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M. WALTON

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CHEEK UPLIFT

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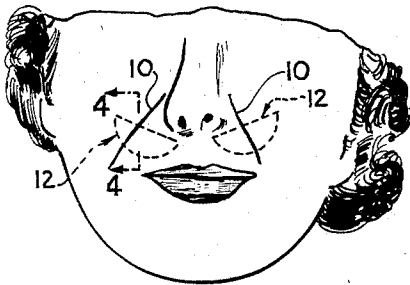


Fig. 1.

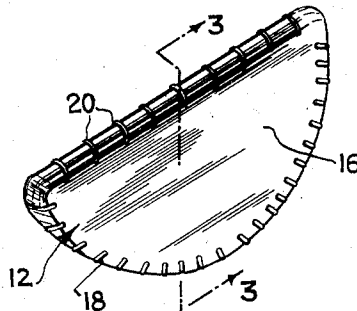


Fig. 2.

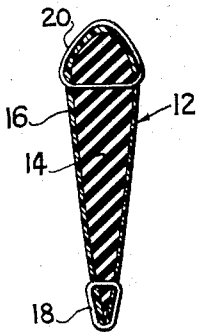


Fig. 3.

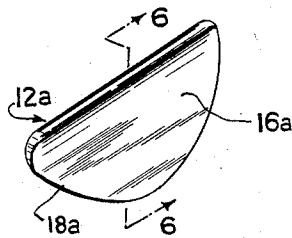


Fig. 4.

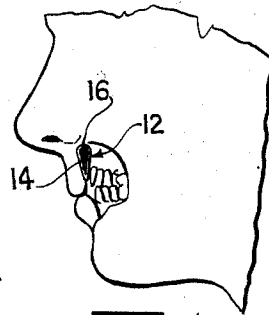


Fig. 5.

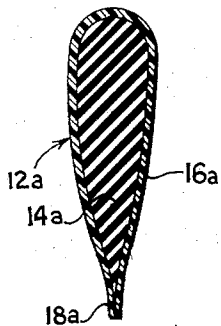


Fig. 6.

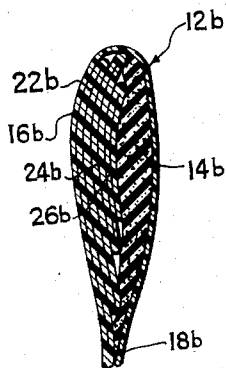


Fig. 7.

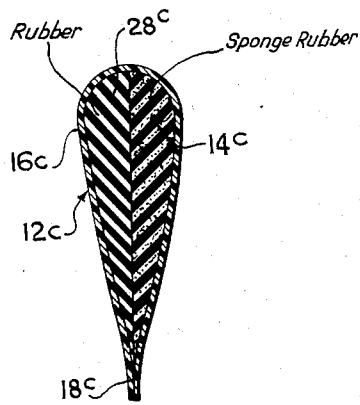


Fig. 8.

INVENTOR,
MILDRED WALTON
BY

Goldstein & Plaskin
ATTORNEY

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CHEEK UPLIFT

Mildred Walton, New York, N. Y.

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12 Claims. (Cl. 128—76)

This invention relates to a pad-like device insertable in the mouth, between the upper lip and the upper gum, either singly or in pairs, for the purpose of exerting a light outward pressure upon the portion of the lip or cheek engaged thereby with a view of improving the facial appearance of the user.

It is well known that in many instances, a crease tends to form in the cheek of a person at opposite sides of the nose. This crease tends to detract from the facial appearance of the person, and the main object of the present invention is to provide an improved device for exerting an outward pressure against the portion of the face in which said crease normally tends to form, with a view of eliminating or reducing to a marked degree the crease or line.

One object of importance is to provide a cheek-expanding pad of the character described that will be comfortable when in use, and will not make difficult such normal functions as eating, brushing the teeth, etc.

Another object is to so form the pad as to permit the same to be maintained in a sanitary condition, with maximum ease.

Another object is to provide a cheek-expanding pad or mouthpiece as stated which will be particularly shaped to not only be comfortable when worn but, also, to exert pressure at the exact points desired, with a view of eliminating lines or creases in the face at opposite sides of the upper lip.

Yet another object is to provide an improved construction of a cheek-expanding pad of the type described, wherein the pad will include a body portion of foam or sponge rubber, encased in a thin plastic sheath, which sheath will provide protection for the foam rubber, will prevent the rubber from becoming moistened, and will itself define a covering readily adapted to be washed or sterilized.

