

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 0 819 392 A1**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:  
21.01.1998 Bulletin 1998/04

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **A45D 8/34**

(21) Application number: **96830399.0**

(22) Date of filing: **18.07.1996**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**DE ES FR GB**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV SI**

(71) Applicant: **Orlando, Sante**  
**70123 Bari (IT)**

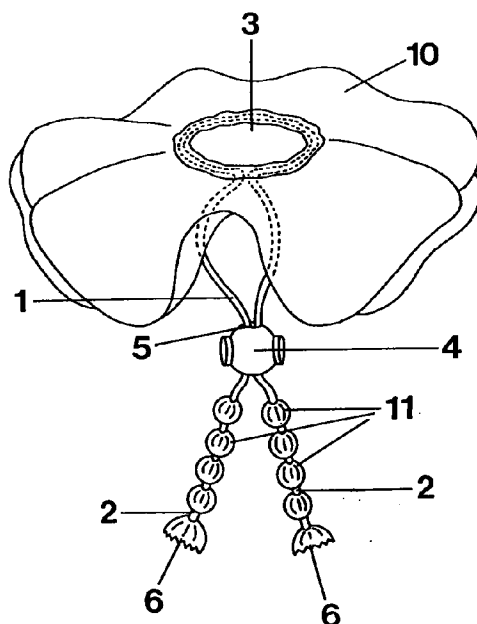
(72) Inventor: **Orlando, Sante**  
**70123 Bari (IT)**

(74) Representative:  
**Mascioli, Alessandro, Prof.Dr.**  
**c/o A.N.D.I.**  
**Associazione Nazionale degli Inventori**  
**Via Urbana, 20**  
**00184 Roma (IT)**

(54) **A device for an orderly elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking**

(57) A device for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking, by means of mechanic finger pressure means, comprising a means of the kind of an elastic cord (1), with free ends (2), passing by sliding through a blocking means (4) with a spring button (7), that determines the formation of a loop (3) for the collection of hair tufts and their squeez-

ing to a diameter immediately determined. The device, when taken off, is widened by sliding the mechanic means (4) until to the stops (6) provided on the ends of said elastic cord (1), thus setting free the previously squeezed hair tufts.



**FIG.1**

**EP 0 819 392 A1**

## Description

The present invention concerns a device for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking, by means of mechanic finger pressure means.

It is well known that, according to the latest fashion, especially young people use to collect their hair in one single pony tail, for preventing them from falling in front of their eyes when driving a motorcycle, or even into a plurality of smaller tails with simple aesthetic purposes.

For this purpose, the girls may use clasps with a flat squeezing and both boys and girls may use small elastic cords, twisted one or twice for determining the collection of the hair.

Furthermore, said clasps do not allow to make pony tails with a round square section and, as they get easily unhooked, they can not be used while doing rough sports or water sports.

The elastic devices that get twisted around the hair tufts may be used also in doing sports, but can not be used as an elegant accessory for female dressing.

Furthermore, when removing said devices, often hairs are torn off.

It is the aim of the present invention to solve all above mentioned inconveniences by means of a device that allows the orderly elastic squeezing of hair tufts of any dimension, and that may be applied and taken off by means of simple and functional mechanic element.

The aim set forth is reached by means of the device according to the present invention, comprising a means of the kind of an elastic cord, with free ends, passing by sliding through a blocking means with a spring button, that determines the formation of a loop for the collection of hair tufts and their squeezing to a diameter immediately determined. The device, when taken off, is widened by sliding the mechanic means until to the stops provided on the ends of said elastic cord, thus setting free the previously squeezed hair tufts.

Besides the squeezing, the device according to the present invention may be provided with any components that may underline its aesthetic value, like a toroidal element out of any material, inside which said elastic cord slides, and/or spheroidal elements or elements of any shape, provided with passing-through holes.

The present invention will be described more in detail hereinbelow relating to the enclosed drawings, in which some embodiments are shown.

Figure 1 shows as axonometric view of a device for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking, particularly suited for forming one single pony tail.

Figure 2 shows the device according to the present invention while squeezing a hair tuft.

Figure 3 shows a variant of the device according to the present invention, suited for forming one single or a plurality of pony tails.

Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 show two variants of the auto-

matic blocking system according to the present invention, in the respective positions of sliding of the ends of the elastic cord and of blocking for the squeezing of the hair.

