

(No Model.)

R. H. WHITE.  
WICK TRIMMER.

No. 593,262.

Patented Nov. 9, 1897.

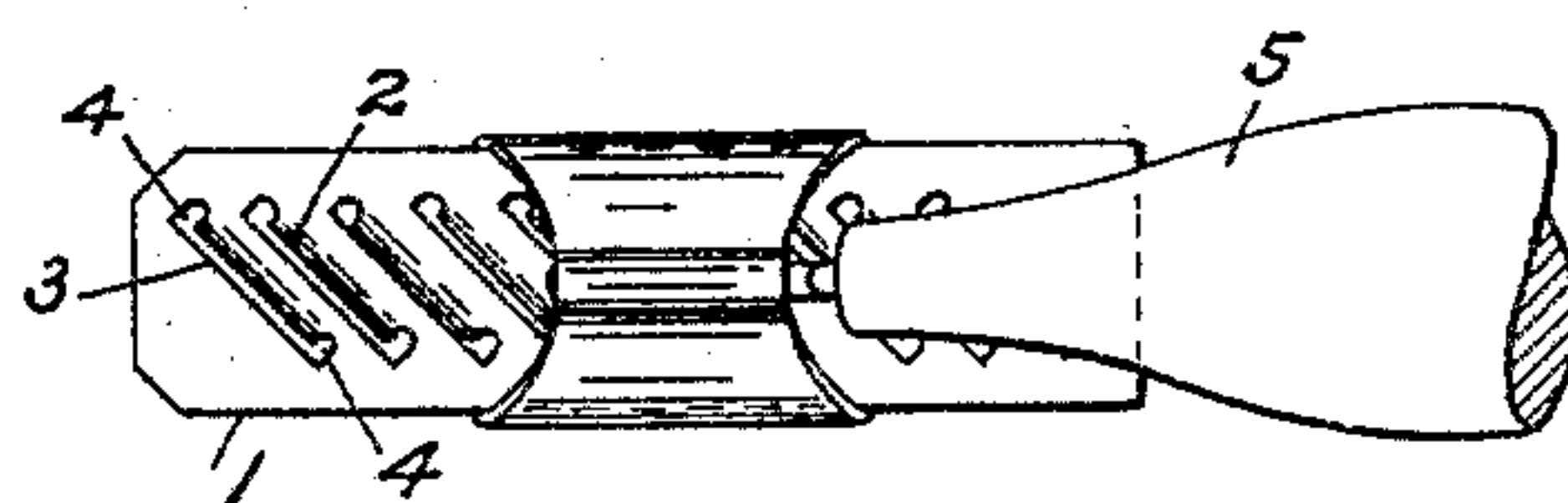


FIG. 1.

