

No. 744,455.

PATENTED NOV. 17, 1903.

P. J. ALWART.  
MOISTENING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 28, 1901.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1

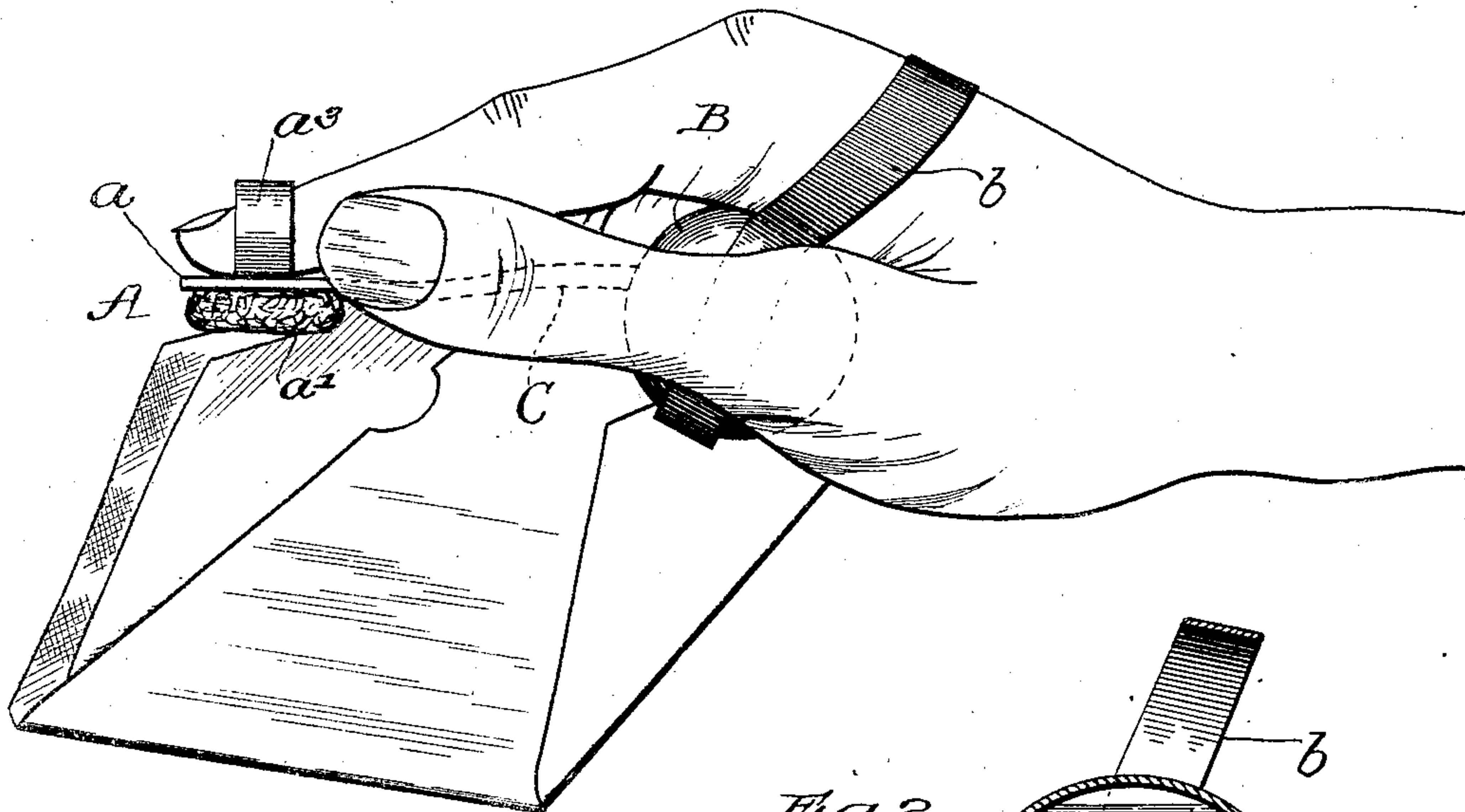


Fig. 2

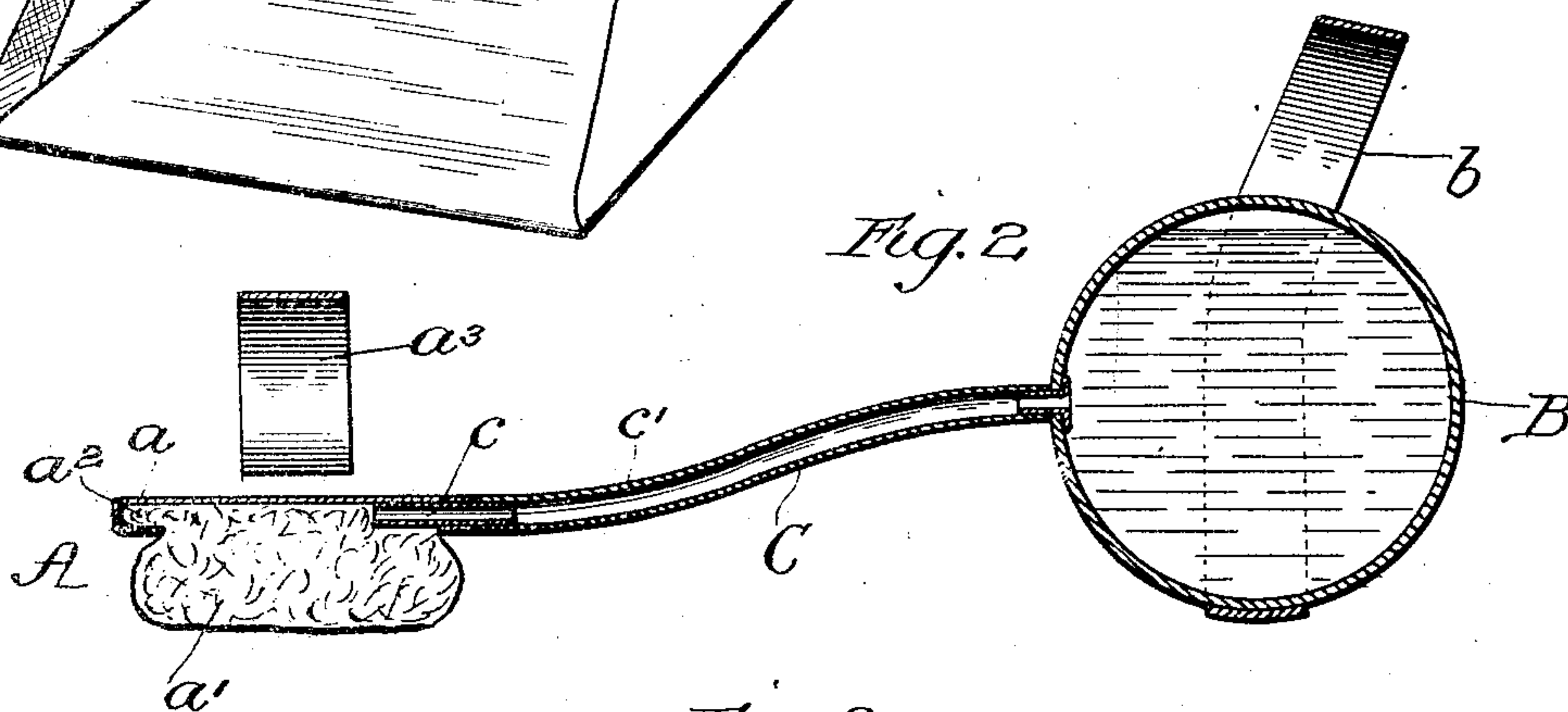
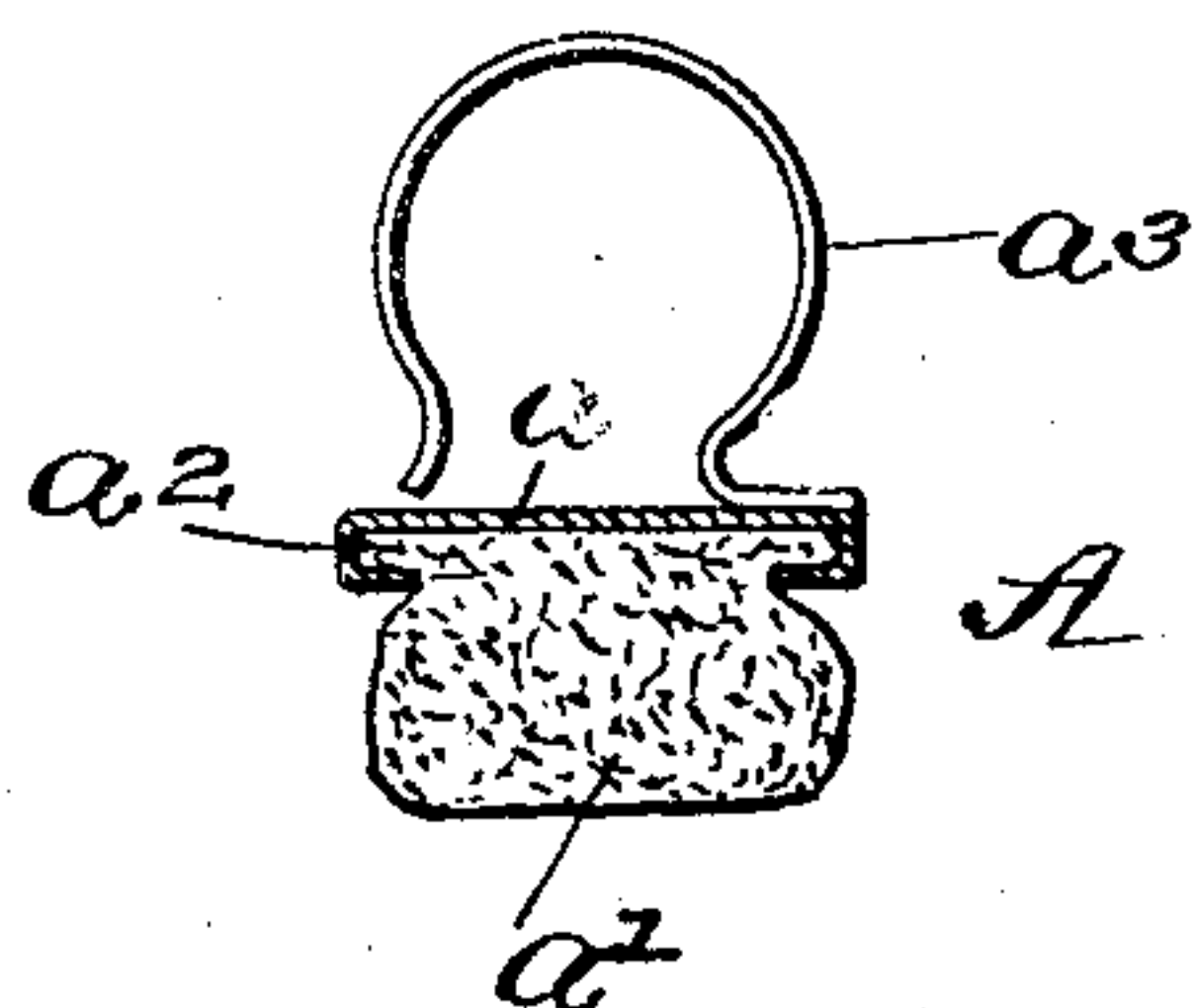


