

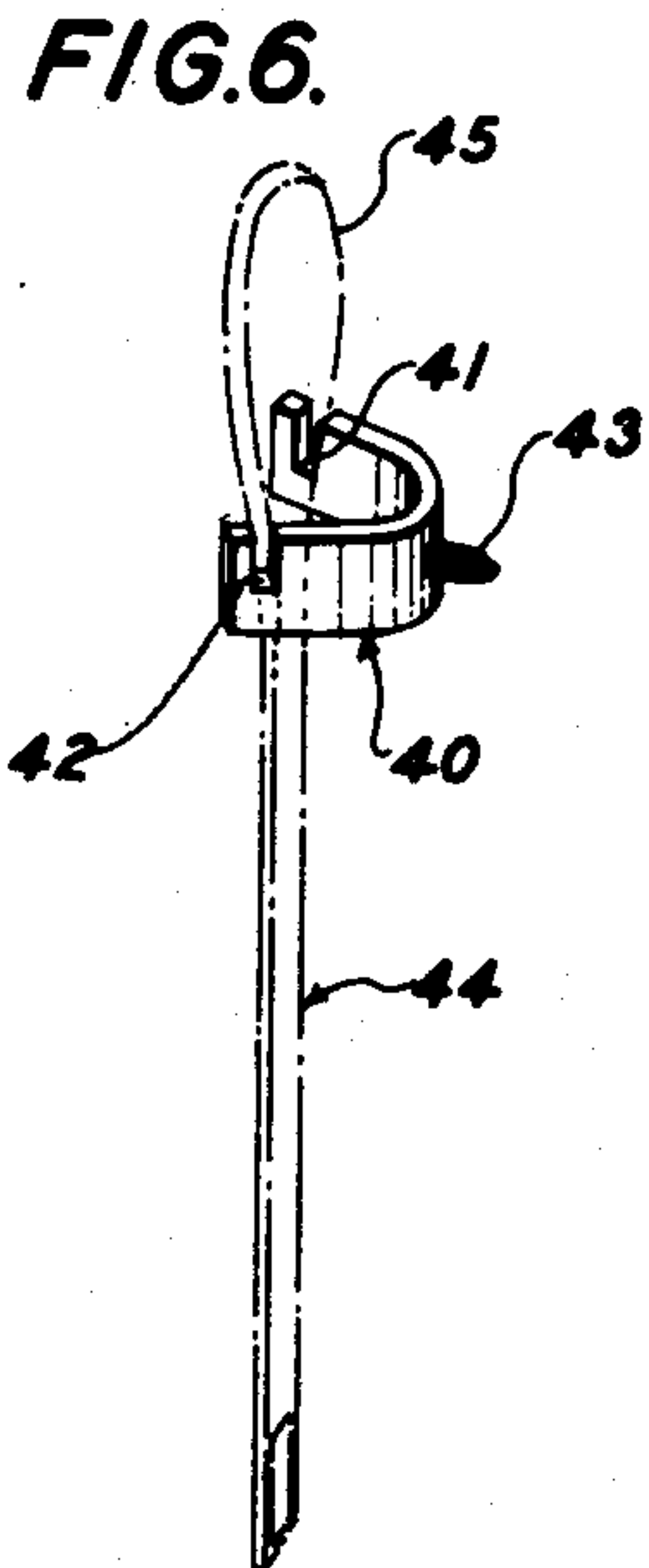
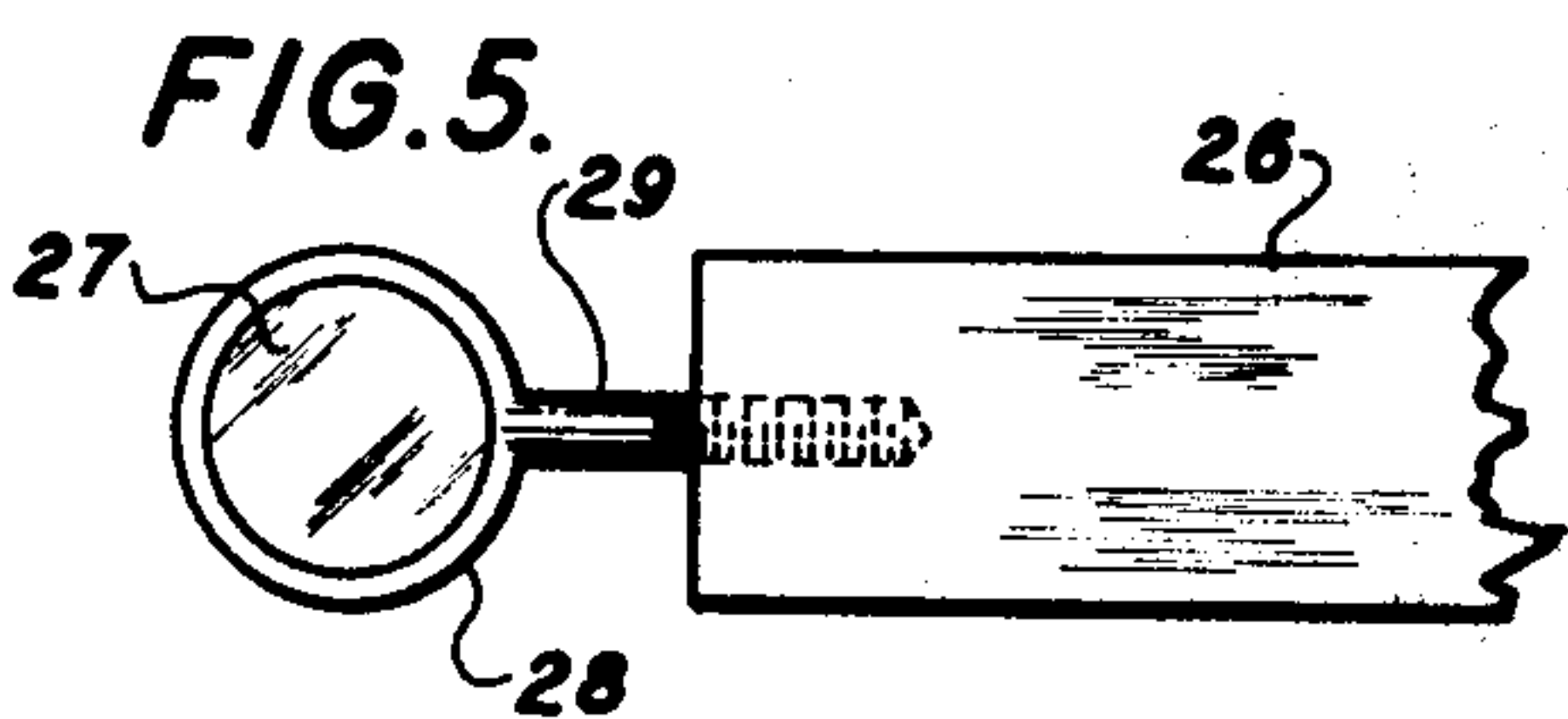