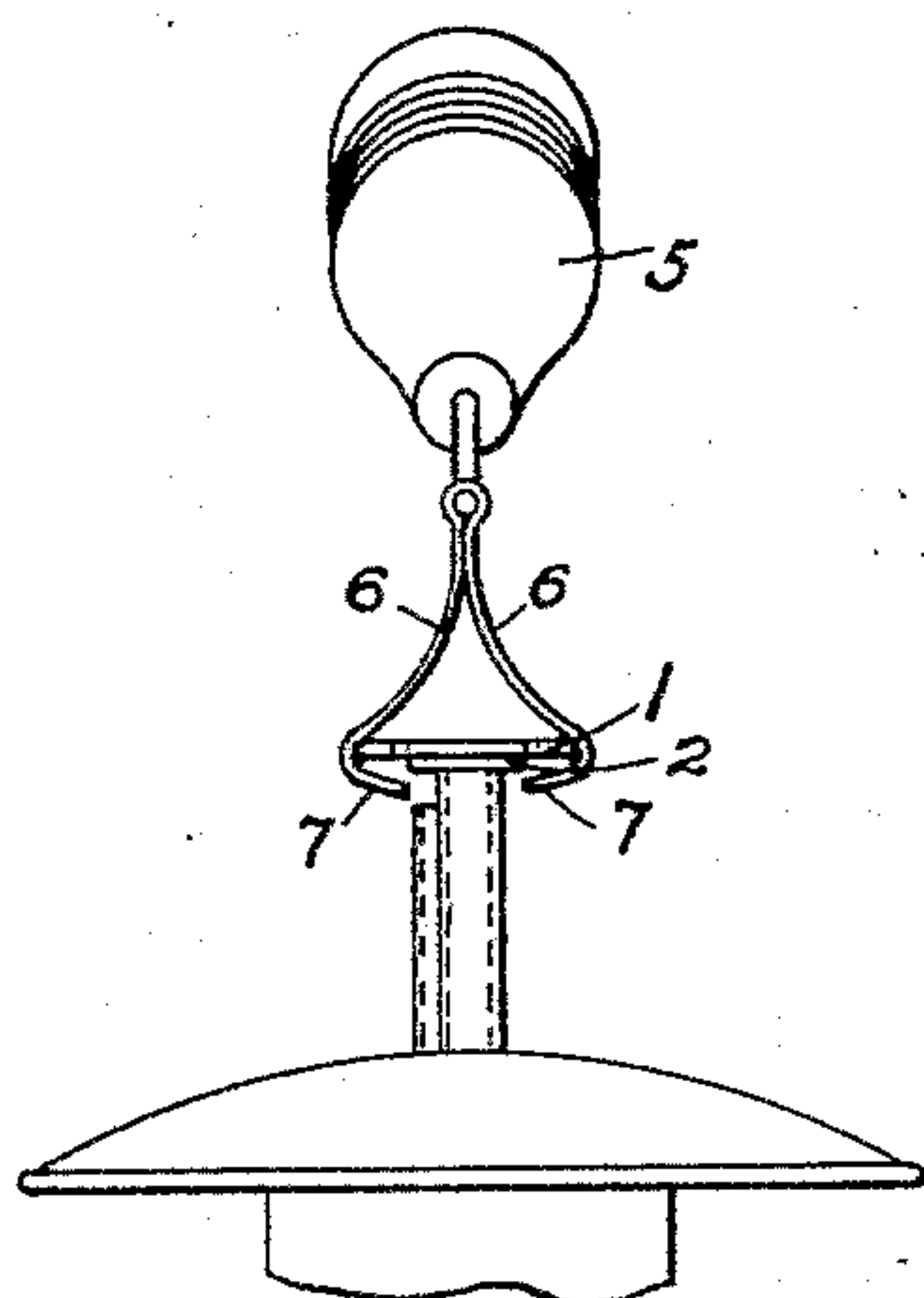


FIG. 3.

