

HAIR COSMETIC MATERIAL APPLICATOR

BACKGROUND

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a hair cosmetic material applicator used to apply various hair cosmetic materials, such as hair dyes, to hair, such as scalp hair.

[0002] When doing self-application of a hair cosmetic material to a head, a hair cosmetic material applicator is used. For example, in a case where the hair cosmetic material is a viscous formulation in the form of cream, gel, or the like having a relatively low fluidity, a product package for the hair cosmetic material contains a hair cosmetic material applicator for self use in some cases, together with tube containers each filled with a first agent, a second agent, or the like of the hair cosmetic material. The hair cosmetic material applicator generally comprises a brush section and a comb section, and further comprises a slice-taking stick in some cases. The brush section is a member comprising densely-planted brush bristles, onto which the hair cosmetic material is put for application to hair. The comb section comprises multiple comb teeth arranged with certain mutual intervals. The hair cosmetic material applied to the hair is allowed to be distributed evenly throughout the hair by combing by such multiple comb teeth. The slice-taking stick is a member for taking a slice of hair.

[0003] In the specification of the subject application, the hair cosmetic material applicator is also referred to simply as an “applicator”. The terms “self-application”, “for self use”, and the like refer to a type of usage in which a user of the hair cosmetic material applies the hair cosmetic material by himself/herself by means of the applicator using a mirror or the like at home or elsewhere, neither by performance by a hairdresser or the like, nor with aid from others. While the applicator of the present disclosure is used for self use particularly preferably, the applicator can also be used preferably in other usages, for example in the case where a hairdresser performs the

service for a client. Further, the terms “to take a slice”, “slice-taking”, and the like refer to an operation of parting hair by means of a member such as the slice-taking stick to expose a target of application of the hair cosmetic material during a blocking operation or the like for application of the hair cosmetic material.

[0004] The applicator for self use is required to have a shape and size allowing the applicator to be easily stored in the product package of the hair cosmetic material and also required to be inexpensive. Thus, generally, the respective members forming the applicator are integrated compactly, and the applicator is a plastic molding having a shape like a flat thin plate as a whole.

[0005] A hair coloring tool of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2004-154426 (hereinafter referred to as Patent Document 1) comprises: a grip section, which is a thin-plate-like handle section having a specified length; a comb section with multiple comb teeth projected is provided at one side of a leading end portion of the grip section; and a brush section with brush bristles planted is provided at the other side. Further, a slice-taking stick is projected from a rear end portion of the grip section along an axis of the grip section. In use of the applicator, a hair cosmetic material is applied onto hair by means of the brush section, and then the hair is combed with the comb section to thereby distribute the hair cosmetic material throughout the hair.

[0006] A hair coloring tool of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2001-000244 (hereinafter referred to as Patent Document 2) has a configuration basically similar to that of the above-described hair coloring tool of Patent Document 1. However, the hair coloring tool of Patent Document 2 is configured to be foldable by folding back a slice-taking stick onto a surface of a thin-plate-like grip section when the hair coloring tool is not in use, in consideration of convenience in storing it in a product package and convenience in carrying it around.

[0007] A comb for hair coloring of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

Publication No. 2005-021666 (hereinafter referred to as Patent Document 3) also has a configuration in which a comb section, a brush section, and a slice-taking stick are provided to a grip section, which is a base member. However, in the embodiments shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 of Patent Document 3, the slice-taking stick does not project from a rear end portion of the grip section, but projects from a leading end portion of the grip section, where the comb section and the brush section are provided, in a leading end direction along an axis of the grip section.

SUMMARY

[0008] In performing self-application of a hair cosmetic material using the applicator disclosed in each of Patent Documents 1 to 3, it is a general procedure to first move the tip of the slice-taking stick along an intended parting line of a block of scalp hair with the tip kept in contact with a head (parting movement), to thereby take a slice of scalp hair. As a result, the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line is exposed from the root thereof. Then, the taken slice of scalp hair is fastened by a clip or the like, and the hair cosmetic material is applied onto the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line with the brush section.

