

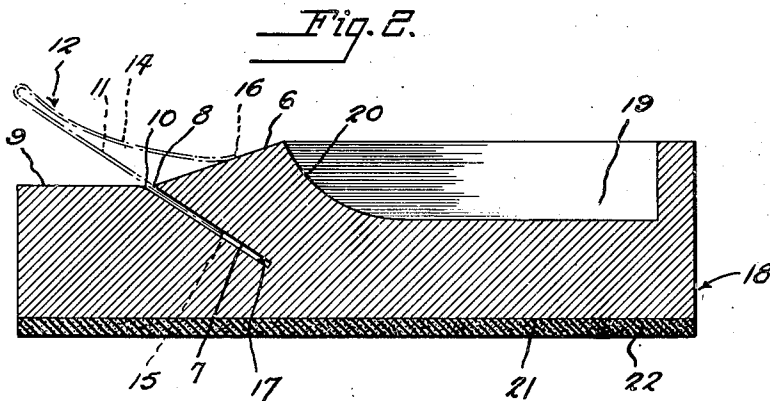
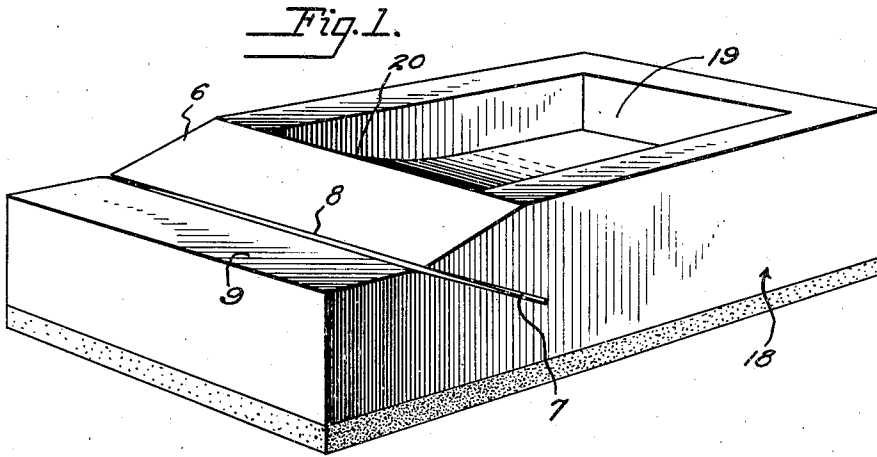
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PORTABLE BOBBY PIN OPENER

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## PORTABLE BOBBY PIN OPENER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 132-1)

This invention pertains to instruments used for spreading hairpins, and is especially adapted for spreading the conventional hairpin commonly termed "bobby pin."

5 Under the conventional practice of using bobby pins there is difficulty in spreading the tines of the pin, especially when one hand is occupied, for example, to hold the hair in the position to which it is intended to be pinned. Under these  
10 circumstances one hand remains available to spread the tines of the pin. As a result of this there is the common practice to wedge the finger nail between the tines, or to bite between the tines. Another practice is to use the garment  
15 fabric, or an edge of the dresser furniture, as instrumentalities to spread the tines with one hand. The various disadvantages of these prior art practices are obvious. Finger nails are broken, teeth injured, clothing torn or furniture  
20 scarred. The device of the present invention is calculated to obviate these disadvantages.

In its essential elements the invention comprises a member providing a plurality of surfaces disposed in a specific manner with refer-  
25 ence to each other. Two surfaces are disposed at an angle to meet along an edge to form a wedge. A third surface provides a guide surface for a tine of the bobby pin and is so positioned  
30 relative to the wedge that, as the tine is guided along the surface towards the wedge, the edge of the wedge enters between the tips of the tines. Continued movement of the bobby pin causes  
35 the wedge to spread the tines, opposite surfaces of the wedge actuating the respective tines away from each other, and one tine passing between the guide surface and the contiguous surface of the wedge.

This construction can be incorporated into any of several instrumentalities. In the embodi-  
40 ment shown it is made an integral part of a tray for containing bobby pins, the entire structure being such that it can be positioned conveniently on a dressing table in position for ready use as  
45 an aid to dressing hair.

The invention has been expressed in general terms. For details of construction of the preferred embodiment shown, attention is directed to the accompanying drawing in which—

50 Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device; and

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional elevation taken longitudinally of the device.

As illustrated in the drawing, the device comprises surfaces 6 and 7 disposed at an angle to  
45 each other. The particular angle of inclination

between the surfaces 6 and 7 may vary within wide limits without detracting from the contemplated operation of the device. It is of primary importance that the surfaces 6 and 7 intersect  
5 along a line 8 forming an edge of a wedge.

