No. 879,788. PATENTED FEB. 18, 1908.

H. MUELLER.

METHOD OF MAKING INDICATOR BUTTONS.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 23, 1907.

Fig. 1.

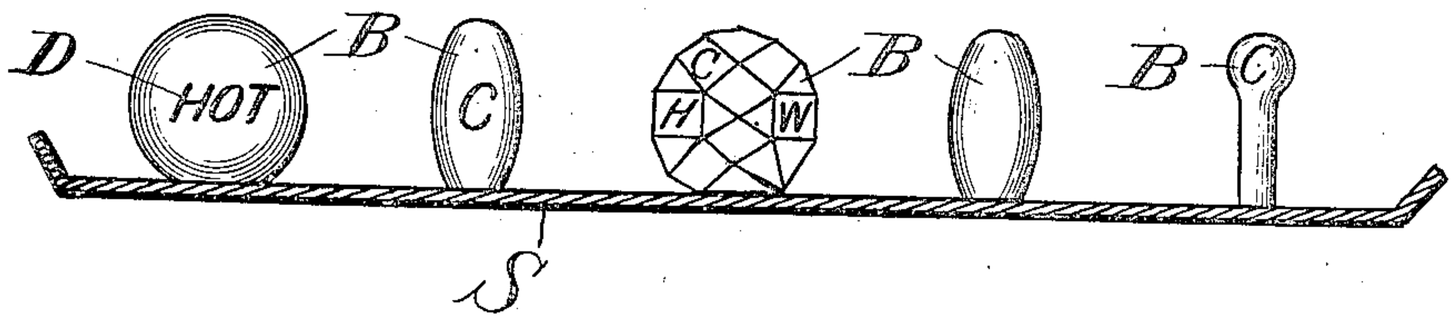


Fig. 2.

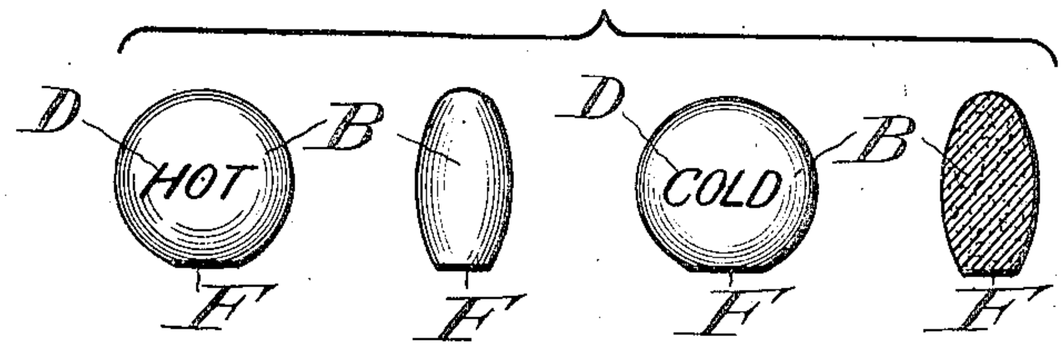
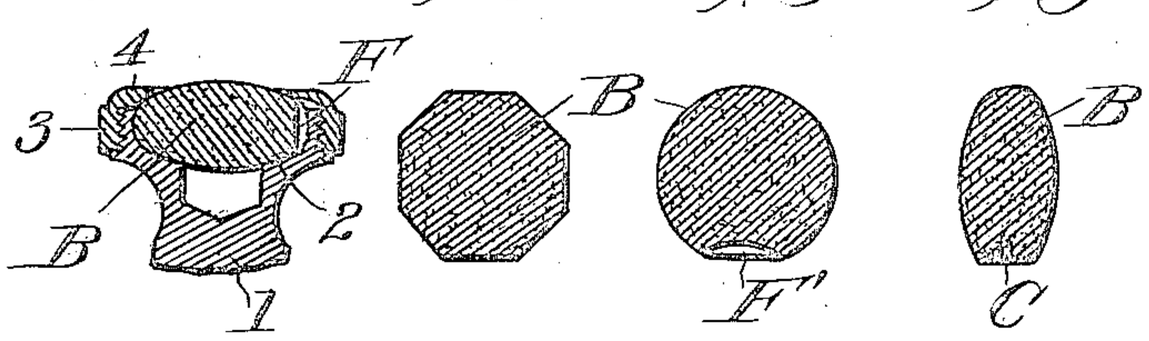


Fig. 3. Fig. 4. Fig. 5. Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OF MAKING INDICATOR-BUTTONS.

No. 879,788. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 18, 1908.

Application filed August 23, 1907. Serial No. 389,830.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY MUELLER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Decatur, Macon county, State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Making Indicator-Buttons; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with a claim particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to the formation of glazed pottery ware, and its object is the production of articles of this character which shall be devoid of blemish on their exposed faces.

In the following specification, and in the attached drawings forming a part thereof, the invention is exemplified in connection with a so-called button on certain faces of which are formed in any suitable way words or signs constituting indications, but I desire it to be understood that I do not limit my invention to this or any other use as its particular object is to dispense with the blemish on a face of such button or article which is finally to be exposed.

