April 25, 1967 D. J. OATES, JR 3,315,354

COMBINED FINGERNAIL AND CUTICLE CLIPPER

Filed May 28, 1965

Fig. 1

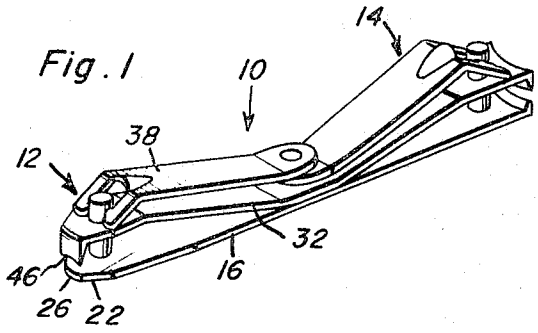


Fig. 2

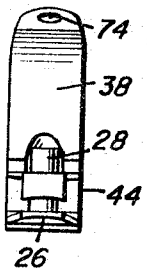


Fig. 3

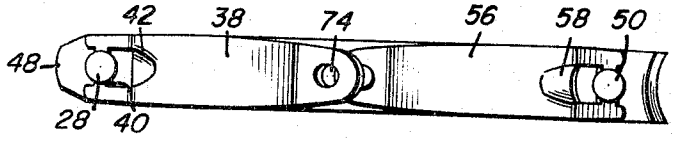


Fig. 4

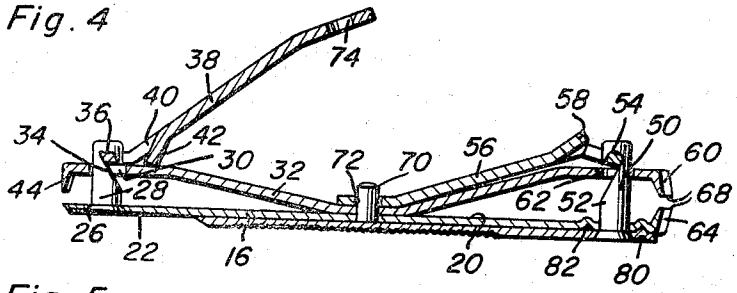


Fig. 5

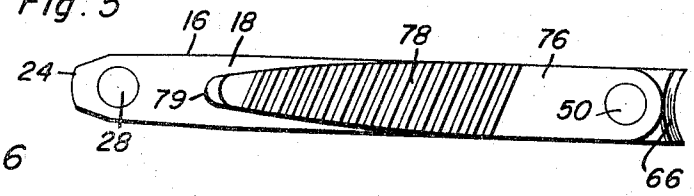


Fig. 6

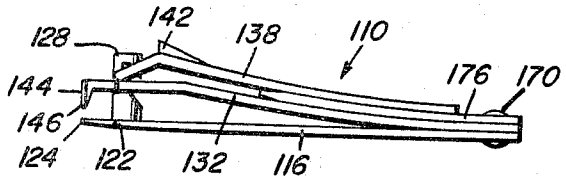
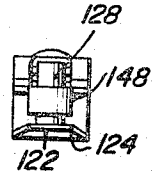


Fig. 7



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COMBINED FINGERNAIL AND CUTICLE CLIPPER

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The present invention generally relates to a device for clipping cuticles, hangnails and the like and may be constructed as an independent clipper or combined with a fingernail clipper so that a person utilizing such a device may not only clip their fingernails but also clip their cuticles and hangnails if such are present.

An object of the present invention is to provide a clipper including a pair of cooperating cutting elements that are urged towards each other by an operating lever employing a fulcruming action. In order to effectively clip cuticles, the bottom element of the clipper is substantially straight longitudinally for orientation along the top surface of a fingernail. The end edge of the bottom cutting element is curved in a convex nature for conforming generally with the curvature of the cuticle around the edge of the fingernail. Also, the bottom cutting element is transversely curved in a concave manner to further enhance its conformance with the transverse curvature of the top surface of a fingernail so that the bottom cutting element may be orientated in an optimum position for sliding slightly under the cuticle for clipping thereof. The end edge of the bottom cutting member is beveled along its bottom edge for easier insertion under the cuticle. The upper cutting element is provided with a depending cutting element that is curved in conformity with and complementary to the bottom cutting element for association therewith so that a cuticle, hangnail or the like disposed against the top surface of the bottom cutting member will be effectively severed by the top cutting member when it is forced downwardly into engagement therewith by the fulcruming action of the operating lever. Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a clipper for cuticles, hangnails or the like that is particularly constructed in accordance with the foregoing but yet which is relatively simple in construction, easy to use, effective for its particular purposes and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a clipper in accordance with the preceding paragraph that is combined with a fingernail clipper of more or less conventional construction with the fingernail clipper and cuticle clipper being orientated in end to end relation with the ends of the operating levers being disposed in overlapping nested relationship to each other and engaged with a stationary pin which will effectively releasably retain the operating levers in their inoperative position in superimposed relationship to each other.