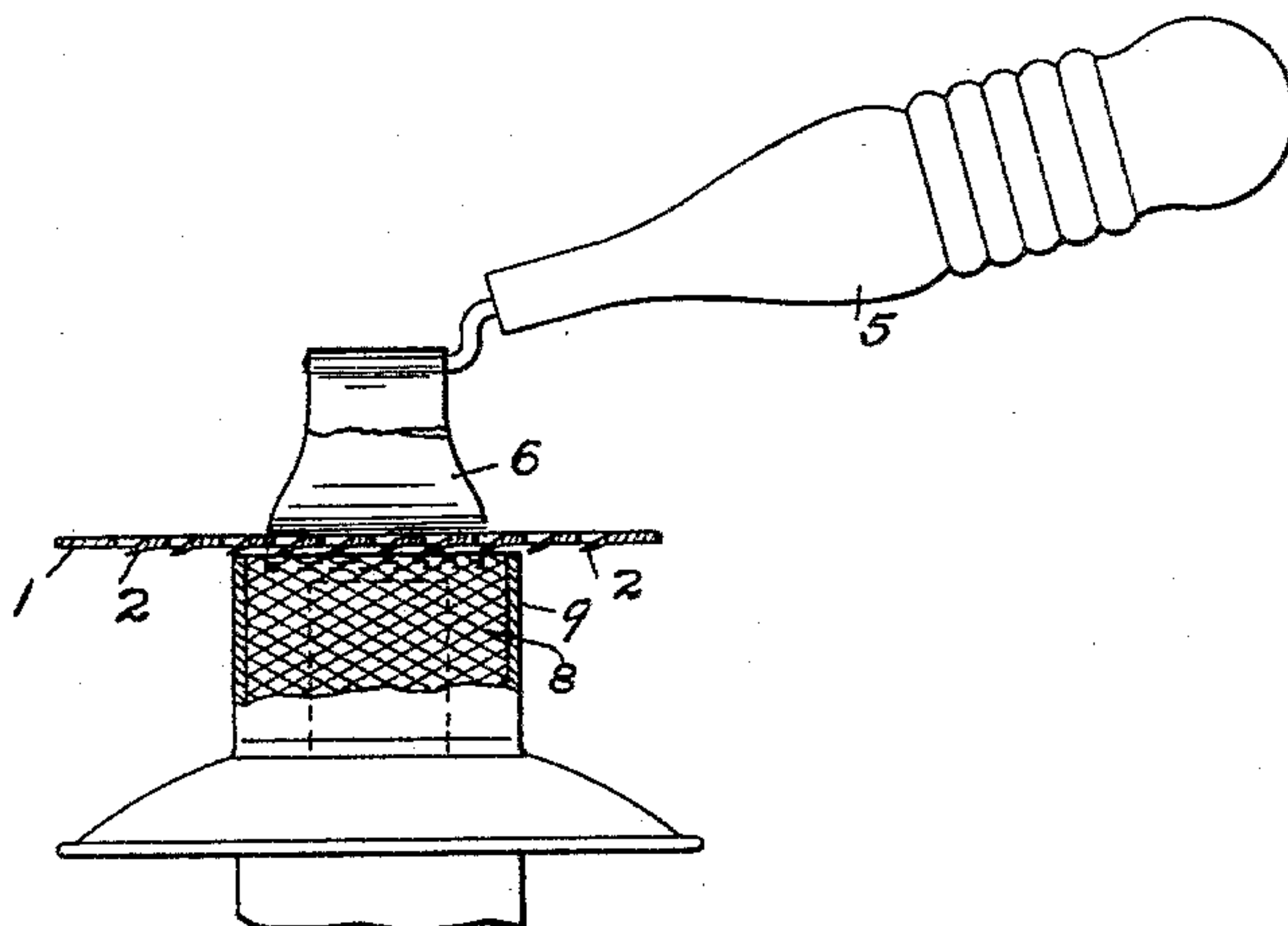


FIG. 2.