[0009] Such a slice-taking procedure is, however, based on the assumption that a user has long hair. Specifically, it is presupposed that the taken slice of scalp hair is long and thus the parted scalp hair is restrained by the slice-taking stick even after passage of the slice-taking stick in the parting movement. In the case of a user with short hair, the parted scalp hair becomes free from the restraint by the slice-taking stick after passage of the slice-taking stick in the parting movement; thus, the parting line of the parted scalp hair is deformed in the process of slice-taking. As a result, it is difficult to successfully part the scalp hair into blocks whose parting lines are orderly. Even in the case of the user with long hair, such an inconvenience could occur if the user is not skilled in the slice-taking.

[0010] In each hair coloring tool disclosed in Patent Documents 1 and 2, the slice-taking stick is provided at one end of the grip section, which is the handle section of the coloring tool, and the comb section and the brush section are provided at the other end. Thus, during the slice-taking by means of the slice-taking stick, it is impossible to use the comb section or the brush section together in any mode.

[0011] In the comb for hair coloring disclosed in FIGS. 5 and 6 of Patent Document 3, the comb section, the brush section, and the slice-taking stick are provided together at one end portion of the grip section, which is the handle section. However, the slice-taking stick (particularly its tip) and the comb section are greatly spaced apart from each other, and projecting directions of comb teeth and the slice-taking stick are different from each other by approximately 90°, which is a big difference. Thus, it is difficult to use the comb section or the brush section at the same time as slice-taking by the slice-taking stick in any mode.

[0012] In one aspect of the present disclosure, it is desirable to be able to provide a hair cosmetic material applicator that makes it easy for the user to perform successful slice-taking by himself/herself even in a case where the user has short hair or where the user with long hair is not skilled in slice-taking.

[0013] The inventors of the subject application have found that it is effective to improve a spatially positional relationship of a slice-taking stick with respect to multiple comb teeth of a comb section in order to provide the applicator for self use described above.

[0014] One aspect of the present disclosure is a hair cosmetic material applicator comprising: a comb section with multiple comb teeth projected in a projected direction; and a slice-taking stick projecting from a leading end of the comb section and having a top end positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section.

[0015] In the above-described applicator, during a slice-taking operation by

oneself, the multiple comb teeth of the comb section follow after the slice-taking stick with a distance kept therefrom. Thus, even when a user's scalp hair is short, it is easy to keep the parting line of the taken slice of scalp hair as it is utilizing the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. Accordingly, deformation of the parting line of the block of the scalp hair does not occur in the process of the slice-taking, thereby making it easy to successfully part the scalp hair into blocks whose parting lines are orderly.

[0016] On the other hand, since the top end of the slice-taking stick is positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section, the slice-taking stick does not interfere with the multiple comb teeth of the comb section during the slice-taking by the top end of the slice-taking stick.

[0017] The comb section comprises: a base having one side surface; and the multiple comb teeth arranged on the one side surface of the base and projected from the base. The slice-taking stick projects from a leading end side of the base in arrangement directions of the multiple comb teeth to a side to which the multiple comb teeth are projected. The top end of the slice-taking stick may be arranged spaced apart from the comb section by a distance larger than a distance between the multiple comb teeth adjacent to one another.

[0018] In the above-described applicator, during a slice-taking operation by oneself, the multiple comb teeth follow after the slice-taking stick at a side of the base where the multiple comb teeth are projected. The slice of hair taken by the slice-taking stick is kept by the multiple comb teeth that follow after the slice-taking stick. Thus, even when the taken slice of scalp hair is short, it is easy to keep the parting line of the scalp hair as it is utilizing the multiple comb teeth of the comb section.

[0019] The slice-taking stick may project: (1) in a direction inclined with respect to the projected direction; and/or (2) spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section.

[0020] The configuration of the slice-taking stick of the applicator is not

limited as long as the slice-taking stick projects from the leading end of the comb section and has the top end positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section as defined in the above-described disclosure. However, the slice-taking stick projecting in a manner as described in (1) and/or (2) can be exemplified as an embodiment.

[0021] In the case of (1), the slice-taking stick projects in a direction with an angle opening with respect to the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. As a result, the top end of the slice-taking stick is positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section; thus, the above-described effect is secured. In the case of (2), the slice-taking stick projects somewhat spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. As a result, the top end of the slice-taking stick is naturally positioned somewhat spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section; thus, the above-described effect is also secured.

