

[54] NAIL BUFFER

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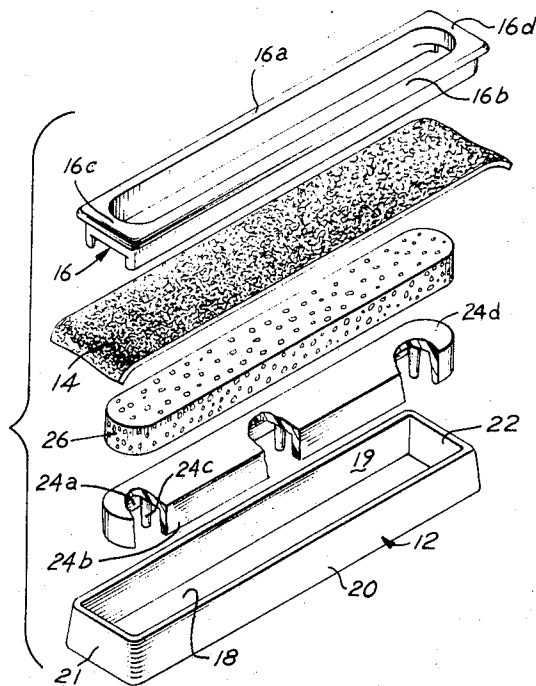
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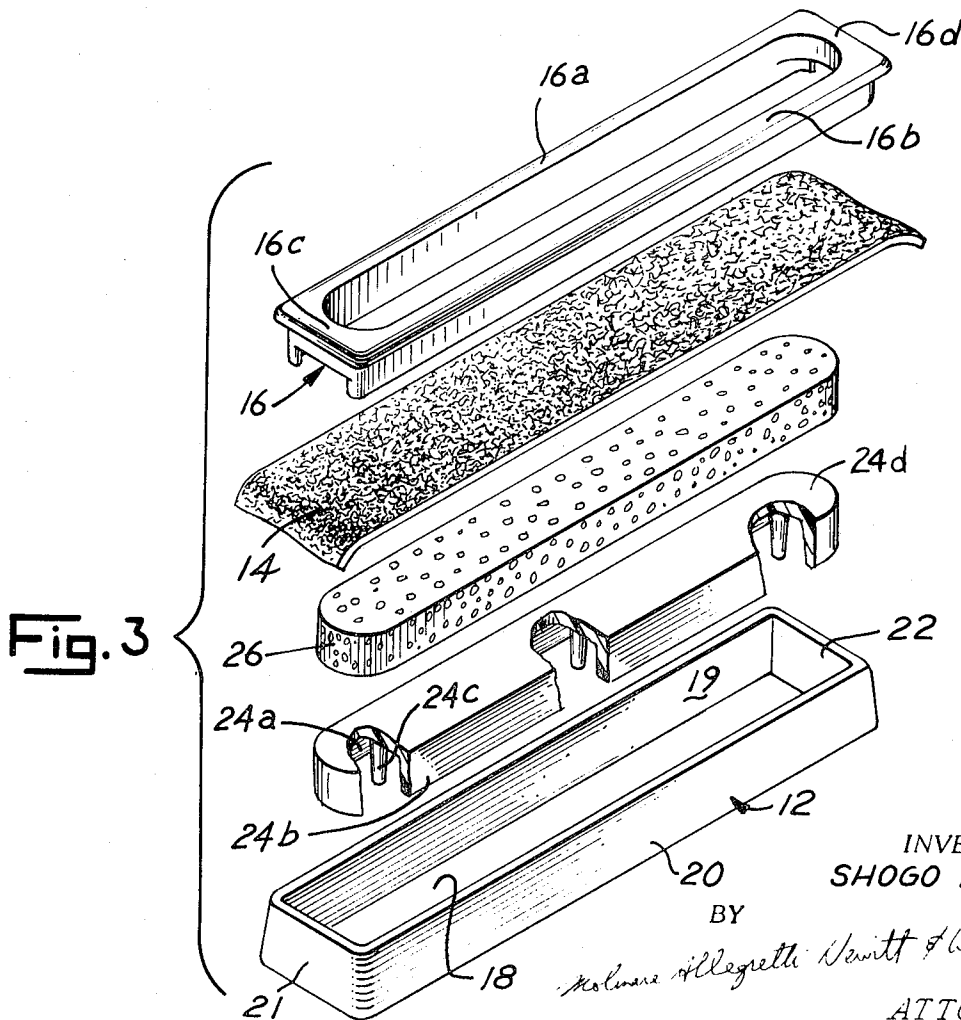
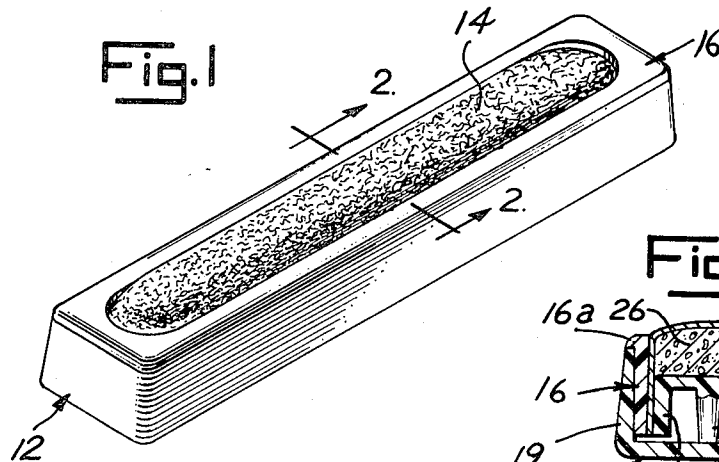
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ABSTRACT

