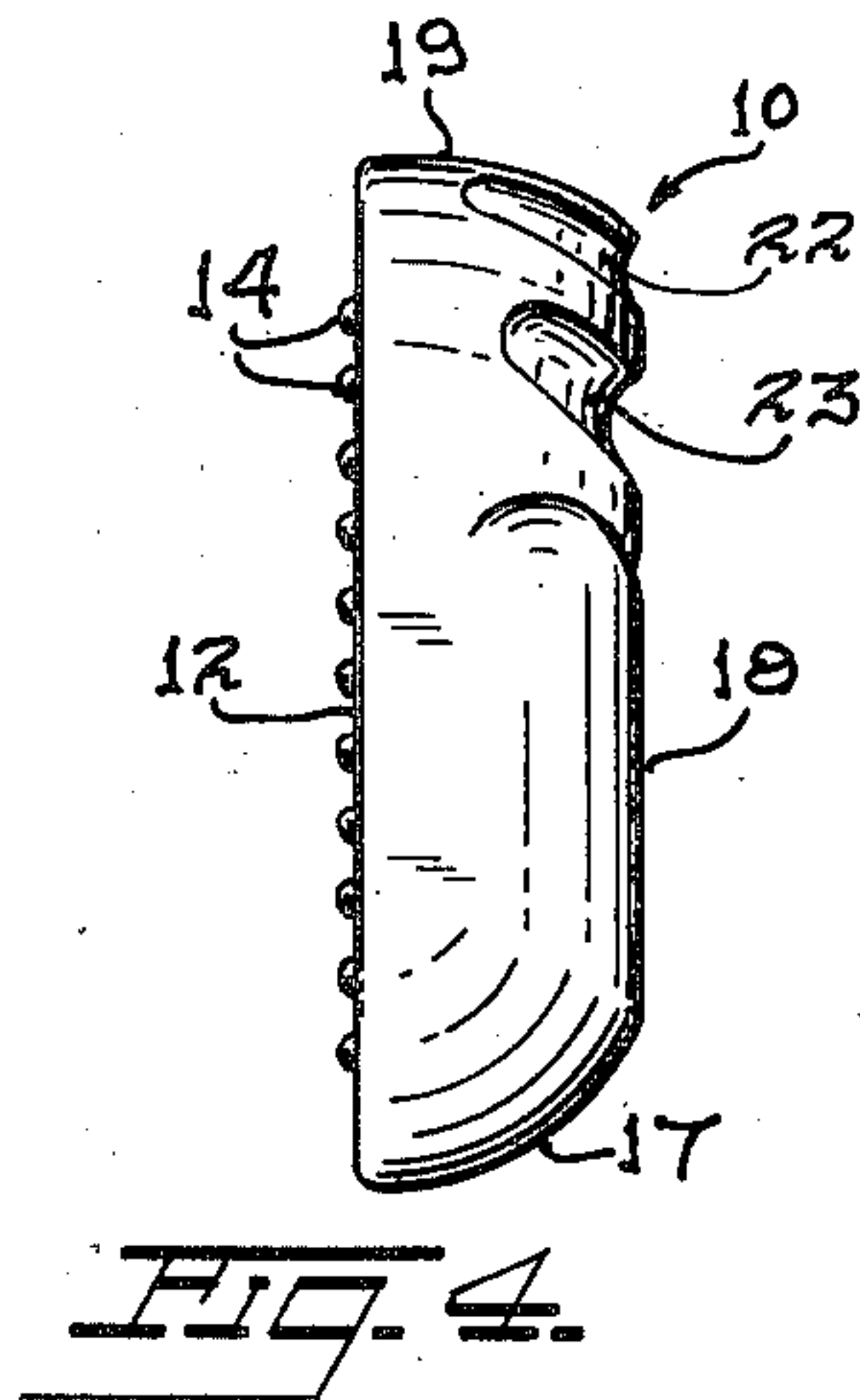
