

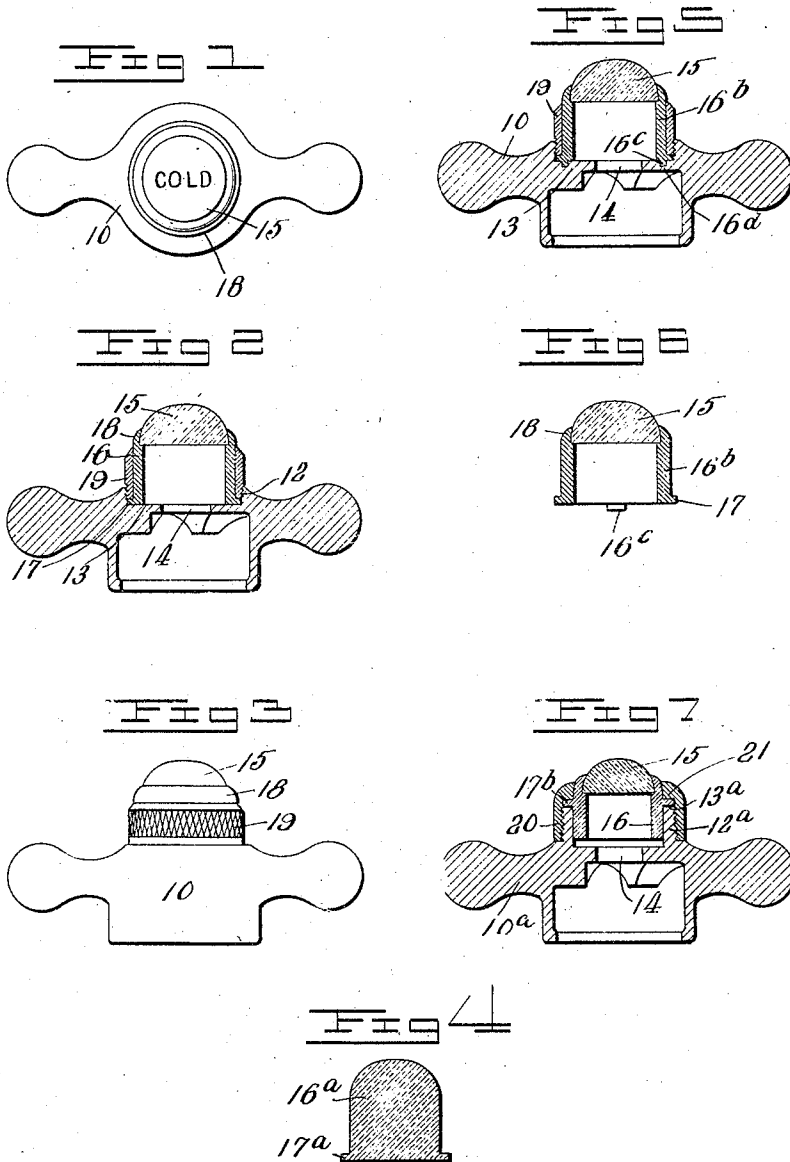
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INDEX FOR COCKS OR FAUCETS.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX FOR COCKS OR FAUCETS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PHILIP MUELLER and ANTON C. SCHUERMANN, citizens of the United States, residing at Decatur, in the county of Macon and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Indexes for Cocks or Faucets, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates generally to handles for cocks or faucets, and has to do more particularly with the index feature thereof.

As is well understood in the plumbing art, bath and basin cocks or faucets are usually provided with indexes in order that those for hot and cold water, respectively, may be readily distinguished from one another. In some cases the indexes have been immovably fixed to the handles of the cocks; while in others they have been removably and interchangeably attached thereto by means of a screw ring which binds upon the face of the index. That type wherein the indexes are immovably fixed is objectionable because it is necessary that the cocks or at least the handles thereof, be associated with the particular supply pipe designated by the index which it carries, and their use is, therefore, limited. In the case of the other types, namely, that wherein the indexes are removably and interchangeably attached by means of a screw ring, considerable difficulty has arisen by reason of the fact that it is practically impossible to accurately adjust the index so that it will read properly from the front of the faucet, and to maintain the adjustment while screwing home the attaching ring, because of the tendency of the index to turn with its attaching ring while the latter is being screwed home, with the result that when the ring is screwed to its limit, the index will have been shifted out of its adjusted position.

It is the purpose of the present invention to provide an index and retaining means therefor, whereby the index may be readily and quickly applied to or removed from a faucet handle and wherein the said index may be accurately adjusted to read properly, and when once adjusted will be maintained against accidental movement.

In the accompanying drawings wherein we have illustrated several embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a plan view of a

handle member with the index applied thereto; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same; Fig. 3 is a plan view; Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of a slightly modified form of index; and Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are further slightly modified forms of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 thereof, the reference numeral 10 designates a handle member, which, it will be understood, may be of any preferred construction, the particular form of handle member being immaterial so far as the present invention is concerned. The form of handle member illustrated is of the type usually employed in connection with self-closing faucets, but as before stated, so far as the present invention is concerned, the handle member may be of any desired construction and may be suited to any style of faucet, whether of the self-closing or compression type.

The handle member 10 is provided in its upper face with an internally-threaded counter-bore or socket 12 at the base of which is a seat portion 13 with a central opening 14 through which may project, or by which access may be had to, the usual valve stem of the faucet (not shown).