Still another important object of the present invention is to provide a combined fingernail clipper and cuticle clipper having a file associated with the bottom member thereof which is substantially flat for positioning under the bottom surface of the bottom member or projecting longitudinally therefrom in an operative condition with means being provided for releasably securing the file in its two positions thereby providing a combination implement for clipping the fingernails, filing the fingernails, cutting cuticles, cutting hangnails or the like with the implement being easily operated by the individual user as easily and efficiently in one hand as the other.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the

accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the combination cuticle and fingernail clipper of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an end view of the cuticle clipper end of the device with the operating handle therefor in operative position;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of the construction of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is a longitudinal, vertical sectional view taken along a section line passing longitudinally of the center of the construction of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a bottom plan view of the construction of FIGURES 1–4;

FIGURE 6 is a side elevational view illustrating a cuticle clipper constructed in accordance with the present invention without it being combined with the fingernail clipper; and

FIGURE 7 is an end view of the construction of FIGURE 6.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, the numeral **10** generally designates the combined cuticle clipper and fingernail clipper of the present invention with the cuticle clipper construction being orientated at one end thereof and designated by the numeral **12** and the fingernail clipper construction being orientated at the other end and being designated by the numeral **14**.

The combined cuticle clipper and fingernail clipper includes a single bottom member **16** having a flat lower surface **18** and a correspondingly flat upper surface **20**. At the cuticle clipper end **12** of the implement, the bottom member **16** is beveled or tapered upwardly and outwardly as at **22** and is convexly rounded as at **24** as illustrated in FIGURE 5. Further, the end portion of the bottom member **16** is transversely concave as indicated by the numeral **26** and as illustrated in FIGURE 4 and FIGURE 2 with this construction enabling the bottom surface of the bottom member **16** to conform to the natural curvature of the top surface of a fingernail when the bottom member **16** is orientated generally in longitudinal alignment with the fingernail and against the top surface thereof.

Projecting upwardly from the bottom member **16** adjacent the cutting end edge thereof is a pin **28** which has its head countersunk into and flush with the bottom surface of the bottom member **16** thereby eliminating any projections and providing a completely smooth external or bottom surface to the bottom member **16**. The pin **28** projects upwardly through an opening **30** in an upper cutting member **32** and the pin **28** terminates in an upwardly inclined slot **34** for receiving a transverse bar **36** on an operating lever **38**. The operating lever **38** is provided with an opening **40** adjacent the bar **36** so that the bar **36** may be engaged and disengaged with the inclined notch **34** by deflecting the upper cutting member **32** towards the bottom member **16**. Also, the operating lever **38** is provided with a projection **42** forming a fulcruming point in movable engagement with the upper surface of the upper cutting member **32** so that when the operating lever **38** is in the position illustrated in FIGURE 4, downward pressure on the free end thereof will cause the upper cutting member **32** to move towards the bottom member **16**.

The outer end of the upper cutting member **32** is provided with a depending cutting blade or element **44** that is provided with a sharpened lower edge that is concavely curved from edge to edge to conform with the curvature of the upper surface of the lower cutting member **16** at the clipper end **12** of the implement, which end of the member **16** is transversely concaved as previously set forth at **26**. The concave curvature of the

itting blade or element **44** is designated at **46** and also, e cutting element **44** is transversely convexly curved at **48** for conforming with the convex rounded edge of the bottom cutting member **16**. Thus, when the erating lever **38** is orientated in the position illustrated FIGURE 4 and the free end thereof is depressed, the per cutting element **32** is depressed downwardly and e cutting element **44** will cut any material disposed tween the upper surface of the curved upper surface the bottom cutting member **16**. The specific configuraon of the cutting elements is such that cuticles may be asily clipped thereby.

The fingernail clipper **14** is somewhat of conventional onstruction in that the bottom member **16** is provided ith an upstanding pin **50** extending therethrough which as a notch **52** extending upwardly and inwardly from he inner edge thereof for receiving a transverse bar **54** n an operating lever **56** which is also provided with a ulcrum projection **58** for engagement with the upper utting member **32** which has a downturned end portion 0 integral therewith and has an aperture **62** movably eceiving the pin **50**. The corresponding end of the ottom cutting member **16** is provided with an upwardly rojecting cutting element **64** both of which are concavely urved as indicated by numeral **66** and which are inclined lightly outwardly as illustrated in FIGURE 4 so that he sharpened edges **68** thereof may engage opposite sides f a fingernail for clipping thereof in a conventional known manner. The central portion of the upper cutting member **32** is inwardly bowed and is secured to the bottom cutting member **16** at the center thereof as by spot welding or the like. A positioning pin **70** is fixedly secured to the bottom member **16** and extends therethrough and through the top cutting member **32** and also extends through aperture **72** in the free end portion of the operating lever **56** and an opening **74** in the free portion of the operating lever **38** so that when the operating levers **38** and **56** are orientated in the overlapping inoperative position illustrated in FIGURE 1, the pin or locating tag **70** will retain the operating levers in place.

