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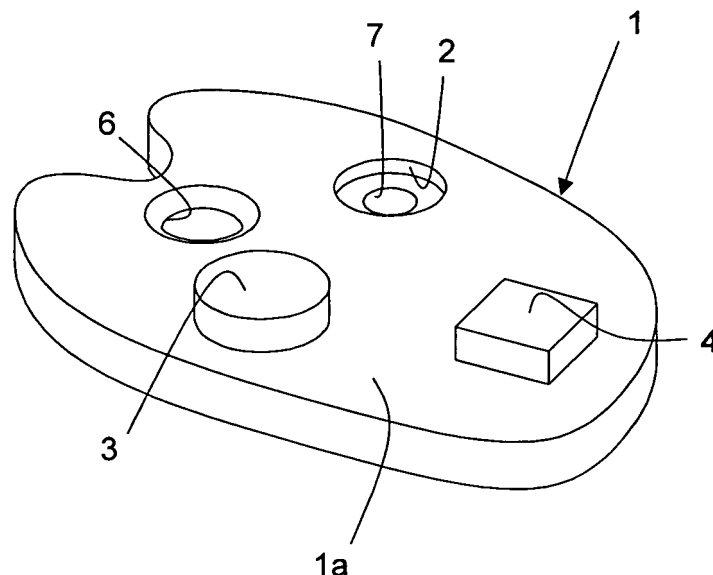
(54) **Artist's palette**

(57) The invention finds application in the field of fine arts and particularly relates to a palette (1) of the type comprising a board of wood or another material, configured to be hand-holdable, wherein the palette also acts as a holder for paintbrushes (3, 4), one or more notches (2) being formed on its surface (1a) for interlocking engagement with said one or more paintbrushes (3, 4) as

sociated thereto, the tufts of hairs (3a, 4a) of said paintbrushes being introduced in corresponding holes (7) formed in the palette (1) in the area of each notch (2).

The tufts of hairs (3a, 4a) are of such a length as to be held within the thickness of the board or may be longer, in which case they project over a smaller length than the height of a support element (5) of the palette (1) attached at its bottom and extending therefrom.

FIG. 1



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a fine art palette on whose surface one or more notches of appropriate shape interlockingly engage with one or more paintbrushes associated thereto, particularly paintbrushes of the type having a thick body with a tuft of hairs projecting therefrom.

[0002] The advantages achieved thanks to this invention consist in a more convenient use because, once the paint has been spread with a paintbrush, the latter may be easily interlocked in the palette and be ready for further use.

[0003] These objects and advantages are achieved by the fine art palette of this invention, which is characterized as set out in the annexed claims.

[0004] This and other features will be more apparent from the following description of a few embodiments, which are shown by way of example and without limitation in the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a perspective top view of the palette of the invention,
- Figure 2 is an elevational view of the palette of Figure 1,
- Figure 3 is a plan view of the palette of Figure 1,
- Figure 4 is a perspective bottom view of the palette of the invention,
- Figure 5 is a perspective top view of the palette without its paintbrushes,
- Figure 6 shows certain embodiments of paintbrushes suitable for use with said palette.

[0005] Referring to Figures 1, 4 and 5, numeral 1 generally designates a fine art palette, of the type comprising a board of wood or another material, and configured to be hand-holdable: the palette also acts as a holder for paintbrush holder, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, as one or more notches 2 are formed on its surface 1a, corresponding to and configured for interlocking engagement with said one or more paintbrushes 3, 4 associated thereto; the tufts of hairs 3a, 4a of said paintbrushes are thus introduced in corresponding holes 7 formed in the palette 1, namely in the area of each notch 2.

[0006] According to a first embodiment, as shown herein, these tufts of hairs 3a, 4a are longer than the thickness of the board, and come out of the opposite side thereof.

[0007] To obviate the drawback associated with the hairs 3a, 4a directly lying on a surface, and be consequently damaged, it shall be noted that their length is smaller than the height of a support element 5 of the palette 1 attached at its bottom as shown in Figures 2 and 3 and extending therefrom.

[0008] According to a second embodiment, not shown but easily understandable, the tufts of hairs 3a, 4a may also be of such a length as to remain within the thickness of the palette 1 without projecting therefrom.

[0009] In the latter case, the provision of the support element 5 might be unnecessary.

[0010] It will be appreciated that the notches 2 have a shape that matches the base of the paintbrushes 3, 4 and several different geometrical shapes may be provided for different paintbrushes.

[0011] Particularly, such paintbrushes 3 and 4 (two of them being shown in the annexed drawings, out of the three available notches) are preferably formed of a thick body with a tuft of hairs projecting therefrom; it shall be underlined that the tuft 3a, 4a of a paintbrush may be centered or offset with respect to the center axis of such thick body: in the latter case, the holes 7 for the passage of the tufts will be formed in appropriate positions.