Fig. 3



Witnesses:  
Harold G. Bennett  
J. H. Lamoureux.

Inventor:  
Paul J. Alwart.

By W. H. Baldv. Atty.



## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PAUL J. ALWART, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## MOISTENING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 744,455, dated November 17, 1903.

Application filed January 26, 1901. Serial No. 44,769. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PAUL J. ALWART, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented an Improved Moistening Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for moistening gummed surfaces, and relates particularly to devices for moistening or dampening the gummed surfaces of postage-stamps, envelopes, labels, and the like.

The object of the invention is to provide a device for this purpose which will be of simple and cheap construction and which may be conveniently attached in operative position to the hand of the person using it.

To this end a moistening device of my invention consists of the various features, combinations of features, and details of construction hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings a moistening device of my invention is fully illustrated.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved moistening device secured to a hand in operative position. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of my improved moistening device, and Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view of the pad thereof.

A moistening device of my invention consists of a pad A, comprising absorbent material, as sponge or felt, to which water or other fluid is adapted to be supplied from a bulb B through a tube C.

As preferably constructed the pad A consists of a plate or back *a* of suitable size and shape and made of suitable thin sheet material, as sheet-brass, tin, or the like. Secured to one side of said plate or back *a* is a layer *a'* of suitable absorbent material, as sponge, felt, or the like. Said absorbent layer *a'* can be conveniently secured to said back or plate *a* by turning the edges of said back or plate *a* in such manner that the edges of said absorbent layer *a'* will be clamped between the body of the back or plate *a* and the turned edges thereof, as shown at *a²*.

My improved moistening device also preferably comprises means for attaching the

pad A to a finger of the person using it in position for convenient use. As shown, said means consist of a ring *a³*, secured to the plate or back *a*. Said ring *a³* is preferably made expansible, so as to fit fingers of different sizes. To effect this, said ring, as shown, is made of spring metal and is attached to the plate or back at one end only, leaving the other end free and unattached.

The bulb B is preferably of a size that may be conveniently held in the palm of the hand—say an inch and one-half in diameter—and is adapted to be secured in the palm of the hand by means of a band *b*, passing over the hand. The band *b* is preferably elastic and is attached to the bulb B, so that it will pass over said bulb and subject it to a pressure sufficiently strong to expel the water therefrom and keep the pad A moist without otherwise squeezing said bulb. My invention, however, contemplates making the band *b* inelastic and squeezing the bulb B whenever it is desired to moisten the pad A.

The tube C preferably comprises sections *c c'*, the section *c* being rigid, being preferably made of metal, hard rubber, or the like and being secured to the pad A and extending along the back or plate *a*, with its inner end terminating about the center of the absorbent layer *a'* and its outer end projecting at the side of the pad A, so that the section *c'*, which is preferably flexible, being made of soft rubber, may be conveniently attached thereto.

I claim—

1. In a hand device for moistening gummed surfaces, the combination of a pad having means for attachment to a finger of the hand, a collapsible bulb designed to be held in the palm of said hand and adapted to contain liquid, and a short flexible tube connecting the pad and bulb, substantially as described.

2. A hand device for moistening surfaces comprising a pad having a finger-loop, a collapsible bulb, a short flexible tube connecting the pad and bulb, and an elastic band proportioned to pass about the bulb and hand and press the bulb against the palm, substantially as described.

3. A hand device for moistening surfaces  
comprising an elastic bulb, a pad, and a short  
flexible connecting-tube, said pad consisting  
of a rigid back having a resilient finger-loop  
5 attached thereto at one end only, and a face  
or body of absorbent material, substantially  
as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as  
my invention I have hereunto set my hand  
this 19th day of January, 1901.

PAUL J. ALWART.

Witnesses:

C. J. BROUGHTON,  
J. H. LAMOUREUX.