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PATENTED MAY 26, 1908.

N. DUPERRAULT.
THUMB OR FINGER ATTACHMENT.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 27, 1907.

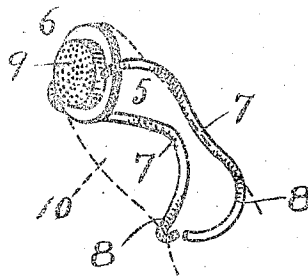


FIG. 1.

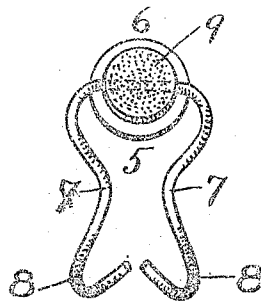


FIG. 2.

WITNESSES

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THUMB OR FINGER ATTACHMENT.

No: 888,976.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 26, 1908.

Application filed August 27, 1907. Serial No. 390,283.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NOAH DUPERRAULT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Westfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Thumb or Finger Attachment, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in devices designed to be worn on the thumb or finger for the purpose of facilitating the act of sorting mail matter, counting money, and the like, in which I make use of a certain peculiar skeleton frame adapted to fit the thumb or finger, and a button or tip on such frame which possesses adhesive or tenacious characteristics or properties to a greater or less extent, all as hereinafter set forth.

The objects of my invention are, first, to produce a simple, durable, convenient, efficient, and inexpensive device, of the class specified above, by the use of which the necessity of moistening the ball of the thumb or finger is removed and the liability of causing an abrasion or eruption thereon avoided, and, second, to provide a device of this kind which will fit or may readily be adjusted to fit a digital member of almost any size. With this attachment the work of sorting letters, etc., or counting paper money and analogous matter can be done expeditiously, accurately, and with certainty.

My attachment is particularly useful for a postal clerk while sorting or distributing his mail, for some of the reasons given above and because without it his thumb if not moistened is liable to slip and so miss a stroke and cause delay and if moistened to soil the envelops. The objections to moistening the thumb or finger with the tongue are too obvious to require further mention. The attachment is generally applied to the thumb for sorting or distributing purposes and to the forefinger for counting purposes.

I attain the objects above pointed out by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of my attachment showing it applied to a thumb, the latter being in dotted lines, and, Fig. 2, a bottom or underside view of said attachment.

Similar figures refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

As already stated, the device consists of a skeleton frame, represented at 5, and of an

adhesive tip or one which possesses tenacious properties, represented at 6. This frame is preferably made of wire which possesses some degree of resiliency so that it will tightly hug the thumb or finger upon which it is placed, and is, moreover, adaptable to thumbs and fingers of different sizes. The frame 5 is closed at the front end and open at the rear end, although it is conceivable that it might be closed at both ends but not without impairing its usefulness to some extent. The sides of the frame bow inward, as at 7—7, to bear on the top or outside of the thumb or finger, and the rear terminals of such sides curve outward, downward, and then inward, as at 8—8, to grasp the thumb or finger at the sides and underneath or inside; thus it will be seen that the frame must be held securely on the thumb or finger, and yet held in such a way as not to interfere with whatever movement is required of the latter. The tip 6 is on the closed front end of the frame 5, the wire of which said frame is made passing through such tip laterally.

The inner surface of the tip 6, against which the end or ball of the thumb or finger bears, may curve slightly to conform to the outline of said end or ball. The outer or working surface 9 of the tip 6 is raised somewhat above or extends beyond that part of said tip through which the frame wire passes, and said surface may be abraded or roughened more or less, if desired, to insure a better and firmer contact with the matter which it is intended to assist in handling. The tip should be made of some material which possesses adhesive or tenacious properties that are adapted to afford the necessary amount of friction, when the tip is brought into contact with mail and other matter, to prevent slipping and so force a separation of one piece from another when the device is properly manipulated, and I find that rubber, on account of its possessing such properties in the proper degree and of the right quality, is better adapted for my purpose perhaps than anything else. The thumb or finger is introduced into the frame 5 at the rear, entering between the parts 8 and passing under the parts 7 to come to rest with the end or ball of the thumb or finger against the inner surface of the tip 6. In the first view a portion of a thumb 10 is shown in dotted lines. Any suitable means may be em-

ployed for connecting or attaching the tip with or to the frame, the means shown probably being as good as any.

This attachment does not sweat the member upon which it is placed since it embraces without inclosing the same, and the construction is such as to locate the tip at just the right point or in the most advantageous position to perform the required work.

I am aware that thumb and finger stalls of various kinds have been used before for the protection of the members upon which they are worn and for facilitating the handling or counting of money, etc., so that I do not seek to claim such a device broadly.

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a thumb or finger attachment comprising a skeleton frame of wire having curved or bent side pieces united at one end and adapted to embrace a digital member at the sides and above and below the same, the intermediate portions of such side pieces being above and the free terminals of said pieces being below, and a tip at the closed end of such frame,

such tip possessing adhesive or tenacious properties.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a thumb or finger attachment comprising a skeleton frame of wire having curved or bent side pieces united at one end and adapted to embrace a digital member at the sides and above and below the same, the intermediate portions of such side pieces being above and the free terminals of said pieces being below, and a tip at the closed end of such frame, such tip having an abraded or roughened working surface.

3. As an improved article of manufacture, a thumb or finger attachment comprising a skeleton frame having its sides bent inward between the ends of the frame and bent outward, downward and inward at one of such ends, and a tip attached to said frame at the other of such ends, said tip possessing adhesive or tenacious properties.

NOAH DUPERRAULT.

Witnesses:

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