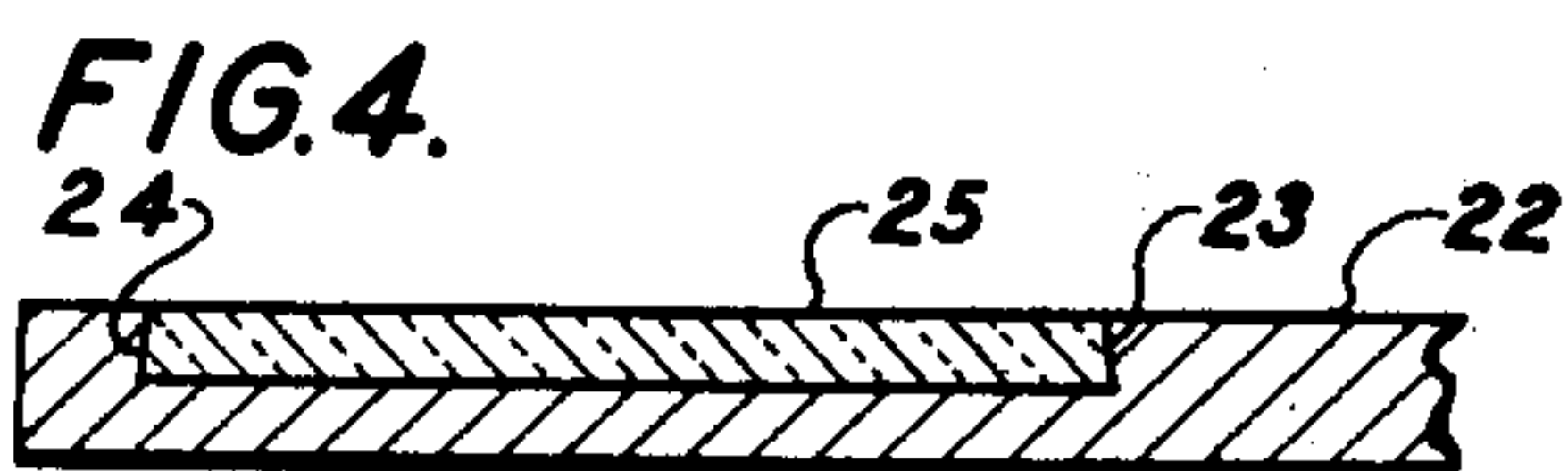
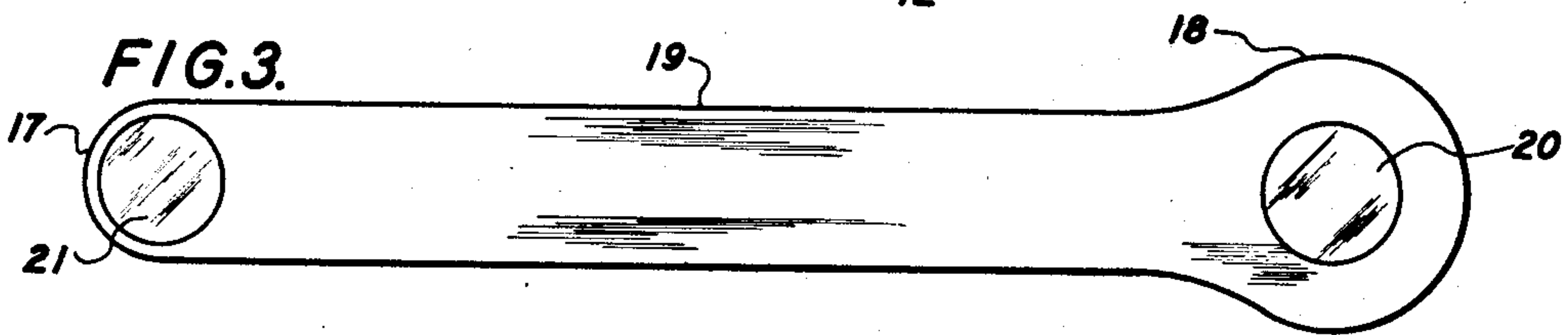
