May 17, 1960 L. C. KARNES 2,936,473

PAINT APPLICATOR

Filed Jan. 6, 1958

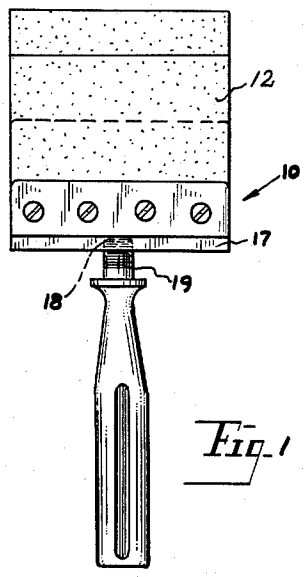



Fig. 1

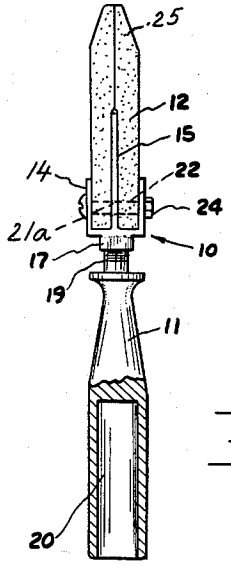



Fig. 2

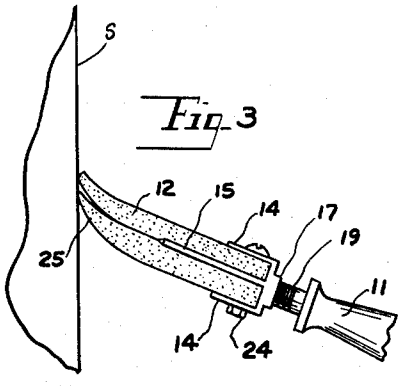



Fig. 3

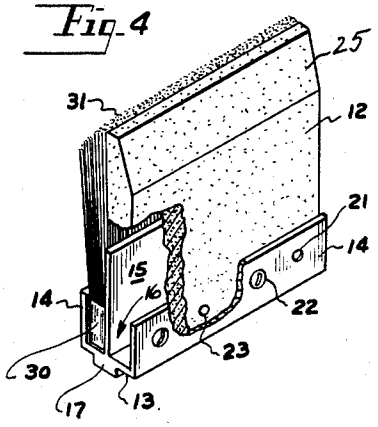



Fig. 4

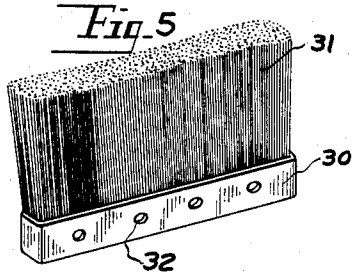



Fig. 5

INVENTOR.
LAURETTE C. KARNES
BY Louis Clayka
ATTORNEY

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# PAINT APPLICATOR

Laurette C. Karnes, Detroit, Mich.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 15—209)

The applicator disclosed herein consists of a handle, a head set transversely on one end thereof, and a pair of flexible elements, each being capable of absorbing a quantity of paint or other liquid medium for transfer to a surface to be coated with said medium. As one and in some cases both elements may consist of soft pads of felt, and as such pads are liable to lose their initial resiliency when saturated with a liquid and are likely to become too limp for their operative use, I have improved the head of the applicator in such a manner as to provide therein a stiff support in order to brace said felt pads.

I have made a further improvement by combining in said head elements of two different materials, specifically, a brush made of bristles or resilient and stiff fibers and a pad of soft felt. Furthermore, it was my object to have an applicator capable of holding a quantity of paint, to eliminate the necessity of too frequent dippings of the applicator in a container of paint for absorption of sufficient quantity thereof for painting. Finally, my object was to produce an applicator in which the paint-carrying element may be cleaned and washed for repeated use, but which will be very reasonable in cost.