A buffer comprised of an open-topped housing, a support adapted to be retained in the housing, a buffing member made from fabric, a resilient backer between the buffing member and support, and a retaining member for securing the buffing member tightly drawn over the support and holding the elements in assembled relationship, with the top of the buffing member extending above the retaining member and housing.

5 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures





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NAIL BUFFER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an improved buffer for nail care and more particularly, to an improved buffer that can be assembled readily in an inexpensive fashion. The improved buffer includes means providing for secure mounting of the buffing member over a support, the buffing member having a smooth, tightly-drawn working surface.

In the past, buffers for nail care have been fabricated by bonding a cloth buffing member in place over a support. At times the cloth was not initially tightly and uniformly drawn over the support. On other occasions, it became loose in use. Unless the buffing member was tightly stretched initially and maintained in this condition on the support, the cloth in places would gap and/or slide relative to the support and the buffer would not function properly in use to buff the nails.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved buffer wherein the disadvantages and deficiencies of prior constructions are obviated.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved buffer for nail care that comprises an assembly of components that are readily secured one to the other in such fashion as to maintain the buffing member tightly drawn over its support.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide an improved buffer which includes an open-topped housing, a buffing member adapted to be retained in the housing, and a retaining member for securing the buffer member tightly drawn over the support and holding the elements in assembled relationship.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

There is shown in the attached drawing a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention wherein like numerals refer to like elements in the different views, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a left front perspective view of a buffer embodying principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-section of the buffer taken generally along line 2-2 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the buffer of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Turning to FIG. 1, there is shown a perspective view of a presently preferred embodiment of this invention. The buffer 10 comprises an open-topped housing 12 having a bottom, side walls and end walls. The buffing element 14, which comprises a cloth or fabric member used to smooth and more finely finish the surface of nails, is retained over a support within the housing 12 by means of a retaining member 16 in a fashion that will be more fully explained hereafter.

Turning to FIGS. 2 and 3, there is better shown the components of the present invention. The main case

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or housing 12 includes a bottom 18, sidewalls 19, 20 and endwalls 21 and 22. As best seen in FIG. 3, the housing is box-like and substantially rectangular in cross-section.

In addition to housing 12, the buffer 10 is comprised of support 24, a resilient backer 26 for the buffing element, such resilient backer being made, for example, from foam rubber or polyurethane foam, the buffing element 14 and the retaining ring or retaining member 16. The support 24 comprises a member made from a rigid material as, for example, a molded plastic. The sides or walls 24a and 25b of the support 24 are flexible or movable toward one another upon application of pressure inwardly. The inherent resiliency and memory of the material will cause same to tend to return to the initial position. Thus, if an inward pressure is applied to the walls 24a and 24b to move them toward one another and then released, they will tend to move and restore themselves to their initial untensioned position or in effect exert an outward biasing force. Spacers 24c extend from the top wall 24d of the support 24 below the level of walls 24a and 24b to properly position the support 24 relative to the bottom of the housing 12.

