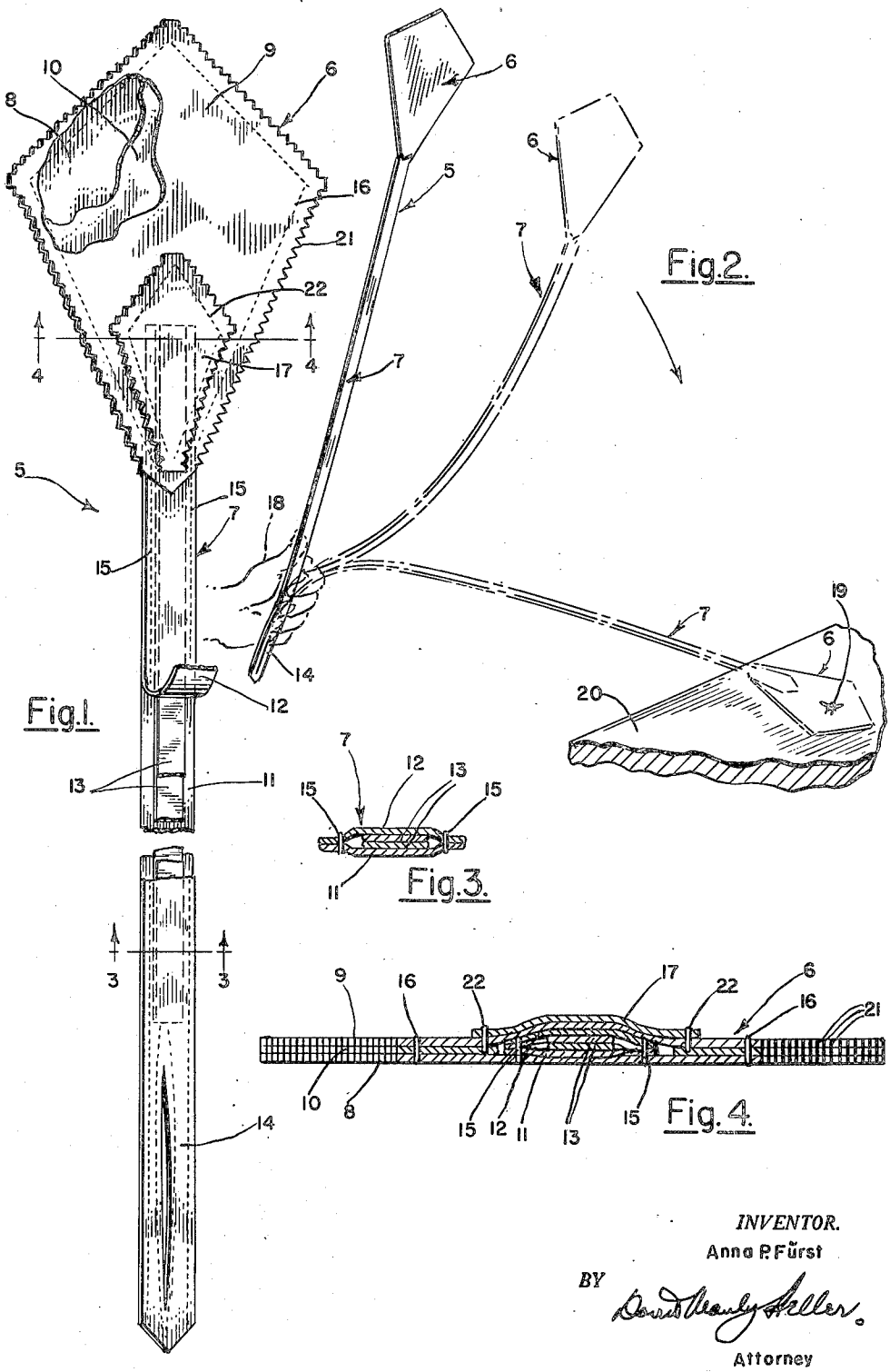
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INSECT SWATTER

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INSECT SWATTER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 43—137)

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My invention relates to readily actuated fly swatters.