Cooperating with the wedge formed by the surfaces 6 and 7 is the guide surface 9 which extends toward the wedge, which terminates at  
10 an edge 10 spaced away from the edge 8. The surface 9 may be diversely disposed within wide limits relative to the respective surfaces 6 and 7, and relative to the wedge formed by the surfaces  
15 6 and 7. To determine more precisely the position of the guide surface 9 relative to the wedge, the surfaces 6 and 7 comprising the wedge may  
20 be considered as indicating a direction, in a manner similar to an arrow, see Figure 2. The guide surface 9 is away from the wedge disposed in a position determined by the direction indicated by the wedge so that, as a bobby pin is  
25 slid across the surface 9 toward the wedge it is precisely guided for engagement with the edge 8 of the wedge. The primary importance is that the edge 10 be spaced away from the edge 8  
30 and 7 sufficiently for the edge 8 to pass between the tines of a bobby pin.

In operation the surface 9 is engaged by one  
35 tine 11 of the bobby pin 12, which is shown in dot and dash lines in Figure 2. The bobby pin may engage the surface 9 at any place in its area which is made wide as shown for the purpose, and the pin is thereupon drawn across  
40 the surface 9 with the tips 15 and 16 of the tines 11 and 14 directed toward the wedge 6, 7. With the bobby pin so guided the edge 8, because of its position relative to surface 9 and the edge 10, will find position between the tips  
45 15 and 16 of the bobby pin when the pin reaches the wedge. The surface 9 is positioned relative to the wedge 6, 7 laterally the proper amount to attain this purpose.

As the bobby pin continues movement toward the wedge, the respective edges 6 and 7 wedge  
50 between the tines 11 and 14 and spread them apart in the manner illustrated in Figure 2. The tine 11 passes below the surface 7 and between the surfaces 7 and 17. The tine 14 passes above the surface 6. The surface 17 is opposite the surface 7 and spaced away from it a sufficient distance to permit the tine 11 to pass  
55 freely therebetween. The surface 17 merges with the surface 9 along the line 10, which may be sharply defined, or may be rounded off to a greater or lesser extent. The detail of construction of

greatest importance is that the edge 10 is spaced away from the edge 8 longitudinally of the wedge sufficient to permit the tine 11 to pass freely between the surfaces 7 and 17.

5 In the embodiment shown, the surface 17 is parallel to the surface 7. This, however, is not necessary and is merely incident to the method of producing the model employed by the applicant. The device comprises a block, illustrated  
10 generally at 18, shaped with the surfaces 6 and 7, and with the surface 7 to cooperate with surface 6 to form the wedge. This is accomplished by the simple step of sawing into the block at an obtuse angle to the surface 9 to form the surfaces 7 and 17, which, according to this manner  
15 of producing the device, are spaced parallel to each other.

The block is formed with a recess 19 convenient for use as a container for a supply of bobby  
20 pins. Incident to this use, the bottom surface of the recess 19 curves upwardly at 20 toward the top of the block to provide an unbroken surface for ready removal of the bobby pins.

The block may be formed of any suitable material, and may include a lower rest surface 21. The surface 20 is preferably equipped to prevent  
25 its sliding across the surface of furniture on which the device rests. For example, and as shown, a thickness of material 22 with clinging  
30 properties may be applied to the under surface 21. In the incident case sponge rubber has been employed as the material for the element 22.

It will readily be seen that the invention is  
35 susceptible of a number of modifications departing from the specific structure shown in the drawing, without detracting from the spirit of the invention or its scope, which is determined by the accompanying claims.

What I claim is:

40 1. A device for spreading the tines of bobby pins, comprising a pair of fixed surfaces disposed at an angle to each other and meeting along an edge to form a wedge, a cooperating guide

surface fixed with reference to the pair of surfaces and disposed away from the wedge in a position indicated by the direction of the wedge, the guide surface being spaced away from the edge  
5 of the wedge laterally of the wedge sufficiently to direct the tines of the pin on opposite sides of the edge of the wedge when a tine is slid across the guide surface, the guide surface being spaced away from the edge of the wedge longitudinally of the wedge sufficiently to permit the  
10 passage of a tine between the wedge and the guide surface.

2. A device for spreading the tines of bobby pins, comprising a pair of fixed planes disposed  
15 at an angle to each other and meeting along an edge to form a wedge, a cooperating guide plane fixed with reference to the pair of planes and disposed away from the wedge, in a position indicated by the direction of the wedge, the guide surface being spaced away from the edge  
20 of the wedge laterally of the wedge sufficiently to direct the edge between the tines of the pin when a tine is slid across the guide plane, and spaced away from the edge of the wedge longitudinally of the wedge sufficiently to permit the  
25 passage of a tine between the wedge and the guide plane.

3. In a device as defined in claim 1, a container  
30 for bobby pins attached to the bobby pin spreading device as a unitary mutually associated structure.

4. A bobby pin spreading device, comprising  
35 a block, surfaces formed in the block disposed at an angle to each other and meeting along an edge to form a wedge, a guide surface formed in the block extending from the edge thereof and in a position indicated by the direction of the wedge, the guide surface merging with a surface disposed at an obtuse angle, the latter surface disposed opposite and spaced away from one of the  
40 surfaces of the wedge.

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