Orientated below the bottom cutting member **16** is a file member **76** having roughened surface areas **78** which are conventional in such a file and the headed end of the pin **50** is countersunk in the file and the portion of the file **76** adjacent the outer edge thereof is provided with a projection **80** for engagement with one of a pair of diametrically opposed indentations **82** formed in the bottom member **16** for resiliently retaining the file **76** in either its inoperative position along the undersurface of the bottom member **16** or in its operative position with the file **76** forming a longitudinal extension of the combined cuticle and fingernail clipper.

FIGURES 6 and 7 illustrate an embodiment of the invention designated by numeral **110** which is in the form of a cuticle clipper alone and which includes a bottom cutting member **116** and a top cutting member **132**. The bottom cutting member **116** has a slightly beveled surface **122** and is transversely flat but curved convexly in a horizontal plane as designated at **124**. The top cutting member **132** has a depending cutting member **144** integral therewith and provided with a sharpened lower edge **146** which is straight transversely but which is arcuately convexly curved as at **148**. An operating lever **138** which is the same as the operating lever **38** is provided except that the operating lever **138** is substantially straight but slightly curved. A fulcruming member **142** is provided on the operating lever **138** and the operating lever **138** is detachably and pivotally connected to a swivel pin **128** which is substantially the same as the swivel pin **28** in the structure illustrated in FIGURES 1–5. The ends of the cutting members **116** and **132** remote from the cutting elements are fixedly interconnected by a rivet type fastener, spot welding or the like **170** and the rivet type fastener **170** also secures a file member **176** against the upper surface of the top cutting member **132** so that the file **176** may be orientated in the

inoperative position illustrated in FIGURE 6 or swung around to the operative position as an extension of the clipper **110**.

The clipper **110** which is provided with the transversely flat cutting elements may alternatively be constructed with the transversely concave cutting surfaces as illustrated in FIGURES 1–5. Also the cuticle clipper **12** in the combined clipper **10** illustrated in FIGURES 1–5 may have a transversely flat cutting edge construction. Thus, the cuticle clipper may be constructed as an independent device or may be constructed in combination with a fingernail clipper and in either arrangement would have a file associated therewith. Additionally, the cuticle clipper in either arrangement may have the transversely curved cutting surfaces or the transversely straight cutting surfaces but in both instances would have the longitudinally convex edges for conforming with the longitudinal curvature of the cuticle at the inner edge of the fingernail. The components of the cuticle clipper will be constructed of materials conventionally employed in fingernail clippers of a conventional type with the materials being commensurate with the forces necessary to effectively clip the cuticles, fingernails and the like.

In each form of the invention, the rounded beveled end **79** of the file member serves to lift the edge of the cuticle so that it can be easily clipped.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A combined cuticle and fingernail clipper comprising an elongated bottom member having a pair of upwardly facing cutting elements defined on the opposite terminal ends thereof, an elongated stiff and resilient centrally downwardly bowed upper member having a pair of downwardly facing cutting elements defined on the opposite ends thereof, said upper member generally paralleling, overlying and being in vertical registry with said lower member and having the under surface of the bowed center portion thereof resting upon the upper surface of the center portion of the lower member, the cutting elements on the upper member being normally spaced above the cutting elements on the lower member and displaceable downwardly into cutting cooperation therewith upon downward flexing of the opposite end portions of said upper member, a pair of mounting pins rotatably journaled through and projecting upwardly from opposite end portions of said bottom member, said opposite end portions of said upper member having apertures formed therethrough through which the upper ends of said pins are slidably and rotatably received, said upper member having an aperture formed through the central bowed portion thereof, a center anchor pin secured to and projecting upwardly from the center portion of said lower member and projecting upwardly through said aperture, a pair of lever members including short angulated end portions pivotally secured to the upper ends of said pins above the corresponding end portions of said upper member for rotation about axes extending transversely of said pins and said lever members and abutting and slightly flexing said end portions of said upper member downwardly, the free ends of said lever members remote from said angulated end portions including apertures through which said center pin is receivable, said levers being pivotable relative to said pins and also with the latter relative to said upper and lower members between first storage positions with the angulated end portions thereof opening downwardly and the free apertured ends thereof telescoped downwardly over said center pin in overlapped relation with each other, second positions with said angulated end portions

opening upwardly and said apertured free end portions spaced above said center pin, and thereafter toward third operative positions displaced downwardly at their free ends while said angulated end portions are in camming engagement with said upper member end portions in a manner to urge the latter downwardly toward positions with their cutting elements in cutting cooperative relation with the cutting elements of said lower member.

2. The combination of claim 1 including an elongated fingernail file member, one end of said fingernail file member closely underlying a corresponding end of said lower member and the associated mounting pin being journaled through said one end of said file member, said file member being pivotable relative to said associated mounting pin and said lower member for swinging movement between a retracted position with the free end of said file member projecting toward the remote end of said lower member and an operative position with the free end of said file member projecting outwardly of the end of said lower member to which said file member is pivotally secured, said file member being of a length appreciably greater than one-half the length of said bottom member.

3. The combination of claim 1 wherein the cooperabl cutting elements on one pair of corresponding ends c said upper and lower members include cutting edge adapted to clip fingernails and the cutting elements o the other pair of corresponding ends of said upper an lower members include cutting edges adapted to cu cuticles.

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