Oct. 18, 1949. C. E. FLYNN 2,485,375

CUTLERY

Filed Aug. 29, 1945

FIG.4.

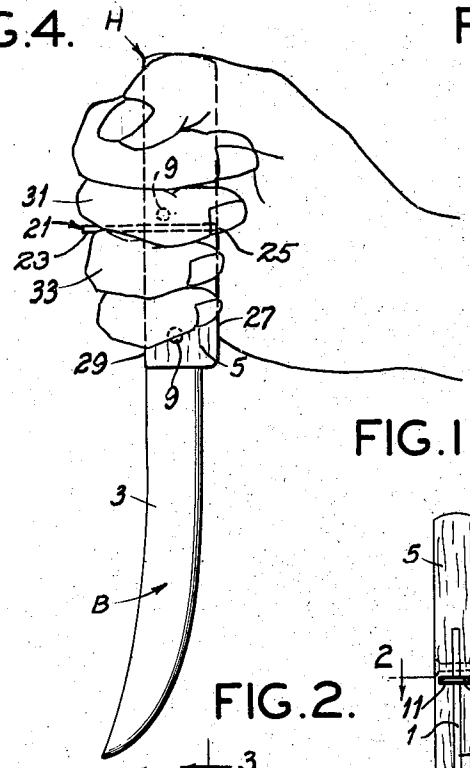


FIG.5.

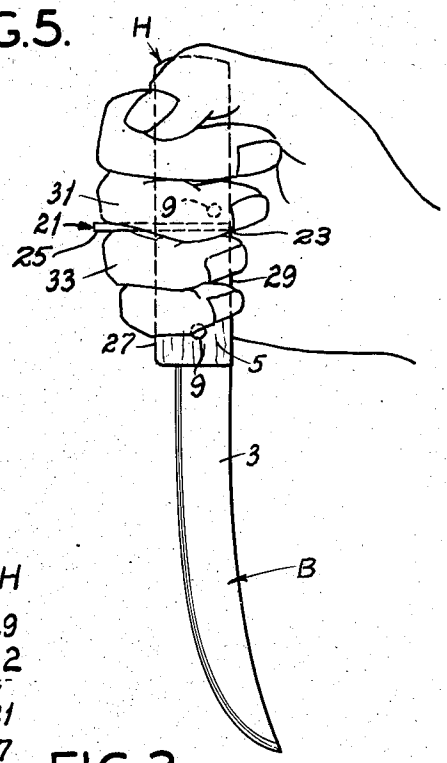


FIG.1.

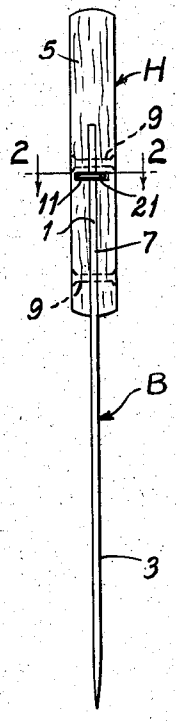


FIG.2.

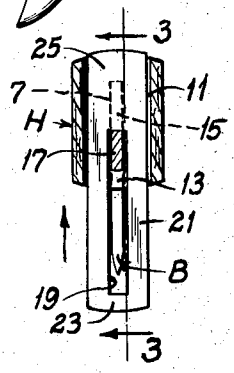
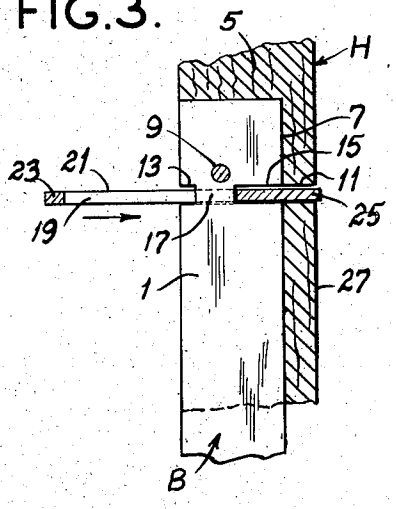


FIG.3.



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CUTLERY

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1 Claim. (Cl. 30—295)

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This invention relates to cutlery, and with regard to certain more specific features, to safety guards for knives and the like, particularly for butchering, culinary and similar purposes.

Among the several objects of the invention may be noted the provision of a guard construction so located with respect to the handle of a piece of cutlery that operating balance is preserved; the provision of a guard of the class described which automatically requires the user to employ it regardless of how he grasps the handle of the cutlery carrying the guard; and the provision of a light-weight, comfortable guard of the class described which is simple and economical to construct and apply to the cutlery. Other objects will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

The invention accordingly comprises the elements and combinations of elements, features of construction, and arrangements of parts which will be exemplified in the structures hereinafter described, and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the following claim.

In the accompanying drawings, in which one of various possible embodiments of the invention is illustrated,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a knife embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view showing my new knife grasped in one way; and,

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing the knife grasped in another way.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Hereinafter, a knife is referred to as a class example of the type of cutlery to which the invention applies, and is not to be taken as limiting.