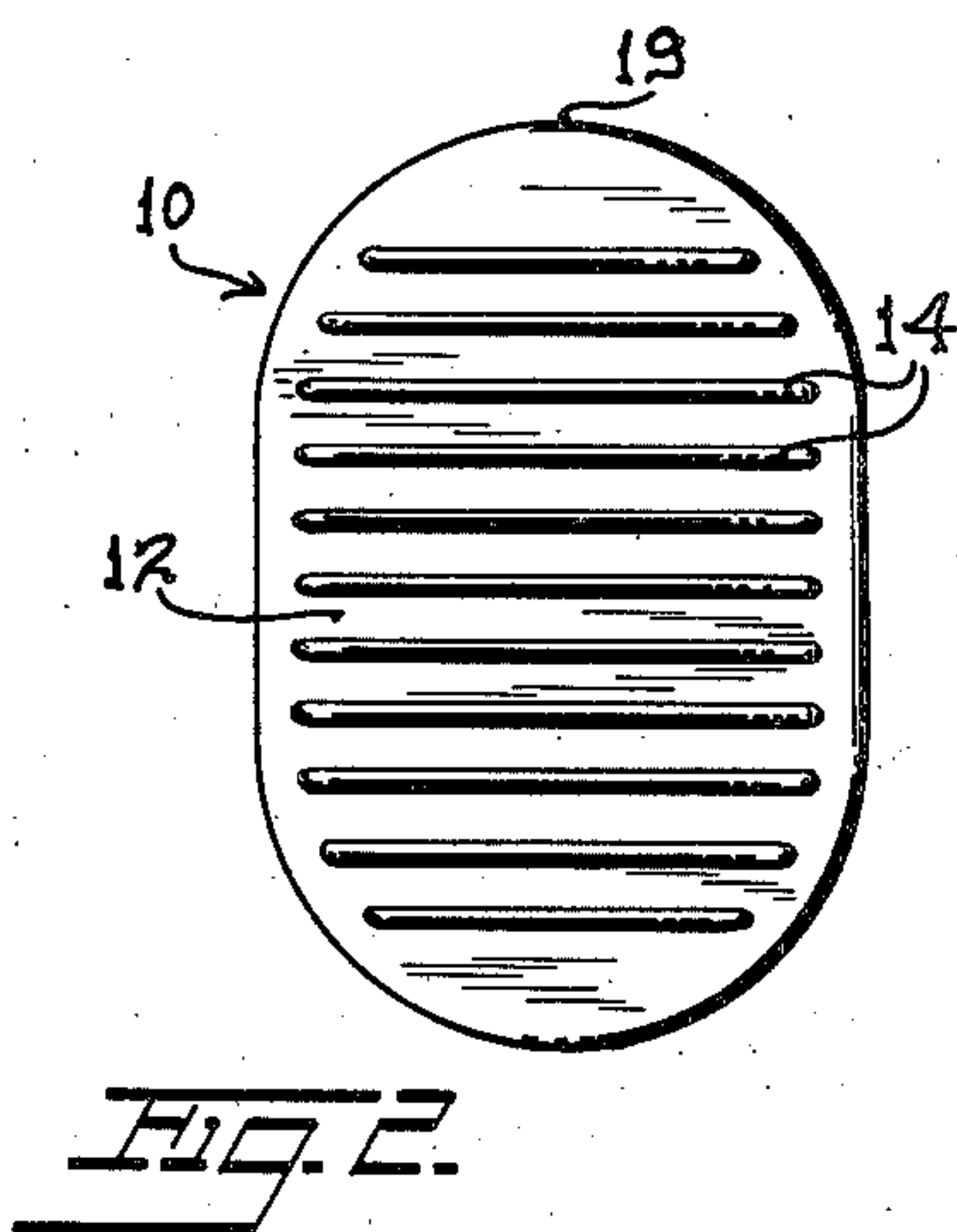
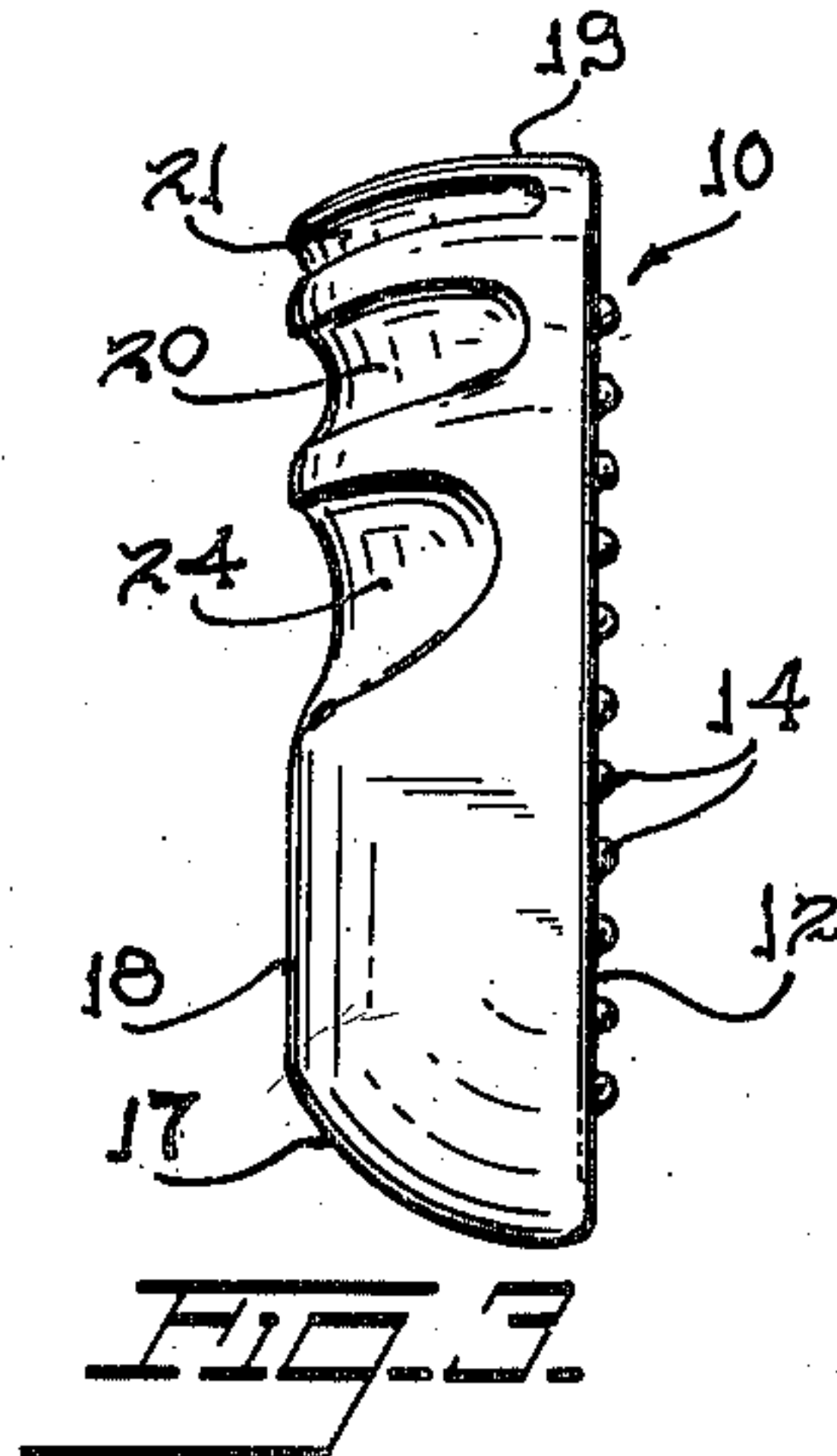
