United States Patent [19]

Fish

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[54] **SELF-ADHERING MEDICATION TIME REMINDER**

[76] Inventor: **William Joseph Fish,** 8616 West 144th St., Orland Park, Ill. 60462

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **116/121;** 116/133

[51] **Int. Cl.²** **G09F 11/23**

[58] **Field of Search** 116/121, 133; 206/42; 161/406

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Primary Examiner—S. Clement Swisher
Assistant Examiner—Denis E. Corr
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hill, Gross, Simpson, Van Santen, Steadman, Chiara & Simpson

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A medication time reminder having a dial member adapted to be set at a predetermined time within a total time interval, such as 1 day, marked in increments on the edge of a disc adjacent the dial member to serve as a reminder when medication or the like should be taken. The back face of this disc is bonded to a layer of elastomeric form which has a pressure sensitive adhesive coated on its outer face, thereby adapting the medication time reminder for mounting on virtually any desired surface, such as the cap of a pill container, or the like.

1 Claim, 6 Drawing Figures

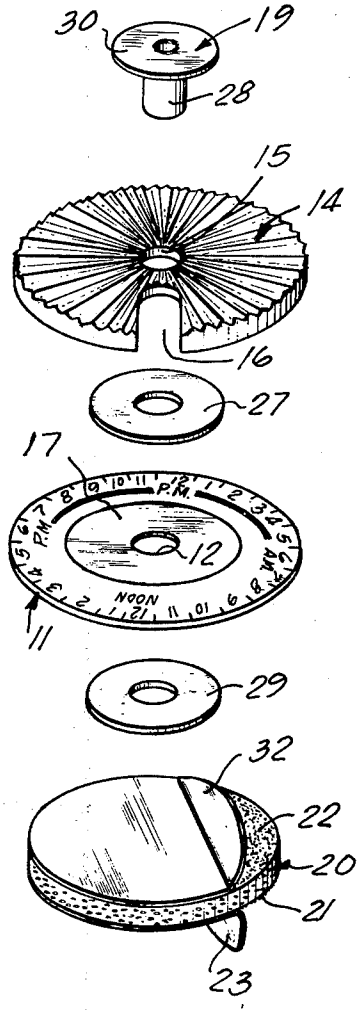


Fig. 1

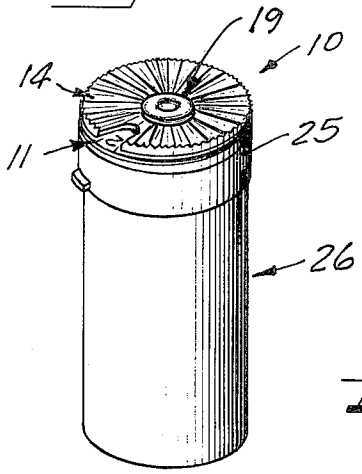


Fig. 2

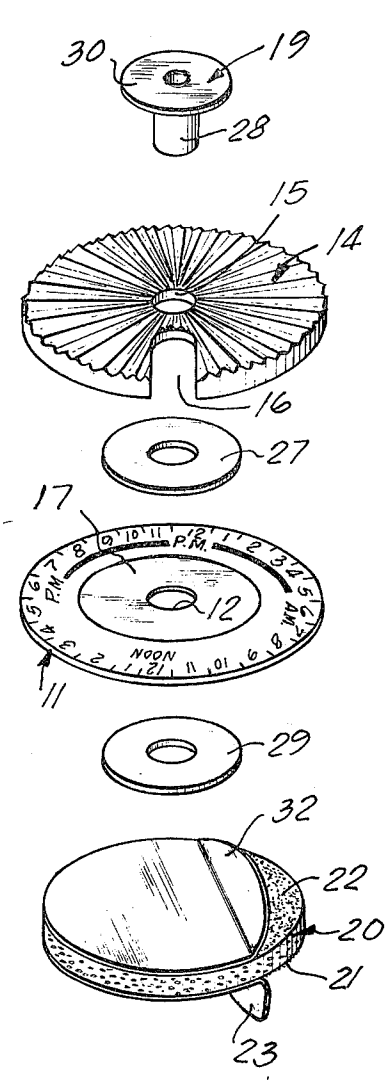


Fig. 5

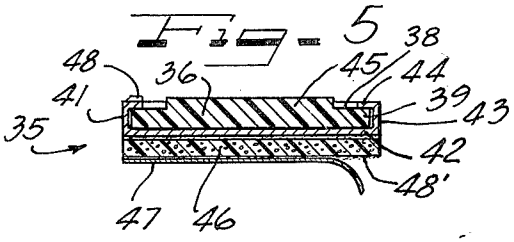
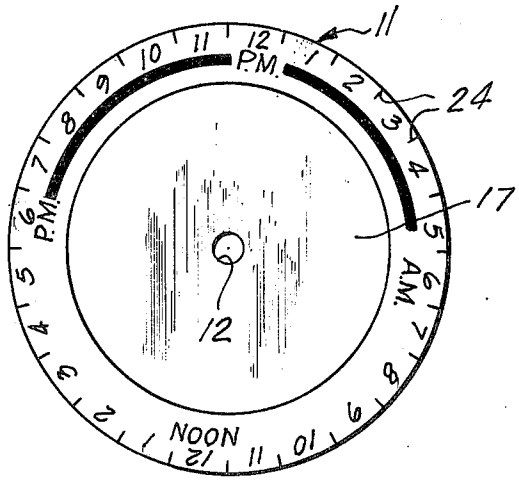


Fig. 3



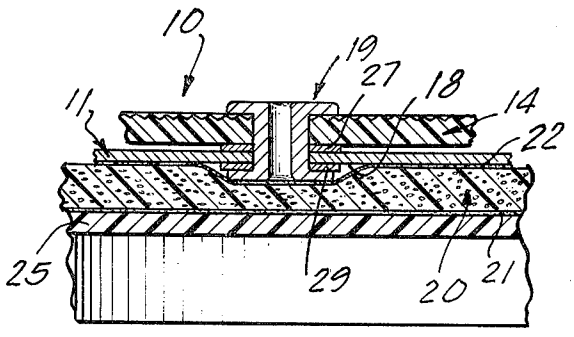
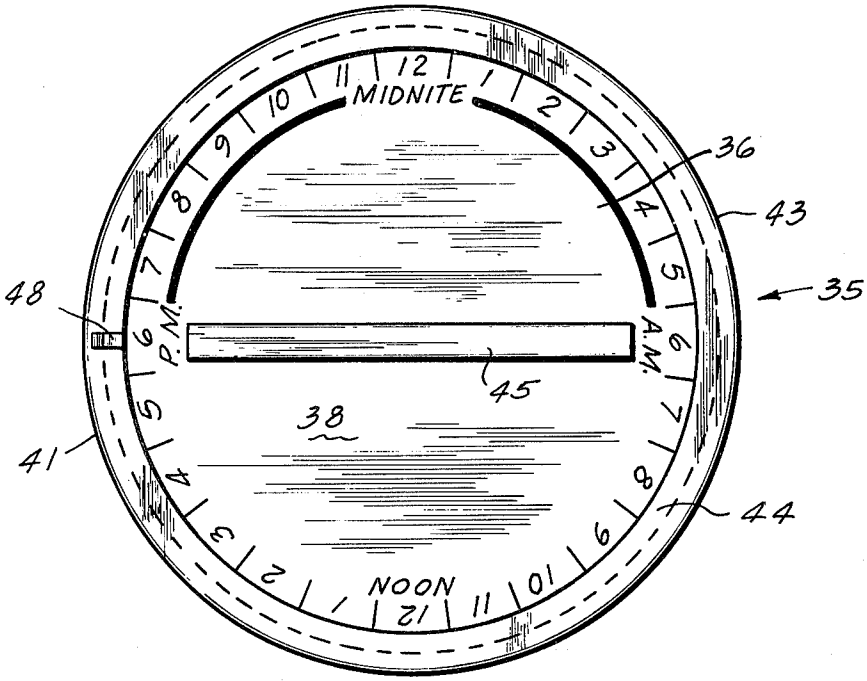


Fig. 4

Fig. 6



SELF-ADHERING MEDICATION TIME REMINDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Methods and means for reminding or prompting one to utilize medication at a scheduled time have come into common though somewhat limited use. However, most of such time reminders are dependent upon apparatus which is integral with a particular, specialized article, such as a container for pills or the like, which is discarded when empty or an illness is cured (whichever occurs first). Sometimes it is difficult, if not impossible, to find a suitable or appropriate container having such an integral medication time reminder.