Guard constructions are a necessity for certain knives, for example butcher knives for packing plant use. They would also be desirable for culinary knives if they were unobtrusive enough. In the case of butcher knives, they are used with such speed, dexterity and force that if any mishap occurs in thrusting the knife, as for example by striking with the knife point a bone or table, the hand of the operator may slide from the handle and be very seriously injured. It is for this reason that guards are required safety devices on knives to be used in packing houses

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and the like. However, their use has not been popular for several reasons. As constructed today, such guards are generally heavy and located at the base of the knife handle, like on a sword, in which position the operating balance of the knife (particularly a light one) is considerably impaired, particularly for quickly executing fancy cuts. As a result the guards are often surreptitiously removed by packing house employes, without the knowledge of those in charge of safety, with resulting serious accidents and financial loss. Furthermore, the former guards were so heavy and clumsy that they were seldom used for culinary cutlery; whereas it would be quite desirable also to incorporate them for such uses. My invention overcomes the above difficulties and encourages the wider spread use of knife guards.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, B indicates a blade in general and H its attached handle. The blade B has a shank 1 from which extends the cutting element 3. In the present embodiment the handle H consists in a wooden grip 5, slotted at 7 to receive the shank 1. Holes through the handle in the vicinity of the slot 7 and shank 1 accommodate holding rivets 9.

Crosswise of the slot 7 is located a flatwise opening 11 serving as a guide which passes through the grip 5 from top to bottom. As indicated, the guide 11 and the slot 7 intersect. At the intersection the shank 1 is notched as shown at 13 and 15, leaving a connecting portion 17. This portion 17 is located in a slot 19 of a slidable guard 21 and serves to hold the latter prisoner, though movable. This guard 21 is of a width for sliding freely in the guide 11, and the slot 19 therein is of a width freely to slide around the connection 17. The ends 23 and 25 of the guard 21 are respectively alternately accommodated in the notches 13 and 15 (and the adjoining portions of the guide 11). Thus in Figs. 2 and 3 the end portion 25 is shown in the notch 15, but the guard may be pushed from this position in the direction shown by the arrows until the end portion 23 is in the notch 13. In either position, the respective end of the guard 21 is flush with the handle.

The knife may be grasped either as shown in Fig. 4 or in Fig. 5. For example, in Fig. 4 the cutting edge is toward the operator and in Fig. 5 it is away from him, both being common positions for various cuts. Referring to the bottom side of the handle by numeral 27, and the top side by numeral 29, it will be seen in Fig. 4 that the palm of the hand presses against said bottom

27. In doing so it forces the sliding guard 21 outward to protrude from the top side 29 of the handle. This protrusion takes place preferably between the third and fourth fingers 31 and 33 in the operator's hand. The length of the slide 21 is preferably kept to a value that the protrusion is only between the fingers and not far, if any, beyond, so as not to interfere with surrounding objects. This causes the slide 21 to operate as a guard since even if the knife is plunged downwardly hard and its point encounters an obstruction, the hand cannot slip down onto the blade B.

In Fig. 5, wherein the knife is reversed in the hand, the palm of the hand comes against the top 29 of the handle, thus pushing the slide 21 out beyond the bottom 27 of the handle and again in between the third and fourth fingers 31 and 33 of the operator. Furthermore, the knife may be turned upward, instead of downward, in either of the positions shown in Figs. 4 and 5 and operate equally well. The guard in any position adjusts itself automatically to the operator's grasp.

The slide 21 may be made quite light and since it is located at or near the center of the handle H, it does not disturb the operating balance of the knife for fast and complicated cutting operations. In practice the actual weight of the only part that is needed in addition to the usual knife parts is of the order of an ounce, more or less, particularly if the slide 21 is made of aluminum. Even this slight weight is somewhat offset by the loss of weight in the shank 1 at notches 13 and 15 and from the handle H at guide 11.

While a substantially (though not exact) central position is shown for the guard on the handle, it will be understood that any other desired similar median position may be satisfactory, as required by proper balance. By median position is meant one which, when the handle is grasped, enables the operator automatically to push the slide 21 out in between any two opposite fingers. For example, it might be desired to have the guard so located that a palm portion

of the hand would push it out in between the first and second fingers or between the fourth and fifth fingers.

While various shapes of the slide guard are satisfactory, the shape is preferable which is flatwise perpendicular to the handle H and blade B, since this places a minimum amount of material between the operator's fingers and makes almost imperceptible the feeling of the presence of the guard.

In view of the above, it will be seen that the several objects of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results attained.

As many changes could be made in the above constructions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

A reversible guard for a cutlery handle, the latter having a space in which is contained a non-cutting extension from a cutting blade and having a transverse slot which is spaced in the handle a substantial distance from the cutting blade itself, said guard having a passage accommodating the non-cutting handle extension, whereby the guard may move and the extension act as a stop for the guard, the guard being movable to and from opposite positions in each of which one end of the guard is flush with one edge of the handle and the other end of the guard extends from the opposite edge of the handle, the width of the guard being no greater than the width of the handle between its sides.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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Number	Country	Date
762,292	France	Jan. 18, 1934