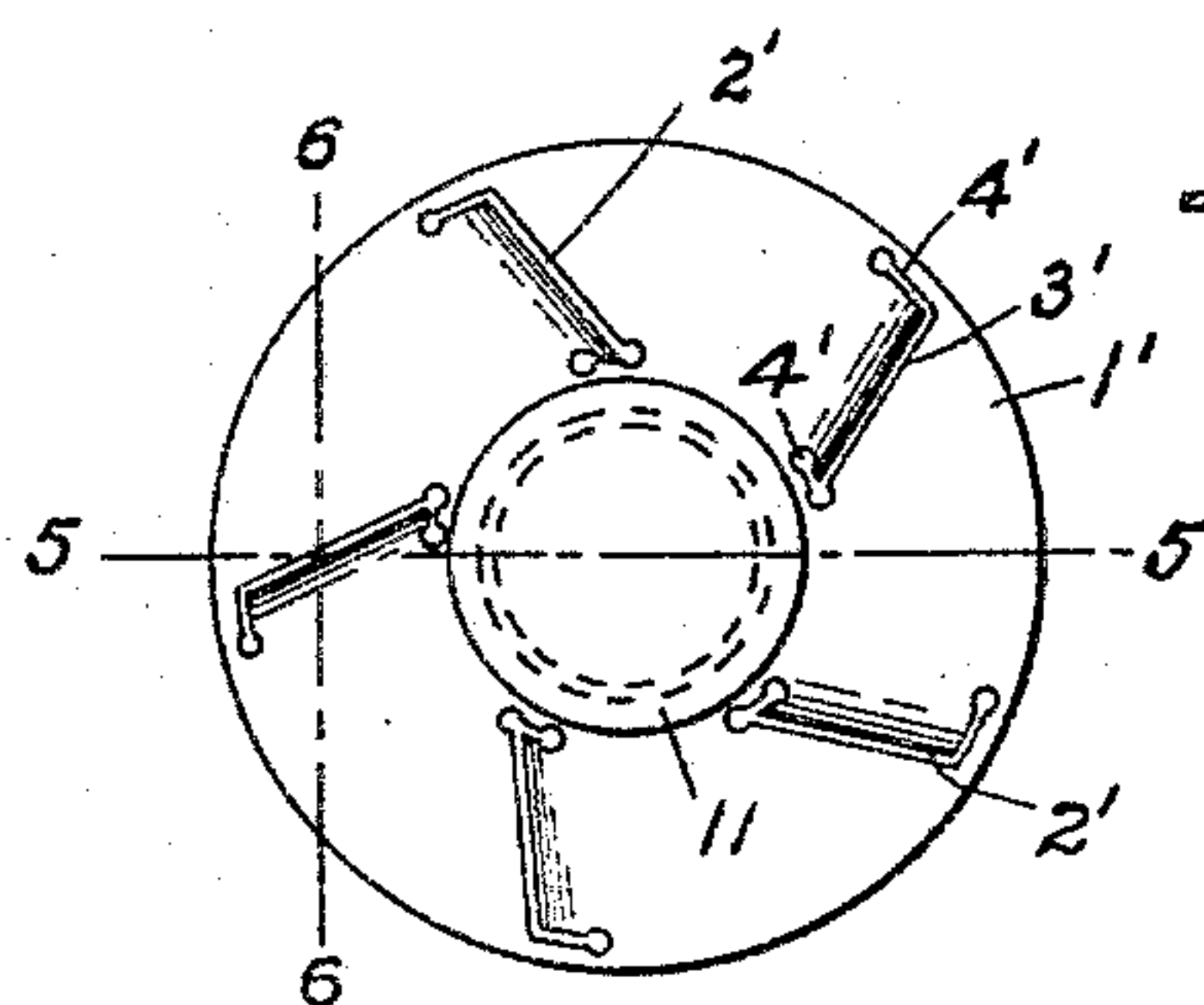


FIG. 4.

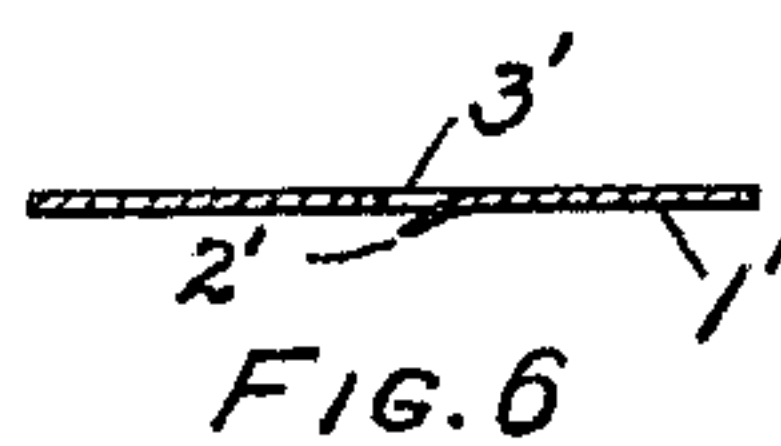


FIG. 6.

