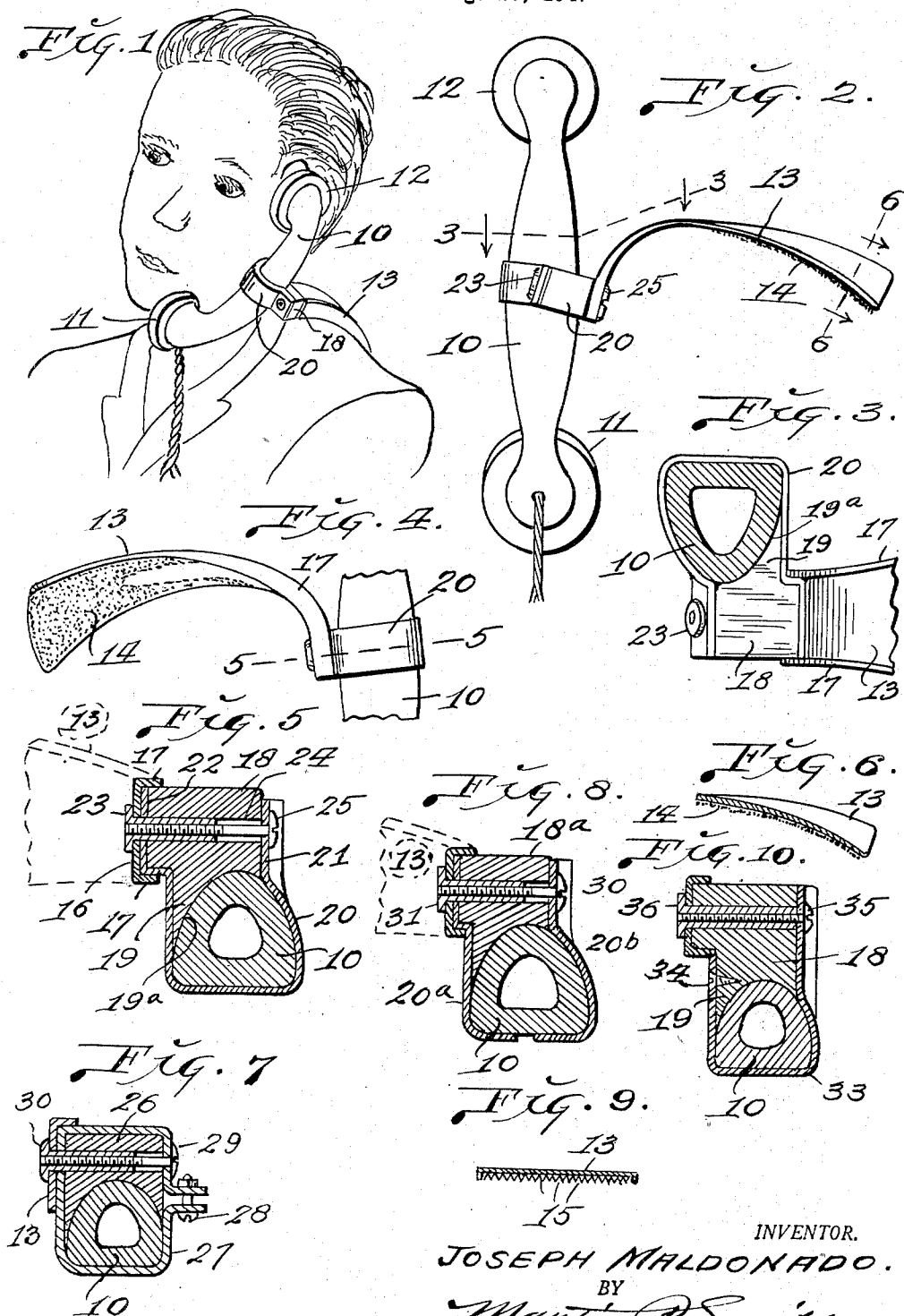
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TELEPHONE HANDPIECE SHOULDER SUPPORT

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TELEPHONE HAND PIECE SHOULDER
SUPPORTJoseph Maldonado, Los Angeles, Calif., assignor
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1 Claim. (Cl. 179-157)

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My invention relates to supports for the hand pieces of portable telephones and has for its principal object, to provide a simple, practical and inexpensive support, particularly designed to be readily applied to the conventional telephone hand piece, thereby enabling said user to carry on a telephone conversation with both hands free to handle papers, use a pen or pencil or perform other manual acts or manipulations.

An object of the invention is to provide a telephone support having a block which serves the double function of forming a portion of a clamp for the handle of the hand phone and as a foundation piece for a shoulder support.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the support positioned on the shoulder and holding a hand-piece in position for use.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the handpiece showing the support applied thereto.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of the central portion of the handpiece with the shoulder-engaging arm applied thereto.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a detail section taken on the line 6-6 of Fig. 2.

Figs. 7 and 8 are sectional views similar to Fig. 5 and showing modified structures.

Fig. 9 is a detail section taken on the line 9-9 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 10 is a cross section similar to Fig. 5 and showing a modified construction.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawing, particularly to Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, which illustrate a preferred embodiment of my invention, 10 designates the body of a conventional telephone handpiece, 11 the transmitter at the lower end and 12, the receiver at the upper end.