I shall now describe my applicator with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan elevational view of the applicator;

Fig. 2 is a side view of one species of the applicator with a part of its handle shown in section;

Fig. 3 is a side view of the applicator as applied against a flat vertical surface;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified species of my applicator, the applicator being shown in said Fig. 4 without its handle;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a replaceable brush adapted to fit into a special seat in the head of the applicator.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The applicator shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 consist of an oblong holder, generally marked **10**, a handle **11** on which the holder is mounted, and two felt pads **12** disposed in the head in a parallel relation to each other. The holder itself is made of an oblong member including a flat bottom **13**, two upright flanges **14** which rise upwardly from the bottom, one along one side, the other along the other side of the bottom, and a vertical partition **15** which rises vertically from the bottom and divides the inner space of the holder into two oblong channels. This is best shown in Fig. 4 where one such channel is marked **16**. It will be noted that the upper end of the partition **15**, that is, the end remote from the base of the holder **10**, extends to a line midway the upper level of the flanges **14** and the outer ends of the pads. The bottom of the holder includes an integrally-formed external boss **17** which, intermediate its length, contains a threaded aperture **18** for reception of the threaded end portion **19** of the handle **11**. At its opposite end, the handle is provided with an axial bore **20**, permitting the use of a rod or pole on which the applicator may be mounted by having one end of the pole inserted into the said bore **20**.



Each of the flanges **14** and the partition **15** are provided with a plurality of apertures **21** along a line running parallel to the bottom **13**, the holes in one flange being in register with similar apertures **21***a* in the partition and with the apertures in the opposite flange for reception of bolts **22** to which I shall refer again.

What is to be noted is that each of the felt members **12** is partly defined at its outer end, that is, the end remote from the holder, by an oblique face **25**, the face of one member being set at an angle to the face of the other member so that the unit at that end, which is its operative end, is tapered, as best shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

When the operative end of the applicator is dipped into paint, a quantity of it will adhere to the outer surfaces of the unit as a whole, but a quantity of paint will also be picked up between the flat, adjoining surface of the members. This quantity will be available to be squeezed out against the surface to be painted when the felt members are pressed against said surface in the manner shown in Fig. 3. The drawing shows the applicator in its operative position, on the downstroke, with the broad surface of the felt unit held transversely to the direction of the stroke. When the unit is flexed sufficiently, the face **25** of the lower member **12** will be disposed practically parallel to the surface S to be painted. On the upward stroke the unit would be flexed in the other direction so that the face **25** of the upper felt member **12** would be substantially parallel to said surface S.

The applicator shown in Fig. 4 differs from the one shown is Figs. 1 to 3 in the respect that instead of having two flat felt pads, it includes only one felt pad **12** which is seated in one channel **16** of the head **10**, while seated in the other channel is a brush made of bristles or stiff fibers. The brush consists of a multiplicity of bristles **31** bound at one end by a metal band **30**, and forms a unit which may be placed in one of the channels in the head **10**. In order that it may be secured in its channel against displacement, the band contains a plurality of apertures **32** for register with similar apertures **21** in the flanges **14**. Thus, the bolts which ordinarily pass through two felt pads would, in this case, serve to hold the brush in its place.

It will be noted that the outer end of the bristles end at the level of the outer end of the adjoining felt pad **12**.

The operator of the applicator shown in Fig. 4 is at liberty to use the bristle brush for applying a primary coat of paint, while the felt pad may be used for a finishing operation on the surface already painted by means of the bristle brush.

After having described my improved applicator, what I wish to claim is as follows:

A paint applicator including an oblong holder having two parallel sides and a flat bottom, an upward flange rising from the bottom along each of the two parallel sides, the flanges being parallel to each other, and an integrally formed flat partition between said flanges dividing the space therebetween into two parallel channels, a replaceable felt pad having the form of a rectangle secured within each channel, a marginal portion of the pad defining one side of the rectangle being in abutment with said bottom, while the marginal portion of the pad along the side of the rectangle parallel to the first named side forms the outer end of the pad, each of the pads at its outer end being defined by a face slanting towards the outer end of the other pad, the end of the partition remote from the base reaching to a line midway between the upper level of the flanges and the outer ends of the pads.

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