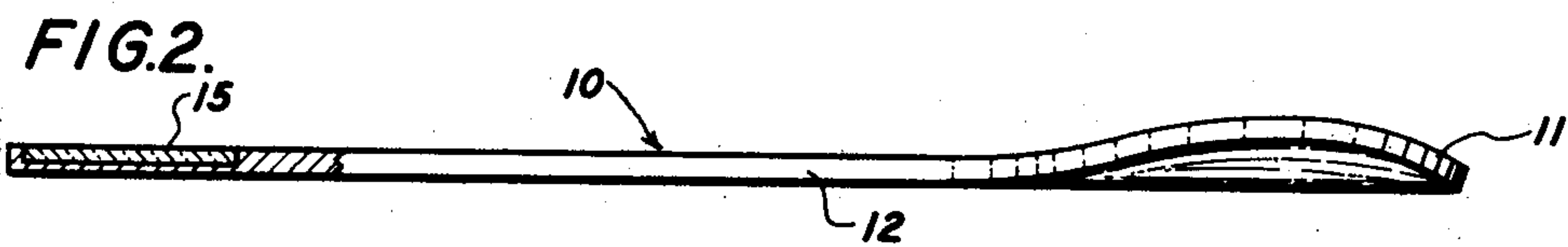
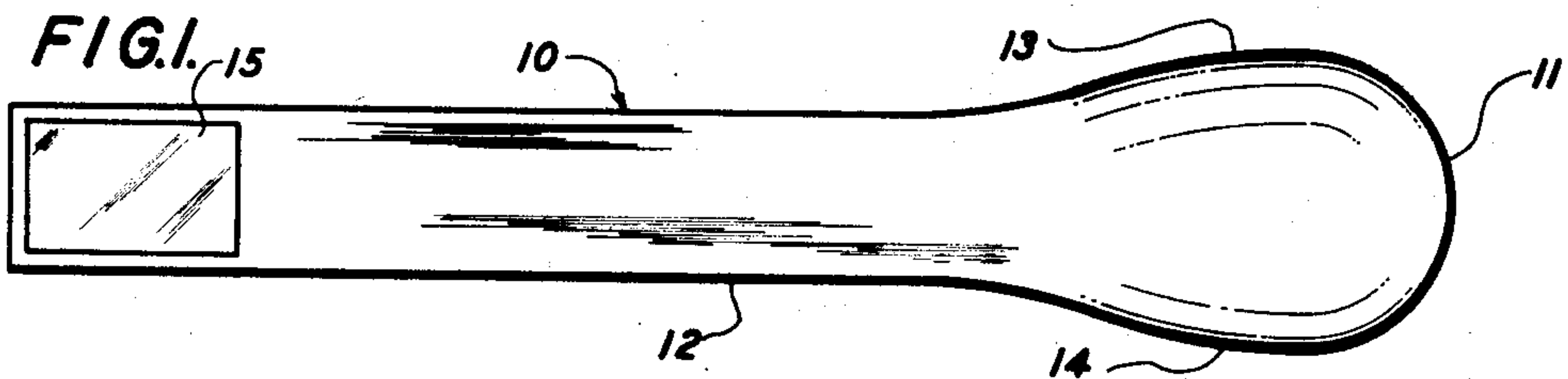
Sept. 29, 1953