Moreover, apparently most of the medication holding containers made today have no medication time reminder means associated therewith whatsoever. Thus, a patient desiring to use a particular medication stored in such a container, particularly when such medication is to be used in combination with other, separate medications, or when such medication is to be taken which the patient involved with other independent activities, has a problem in being reminded, and in knowing, when he is to take such a medication as prescribed.

While the need for a simple, inexpensive, separate time reminder device which will not only remind one when medication should be taken, but will also attach to a medication container, or elsewhere, as desired, is very great, few, if any, such devices are known.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There has now been discovered a simple, inexpensive, time reminder for medication or the like which is adapted for attachment easily and simply to a container, or the like, as desired. This time reminder is safe and reliable to use, particularly in the vicinity of infants.

This time reminder is easy and economical to fabricate using metal and/or plastic components and requires no maintenance in use.

If desired, this time reminder may be reused, usually by simply detaching and reattaching, though the entire attachment means employed may be removed and replaced before another use or attachment, if necessary or desirable easily and simply.

Other and further aims, objects, purposes, advantages, utilities, and features will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a reading of the present specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is an isometric view of one embodiment of a medication time reminder of this invention mounted upon the top face of the cap of a medication container;

FIG. **2** is an exploded view of the embodiment of FIG. **1** before assembly thereof;

FIG. **3** is a top plan view of the time-inscribed disc used in the embodiment of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is an enlarged, detailed view in vertical section taken axially through the embodiment of FIG. **1**, some parts thereof broken away and some parts thereof shown in section;

FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the medication time reminder according to the present invention; and

FIG. **6** is a plan view of the embodiment of FIG. **5**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIGS. **1–4**, a time reminder **10** employs a disc-shaped member **11** having an aperture **12** defined in the center thereof. Peripherally located on member **11** adjacent the circumferential edge on one face **17** thereof are markings adapted to designate intervals of time, here shown as number increments **24** for the A.M. and the P.M. hours.

A dial member here shown as a second disc shaped member **14** has an opening **15** defined centrally therein. Member **14** is adapted to designate particular ones of said increments **24** on face **17** when member **14** is adjacent such face **17** with opening **15** aligned with aperture **12.** Here, for purposes of showing particular pre-chosen ones of increments **24,** a slot **16** is provided in member **14.** Slot **16** radially extends to an edge of member **14** from a position which is radially outwardly adjacent the opening **15.** Although here shown as a disc, it will be appreciated that a dial member can be of any convenient or desired form or shape of metal or plastic and need not be circular.

Extending through aperture **12** and opening **15** and mounting disc-shaped member **11** in adjacent engagement with said dial member **14** for rotational movements of dial member **14** about opening **15** thereof relative to face **17** of disc-shaped member **11** is a pivot means, here shown as a metallic rivet **19,** though the pivot means can be in any convenient form.

A layer **20** of elastomeric foam such as polyurethane, polybutadiene, or the like, having spaced, generally parallel face is provided. One face **21** is coated with a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive while at least a portion of the other face **22** thereof is bonded by any convenient adhesive in face to face engagement with the other face **18** of disc-shaped member **11.** Conveniently and preferably both faces **21** and **22** are coated with the same pressure sensitive adhesive, and more preferably such pressure sensitive adhesive is one of the permanently tacky variety.

Such an elastomeric foam material is commonly available commercially in a sheet form so coated on its faces with such an adhesive, and such faces are each covered with a layer comprised of a protective, adhering, peelable sheet member. Thus, in fabricating a layer **20,** it is convenient to shape the boundaries thereof, as by cutting or the like before removing such protective sheet members **23** and **32.** Indeed, it is preferred in one way of fabricating a medication time reminder **10** first to assemble those components indicated herein on the pivot means, and to prepare a layer **20,** and then to remove one sheet member, here sheet **32** and to mount the layer **20** against the face **18** of member **11.** However, any convenient fabrication procedure may be employed, as those skilled in the art will well appreciate. At any rate, it is generally convenient and preferred to keep the other face **21** of layer **20** protected with sheet **23** until a time reminder **10** is to be mounted on a surface, such as the top face of a cap **25** of a pill container **26,** or the like.