The supporting member 13 which overlies the shoulder, is formed from a single piece of thin material such as sheet metal, plastics or rubber and said member is curved lengthwise so as to fit snugly on top of the shoulder near the neck, and said member gradually increasing in width towards the free end.

In order that the arm 13 may conform to the

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shape of the shoulder, said arm is twisted transversely intermediate its ends, so that its outer end portion is inclined approximately fifteen degrees relative to a plane at right angles to the axis of the handpiece 10.

Inasmuch as the arm 13 is formed from sheet metal, plastics or the like, it may be readily bent and twisted by the hands to suit and fit different individual requirements.

In order that the arm 13 may engage the clothing on the user's shoulder with abnormal friction and thereby more firmly maintain its proper position for use, the underface of the outer portion of said arm, may be scored, roughened or may be overlaid with a thin layer of sponge rubber 14, or a sheet of sand or emery paper.

Further, to produce the desired friction or anchorage, the edges of the end portion of the arm 10 may be provided with small serrations 15 as seen in Fig. 9.

The inner end portion of arm 13 terminates in a small rectangular plate 16, which occupies a plane substantially at right angles to the axis of said arm and the sides of said plate and adjacent edges of said arm are bent at right angles to form narrow flanges 17.

A block 18 of wood, plastics, rubber or the like, having on one side a finger 19, with a concave side face 19a which fits the convex rear side of the central portion of handpiece 10, with said finger 19 lying on one of the curved side faces of said handpiece. The block 18 serves somewhat as a saddle, riding on the convex rear portion of the handpiece 10. As shown at 19 in Fig. 5, one side of the saddle may be longer than the other, although this difference may be less pronounced as shown in Fig. 7 wherein there is little difference in length between the two sides of the saddle.

Thus the greater portion of block 18 is offset laterally with respect to the axis of handpiece 10.

The concave face 19a is slightly inclined crosswise with respect to its length, and as a result, the block 18, when fitted onto the side of the handpiece is tilted so that the end of said block outwardly from the handpiece, is lower than the inner end, thus tending to support the handpiece closer to the side of the user's head. (See Figs. 2 and 4.)

The concave face 19a of the block 18 fits the corresponding portion of the convex periphery of the handpiece 10 and a supplementary portion of the periphery of the handpiece 10 fits the intermediate portion of a somewhat U-shaped metal

strap 20, whereby the block 18 and strap 20 supplement each other in encircling the handpiece. As shown in Figs. 3 and 5, the bight of the strap 20 is substantially flat to fit the flat front of the handpiece 10. Strap 20 has rearwardly extending legs 21 and 22 which fit the opposite ends of the block 18 at the rear of handpiece 10. The screw 25 and nut 23 clamp the block 18 and the strap 20 together around the periphery of the handpiece 10. The block 18 thus serves as a portion of the clamp for the handpiece 10, while also serving as a foundation or support for the shoulder strap 13.

Plate 16 and its flanges 17 overlie the end portion 22 of strap 20 and to clamp the arm, strap and block to each other and to handpiece 10. A tubular nut 23 passes through plate 16, end portion 22 of the strap, into a bore 24, through block 18 and through end portion 21 of the strap, which nut receives the threaded end of a screw 25 which passes through end portion 21 of the strap (see Fig. 6). Thus by manipulating and tightening screw 25, strap 20, block 18 and arm 13 are rigidly clamped on the central portion of handpiece 10, where they do not appreciably interfere with the proper positioning of the handpiece on the cradle or base of the 'phone, or with the lifting of said handpiece from said cradle.

It is to be understood that band 20 may be readily adjusted and clamped at any convenient point on handpiece 10 above or below the center thereof.

When in use, the curved arm lies across the shoulder adjacent the neck thus positioning the receiver adjacent the user's ear and the transmitter adjacent the mouth, as seen in Fig. 1.

In the modified construction illustrated in Fig. 7, a saddle shaped block 26 is positioned on the inner face of handpiece 10 with a metal strip 27 passing around said block and handpiece and the ends of the strip connected on the side by a screw 28.

In the modified form illustrated in Fig. 8, a two part clamping band comprising metal straps 20a and 20b, passes around handpiece 10 and over the ends of block 18a and are clamped to the latter and to the inner end of arm 13 by a screw 30 and tubular nut 31.

In Fig. 10, block 18 is adjustably mounted on a handpiece 10 by means of a strap 33, one end of which overlies finger 19 on said block and being secured thereto by means of a screw 34 which passes through one end of said strap, said block and the inner end of arm 13.

Thus it will be seen that I have provided a telephone handpiece shoulder support which is simple in structure, inexpensive of manufacture and very effective in performing the functions for which it is intended.

Minor changes in the size, form and construction of the various parts of my improved telephone handpiece shoulder support may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which is set forth in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

A shoulder support for a telephone handpiece having a substantially flat front face and a convex rear face, said support comprising a substantially U-shaped strap having an intermediate portion adapted to fit the flat front face of the handpiece, said strap having rearwardly extending legs adapted to extend beyond the rear of the handpiece, said legs being spaced apart, a block fitting between the outer ends of said legs, said block having a saddle-like concave portion adapted to ride on the rear convex portion of the handpiece, said block and said strap supplementing each other encircling the handpiece, a clamping screw extending through the legs of said strap and through said block for clamping said strap and said block onto said handpiece, a shoulder piece, and means for securing said shoulder piece to said block.

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