Claims

1. A fine art palette (1) of the type comprising a board of wood or another material, configured to be hand-holdable, **characterized in that** the palette also acts as a holder for paintbrushes (3, 4), one or more notches (2) being formed on its surface (1a) for interlocking engagement with said one or more paintbrushes (3, 4) associated thereto, the tufts of hairs (3a, 4a) of said paintbrushes being introduced in corresponding holes (7) formed in the palette (1) in the area of each notch (2).
2. A palette (1) as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** said tufts of hairs (3a, 4a) are of such a length as to be held within the thickness of the board.
3. A palette (1) as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** said tufts of hairs (3a, 4a) are longer than the thickness of the board.
4. A palette (1) as claimed in claims 1 and 3, **characterized in that** the tuft of hairs (3a, 4a) project out of said palette to a smaller extent than the height of a support element (5) of the palette (1), which is attached to its bottom and extends therefrom.
5. A palette (1) as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** said notches (2) have shapes that match the corresponding bases of the paintbrushes (3, 4).
6. A palette (1) as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** said paintbrushes (3, 4) are preferably formed of a thick body and a corresponding tuft of hairs (3a, 4a) extending therefrom.

FIG. 1

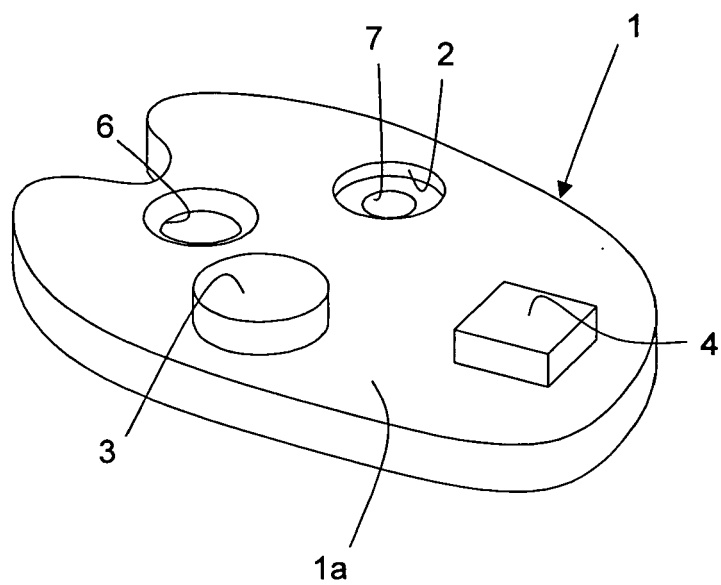


FIG. 2

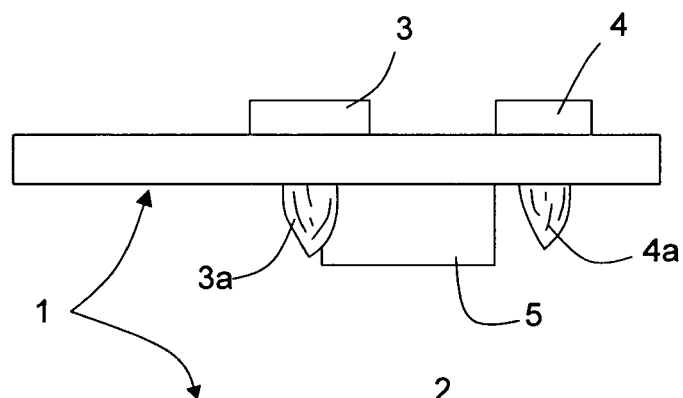
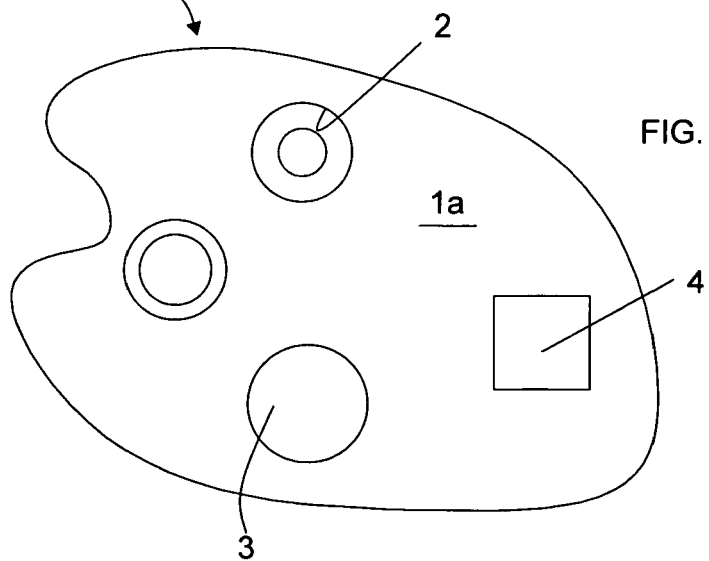
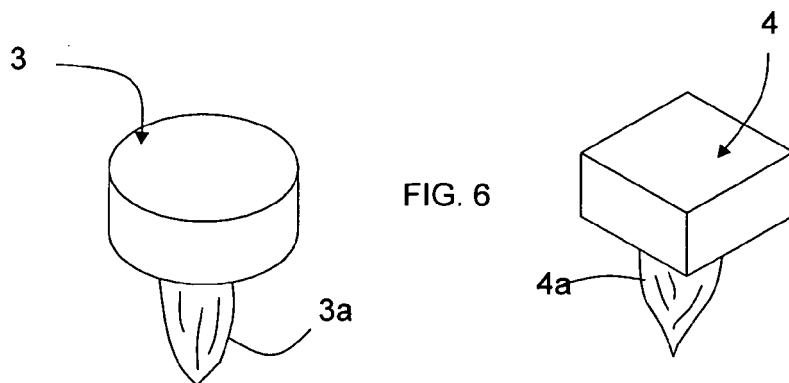
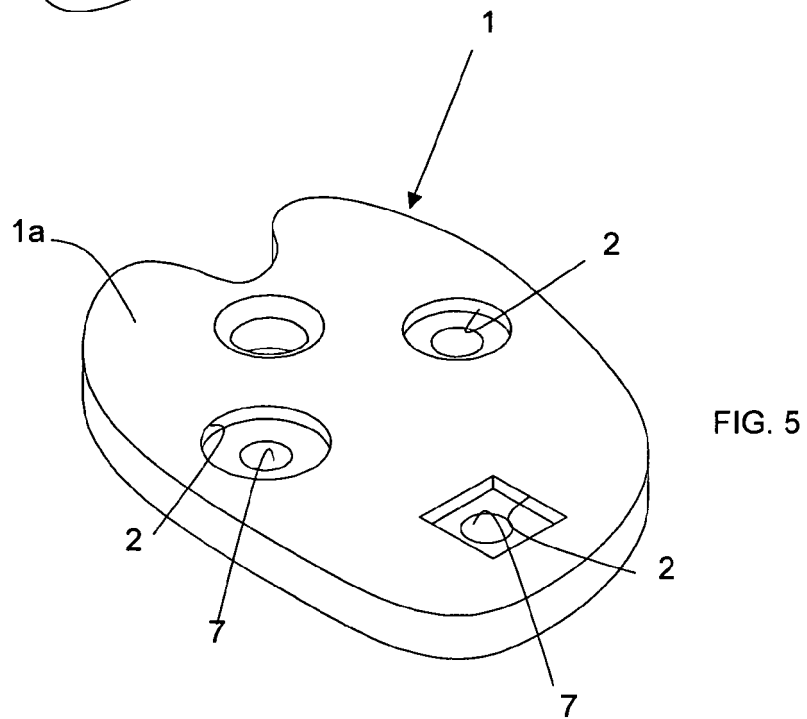
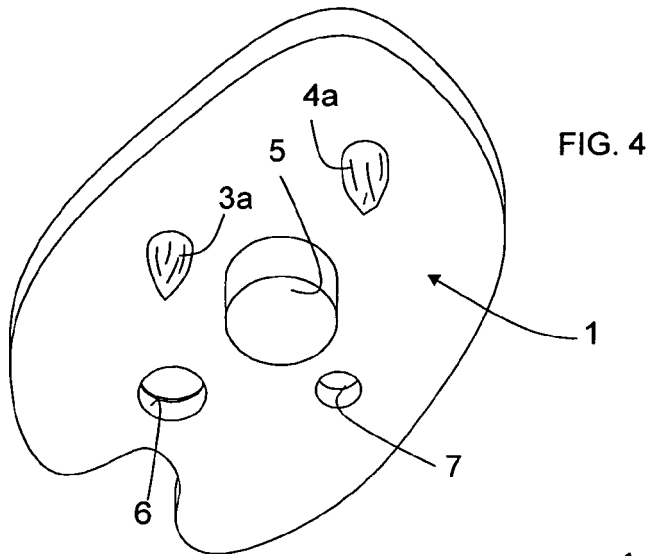


FIG. 3







European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 42 5367

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 397 279 A (STONES KEVIN PAUL [GB]) 21 July 2004 (2004-07-21) * page 2, line 29 - page 3, line 17; figure 1 *	1-6	INV. B44D3/02
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A	GB 2 214 871 A (BERRY WILLIAM EDWARD) 13 September 1989 (1989-09-13) * the whole document *	1-6	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B44D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		24 January 2008	Sartor, Michele
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 07 42 5367

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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