The fly destroying or insect killing instrument known as the fly swatter is constructed of a striking head attached to a handle. Fly swatters in present use are constructed with a flexible head and a rigid handle, making it necessary for the user to move the arm and hand in the act of striking at a fly. This movement of the hand and arm warns the fly, permitting it to escape. Therefore, it is a prime object of my invention to provide a readily actuated fly swatter wherein the handle means is constructed of resilient material so that the striking head may be actuated to strike and kill insects, such as flies, merely by action of the fingers or, at the most, the wrist of the hand holding the fly swatter, thus giving no advance warning to the resting insect.

A further object of my invention is to provide a fly swatter of the above described character which is of simple and attractive design and which may be economically produced in quantities.

Other objects and advantages embraced in my invention will be disclosed in the following description and the accompanying illustrations, wherein like parts are designated by like numerals and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my invention, with parts cut and broken away to show its construction.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my invention shown in solid and phantom lines in the act of striking an insect.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of my invention, taken substantially on line 3—3 on Fig. 1, and showing the resilient handle construction.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of my invention taken substantially on line 4—4 on Fig. 1 and showing the attachment of the handle to the flexible head of my invention.

Referring to the illustrations, my invention is generally designated 5 and consists of a flexible head means 6 of substantially rhombic configuration and resilient handle means 7. The flexible head means 6 consists of a striking panel 8, a reinforcing panel 9 and an intermediate reinforcing panel 10, stitched together along the edges at 16. The said flexible head means 6 may preferably be constructed of a flexible material, such as plastic, and may be flared at the end to give greater striking surface. The edges 21, of flexible head 6, may be notched or pinked, as shown, to prevent wrinkling or warping of the

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said edges and to add to the life of the striking head. A strengthening patch 17 made of flexible material may be stitched at 22 to the base of flexible head 6 to give greater strength at the handle attaching portion. The striking panel 8 will be flat as shown in Fig. 4 to make a positive contact with the insect.

The said resilient handle means 7 consists of handle covering strips 11 and 12 of flexible material, which are stitched together along the edges 15. Two resilient flat spring elements 13 are inserted between handle covering strips 11 and 12 made of flexible material of greater width than the said flat spring elements to cover the same, and of greater length to form a flexible hanging loop portion 14. The stitches along the edges 15 serve to connect resilient handle means 7 to flexible head means 6. A hanging loop portion 14 is formed on the free end of handle means 7.

Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that the resilient flat spring elements 13 extend into head portion 6, thus providing reenforcement to the lower portion of head 6.

In using my readily actuated fly swatter, it is grasped as by hand 18 in Fig. 2, at the lower portion of handle 7 with the fly swatter 5 in a vertical position and the head 6 thereof aligned with the resting insect 19. A slight downward flick, aided by gravity, will cause the flexible head means 7 to fly sharply downwardly to strike the insect 19, shown on surface 20.

The important feature of the fly swatting operation just described resides in the fact that the arm and hand holding the fly swatter did not move, as would have been the case had the handle been of rigid material. Since the hand and arm remain stationary, no warning is given to the resting insect. This is a most important feature, inasmuch as the great difficulty in destroying insects, such as house flies, by using fly swatters, is that the insect is warned by arm movement and escapes before being swatted. The hereinabove described feature of my invention making the no warning strike operation possible, resides in the resilient construction of its handle means.

It is to be understood that changes may be made in the construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, provided that such changes fall within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus disclosed and revealed my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

Readily actuated fly-swatter means, compris-

ing flexible head means substantially of rhombic configuration and made up of a multiplicity of panels of plastic material, resilient handle elements of a length equivalent to several times the length of the said head means and of uniform width throughout their length, handle covering strips of flexible material of greater length than the said handle elements to form a flexible hanging loop portion beyond one end of the said resilient handle elements, the said handle covering elements being of greater width than the said resilient handle elements to permit securing the same to form an enclosing sheath for the said resilient handle elements, one end of the said enclosure sheath being interposed between the said panels and entering partially the said flexible head means at a corner thereof, and stitching means for securing the enclosing sheath and the said multiplicity of panels resulting in resilient handle means secured to flexible head means adapted to furnish efficient insect swatting action by the said head means.

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