The enclosed figures show a device for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking, comprising:

- a means for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts C of differentiated consistency, consisting of an elastic cord 1 with free ends 2, slidably passing through opposite holes 5 of the mechanic blocking means 4 with finger pressure, until the stops 6, so as to form in its continuous part the loop structure 3 that may be elastically adjusted according to the consistency of said tuft C, comprised inside said loop structure;
- a mechanic blocking means 4 consisting of a button 7, with a contrast spring 8, pierced in 9 for the passage of said ends 2 of said cord 1, so that when there is no unblocking pressure, said ends are kept at the stop, due to the action of said spring 8, against the edge of said holes 9, while following to the finger pressure and to the compression of said spring 8, said ends 2 may freely slide and vary the dimension of the upper structure 3, for freeing the hair tufts C and/or adjusting the squeezing thereof;
- decorative, single elements 10, provided around said cord 1 and/or multiple decorative elements 11, to be applied along said cord.

In the variants shown in figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, the blocking means may have different shapes like spheric, cylindric 12 or symmetric 13, with a structure 14 opposite to the projecting button 7.

For what concerns the decorative elements they may have, according to the present invention, a toroidal fabric or plastic structure, like a rosette, for covering all or part of the loop 3, or also small pearls 11 or other tubular or spheric elements through which passes the cord, for forming more than one pony tail, e.g. one central and two lateral pony tails.

The device according to the present invention may also be used for the realization of clasps of high value if the decorative elements are out of precious metals like gold, silver etc.

The device as shown in the embodiments of figure 3 may also be used e.g. for squeezing a foulard.

## Claims

1. A device for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts and similar, with automatic blocking and unblocking by means of mechanic finger pressure, characterized in:

- a means for the elastic squeezing of hair tufts (C) of differentiated consistency, consisting of an elastic cord (1) with free ends (2), slidably

passing through apposite holes (5) of the mechanic blocking means (4) with finger pressure, until the stops (6), so as to form in its continuous part the loop structure (3) that may be elastically adjusted according to the consistency of said tuft (C), comprised inside said loop structure;

- a mechanic blocking means (4) consisting of a button (7), with a contrast spring (8), pierced in (9) for the passage of said ends (2) of said cord (1), so that when there is no unblocking pressure, said ends are kept at the stop, due to the action of said spring (8), against the edge of said holes (9), while following to the finger pressure and to the compression of said spring (8), said ends (2) may freely slide and vary the dimension of the upper structure (3), for freeing the hair tufts (C) and/or adjusting the squeezing thereof;
- decorative, single elements (10), provided around said cord (1) and/or multiple decorative elements (11), to be applied along said cord.

2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in the spheric shape of the blocking means (4).
3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in the cylindric shape (12) of the blocking means (4).
4. A device according to claim 1, characterized in the symmetric shape (13) of the blocking means (4), with a structure (14) opposite to the projecting button (7).
5. A device according to claim 1, characterized in a toroidal fabric or plastic structure, like a rosette, for covering the whole or only a part of said loop (3).
6. A device according to claim 1, characterized in small pearls (11) or other tubular or spheric element through which said cord (1) passes, for forming a plurality of pony tails.
7. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that all components are our of precious materials.
8. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that it may be used for squeezing foulards or similar.

50

55

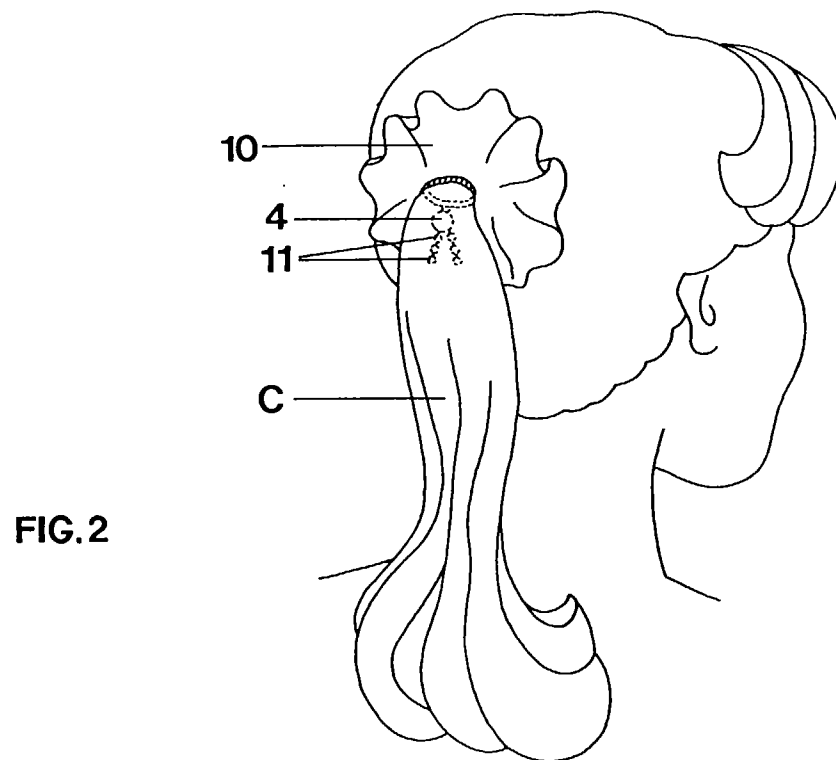
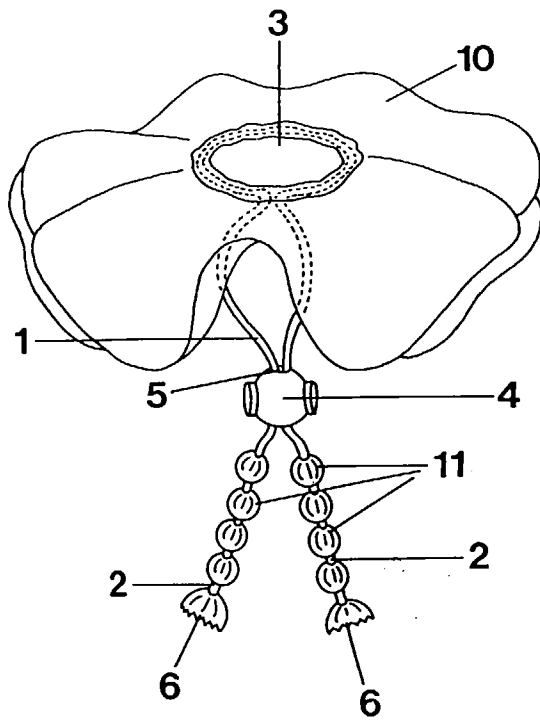


