

H. C. KNIPPEN.
 SPATULA.
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 29, 1908.

990,748.

Patented Apr. 25, 1911.

Fig. 1.

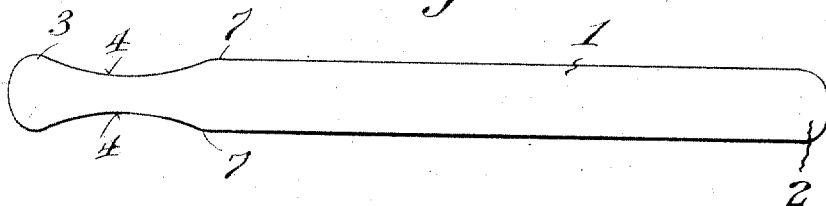


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

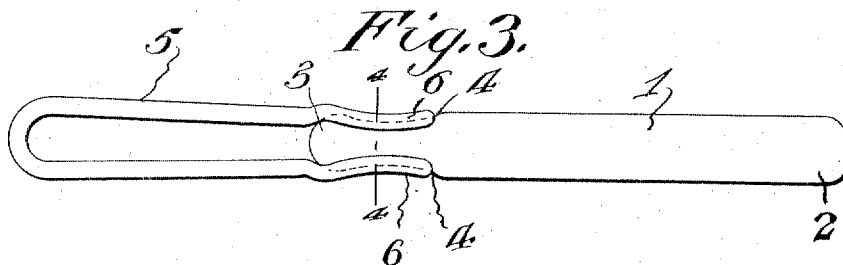
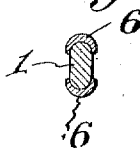


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

Joe. P. Wahler.
E. P. Bunge.

Inventor,
Hadley C. Kniffen.

By *Victor J. Evans,*
 Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HADLEY C. KNIFFEN, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

SPATULA.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HADLEY C. KNIFFEN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Spatulas, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to spatulas, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide a spatula blade of resilient wood, with a detachable metal handle.

Spatulas are usually made of steel and are not provided with detachable handles. The usual steel blade is often destroyed by the chemical action of certain drugs in use, and it is to overcome this defect that I have invented a wooden spatula blade and have provided a detachable handle so that after the spatula has been used the blade may be thrown away and a new one connected to the handle, thus providing a new clean spatula for each operation.

The objects and advantages hereinbefore referred to may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which,—Figure 1 is a plan view of a spatula blade made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blade and handle connected, showing my invention complete. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawing for a more specific description of my invention, the numeral 1 designates a spatula blade made of resilient wood, like hickory, oak or other wood of a slight elastic character; said spatula blade being gradually tapered from heel to tip, the latter being designated 2 and the heel 3. The surfaces of the opposite sides of the spatula are plane, and its edges approximately parallel throughout except near the heel 3 where they are provided with oppositely disposed recesses 4, 4, each long and shallow and having sloping ends 7 merging gradually into the general line of the edge. The latter is by preference rounded transversely throughout the recesses as best seen in Fig. 4.

The detachable handle 5 consists of a piece of resilient wire bent centrally into U-shape with nearly parallel arms provided at their free ends with two spring clamping jaws 6, 6 bent inward toward each other on curves

corresponding with said recesses 4 and having longitudinally grooved inner surfaces adapted to clamp the rounded edges of the blade 1.

From the foregoing, it will be obvious that the blade 1 can be readily detached from the handle 5, and after its use the old blade may be replaced by a new one, thus giving a clean spatula for each operation.

In the act of inserting a blade in the handle, the former is brought into position with its heel 3 against the outer ends of the jaws 6, and then simply pushed into the handle—the arms of the handle yielding laterally to permit the jaws to spread apart until the heel 3 has passed between—and when the recesses 4 register with the bends in the jaws the grooves in the latter engage the transversely rounded edges of the recesses throughout their entire length. Thus is produced a connection between handle and blade which is sufficiently rigid for all practical purposes, and yet these members may be instantaneously disconnected when desired by simply pulling the blade longitudinally out of the handle as for inserting a new one, etc. While in place the blade cannot be moved laterally with respect to the handle on account of the grooves in the jaws, nor can it be moved longitudinally without the exertion of unusual force on account of the recesses 4 and the bends in the jaws registering therewith. Yet I prefer that the recesses shall be long and shallow, (rather than short and distinct which would cause them to be notches) in order to render the parts readily separable as set forth.

There are many chemicals and drugs which have a deleterious action upon steel, and there are comparatively few drugs which have such an effect upon wood. Moreover, the latter is not a good conductor of electricity, and it often occurs that a spatula must be used where an electric current is present and the operator desires to avoid receiving a shock.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:—

The herein described spatula, the same comprising a wooden blade having in its edges near its heel two oppositely disposed, long, shallow recesses with sloping ends merging gradually into the general line of the edges of the blade, the edges of said re-

cesses being rounded transversely; and a handle of resilient metal having two arms provided at their free ends with spring clamping jaws bent inward toward each other on curves corresponding with said recesses and longitudinally grooved, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HADLEY C. KNIFFEN.

Witnesses:

HARRY J. HORTH,
A. B. MALLORY.