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A. CHOFFEL

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SUTURE HOLDER

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Fig. 1.

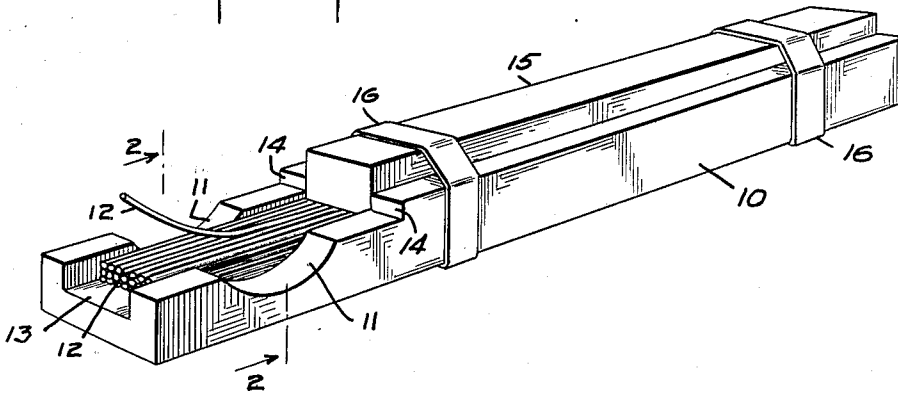
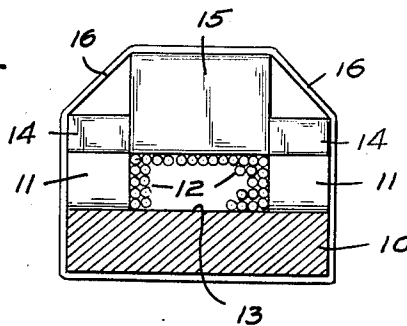


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SUTURE HOLDER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—63.3)

This invention relates to improvements in holders for bundles or skeins of thread, cords and particularly sutures and has reference especially to a holder of this character which is constructed to hold the strands in straight lengths and to enable one or more strands to be withdrawn from the skein without disturbing the remaining strands.

Sutures used for medical purposes come in continuous lengths and are usually wound upon spools. When strands of certain lengths are required the suture material is unwound from the spool and cut to the proper lengths, but instead of obtaining straight strands by this means, the result in each case is only a strand, which tangles easily and which is in some degree kinked or curled and difficult to handle.

It is therefore highly desirable to overcome the difficulties pointed out above and to produce an article of manufacture which has for its object to provide a holder to receive and retain cut sutures or other strands of material in straight lengths ready for use and to permit one or more strands to be removed or withdrawn from the remaining strands without disturbing the latter.

I accomplish this object by means of the device, one embodiment of which is described in the following specification, set forth in the appended claims and illustratively exemplified in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a suture holder; and

Figure 2 is a substantially transverse sectional view taken on lines 2—2 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, 10 denotes a channel bar of wood, metal or plastic substance cut to any predetermined length and having a substantially U-shape transverse section throughout its length. Short of the forward end of the bar the upright side walls are cut away to form convenient grooves 11 to enable the fingers of the user to pick one of the sutures 12 from the skein which is carried in the channel 13 of the bar 10, and which consists of a plurality of lengths or strands of silk, cotton, gut or the like. The side walls of the bar 10 are stepped up slightly beyond the grooves 11, where shoulders 14 are formed, and beyond the latter towards the opposite end of the bar 10 the strands of sutures 12 are clamped in the channel 13 by means of a straight bar 15 consisting of a length of wood, metal or other suitable materials of a transverse section to fit more or less closely between the side walls of the channel bar 10. The bar 15 is

resiliently urged or clamped upon the sutures 12 by means of resilient or elastic bands 16, one thereof being arranged about the bars 10 and 15 adjacent opposite ends of the latter. These bands 16 may be of any suitable material, which will tend, under tension, to urge the bar 15 against the strands and towards the bottom of the channel 13, as the strands of the skein of sutures are reduced in number.

In practice the holder just described is filled with the sutures 12 and the bar 15 is placed between the side walls of the bar 10 and upon the sutures. The bands 16 are applied and the entire holder suitably wrapped in an enclosure, not shown. The rigidity of the holder retains the strands in straight lengths and bands 16 afford just enough pressure upon the bar 15 to allow one strand at a time to be withdrawn without disturbing the remaining strands. The ease with which the present holder, when filled, may be sterilized and will accommodate the needles which are sometimes attached to the strands is of the greatest importance and convenience in a device of this type.

Having described my invention and set forth the manner in which the same is operated what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A holder for a plurality of sutures comprising a channel bar to receive the sutures, a clamping bar to rest against the sutures and disposed in the channel bar, at least one of said bars having a length less than the normal length of the sutures, and means resiliently urging the clamping bar against the sutures and towards the bottom of the channel bar as the individual sutures are withdrawn.

2. A holder for a skein of sutures and the like, comprising a rigid channel bar to receive and hold the sutures between the upright side walls thereof, a clamping bar arranged between the side walls of the channel bar to rest upon the sutures, said clamping bar being shorter than the channel bar to give access to the sutures at one end thereof, and elastic bands encircling the channel bar and clamping bar adjacent opposite ends of the latter to urge the same against the skein of sutures.

3. A holder for a skein of sutures and the like as claimed in claim 2, in which the side walls of the channel bar beyond the clamping bar are cut away transversely thereof to facilitate removal of the strands of sutures.

ALEX CHOFFEL.