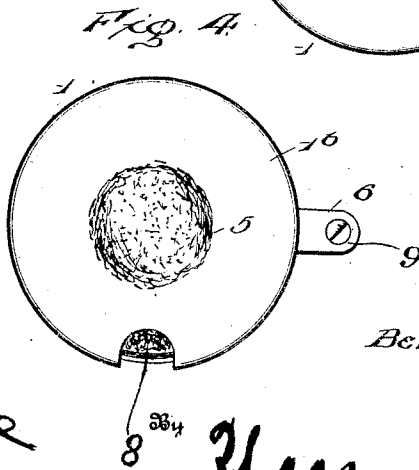
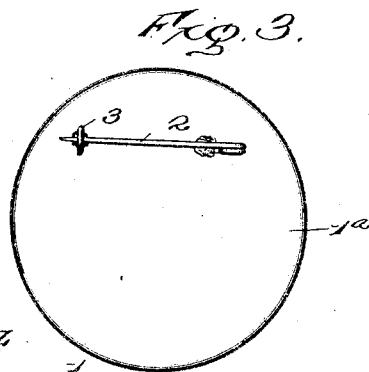
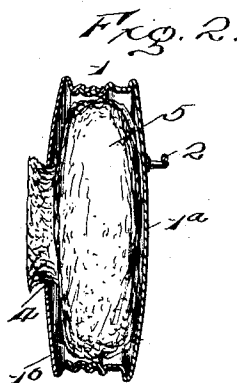
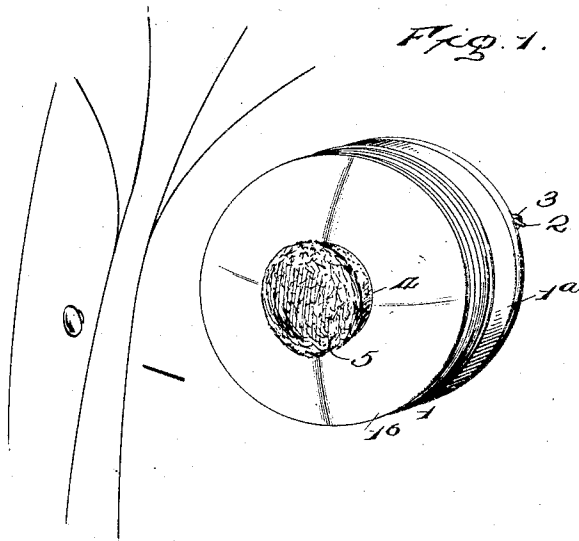


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B. CURTISS.
FINGER MOISTENER.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 21, 1908.

Patented Dec. 13, 1910.



Witnesses

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BERT CURTISS, OF YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN.

FINGER-MOISTENER.

978,703.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BERT CURTISS, citizen of the United States, residing at Ypsilanti, in the county of Washtenaw and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Finger-Moisteners, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to improvements in moistening devices such as are employed for moistening the fingers or the point of a lead pencil, and has for its primary object to design a moistener embodying novel means whereby it may be held in a convenient position for use.

A further object of the invention has been to provide a simple and inexpensive moistening device which is of such a nature as to enable it to be readily employed by conductors and others who are compelled to sort coin and tickets, but the nature of whose occupation is such as to prohibit the use of the common form of finger moistener.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a moistening device embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view through the same. Fig. 3 is a rear view of the moistener. Fig. 4 is a plan view showing a modified form of moistener.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

In general a moistener embodying the present invention comprises a body portion of a flattened formation, the back of the body portion being provided with a fastening member by means of which the moistener can be secured in position, while the front of the body portion has an opening formed therein through which a sponge or analogous absorbent member projects.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1 the receptacle 1 is of a flattened formation and comprises a body portion 1^a having a threaded connection with a cover 1^b. A pin 2 is applied to the body portion 1^a and has the usual spring engagement with a keeper 3, the said pin forming a convenient means for securing the moistener in position. A central opening 4 is formed in

the cover 1^b and through this opening projects a sponge or analogous absorbent member 5 which is housed within the receptacle. This form of the invention is particularly designed for the use of railway conductors and the like, the pin 2 enabling the device to be attached to the vest or other article of apparel so as to be retained in a convenient position for use. By placing the finger upon that portion of the sponge 5 projecting through the opening 4 the same will be moistened and there will be no necessity for placing the finger in the mouth or resorting to other well known and equally objectionable expedients.

The threaded connection of the cover 1^b with the body 1^a or receptacle provides not only for an engagement between the cover and the body, but provides for an adjustment of the cover inward against or toward the body, whereby the sponge or other absorbent material carried within the body may be more or less compressed, as occasion may require. Thus, if the sponge is comparatively small, the cover may be forced inward until the sponge is compressed so that it will protrude through the opening of the cover. If, however, the sponge is large, the covering section may be unscrewed to enlarge the receptacle. It will be seen that the screw-threaded engagement is such that there is little likelihood that after the cover has been once adjusted, it will be accidentally forced outward by the elasticity of the sponge or other absorbent material. There is thus provided a means for permanently adjusting compression upon the sponge, while the front of the covering section being dished, is more or less resilient and thereby provides for temporary compression of the sponge to cause the moisture to exude therefrom.

A slight modification is shown in Fig. 4 in which the receptacle 1 of the moistener has a tongue 6 soldered, riveted or otherwise rigidly secured to the convex face of the rear member 1^a and projecting laterally therefrom, the said tongue being designed to form a means for securing the moistener to a desk or like support. When thus applied to school desks, the pupils will be enabled to moisten their pencil points upon the sponge and will not form the habit of placing the pencils in the mouth. For this purpose the cover is provided with a notch 8 as indicated most clearly in Fig. 4. When

it is required to moisten the point of a pencil the device is swung outward from beneath the top of the desk upon the pivot fastening 9 which passes through the opening in the tongue 6 and serves as securing means between the moistener and the desk. To moisten the finger the device may be moved outward so as to expose the opening 4 and the part of the sponge 5 projecting there-
10 through. When the device is swung under the top of the desk both openings 4 and 8 are closed, thereby preventing evaporation of the water contained in the receptacle by means of which the sponge or absorbent 5
15 is kept moistened.

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

1. A finger moistener comprising a body portion having an inwardly extending circumferential flange, said flange being screw-threaded, a mass of compressible absorbent material contained within the body portion, and a compressing member comprising a plate having an opening in the center
20 through which the absorbent material will protrude, said plate at its margin being pro-

vided with an inwardly extending flange screw threaded to engage with the flange on the body portion, whereby said compressing member may be adjusted toward or from the body portion to adjustably compress the mass of absorbent material contained therein. 30

2. A finger moistener comprising a receptacle having an outwardly extending angular marginal flange, a sponge contained within the walls of the receptacle, and a sponge-compressing member having an angular marginal flange mating with the marginal flange of the receptacle, said sponge-compressing member having a central opening through which the sponge projects, and means for holding the compressing member in any desired adjusted position nearer to or farther from the said receptacle. 35 40 45

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

BERT CURTISS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

A. E. THORNTON,
HARRY HAKE.