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1,465,522

R. E. LUNDAY

TOOTHPICK

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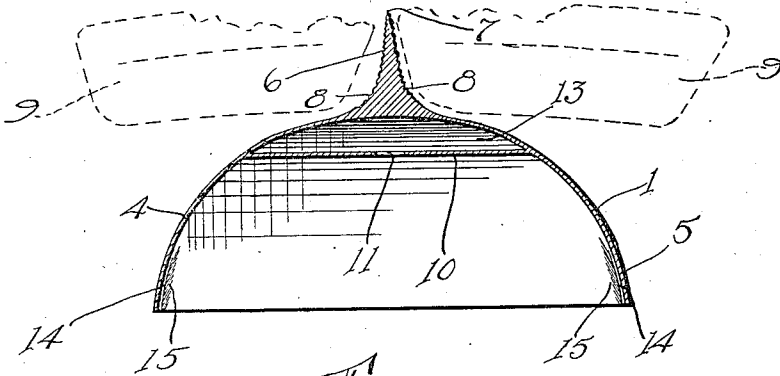


Fig. 2

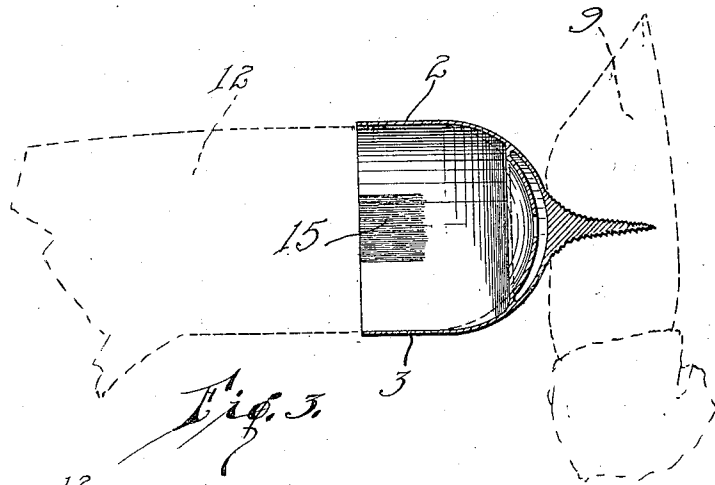


Fig. 3

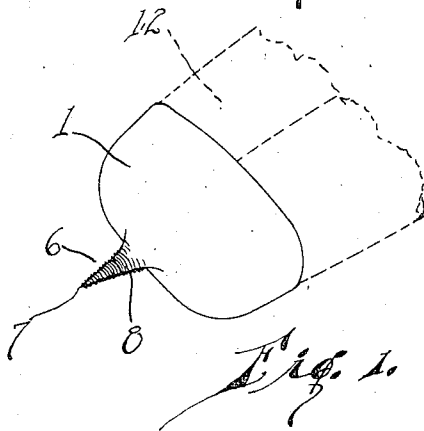


Fig. 1

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL EDWARD LUNDAY, OF VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA.

TOOTHPICK.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUSSELL EDWARD LUNDAY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Vallejo, in the county of Solano and State of California, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tooth-picks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in tooth picks, and it consists in the combinations, constructions, and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of my invention is to provide a tooth pick which is adapted to be readily secured to the tongue of the user, whereby the inner sides of the teeth may be cleaned.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described which has novel means for holding the device to the tongue of the user.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described which is made of a resilient material whereby it will readily conform to the tongue.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described which is simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, and which is durable and efficient for the purpose intended.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, and the novel features of the invention will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part of this application in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device shown operatively applied,

Figure 2 is a horizontal section of the device, and

Figure 3 is a vertical section through the device.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a cup-shaped member 1, which is preferably made of thin rubber or other pliable material. The member 1 has flat upper and lower walls, 2 and 3. The curved walls 4 and 5 are adapted to conform to the contour of the tongue. The member 1 also has a pick 6, which projects outwardly therefrom, and which is provided with a point 7. The walls of the pick 6 merge into the walls of the casing 1, as is clearly shown in Figure 2. The pick 6 is conical shaped and has its wall roughened as at 8. In this manner, the pick 6 and the wall 8 are adapted to remove

the articles of food from the inner surfaces of the teeth.