Still another object is to provide a cheek-expanding pad of the character stated which will include means connecting the plastic sheath or covering to the body portion, which means will extend peripherally of the device and will be so designed as to impart a stiffer construction to the device at the periphery thereof than at the center, thus to particularly effect maintenance of the device in the desired outer configuration.

Still another object is to provide, in at least one form of the invention, means that will define a relatively non-compressible area at one side of the body, with the forward side of the body being fully compressible, thus to provide a firm backing for the device, while at the same time imparting a softness to the front part thereof that will correspond to the relative softness of the portion of the cheek against which the device is engaged. In this way, pressures exerted against the cheek will not reveal the existence of the device within the upper portion of the mouth, notwithstanding the fact that the device will be efficiently adapted to discharge its intended function.

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Yet another object of importance is to provide a device of the character stated that will be adapted for manufacture at a very low cost, thus to permit the device to be discarded after it has been used for a predetermined period of time, with a new device being substituted for the discarded one at so low a cost as to be wholly inconsequential, considering the benefits to be obtained from the use of the device.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a generally diagrammatic view illustrating the face from the front, with a pair of the cheek-uplifting pads being shown in position, in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the pads per se.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view, still further enlarged, substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a somewhat diagrammatic side view of the face with the device being shown in transverse section in proper position, the view being taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified construction.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged, detail sectional view transversely through the device of Fig. 5, taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 showing another modification.

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Figs. 6 and 7 showing still another modification.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1—4, designated at 10 are the crease lines of the face which it is intended to remove, through the use of a pair of the cheek uplift pads 12 constituting the invention.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in outer configuration each pad is formed approximately in the shape of a semicircle. However, the device can be narrower, with the arcuate edge thereof extending through less than 180°.

In any event, the device has one straight longitudinal edge, this being the upper edge when the device is in use, and one continuously arcuate edge, terminating at its opposite ends at the opposite ends of the straight edge.

The device includes a body portion 14 which in the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1—4 is formed from a single piece of soft sponge rubber, foam rubber, or the like. It is mainly important, in this regard, that the body portion in this form of the invention be of a softness such as to duplicate rather faithfully the softness of the portion of the cheek in back of which the device is engaged. The device, at the same time, has a resiliency tending to normally dispose the same in an expanded condition in which it exerts a slight forward pressure on the sides of the upper lip, at the locations of the creases 10. This forward pressure tends to eliminate the creases, thus improving measurably the facial appearance of the user.

The body portion 14, when viewed in cross section, is thickest along its upper edge, the body portion being progressively decreased in width in the direction of its bottom, arcuate edge. In other words, the straight-edged side of the device is thickest, with the device having tapering side walls, that cause the same to be progressively reduced in thickness, until, along the arcuate edge, the device is almost blade-like in cross-sectional shape.

The straight edge is of constant thickness for its full length, and the same is true of the arcuate edge. However, the arcuate edge is continuously of blade-like form,

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substantially fully from end to end thereof. At the opposite extremities of the arcuate edge, the same becomes slightly increased in thickness, to merge into the relatively thick top edge portion of the pad.

Encasing the body portion 14 is a flexible, thin, plastic sheath 16. This completely covers the body portion, so as to prevent the body portion from becoming saturated with moisture. The sheath, being waterproof, prevents any moisture from entering into the material of the body portion. Further, the sheath is so designed as to permit the device to be washed whenever desired, to maintain the same in a fully sanitary condition.

Sheath 16, as shown in Figs. 1-3, is secured to the body portion by a line of stitching 18, extending the full length of the arcuate edge of the device. The stitching is continued along the straight top edge portion of the device as at 20, so that the stitching extends through the full periphery of the device.

The stitches are placed close enough together to impart a comparative rigidity to the peripheral portion of the pad. This tends to maintain the pad in shape, and at the same time, the center area of the pad is kept soft for the purpose of preventing the device from being apparent to the casual viewer. The stitching also serves, of course, to connect the plastic sheath to the marginal part of the body portion.

In use, the device is inserted in the mouth, and a pair of the devices would ordinarily be used as shown in Fig. 1. When so inserted, the device is directly in back of the crease 10, with the crease extending transversely intermediate the opposite ends of the device. In this way, a light pressure is exerted against the cheek, tending to expand the same just sufficiently to cause the crease to either disappear or be hardly noticeable.

In Figs. 5 and 6, a modified construction is shown. In this form the device has been generally designated 12^a and in size and outer configuration, as well as in cross-sectional shape, matches the first form of the invention.

