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HOLDER FOR SMALL DENTAL INSTRUMENTS

Filed Oct. 18, 1968

FIG 1

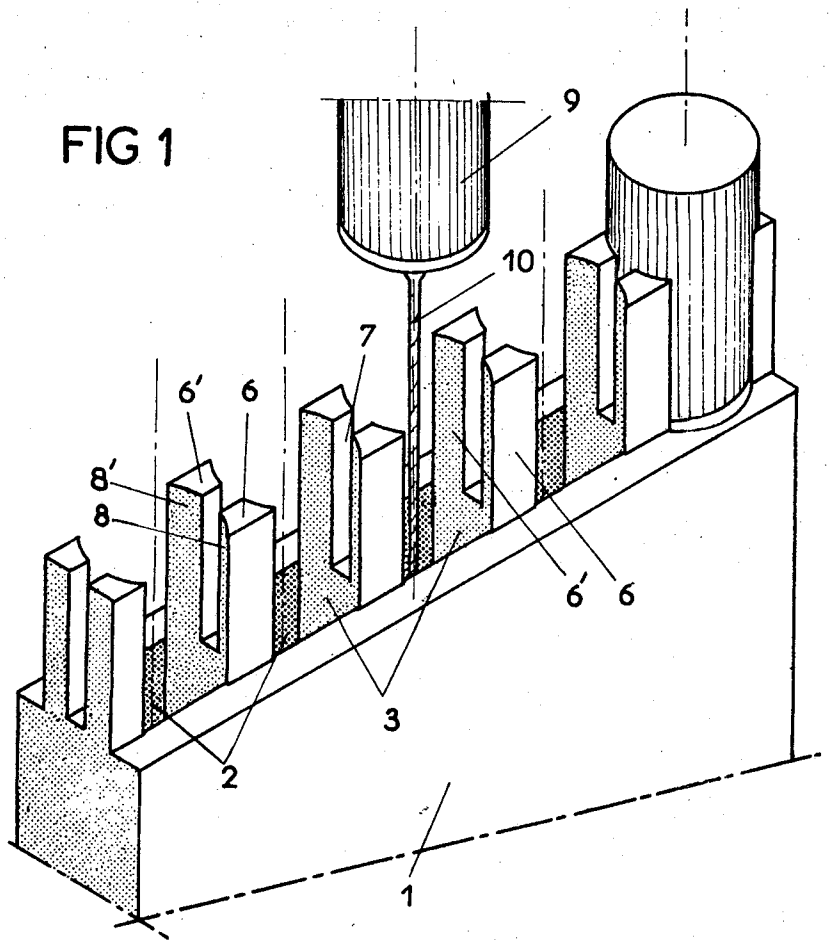
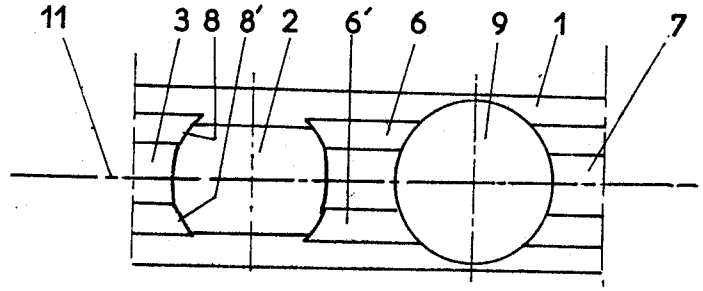


FIG 2



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HOLDER FOR SMALL DENTAL INSTRUMENTS

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U.S. Cl. 206—16 3 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A holder for small dental instruments having a sloping box-shaped structure with vertically-extending posts between which the handles of the instruments are frictionally engaged.

This invention relates to a holder for small dental instruments.

Most small instruments, in particular those used in dentistry, for example, burs, drills and the like are available in small boxes which can also be used to store the instruments after use.

Holders or display boxes presently known fall into three general categories.

In the first, the instruments are positioned in a box which has a cover which may be of the rotating or sliding type. It is thus possible to uncover the instruments one by one. However, it is necessary to overturn the box in order to remove the instrument with the risks of it falling on a non-sterile surface.

A second type consists in arranging the instruments in a box which has parallel closed compartments. This requires breaking of the seal by hand.

A third type consists of a box so formed that by sliding or pivoting a cover at the end thereof all the instruments are available. Such a device has the drawback of risking the dropping the instruments and of not making them individually available.

The invention has for its object to provide a holder for small dental instruments which makes possible a ready display and storage of the instruments without requiring the operation of any movable part or the forcing open of a closure.

To this effect, the invention is concerned with a display holder for small dental instruments characterized in that it comprises frictional retention means for the handles of the instruments.

The invention will be better understood by referring to the following description and to the accompanying drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a display holder according to the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a partial top view thereof.

The holder **1** has the shape of a box of sloping configuration which can be of synthetic material. It is divided into a number of compartments **2** by means of vertically-extending separator posts placed between the two side walls **4** and **5** of the box.

Each post **3** extends in its upper part forming fingers **6** and **6'** spaced from one another by a slot **7**. The edges **8**, **8'** of fingers **6** or **6'** facing compartment **2** have a curvature which corresponds to the cylindrical curvature complementary to the rounded handles **9** of the instruments **10**.

The location of fingers **6** and **6'** is so dimensioned that the round handle **9** of instrument **10** will fit snugly between them. By virtue of the fact that the fingers **6** and **6'** of the separator posts **3** have resiliency, the handle **9** is held firmly, but may be removed at will at any time.

The height of fingers **6**, **6'** may for example be half that of the length of the handles **9**. They thus maintain these along a sufficient surface but allow the upper part of handles **9** to remain free to facilitate withdrawal from compartments **2**.

All sorts of instruments can be placed in the holder in accordance with the invention. For example, it is possible to position therein drills which are to be put in a sterilizer. The shanks of the drills will thus be presented to the user without having been withdrawn from their sterile media.

What is claimed is:

1. A display holder for instruments having cylindrical handles, such as used in dentistry, comprising a box-like structure of sloping configuration having walls defining a trough, vertically-extending separator posts dividing said trough into a plurality of compartments, each adapted to hold an instrument, said vertically-extending separator posts comprising semi-circular fingers having a contour complementary to the handles of said instruments and adapted to surround the same for retention and location.

2. A holder in accordance with claim **1** wherein said separator posts are U-shaped elements having upright fingers of a trapezoidal cross section.

3. A holder in accordance with claim **1** wherein said separator posts are of a resilient material for frictional contact with said handles.

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JAMES B. MARBERT, Primary Examiner