

PATENT SPECIFICATION (11)

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 (72) Inventors ERIC KENNETH HURST and
 RONALD KEITH MOORE

(54) BABY SOOTHER

(71) We, LEWIS WOOLF GRIPTIGHT LIMITED, a British Company, of 144 Oakfield Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29 7EE, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to baby soothers of the kind comprising a member which acts as a shield carrying a teat and also having a handle extending in a direction away from the teat.

The object of the invention is to provide a baby soother of this kind in a convenient form.

In accordance with the present invention, a baby soother comprises a shield carrying a teat extending from one side thereof, the shield also having, on its side remote from the teat, a handle formed integrally therewith, the handle incorporating an integral hinge whereby a main portion of the handle can be hinged relatively to a portion of the handle fixed to the shield.

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of a baby soother constructed in accordance with the invention,

Figure 2 is a side elevation view, and

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view of an alternative construction.

The baby soother illustrated comprises three components. The main component is a combined shield 10 and handle 11, which is formed as a single part preferably by a moulding process from a plastics material such as polypropylene.

The shield 10, is a substantially flat round disc with an enlarged boss on one side having a stepped bore, in its centre. The handle 11 is generally arcuate and joins the shield 10, on the side thereof on which the centre boss is formed. The ends of the handle join the shield at positions diametrically opposite to each other. The handle is

of circular cross-section but near its two junctions with the shield 10, it has two narrow neck portions 12. These serve as hinge connections between an outer main portion of the handle and short portions connected to the shield 10 respectively. The hinge portions 12 have a degree of resilience so that when the handle tends to stand up from the shield 10 as shown in the drawings. However, the handle can be hinged down into the position indicated in dotted lines at 13 in Figure 2.

In the bore in the boss of the shield 10 are located a plug 14 and the open end of a resilient teat 15. Such open end is provided with a thickened bead 16 which locates on a shoulder 17 formed in the bore of the shield 10. The plug is double headed and has a tapered shank joining the two heads, one of which is however, larger than the other. The flat surface under the larger of the heads engages the bead 16, of the teat and secures it against its shoulder 17 in the shield 10. The smaller head of the plug 14 traps the teat against another shoulder 18 in the bore of the shield 10, such shoulder 18 being presented in the opposite direction to the shoulder 17. Between the two shoulders 17 and 18 there is defined a frusto conical section 19 of the bore which also serves to trap the teat and force it against the correspondingly tapered shank of the plug 14.

The bulbous end of the teat 15 extends from the shield away from the handle 11.

The boss of the shield 10 and the larger head of the plug 14, which is domed, form a substantially continuous approximately part-spherical surface so that it is almost impossible to detach the plug from the shield and thus separate the three components of the soother.

To assemble the parts the teat is introduced into the bore of the boss of the shield 10 and the plug is then forced into place to trap it. Since the smaller end of the plug 14 is also headed, as described, this resists separation of the components.

In the alternative construction shown in Figure 3, the shield is made from two parts 20, 21 secured together at their inner and outer peripheries. A space 22 is defined between these parts and in this are loosely carried a number of glass beads 23 or other objects intended to provide a rattle effect when the soother is moved.

The two parts 20, 21 are preferably welded together at their edges and both are plastics mouldings. The handle 11 is formed integrally with the part 20 of this shield.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A baby soother comprising a shield carrying a teat extending from one side thereof, the shield also having, on its side remote from the teat, a handle formed integrally therewith, the handle incorporating an integral hinge whereby a main portion of the handle can be hinged relatively to a portion of the handle fixed to the shield.

2. A baby soother as claimed in Claim 1 in which the handle is substantially arcuate in shape and has respective portions at its ends joined to the shield and said main

portion connected to said respective end portions by respective integral hinges.

3. A baby soother as claimed in either of the preceding Claims in which the teat is connected to the shield by a plug engaging in a boss in the shield to trap a portion of the teat therein.

4. A baby soother as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the shield has two parts secured together and between them is defined a space containing beads.

5. A baby soother substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings.

6. A baby soother substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

MARKS & CLERK,

Lombard House,

144, Great Charles Street,
Birmingham, 3.

Agents for the Applicants.



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20 2. A baby soother as claimed in Claim 1 in which the handle is substantially arcuate in shape and has respective portions at its ends joined to the shield and said main

portion connected to said respective end portions by respective integral hinges.

30 3. A baby soother as claimed in either of the preceding Claims in which the teat is connected to the shield by a plug engaging in a boss in the shield to trap a portion of the teat therein.

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