The only difference between the second and first forms resides in the fact that the sheath 16^a of thin, flexible plastic material, encasing the body portion 14^a, is heat-sealed as at 18^a, that is, the front and back portions of the sheath are disposed in contacting relation to impart the desired blade-like cross-sectional shape to the arcuate edge of the device, with the contacting portions of the sheath being subjected to heat for the purpose of causing the same to bond to each other.

The sheath, in both forms of the invention, can in blank be formed approximately circularly, with the sheath being folded along a line extending diametrically thereof, which line defines a straight portion of the sheath extending along the straight edge of the body portion 14 or 14^a as the case may be.

In Fig. 7 there is shown a modified construction 12^b which in outer configuration and cross-sectional shape matches that of the first and second forms. In this form, the body portion 14^b is only approximately half the thickness of the body portion of the first form. The remaining half of the space enclosed by the sheath 16^a is taken up by a relatively non-compressible portion which results from folding the sheath material upon itself a plurality of times in the space that is to be enclosed by the outermost portions of the sheath. The folds have been designated at 22^b, 24^b and 26^b, respectively, and together occupy approximately half of the thickness of the device, with the remaining, forward half being occupied by the soft, fully compressible portion 14^b.

When the plastic is folded upon itself a number of times in the manner shown, a comparative lack of compressibility is imparted to the back part of the pad, providing a firm backing for the compressible, soft front portion 14^b.

It will be seen that the outermost fold 22^b is greatest

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in area, with the folds being progressively reduced in overall area in a direction toward the innermost fold. The net result is to provide a device that has the cross-sectional shape of the first two forms, while at the same time not being formed of a fully compressible material over the full thickness of the device.

In Fig. 8 there is shown another modification in which the comparative lack of compressibility of the rear half of the thickness of the device results from the use of a body section 28^c which, though formed of soft rubber, is firmer and less easily compressed than the oppositely but identically formed front section 14^c of the body of the device. The sheath 16^c encloses the body sections 28^c, 14^c and the body sections would be cemented along their contacting, flat, inner faces. In this case, the sheath 16^c can be stitched to the respective sections of the device or alternatively, can be heat-sealed as shown.

The use of either stitching or heat-sealing can also be carried out in practicing the form of the invention shown in Fig. 7.

In all forms of the invention, the particular cross-sectional shape and outer configuration of the device has the desirable result of exerting a forward, light pressure on the part of the cheek in back of which the device is disposed. This eliminates or reduces the crease 10.

The device remains in place merely by insertion of the same in back of the upper lip, as shown in Fig. 4, the greater thickness of the same along the straight top edge portion thereof having the adaptability of holding the device against downward movement within the mouth.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body.

2. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section.

3. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad further including means stiffening the body and sheath at the periphery of the pad, the body being relatively soft and compressible in the area bounded by said periphery.

4. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad further including means stiffening the body and sheath at the periphery of the pad, the

body being relatively soft and compressible in the area bounded by said periphery, said stiffening means comprising a line of stitching extending through the full periphery of the body and connecting the body and sheath to one another.

5. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad further including means stiffening the body and sheath at the periphery of the pad, the body being relatively soft and compressible in the area bounded by said periphery, said stiffening means comprising a heat-seal extending along the arcuate edge of said sheath.

6. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, the body being formed from a single piece of soft, readily compressible material.

7. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said body being of sectional formation and including a back part of relatively firm material and a front part of a soft, readily compressible material.

8. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said body being of sectional formation and including a back part of relatively firm material and a front part of a soft, readily compressible material, the back part comprising a plurality of superposed folds formed of an extension of the sheath material.

9. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight

longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said body being of sectional formation and including a back part of relatively firm material and a front part of a soft, readily compressible material, the back part of the body comprising a piece of rubber material having a softness and compressibility less than the front part of the body.

10. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad being of blade-like formation for substantially the full length of the arcuate edge portion thereof.

11. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad being of blade-like formation for substantially the full length of the arcuate edge portion thereof, the straight-edged portion being of substantial thickness as compared to the arcuate edge portion.

12. A cheek uplift pad for insertion in the mouth in back of a crease line for reducing the sharpness of said line, comprising a body having one generally straight longitudinal edge portion and an arcuate, opposite edge portion merging at its ends into the ends of the first end portion, and a flexible sheath of moisture-proof material fully enclosing said body, said body being of tapering cross section, said pad being of blade-like formation for substantially the full length of the arcuate edge portion thereof, the straight-edged portion being of substantial thickness as compared to the arcuate edge portion, the thickness of the straight-edged portion being constant from end to end thereof.

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