FIG.3

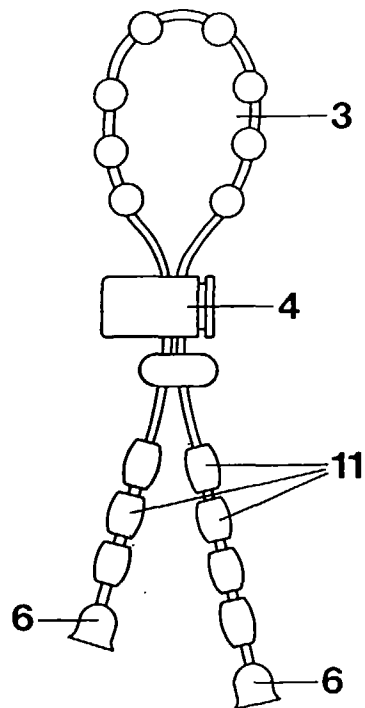


FIG.4

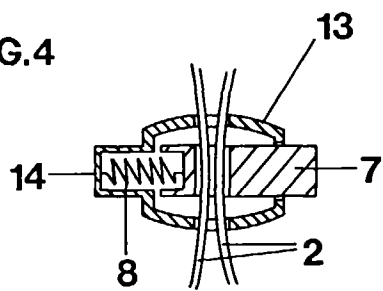


FIG.5

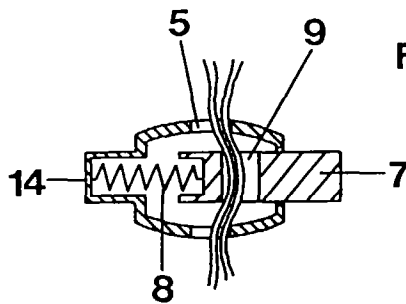


FIG.6

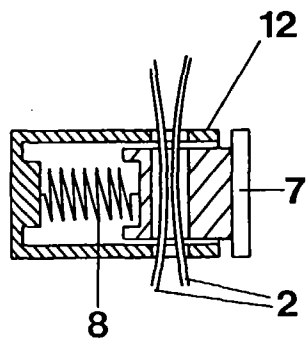
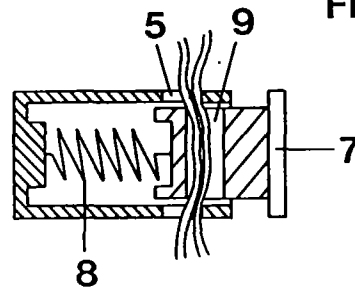


FIG.7





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 83 0399

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US-A-5 472 003 (FRAME) * column 6, line 61 - line 67; figures 1,14 *	1,2	A45D8/34
A	US-A-5 156 171 (GOODMAN) * the whole document *	1	
A	US-A-4 506 417 (HARA) * figures 1-5 *	1,2,4	
A	FR-A-2 545 447 (ANGLADA NIETO) * figures 1-3 *	1,3,4	
A	US-A-3 099 271 (DUBELIER)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A45D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		9 January 1997	Sigwalt, C
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  .....  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)