J. HOLLAND.
Tooth-Pick.

No. 209,566. Patented Nov. 5, 1878.

Fig. 1

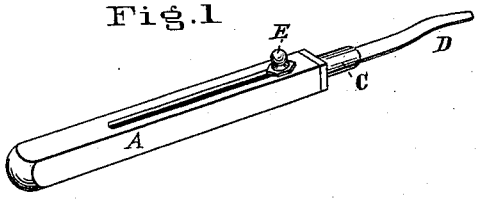
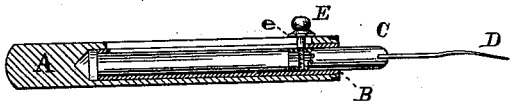


Fig. 2



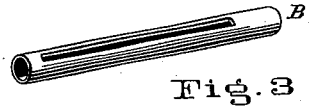


Fig. 3

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JOHN HOLLAND, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOOTH-PICKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,566**, dated November 5, 1878; application filed December 7, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN HOLLAND, of the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tooth-Picks, which improvement is fully set forth in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the tooth-pick with the blade protruded from its case. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the same; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the inner case or cylinder, in which the blade and its holder slides.

This invention relates to that class of tooth-picks which consist of a metallic spear or blade inclosed within an outer shell, from which it may be protruded for use and withdrawn for conveniently carrying in the pocket.

It consists of a thin elastic blade secured to the end of a piston which fits and slides in a metallic cylinder, said cylinder being fitted in an outer case, the perimeter of which is a polygon of four or more sides, to furnish a bearing for a flange upon the slide-pin, to protect the pin when sliding the blade in and out and holding it out while in use.

In the drawing, A is a case made of ivory, shell, or other suitable material. It is bored from the front end (which is ferruled to prevent splitting) a sufficient distance back to receive the metallic tube B.

C is a short piston fitted to slide within cylinder B. D is a thin elastic blade of uniform thickness, made preferably of gold or other non-corrosive metal, permanently secured in the front end of piston C. It is curved near the front end to conveniently pass between the side teeth, and is made with a blunt or rounding point, so as not to injure the gums.

E is the slide by which the piston C is operated to withdraw and extend the blade D, and by which it is held in its extended position when used. This slide consists of a knob projecting up from a flange, *e*, which rests upon the flat side of the case A, and a screw-pin that, projecting from the flange through the slot in case A and cylinder B, enters the piston C. By reason of this flange *e*, which has considerable bearing upon the flat side of the case, the screw-pin is not liable to be bent or broken. It also enables me to use a small screw-pin, and hence a narrow slot, which leaves the case stronger. The knob projects up a sufficient distance above the flange to furnish a bearing for the thumb or finger to hold the blade from being pushed into the case while in use.

The thin metallic blade, in addition to its advantages as a tooth-pick over the spear-formed head, also furnishes a convenient implement with which to open envelopes.

I claim—

As a new article of manufacture, a tooth-pick consisting of an outer case, A, the tight-fitting inner case or lining B, piston C, blade D, and slide E, provided with the flange *e*, all arranged to operate substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN HOLLAND.

Witnesses:
GEO. J. MURRAY,
HENRY MILLWARD.