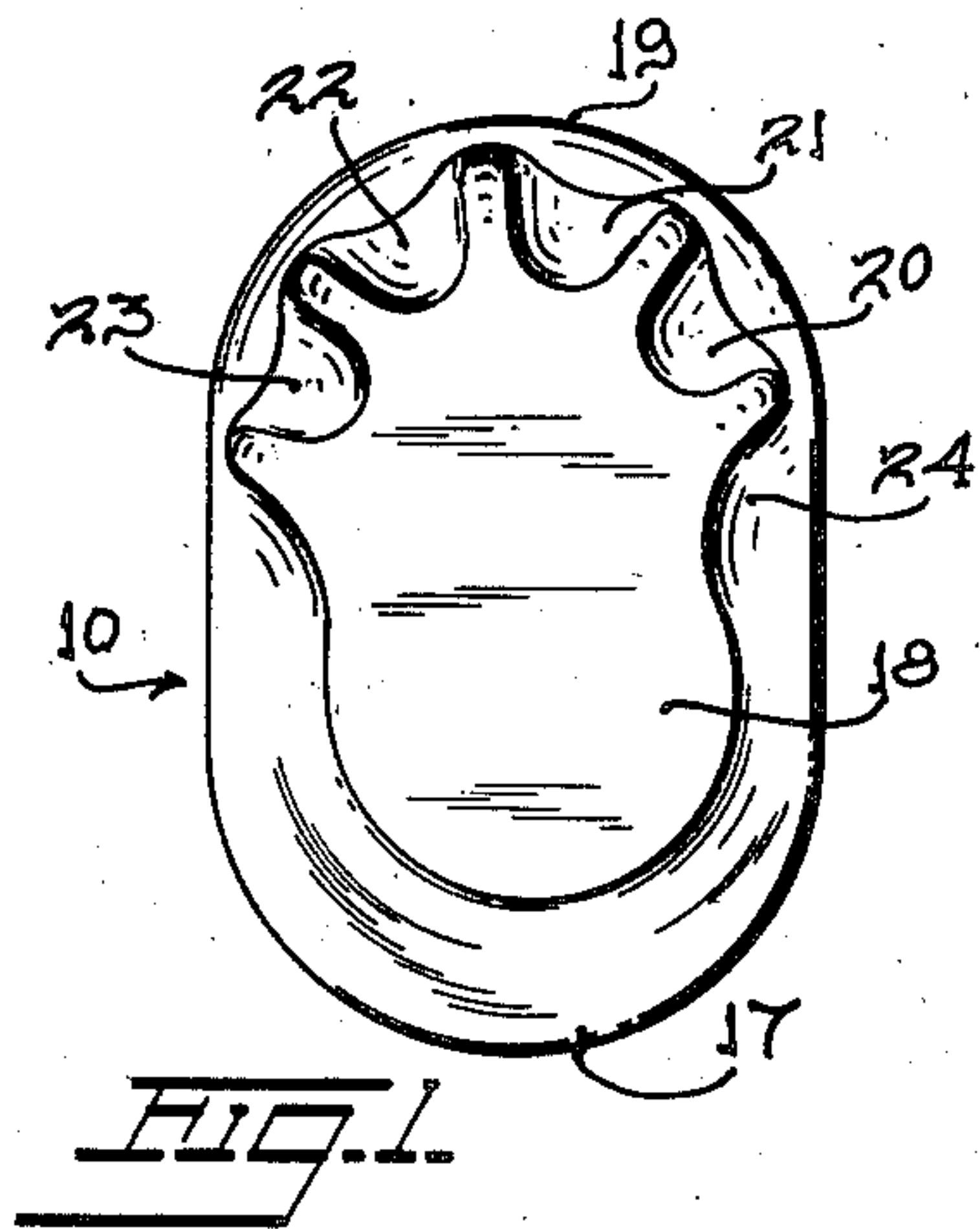