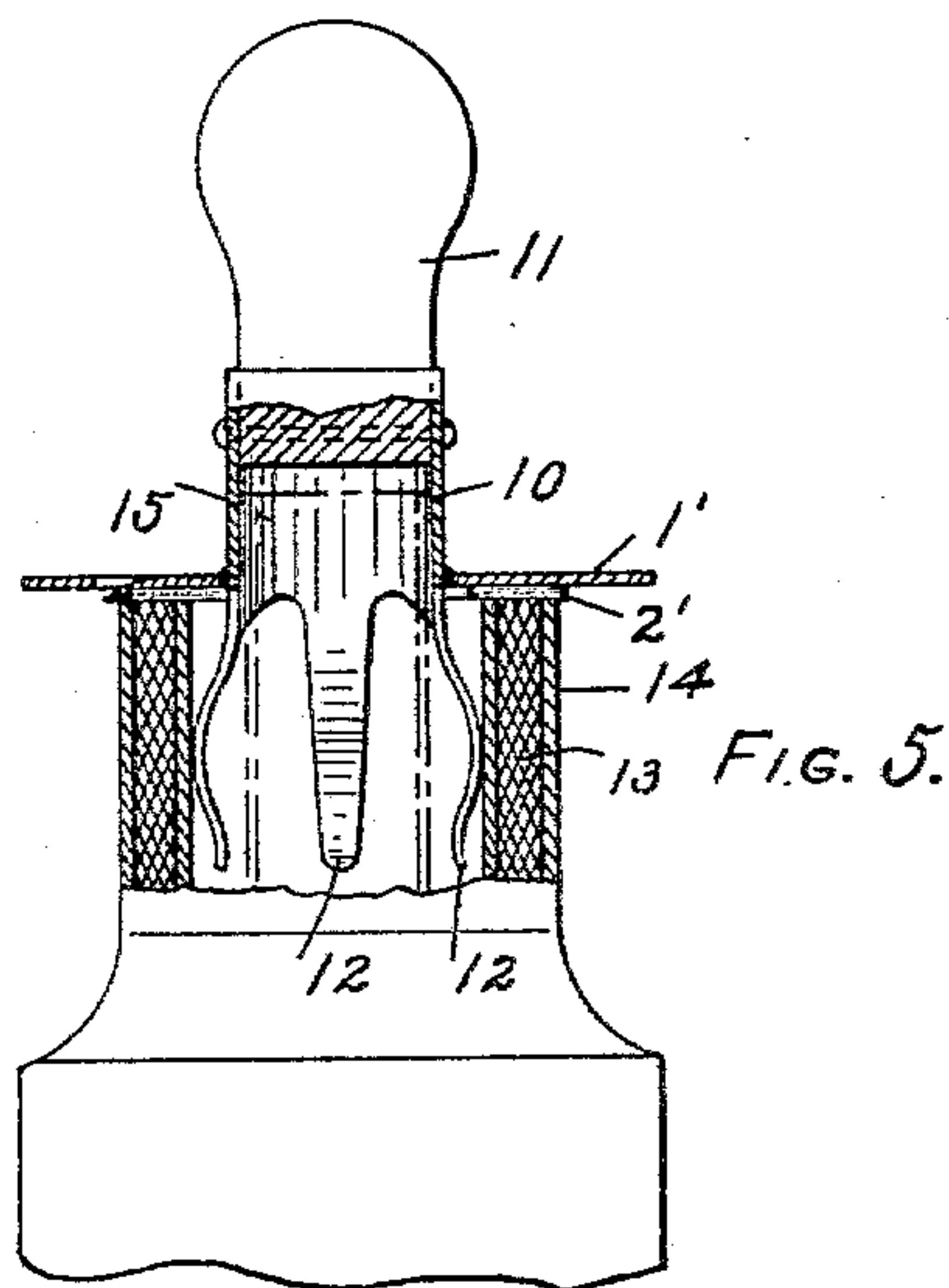


FIG. 5.

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## WICK-TRIMMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 593,262, dated November 9, 1897.

Application filed April 30, 1897. Serial No. 634,522. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROBERT H. WHITE, of the city and county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wick-Trimmers; and I do hereby declare the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same, to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

The present invention relates to a novel device for trimming the wicks of lamps, and has for its object the production of such a device which shall be simple and inexpensive in construction and with which the charred end of the wick may be quickly and accurately removed, so that the end of the wick will present an even surface.

The present invention embodies a plate adapted to be moved over the end of the wick-tube and provided with one or more scrapers which slide along the end of the wick-tube and remove the charred end of the wick which projects beyond the end of said tube, the end of said wick being left substantially flush with the end of said wick-tube, any projecting fibers of said wick being compressed and compacted by the smooth portions of the plate lying between the scrapers. The plate is also preferably provided with guides which serve to retain the plate in place as it is moved over the end of the wick-tube, and said guides may be and preferably are made adjustable, so that the same plate may be used upon different sizes of wick-tubes.