The casing 1 has novel means for securing itself to the tongue. In Figures 2 and 3 I have shown a diaphragm 10 which is disposed adjacent to the closed end of the casing 1, and which has an opening 11 therein. This diaphragm is resilient, and is adapted to be moved into the position shown in Figure 3 when the tongue 12 is inserted into the casing 1. It is obvious that air in a compartment 13 formed by the diaphragm 10 and the casing 1 will be expelled through the opening 11. The tongue 12 can now close the opening 11, whereupon a vacuum will be created in the compartment 13 when the diaphragm 10 tends to return to normal position. This vacuum in the compartment 13 is sufficient to hold the casing 1 upon the tongue 12.

A further means for holding the casing 1 to the tongue 12 is provided and comprises a fiber strip 14 which is disposed on the inner surface of the walls 4 and 5, (see Figure 2). The fibers 15 are inclined toward the pick 6 and it will therefore be apparent that any movement of the device with respect to the tongue will cause the device to more firmly grip the tongue. The fiber 15 permits the device to be moved onto the tongue, but prevents the device from being removed from the tongue.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof may be readily understood. In Figures 2 and 3 I have shown the device operatively applied to the teeth 9. In applying the device to the tongue the casing 1 is inserted into the mouth and the tongue 12 disposed therein. As heretofore stated, the end of the tongue flexes the diaphragm 10 and also closes the opening 11, whereby the vacuum within the compartment 13 will hold the device in place. Furthermore, the fibers 15 will tend to prevent the movement of the casing 1 with respect to the tongue, and will more securely hold the device in place. It is obvious, however, that the device may be manually moved from the tongue when the person using the device so wishes. The tongue can now be moved so as to insert the pick 6 into the crevices between the teeth. Furthermore, the roughened surface 8 will also scrape the food from the teeth. The tongue can be moved so as to insert the pick 6 between any of

the teeth desired, whereupon the interior of the mouth can be very thoroughly cleansed of food particles. With the ordinary tooth pick it is impossible to remove
 5 the particles of food from the inner surfaces of the teeth. The present device can be used in connection with an ordinary tooth pick if desired, whereupon the outer surfaces of the teeth will be thoroughly
 10 cleaned. The pick 6 is preferably made of a resilient material so as not to damage the teeth when the device is used.

The device is very simple in construction, and can be manufactured at a slight expense. The device provides a novel means
 15 for removing all particles of food from the inner sides of the teeth. The device is very small and may be readily carried in the pocket or pocketbook of the user.

20 I claim:

1. A tooth pick comprising a casing adapted to enclose a portion of the tongue, an integral pick projecting from said casing, means for holding the casing to the
 25 tongue, said means comprising a resilient diaphragm having an opening therein, said diaphragm being adapted to engage with the tongue.

2. A tooth pick comprising a casing
 30 adapted to enclose a portion of the tongue,

an integral pick projecting from said casing, means for holding the casing to the tongue, said means comprising inwardly extending fibers adapted to engage with the tongue.

3. A tooth pick comprising a casing adapted to enclose a portion of the tongue, an integral pick projecting from said casing, means for holding the casing to the tongue, said means comprising a resilient
 40 diaphragm having an opening therein, said diaphragm being adapted to engage with the tongue and inwardly extending fibers adapted to engage with the tongue.

4. A tooth pick comprising a casing having an integral pick, said pick having a roughened outer surface, a diaphragm mounted in said casing and having an opening, and inwardly extending fibers carried by the inner surface of said casing, and being
 50 adapted to engage with the tongue.

5. A tooth pick comprising a casing having an integral pick, said pick having a roughened outer surface.

6. A tooth pick comprising a single piece
 55 of material fashioned into a cup-shaped portion, said cup-shaped portion merging into a pick, the pick having a roughened outer surface.

RUSSELL EDWARD LUNDAY.