In the form of invention illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the index 15 which is usually made of porcelain, and which has imprinted or delineated thereon proper characters to indicate "hot" or "cold," as the case may be, is carried by a thimble 16, the said thimble being provided at its base with a peripheral projection, preferably in the form of an annular flange 17, which rests upon the seat 13 when the parts are assembled. The index 15 is firmly secured to the thimble 16 by crimping or rolling the upper reduced end of the thimble, as at 18, around the index 15, as more clearly shown in Fig. 2. The reference numeral 19 designates a locking sleeve which is externally threaded at its lower end to cooperate with the threads 12 in the counter-bored portion of the handle member and the said sleeve is, by preference, knurled on its periphery to permit of readily screwing the same into the counter-bored portion of the handle member and when screwed in position, the function of the sleeve is to bind firmly against the flange portion 17 of the thimble and press the latter firmly against the seat 13, where-

by to lock the said thimble and the index carried thereby against accidental turning movement.

It has been discovered that with this construction and arrangement of parts, when the index member has been initially placed in position to read properly, it will not move from this position even during the act of screwing the sleeve home, as the latter, when it comes to bear upon the flange 17, immediately presses it to the seat 13, and holds the index firmly and securely against movement.

In assembling the parts, the thimble with its index member is first placed within the counter-bored portion of the handle member with the index member in position to read properly from the front of the faucet, that is to say, the word on the index member is brought into alinement with the projecting portion of the handle member or in any other proper position, so that the word will read properly from the front or spout portion of the faucet, as is well understood. The index may then be held in its adjusted position by hand while the sleeve 19 is being screwed home and as soon as the lower end thereof engages with the flanged portion of the thimble the latter will be locked against rotation. The result is that the index member, when once set and locked in position by the locking sleeve can not move from such position unless the sleeve is loosened. Preferably the sleeve 19 is shorter than the thimble 16 and its associated index member, so that there will be a certain length of the thimble projecting above the sleeve whereby the index may be readily held against movement while the sleeve is being screwed home.

In the form of invention illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, we have shown the index as being made in the form of a porcelain button and firmly secured to a metal thimble 16. If desired, we may make the index and the thimble of one piece of material 16^a, as illustrated in Fig. 4, the flange 17^a being formed integral therewith.

In the form of invention illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, the thimble 16^b is shown as provided at its base with one or more lugs 16^c, which are designed to enter corresponding sockets 16^d in the seat portion 13 of the handle 10, the lugs serving to positively prevent turning movement of the thimble 16^b and its index, relative to the handle member. In this construction the sockets 16^d in the handle member will, of course, be so arranged that when the thimble, with its index, is associated therewith, the word on the index member will read properly, and we prefer to employ a plurality of sockets 16^d in the seat portion 13 of the handle member which will be properly spaced so as to permit of any desired adjustment of the index

member with reference to the handle member. The lugs referred to may or may not be employed, as desired, and their use is entirely optional, but by employing the lugs it will be apparent that the thimble with its index member will, when once adjusted and set, be positively locked against movement.

In Fig. 7 we have shown a slightly modified form of the invention which is somewhat the reverse of the other forms illustrated in that the handle member 10^a is provided with an upwardly projecting and externally-threaded collar 12^a, the upper end of which forms a seat 13^a upon which the flange 17^b of the index member rests. The index member, in the instance shown, may be formed entirely of metal or porcelain, or, if desired, may be constructed like the index member illustrated in Fig. 2 with the flange 17^b formed integral with the thimble 16. The reference numeral 20 in this Fig. 7 designates a locking sleeve which is internally threaded at its lower end to cooperate with the external threads of the collar 12^a, and at its upper end the sleeve is formed with an overhanging portion, as a shoulder 21, to engage the flange 17^b to force the latter firmly against the seat 13^a and thus retain the index in position and against accidental movement.

By the construction of index member and locking means herein shown and described, it will be apparent that we have provided a very simple arrangement of parts that will permit of the index member being readily attached to or removed from a handle member and one that may be easily adjusted to read properly and, when once set, will retain its adjusted position. Furthermore, inasmuch as the index is readily removable, the same may be applied to the handle and adjusted after the latter has been attached to the faucet; and by removing the index, access may be gained through the opening in the handle member to the stem portion of the valve, which is desirable in certain types of faucets.

What we claim is:

1. In combination with a handle member having an internally threaded counterbore providing a seat at the base thereof, an index member resting on said seat and a sleeve slidable over the index member and being of a height less than the height of the member and having threaded engagement with the counterbored portion of the handle member, said sleeve constituting a connection between the index member and the handle member and serving to retain the index member against rotative movement.

2. In combination with a handle member having a threaded portion and a seat at the base of the threaded portion, a thimble resting on the base and rising above the handle, an index mounted on said thimble, and a

sleeve loose about the thimble and having a threaded portion engaging the threaded portion of the handle, said sleeve engaging the lower end of said thimble whereby to hold the same to said base and from rotation.

3. A device as specified comprising a handle having an internally threaded bore in its upper side and a seat at the base of the bore, a thimble fitting in the bore and having an outwardly extending flange resting on said seat, an index member mounted on said thimble, and a coupling sleeve loosely engaging over the thimble and with the threads of the handle, said sleeve adapted to be screwed down in the bore against said flange whereby to hold the thimble to the seat and prevent the turning of the thimble.

4. A device as specified comprising a handle having an internally threaded bore with a seat in the base of the bore, a thimble

fitting in the bore and having a flange at its inner end resting on said seat, an index carried in the thimble, and a sleeve threaded in the bore and adapted to be turned down upon said flange whereby to bind said thimble to the seat, said flange being of less height than the thimble whereby to expose the upper portion of the thimble and being loose about the thimble whereby to turn freely on the thimble when screwed into the bore.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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