In the accompanying drawings are shown two forms of wick-trimmers embodying the present invention.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a wick-trimmer embodying the present invention and adapted for trimming the wicks of flat burners. Fig. 2 is a sectional view showing the wick-trimmer applied to the end of the wick-tube of a lamp. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan view showing a wick-trimmer embodying the present invention and adapted for trimming the wicks of cylindrical or Argand burners. Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5 5, Fig. 4, and showing the manner of applying the wick-trimmer to an Argand burner. Fig. 6 is a sectional view on line 6 6, Fig. 4.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the wick-trimmer shown therein consists of a plate 1 provided with scrapers 2. The scrapers 2 are preferably formed by cutting transverse slots 3 in the plate 1, and short slots 4, extending from the ends of slots 3, and then bending down the lips thus formed. With this construction openings are provided in front of the scrapers through which the charred portions of the wick removed by the scrapers may pass. It is also preferred to arrange the scrapers at an inclination to the line of motion of the plate 1, so that said scrapers may have a draw action across the top of the wick. A handle 5 is connected to the plate 1 by means of the arms 6, which are extended beyond the face of said plate and are curved inwardly to form guides 7 for holding the plate 1 in position upon the end of the wick-tube, and by bending the guides to change their inclination they may be adjusted to fit any size of wick-tube.

The manner of using the device is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The wick 8 being moved up until the charred portion is above the end of the wick-tube 9, the plate 1 is moved back and forth over the end of the wick-tube, being guided in its movement by the guides 7, and the scrapers 2 remove the charred portion of the wick above the end of tube 9, leaving the end of the wick flush with the end of said tube. The end of the wick is thus quickly and accurately trimmed and presents an even surface, any projecting fibers being compressed by the flat portions of the plate between the scrapers, and the end of the wick being further compacted by the backs of the scrapers on the return stroke of the plate.

Referring to Figs. 4, 5, and 6, the trimmer is in the form of a disk-shaped plate 1', and the scrapers 2' are formed, preferably, in the same manner as described with reference to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 by bending down the lips formed by the slots 3' and 4'. The scrapers are also preferably arranged with their inner ends in advance of their outer ends, as shown, so that said scrapers will be on an incline to the line of movement of the plate and have a draw action across the end of the wick and will also tend to carry the charred portions of



the wick away from the recess within the wick-tube. The plate 1' is secured to a cylinder 10, which projects above the said plate and serves as a means for securing a handle 11 to said plate. A guide, preferably formed by a series of flexible fingers 12, projects from the face of plate 1' and is adapted to fit within the wick-tube to hold the plate 1' in place. The fingers 12 are preferably formed upon the lower end of the cylinder 10, as shown.

The manner of using this device is clearly shown in Fig. 5. The wick 13 having been moved to bring the charred portion above the end of the wick-tube 14, the plate 1' is placed in the position shown with the fingers 12 engaging the wick-tube and is given a rotary movement, the scrapers 2' removing the charred portions of the wick, which pass up through the slots in the plate 1'. The end of the wick is thus quickly and accurately trimmed flush with the end of the wick-tube and presents an even surface, any protruding fibers being compacted and smoothed down by the flat portions of the plate 1'. The end of the wick may be further compacted, if desired, by giving the plate 1' a movement in the opposite direction, when the backs of the scrapers 2' will slide over the end of said wick and force the fibers together. In some forms of burners there is an inner tube within the wick-tube, which extends above the end of

the wick-tube, as indicated at 15 in dotted lines in Fig. 5, and in order to adapt the trimmer for use upon such burners it is preferred to leave a space in cylinder 10 below the handle 11, into which this tube may extend. For use on this class of burners this cylinder 10 may serve as a guide for holding the plate 1' in position. By using a series of flexible fingers for the guide said fingers may be readily bent to fit different sizes of wick-tubes, and it is preferred, therefore, to employ this form of guide.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to obtain by Letters Patent, is—

1. A wick-trimmer comprising a plate provided with one or more scrapers and one or more adjustable guides for guiding said plate, substantially as described.

2. A wick-trimmer comprising a plate provided with one or more scrapers and a guide consisting of a series of flexible fingers, substantially as described.

3. A wick-trimmer comprising a disk provided with a series of lips bent from said disk to form scrapers, and a series of flexible fingers projecting from said disk, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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