March 6, 1951

P. E. WEEMS
HAND HELD SCRUBBOARD

2,544,406

Filed Oct. 15, 1947



INVENTOR.
PRUE E. WEEMS
BY *Johann H. Holschlag*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,544,406

HAND HELD SCRUBBOARD

Prue E. Weems, Smyrna, Ga.

Application October 15, 1947, Serial No. 780,009

1 Claim. (Cl. 68-220)

1

The subject of this invention is a miniature washboard, for washing gloves and other small articles, and in the form of an elongate block and of about the average size of the hand of a woman, say about $3\frac{3}{4}$ " long, by $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, and of a thickness, say about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", for being fitted to the hand and then so as to be securely yet comfortably held by means of special contourings on one side of the device.

The device of the invention is a one-piece structure, and one readily moldable or otherwise shapable from a suitable light weight material, such as a plastic.

The side of said structure, opposite to the side thereof on which said special contourings are placed, which latter side will below be called the handle side, provides a wash-work surface which may be laterally ridged or otherwise shaped to constitute a scrubbing means.

The handle side of the miniature washboard is preferably marginally inclusive of a surrounding wall surface, laterally curvilinearly convex, and variously taperingly extended toward the wash-work side of the device.

The handle side of the device is further shaped to present a palm-rest, this a substantially flat surface for fitting against the palm of the hand and against the palm adjacent portions of all the four fingers of the hand, and also to present near one end of the device properly placed trough-like stalls one for each of said four fingers and an additional cavity so arranged that the thumb may be adjusted therein for most comfortable placement.