While the outer perimeter of a layer **20** can have any convenient form, it is preferred to use a circular periphery therefor whose diameter approaches that of the disc shaped member **11.** Layer **20** can be of any convenient thickness; one preferred range is from about 0.05 to 0.15 inch when layer **20** is in a relaxed state.

A medication time reminder **10** is preferably equipped with boss means between disc-shaped member **11** and the dial member **14,** the boss means being located circumferentially of said pivot means. In the embodiment shown, such a boss means is provided by the washer **27**; however, the boss means could be integrally formed with either the members **14** or the member **11,** if desired, as when such members, or either one thereof, is formed of molded plastic material.

Since a rivet, such as rivet **19,** must have its end **28** flattened after the sub-assembly mounted thereon is completed, it is convenient and preferred when using a metal rivet **19** to position a washer **29** adjacent the face **18** of disc shaped member **11** between disc shaped member **11** and layer **20.** Washer **29** is adopted to provide a flattened, structural surface against which, when rivet **19** is inserted into and through aperture **12** and opening **15** with the head **30** thereof adjacent the outer, exposed surface of the dial member **14,** the end of rivet **19** is spreadable without appreciable or substantial distortion of reminder **10,** or, especially of member **11.** Member **11** is usually rather thin and so does not possess a great deal of structural integrity.

A given pivot means is preferably adopted to keep the associated sub-assembly components so engaged with one another that a slight positive pressure must be applied tangentially to dial member **14** before dial member **14** rotates about (here) rivet **19,** so that vibration or the like does not jar or shift member **14** relative to member **11** when reminder **14** is in a mounted configuration as on a cap **25.**

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that one can, if desired, package, as for marketing purposes, (a) the sub-assembly of the pivot means and elements mounted thereon and (b) the separate layer **20** preformed but with neither sheets **23** and **32** removed.

A plurality of such separate layers **20** can be included with a single such sub-assembly thereby to permit a user to reuse a reminder **10** a number of times on different containers by replacing the layer **20** when and if desirable or necessary, as by pealing from member **11.**

Referring to FIGS. **5** and **6,** another time reminder **35** employs a disc-shaped member **36** which has markings which are peripherally located on one face **38** thereof generally adjacent the circumferential edge **39** thereof. The markings are adopted to designate intervals of time. Disc shaped member **36** is received within an outer pointer member **41** comprising a circular base plate portion **42** having an integral, outer, circular, peripheral, upwardly, axially extending flange **43.** Flange **43** has a terminal, integral radially in-turned lip **44,** the lip **44** with conveniently being slightly radially, elastomerically expansible to receive therethrough the disc-shaped member **36,** as in a snap-fit. A ridge **45** can be provided on face **38** of member **36** to permit turning of member **36** relative to member **41.** A rib **48** on lip **44** is provided to indicate particular time intervals marked on face **38.** A layer **46,** constructed similarly to layer **20** of reminder **10,** is secured to the bottom face of member **41** with the pressure sensitive adhesive being provided on one face **48'** of layer **46.** Reminder **35,** by removing protective, peelable sheet **47** is mountable against a desired surface.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that a layer **20** or a layer **46** is adopted to conform to various relatively minor surface irregularities existing at the situs where a reminder **10** or **35** is to be mounted.

Other and further embodiments and variations of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a reading of the present specification taken together with the drawings and no undue limitations are to be inferred or implied from the present disclosure.

I claim:

1. A time reminder for medication or the like and adapated for association with a container comprising:

a sub-assembly having a face and comprising a pointer member and a disc-shaped member, said disc-shaped member having a center and having markings peripherially located on one face thereof adjacent the circumferential edge thereof, said markings adapted to designate intervals of time, said pointer member having a circular base plate having an integral, outer, circular, peripheral, upwardly, axially, extending flange, said flange having an integral, terminal, radially inturned lip, said lip being slightly radially elastomerically expansible to receive therethrough said disc-shaped member in assembled relationship for relative rotation therebetween about the center of the disc-shaped member so that the pointer member designates particular ones of said markings, the pointer member provides the face of the sub-assembly, and

a layer of elastomeric foam having spaced, generally parallel faces, at least one face thereof being coated with a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive, a portion of the other face thereof being in a face-to-face detachable connection with the face of the sub-assembly, and a protective sheet member peelably adhering to the one face of the layer so that removal of the sheet member exposes the pressure-sensitive adhesive and enables attachment of the time reminder to a surface of a container.

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