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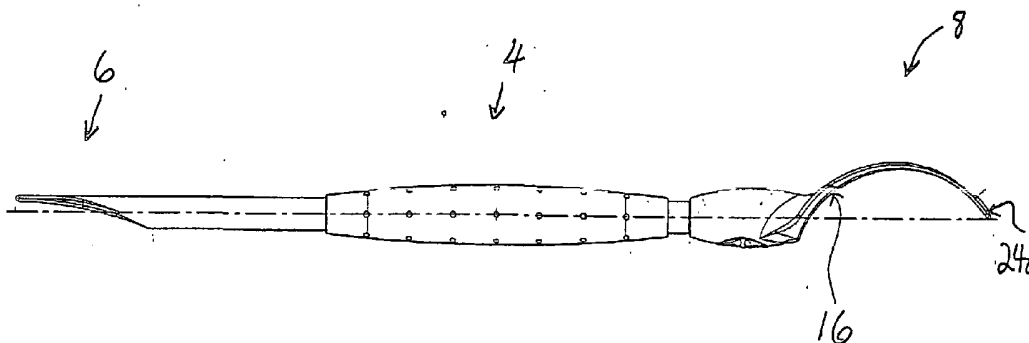
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(54) Title: HAIR SEPARATOR AND FLUID APPLICATOR APPARATUS WITH IMPROVED FLUID RETENTION



(57) Abstract: A hair separator and fluid applicator (2) includes a central handle portion (4), a parting portion (6) disposed adjacent to the handle portion (4), and an applying portion (8). The parting portion (6) may include a generally concave face (14). The applying portion (8) includes a blade (16). The blade (16) may include dimples (50) or holes (54) that increase the ability of less-viscous fluids or cremes to remain adhered to the surface of the blade (16). The applying portion (8) may also include teeth (24a). Channels (25) between the teeth (24a) may vary in shape, including half-circular, ovular or rectangular.



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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US02/29297

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : A45D 24/22  
 US CL : 132/125, 150, 160

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 132/125, 150, 160, 112, 113, 114, 116, 108, 109, 110, 124, 148, 313, 901; 15/104.94, 160, 143.1; D28/31

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,947,130 A (MUSUM) 07 September 1999 (07.09.1999), figures 1-5 and entire document.	1, 4-8, 11-14, 23, 36, and 37 ----- 24-35
Y	US 2,028,588 A (CARSON) 21 January 1936 (21.01.1936), figures 1-4 and entire document.	24-35
A	US 2,264,346 A (TUPPER) 02 December 1941 (02.12.1941), Figures 1-5.	24-35
A	US 5,437,293 A (COLON et al) 01 August 1995 (01.08.1995), entire document.	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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