The stalls diverge away from the palm-rest at such angles of divergence that the four fingers of the hand are given that medium spread naturally assumed in grasping and comfortably holding the miniature washboard to dispose the latter firmly against the palm. These stalls, further, are curvilinearly extended toward the wash-work side of the device, interruptingly of an end portion of said surrounding wall surface. The thumb cavity is well toward a side of the device, and it also is curvilinearly extended toward the wash-work side of the device.

The device is so formed that nowhere on the same, except at the wash-work side thereof, is there a well-like depression to act as a water-pocketing recess; with the result that said device in any position thereof is self-draining.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended

2

claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a view in plan showing an embodiment as now favored, looking down on the handle side thereof.

Fig. 2 is a similar view, but showing the wash-work side.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation, looking toward the right in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a similar view, looking toward the left in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing more in detail, the miniature washboard illustrated, marked as a whole 10, is shown as an elongate one-piece block-like structure having straight side edges and rounded end edges.

The wash-work side 12 is shown as carrying a scrubbing means comprised of a multiplicity of laterally extending ridges 14, each pair of such ridges provided by the long side edges of one of a plurality of straight grooves 14 extended laterally of the device. Aside from these grooves, the wash-work side 12 is substantially uniplanar.

The device is formed to include, rising from its wash-work side 12, a laterally curvilinearly tapered surrounding wall 17.

At 18 is shown a substantially flat surface constituting the palm-rest; and from the latter, divergently extended toward the end 19 of the device, are stalls 20, 21, 22 and 23 for the four fingers. The thumb receiving cavity is shown at 24.

The washboard is constructed to be grasped in the left hand, so that the article to be washed will be held in the right hand and the palm-rest 18 is desirably extended at somewhat of an oblique angle to the direction of length of the device, and with the stalls 20-23 correspondingly placed; as shown in Fig. 1.

This arrangement is preferred, as it best facilitates holding the device in the left hand, with security, and with maximum comfort. To give the same advantages to a left handed person, who would hold the device in the right hand, the new washboard could be offered to a purchaser in two models, one as above described, and the other with a reversely angled disposition of the palm rest 18 and the stalls 20-23 relative to the length of the device and consequently with transfer of the thumb cavity 24 to the side of the device at the left in Fig. 1.

As already stated, the surrounding wall surface 17 is laterally curvilinearly convex and dif-

3

ferentially taperingly extended toward the wash-
work side 12 of the device. Said wall surface 17
has a steep taper over the portion thereof in-
terrupted by the stalls 20—23 and as well also
adjacent the thumb cavity 24, while the portion
of said wall surface opposite that end of the
palm-rest 18 which is opposite to the end there-
from from which are extended the stalls 20—23,
is more gently rounded and according to a much
less steep taper, to provide a rest for the heel of
the hand.

While I have illustrated and described the pre-
ferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be
understood that I do not limit myself to the pre-
cise construction herein disclosed and the right
is reserved to all changes and modifications
coming within the scope of the invention as de-
fined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I
claim as new, and desire to secure by United
States Letters Patent is:

A miniature washboard for being held in one
hand during a washing operation, comprising an
elongated block-like structure having one face
thereof flat, a plurality of transverse ridges
formed on said flat face forming a washing sur-
face, a flat-palm rest on the opposite face of
said structure, a plurality of depressions diverg-
ingly extended from said palm-rest and shaped
to provide stalls each for a different finger, each
of said stalls at its end remote from said palm-
rest terminating at a point adjacent said flat

4

face of said structure, said stalls being shaped
to spill any water which accumulates therein,
and a depression extending from said palm-rest
and forming a thumb cavity, said thumb cavity
at its end remote from said palm-rest terminat-
ing at a point adjacent said flat face of said
structure and being shaped to spill any water
which accumulates therein, said structure hav-
ing a surrounding wall which is laterally curvi-
linearly extended inward from the periphery of
said flat face and smoothly merged with said
palm-rest, said palm-rest being substantially
uni-planar and in its direction of extension
away from said stalls being at an oblique angle
to the direction of the length of said structure.

PRUE E. WEEMS.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the
file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
112,235	Foster	Feb. 28, 1871
2,271,512	Griffiths	Feb. 3, 1942
2,310,945	Eisenberg	Feb. 16, 1943
2,441,268	Haber	May 11, 1948

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
383,394	Great Britain	Nov. 17, 1932