Sept. 20, 1960 E. H. FOWLER 2,953,286

THIMBLE

Filed June 5, 1958

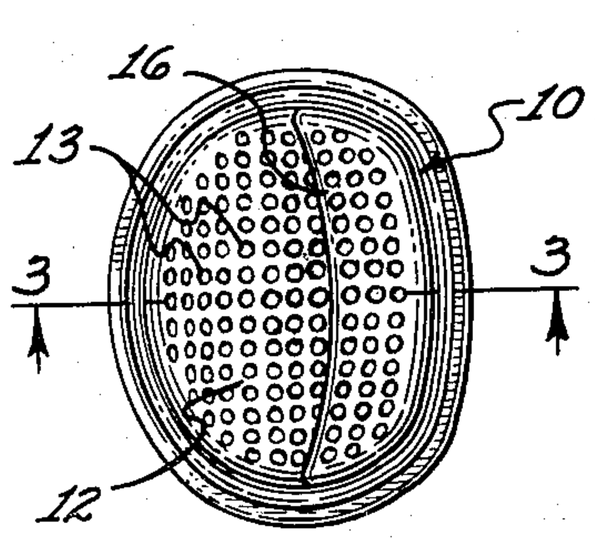

Fig. 2

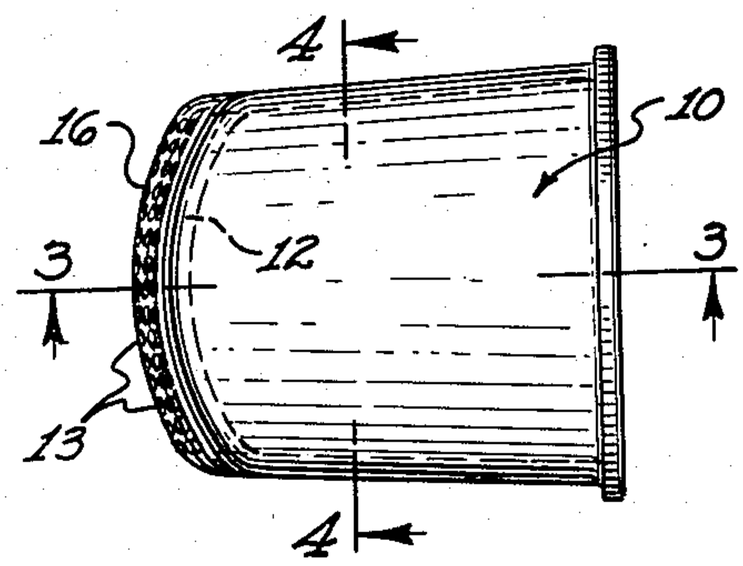

Fig. 1

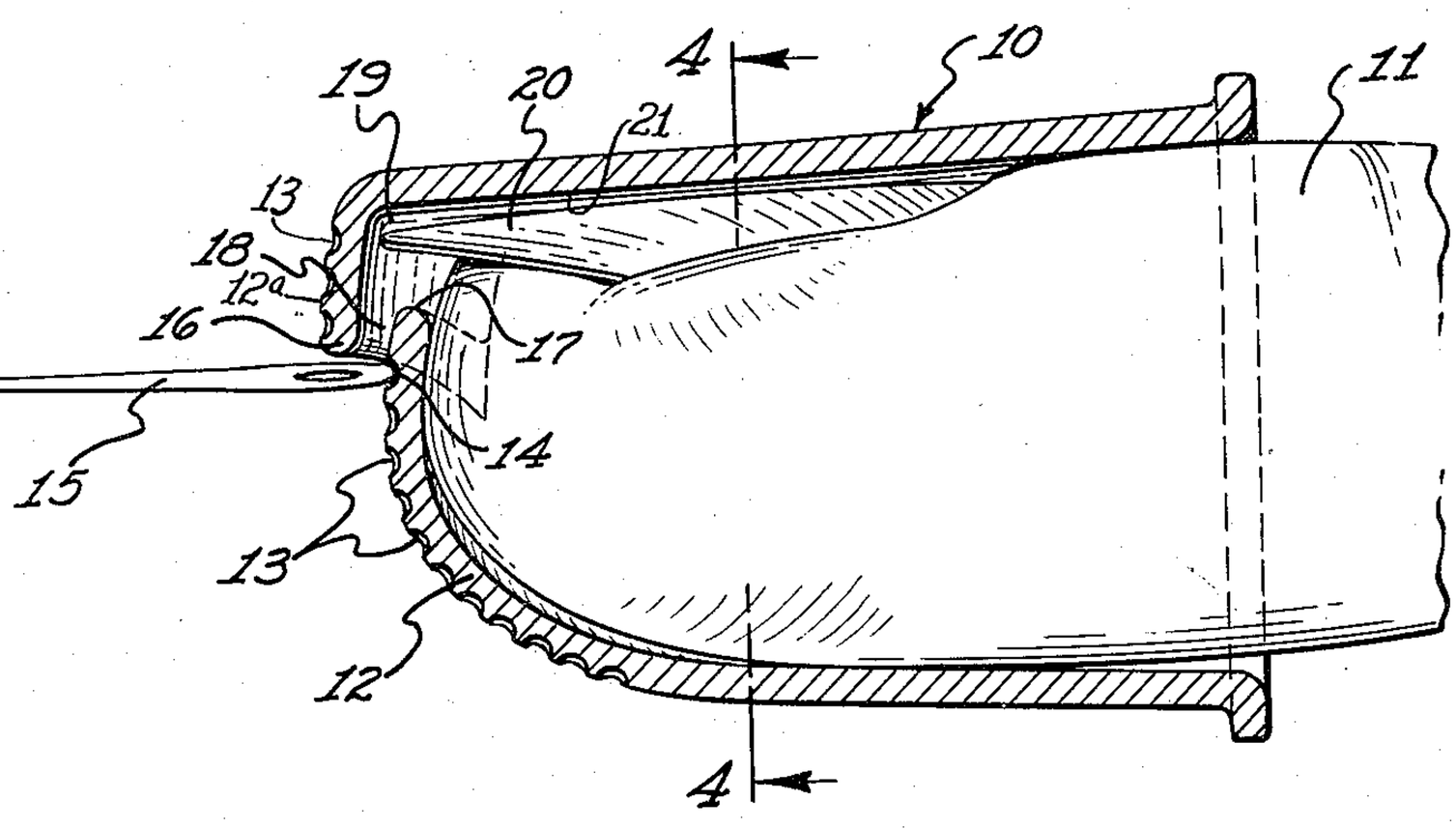

Fig. 3

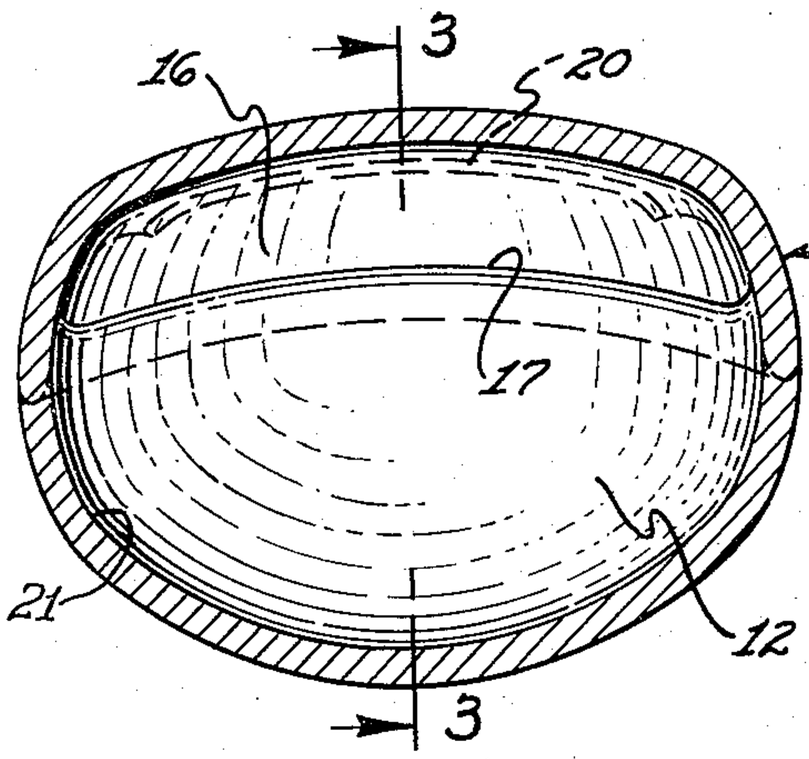

Fig. 4

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THIMBLE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 223—101)

This invention relates to thimbles, and is particularly directed to a thimble which is safer and more convenient to use.

One of the objects of this invention is to facilitate the manipulation of a sewing thimble under all conditions of use.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved sewing thimble which may be comfortably used by persons with extended finger nails.

And still another object of this invention is to provide an improved sewing thimble which is properly ventilated yet safe from penetration of the needle through the thimble to harm the finger.

Further features of this invention will appear from a detailed description of the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a top elevation view of a thimble incorporating the features of this invention.

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the thimble shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figs. 1, 2 and 4.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figs. 1 and 3.

As an example of one embodiment of this invention there is shown a thimble comprising a finger engaging casing or shell **10** preferably of flattened oval shape as best shown in Fig. 4 to comfortably fit the finger **11** of the user. The front or outer