In the manufacture of earthen ware articles of this character—among which may be included buttons, knobs, spheres, and heads or points for use in a variety of ways—the prevailing custom is to first mold the device in clay, then burn it at a comparatively high temperature, then apply the indications or other marks as by printing or stamping (provided they have not been impressed in the act of molding), then dip them in "slip," and then while covered with the sticky coating transferring them to the saggar on which they are supported, and again burning at a relatively low temperature. Obviously the article in its first stage may have no blemish, or if it has it is covered later by the coating; but the spot on which the article is supported by the saggar during the second burning invariably produces a blemish which it is the object of the present invention to reduce or to so locate that it will not be objectionable. If the article be hollow or have a hole in it, as a knob, it can be supported on the saggar by a stilt or pin extending into said hole, because the blemish is hidden in the final use of the article.

The specific purpose to which I apply the button is as an indicator for cocks and faucets, and I find it most desirable to make them round in at least one direction as oval, ovoid, or lozenge shape, or round in all directions as spherical, or substantially so.

As shown in the accompanying drawings the indicator button is held in the cock by a clamp which embraces and partially covers a portion of its rounded face, and if the blemish occur on that face it will not be objectionable because it is not on an exposed portion of the button at any time. A sphere must rest on a flat support on one of its rounded faces, a lozenge can rest on one of such faces, but either is liable to roll off of the narrow point of support. An oval or ovoid button will not stand on its narrow rounded face on a flat support, and in the commercial use to which I apply the button I desire the indications on its wider rounded faces and therefore object to the blemish occurring on either of them.

Broadly speaking, my invention consists in flattening a chord on one of the rounded faces, or on the narrow rounded face of the oval button, so that the same will stand upright on such flattened chord during the second burning in the saggar. Such flattening may and preferably is done either in the act of molding the button or immediately thereafter, and the degree to which it is flattened is variable. While it may be and preferably is at least flat so that the chord shall be a right line between points in the periphery, the plane of the chord may be a trifle dished as shown at one place in the drawings, or the chord may contain a hole or cavity as for a projection or stilt on the saggar, as also shown; and I desire the word "flattened" to have such significance throughout this specification and claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional view of a saggar, showing a number of buttons in a variety of shapes each supported thereon by one of its flat faces; Fig. 2 includes obverse, reverse, edge, and sectional views of an oval button; Fig. 3 is a sectional view through the top of a faucet and oval button showing how the latter is held therein; Fig. 4 is a section through a button having a plurality of flattened faces; Fig. 5 is a section through a button in which the flattened face is dished; Fig. 6 is a similar section in which the flattened face has a cavity.

Throughout the drawings the letter S designates the saggar, B the button, D the designations thereon, F its flattened face or

faces, F′ the same when dished, and C a cavity which may be formed therein. As I do not limit myself to the manner of forming the flattened face, it may be sufficient to say that it must be formed before the enameled or glazed surface is applied.

The method of making this button need not differ from that above described or already or hereafter employed, excepting that at the proper time the flattened chord must be produced and during the final burning the button must rest on that chord so that its remaining faces will have no blemish.

In the button as I use it, one face is inscribed with the word "Hot" and the opposite face with the word "Cold"; and with these words on the obverse and reverse of the oval button which I preferably employ, the same is placed either side up in a support or seat 2 in a cock or faucet 1 and held in place by the flange 4 of ring-shaped clamp 3 which preferably screws onto the body of the cock. As shown in Fig. 3, the flange is sufficiently wide to cover and conceal the flattened face, and the hole in the flange exposes the indication. When it is desired to change the latter, the clamp is removed and the button inverted. If the button be spherical it may have quite a number of indications on various faces, as also if it be polygonal, and in either case the clamp is shaped to correspond.

What is claimed as new is:

1. The method of forming substantially round pottery indicator buttons and the like which consists in shaping them with one or more flattened faces, applying the indications to other faces, supporting the buttons by said flattened faces, and glazing and burning them while so supported.

2. The method of forming round pottery indicator buttons and the like which consists in shaping each button with a flattened chord on one face, applying the indications to other faces, supporting the button by said chord, and glazing and burning it while so supported.

3. The method of forming substantially spherical pottery indicator buttons and the like which consists in shaping each button with a flattened chord on one face, applying the indications to other faces, standing the button on said chord, and glazing and burning it while so supported.

4. The method of forming solid spherical pottery indicator buttons and the like which consists in shaping each button with a flattened chord on one face, applying the indications to other faces, standing the button on said chord, and glazing and burning it while so supported.

5. The method of forming round pottery indicator buttons and the like each having a curved periphery in at least one direction, which method consists in shaping each button with a flattened chord at one point on said curved periphery, applying the indications to other faces, standing the button on said chord, and glazing and burning it while so supported.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature this the 19th day of August, A. D. 1907.

HENRY MUELLER.

Witnesses:

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