The resilient member 26 is substantially coextensive in length and width with the exposed surface of the buffing element 14. The resilient member 26 is complementary in configuration to the top 24d of the support 24.

The retaining member 16 is comprised of integral generally rectangular frame as viewed from the top which includes side members 16a and 16b and end members 16c and 16d. When viewed in cross-section, the side members 16a, 16b, and end members 16c, 16d are seen to include a generally horizontally outwardly extending portion adapted to abut the top of the sidewalls and endwalls of the casing or housing 12 and a generally downwardly extending portion, which is adapted to be disposed between the inner surfaces of the sidewalls and endwalls of the housing 12 and the exterior of the buffing member 14. The opening in the retaining member 16 is generally complementary to the exterior of the support 24.

To assemble the buffer 10 of the present invention, the resilient backer 26 is positioned over the support 24 and the buffing element 14 is positioned over the resilient backer 26 and support 24, with the buffing element 14 extending over the top and sides of the support 24, and being substantially coextensive with the entire exterior surface of the support. The buffing element 14, resilient backer 26 and support 24 are preferably bonded to one another, to facilitate handling, although it has been found that this is not always necessary. The retaining member 16 is positioned over the buffing element 14 and forced over the buffing element 14 to secure the support 24, buffing element 14, resilient backer 26, and retaining member 16 together as a subassembly. By virtue of the outward divergence of each of the walls 24a and 24b of support 24, a force is exerted through the buffing element 14 against the walls 24a and 24b, causing them to flex inwardly and thereby apply a retaining pressure to maintain the buffing cloth 14 tightly drawn over the support. The subassembly is then positioned in the housing 12, with the retaining member 16 being wedged into the space between the buffing cloth 14 and the housing 12 until the hori-

zontally extending portions of the side and end portions of the retaining member engage the tops of the sidewalls 19, 20 and endwalls 21, 22 of housing 12 and spacers 24c (three in number as shown in the form of the invention illustrated in FIG. 3) engage bottom 18 of housing 12. A suitable bonding material as, for example, a thermosetting adhesive may be applied between the retaining member 16 and the outer case or housing 12 to maintain the components in assembled relationship, with the buffing member tightly drawn over the support.

There has been provided by the present invention a simplified nail buffer construction that is relatively inexpensively and expeditiously fabricated. The buffing element is tightly drawn over the support and maintained in such tightly drawn condition over an extended use period by means of the novel assemblage of components. The resilient backer being partially compressed during assembly assists in maintaining the use surface of the buffing element smooth.

While a presently preferred form of the present invention has been described for purposes of illustration, it will be appreciated that this invention may be otherwise embodied within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a nail buffer, the combination of an open-topped housing, a support adapted to be retained in said housing, a buffing member overlapping said support, a resilient member substantially coextensive with the top surface of the support disposed between the buffing member and the support, and a retaining member for securing the buffing member tightly drawn over the support and holding the support and

the buffing member in said housing, said support comprising a generally inverted cup-shaped member having a pair of walls which are movable toward one another, the retaining member comprising a frame disposed between the inner surfaces of the side walls of the housing and the buffing member, the retaining member being forced over the support so as to smooth and tightly draw the buffing member over the support and partially compress the resilient member, the forcing of the retaining member into position moving said walls of the support inwardly, thereby maintaining the exterior of the buffing member smooth and holding the components in desired assembled relationship.

2. A buffer as in claim 1 including a retaining member having an opening therein complementary in configuration to the support, the retaining member being forced over the buffing member to help fix the components in desired assembled relationship.

3. A buffer as in claim 2 wherein the retaining member is secured to the housing to retain the components in assembled relationship.

4. A buffer as in claim 1 wherein the retaining member frame is substantially rectangular and has an opening therein generally complementary in configuration to that of the support, the walls of the retaining member each including an upright portion and an outwardly extending transverse portion, the outwardly extending transverse portion being adapted to engage the tops of the walls of the housing.

5. A buffer as in claim 1 wherein the support has spacers extending from the top wall thereof below the level of the walls of the support to locate the top of the support a predetermined distance from the bottom of the housing.

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