W. T. CANAN

2,653,597

TONGUE DEPRESSOR AND MIRROR THEREFOR

Filed Dec. 9, 1949



INVENTOR.
WALTER T. CANAN

BY

James B. Christie

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,653,597

TONGUE DEPRESSOR AND MIRROR THEREFOR

Walter T. Canan, Pasadena, Calif.

Application December 9, 1949, Serial No. 133,178

2 Claims. (Cl. 128-15)

1

This invention is concerned with tongue depressors for medical, dental and household use and provides a rugged, simple device which is much more useful than the conventional tongue depressor.

Tongue depressors are employed to hold the tongue or the lips out of the line of vision during inspections of the mouth. The ordinary tongue depressor is simply a flat stick rounded at one or both ends. However, there are frequent occasions in which a satisfactory inspection of the mouth cannot be made because the view is still obstructed after the tongue or the lips have been moved as far as possible. My invention provides a tongue depressor in the form of an elongated substantially flat strip rounded on at least one end and provided with a mirror on one or both ends to aid in inspection.

The tongue depressor of my invention is particularly useful for people who wish to carry out an inspection of the mouth for themselves. Thus the person making an inspection of his mouth stands in front of a conventional mirror, places the end of the tongue depressor carrying the mirror inside the mouth and adjusts its position until he is able to see the particular area in the mouth in which he is interested. The inserted portion of the tongue depressor is used to depress the tongue or hold the lips out of the line of vision to the mirror.

The apparatus of my invention, in addition to being particularly useful in the home also saves time for doctors and dentists, since a single tool serves a dual purpose and avoids the use of a separate mirror in making mouth inspections.

The tongue depressor of my invention may be made of any rigid material but I prefer to mold it from transparent plastic. The mirror may be detachable or fixed, but preferably is fastened on the flat of the tongue depressor and counter-sunk, i. e. disposed in a recess, so that its outer surface is substantially flush with the flat of the tongue depressor.

I prefer to employ a mirror of the magnifying type so as to permit more careful inspection. Magnifying mirrors are well understood in the art and are simply mirrors having a convex reflecting surface.