end of casing **10** is provided with a closure formed integrally therewith. The closure comprises a lower wall **12** and an upper wall **12***a*. Lower wall **12** is curved to conform with the end of finger **11** and extends inwardly of the casing beyond the axis thereof to terminate at its free upper edge **17**.

The upper wall **12***a* of the closure extends inwardly of the casing towards the axis of the casing and outwardly beyond upper edge **17** of lower wall **12** so as to provide a ventilating space or passage **18** in communication with the interior of the casing **21**.

The lower free edge **16** of upper wall **12***a* overlaps the upper edge of lower wall **12** a small distance sufficient

to protect against accidental insertion of needle head **14** of needle **15** through ventilating passage **18**.

It can be seen that the usual needle head engaging indentations **13** are provided on the outer surfaces of walls **12** and **12***a*.

Additionally, the juncture of upper wall **12***a* and casing **10** is located outwardly beyond free edge **17** of the lower wall **12** to provide a space **19** for accommodating finger nail **20**.

It will thus be noted that the ventilating space **18** eliminates entrapment of air in the head of the thimble as the finger **11** is inserted and at the same time ventilates the outer end of the finger for greater operating comfort and efficiency. It will also be noted that the needle head **14** cannot get into the ventilating slot and engage the finger **11** since the overlapped portion of wall **12***a* precludes that happening. Thus a highly efficient thimble structure having ventilating means and adapted to be used by persons with long finger nails and with perfect protection from the needle is provided.

While the apparatus herein disclosed and described constitutes a preferred form of the invention, it is also to be understood that the apparatus is capable of mechanical alteration without departing from the spirit of the invention and that such mechanical arrangement and commercial adaptation as fall within the scope of the appendent claims are intended to be included herein. Having thus fully set forth and described this invention what is claimed and desired to be obtained by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A thimble comprising a finger engaging casing having an outer end closure, said outer end closure comprising upper and lower walls formed integrally with said casing, said lower wall being curved to conform with the end of the finger and extending inwardly of the casing beyond the axis thereof, said lower wall having needle head engaging indentations in the outer surface thereof, said upper wall extending inwardly of the casing toward the axis of the casing and spaced outwardly beyond the upper edge of the lower wall so as to provide a ventilating passage in communication with the interior of the casing, the free edge portions of said upper and lower walls being in overlapped relation.

2. A thimble as in claim 1 in which the juncture of said upper wall and said casing is located outwardly beyond the free edge of said lower wall to provide a finger nail accommodating space above said edge.

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