These and other aspects of my invention will be understood thoroughly in the light of the following detailed description illustrated by the appended drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of one form of the tongue depressor of my invention;

2

Fig. 2 is a side elevation, partly in section, of the tongue depressor of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan of another form of the tongue depressor of my invention;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional elevation through one end of a tongue depressor of my invention showing a snap-in type of mirror detachably mounted in a recess;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view of one end of a tongue depressor of my invention showing still another manner of mounting the mirror; and

Fig. 6 shows a novel clip or holder designed for use with the tongue depressor of the foregoing figures.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the tongue depressor comprises an elongated flat strip 10 of plastic that is relatively thin with respect to its width and has parallel sides throughout most of its length. One end 11 of the depressor is spoon-shaped and wider than the shaft 12. The two sides 13, 14 of this rounded enlarged end are bent upward slightly so as to make the depressor fit the tongue.

The other end of the tongue depressor is provided with a small rectangular mirror 15 mounted in a recess in the flat of the strip so that the upper surface of the mirror is flush with the adjoining strip surface.

When the tongue depressor is employed in the mouths of both children and adults, it is desirable to provide mirrors on both ends. Such a modification is illustrated in Fig. 3 wherein a tongue depressor is shown in the form of an elongated flat strip of transparent plastic having one small rounded end 17 and a larger rounded end 18 connected by a flat shank 19. A rounded mirror 20 of the magnifying type is fastened flat on the approximate center of the large rounded end and another magnifying mirror 21 is fastened flat on the approximate center of the smaller rounded end. Preferably, the two mirrors are recessed into the tongue depressor, so that the upper surfaces are flush with its upper surface.

Fig. 4 illustrates a way in which the mirror can be detachably mounted in the tongue depressor. Thus, the end 22 of a tongue depressor made of transparent plastic is provided with a flat recess in its end. The end walls 23, 24 of this recess slope inward, i. e. the recess is formed with reentrant angles. A mirror 25 of the translucent type is disposed in the recess. If it is desired to remove the mirror the tongue depressor is flexed until its two inner walls 23, 24

have moved sufficiently to permit the withdrawal of the mirror.

The use of a translucent or double mirror is desirable in this case since the plastic is transparent and permits the mirror to be seen either through the transparent tongue depressor shank or directly.

Fig. 5 shows another manner in which a mirror may be mounted in the tongue depressor. Thus a tongue depressor 26 generally similar to that of Fig. 1 has a convex mirror 27 held in a ring 28. This ring is provided with a shank 29 on one side which is threaded into one end, i. e. the smaller end of the tongue depressor, so that the mirror is approximately in line with the flat of the end.

To facilitate hanging the tongue depressors when they are not in use, I provide a holder (illustrated in Fig. 6) comprising a strip 40 of rigid material, preferably transparent plastic, bent in the form of a U and having notches 41, 42 on its upper edge near the ends. A hole through the strip at the base of the U accommodates a screw 43 or other fastening device, by which the holder is mounted on a vertical surface, say a wall. The tongue depressor 44 is dropped into the notches with its big end 45 up, and is held in position because the maximum width of the big end is slightly greater than the spacing between notches.

The apparatus of the invention is rugged, simple and cheap to manufacture and extremely convenient for use in the home.

I claim:

1. A tongue depressor comprising an elongated relatively flat strip of transparent material having a recess in the face thereof adjacent one end, and a translucent mirror having opposite reflecting surfaces located in said recess so that an image formed by the mirror can be seen either through the transparent strip or directly.

2. A tongue depressor comprising an elongated relatively flat strip of resilient transparent material having a recess in a face thereof adjacent one end with two opposing walls of the recess sloping outwardly from top to bottom, and a flat mirror having reflective surfaces on opposite faces held in the recess, the arrangement being such that the mirror can be released from the recess by flexing the strip.

WALTER T. CANAN.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
539,076	McNaughton	May 14, 1895
828,393	Emerson	Aug. 14, 1906
886,746	Walter	May 5, 1908
1,506,401	Young	Aug. 26, 1924
2,525,181	Ransdell	Oct. 10, 1950

OTHER REFERENCES

- 30 1937 Catalog of Stortz Instrument Co. of St. Louis, Mo., page 119. (Copy in Div. 55.)