[0022] A height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction may be equal to or smaller than a height of the comb teeth in the projected direction.

[0023] The height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction of the multiple comb teeth is equal to or smaller than that of the multiple comb teeth. The height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction may be equal to or smaller than the tallest one of the multiple comb teeth. Thus, the top end of the slice-taking stick does not interfere with a combing operation by the comb section for distributing a hair cosmetic material evenly to the scalp hair after application of the hair cosmetic material to the taken slice of scalp hair.

[0024] An imaginary line connecting top ends of the multiple comb teeth in the comb section forms a curved line having a concave arc-like shape, and a bottom of the curved line having the concave arc-like shape may be positioned deviated from a center of the comb section to a leading end side thereof.

[0025] In this case, since the imaginary line connecting the top ends of the

multiple comb teeth in the comb section forms the curved line having the concave arc-like shape, the comb section fits well to a human head having an outer shape basically similar to a spherical shape. Further, since the bottom of the curved line having the concave arc-like shape is positioned deviated from the center of the comb section to the leading end side thereof, the above-described effect of the present disclosure: “the parting line of the taken slice of scalp hair is kept as it is using the multiple comb teeth of the comb section” is secured more easily.

[0026] The hair cosmetic material applicator of the present disclosure may further comprise: a handle section provided extending from a rear end portion of the comb section; and/or a brush section provided on a rear side with respect to the projected direction in the comb section.

[0027] In the former case, the hair cosmetic material applicator comprises the handle section provided extending from the rear end portion of the comb section in arrangement directions of the comb section; thus, operability of the applicator is further improved. Moreover, in the latter case, the hair cosmetic material applicator comprises the brush section provided on the rear side with respect to the projected direction of the multiple comb teeth in the comb section. Thus, the comb section and the brush section can be used for different purposes merely by rotating the handle section of the applicator about its axis by 180° in the hand; thus, operability of the applicator is still further improved.

[0028] A distance between the top end of the slice-taking stick and one of the multiple comb teeth adjacent to the slice-taking stick may be 0.5 cm or more and 2 cm or less. The height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction may be smaller than the height of the multiple comb teeth in the projected direction by 0.5 mm or more and 10 mm or less.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0029] Example embodiments of the present disclosure will be described

below by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a front view of a hair cosmetic material applicator according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the hair cosmetic material applicator according to the embodiment of the present disclosure, in which a brush section is shown by an imaginary line (a two-dot chain line);

FIG. 3 is a simplified diagram illustrating a use state of the hair cosmetic material applicator according to the embodiment of the present disclosure, in which part of a comb section and part of the brush section are shown by imaginary lines (two-dot chain lines); and

FIG. 4 is a front view of a hair cosmetic material applicator according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0030] An embodiment of the present disclosure, including the best mode thereof, will be described below. The technical scope of the present disclosure is not limited by the below-described embodiment.

[0031] [Hair Cosmetic Material Applicator]

A hair cosmetic material applicator of the present disclosure comprises: a comb section with multiple comb teeth projected; and a slice-taking stick projecting from a leading end of the comb section and having a top end positioned somewhat apart from the comb teeth of the comb section. The applicator of the present disclosure may further comprise: a handle section provided extending from a rear end portion of the comb section in arrangement directions of the comb section; and/or a brush section provided on a rear side with respect to a projected direction of the comb teeth in the comb section.

[0032] Each member forming the applicator may have a concave-convex shape, a thin part, or the like as appropriate, in consideration of design properties,

ease of handling, reduction of material cost, and so on.

[0033] Further, the applicator of the present disclosure may optionally comprise a member other than the above-described ones, such as a non-slip member, a mini brush, a mini comb, or a joint for mounting other optional members, as long as such optional members do not inhibit effects of the present disclosure. The mini brush and the mini comb refer to small-sized brushes and combs, respectively, to be used for a hairline.

[0034] It is preferable that the applicator of the present disclosure be a plastic die-molded article. Part or whole of the applicator may be made of metal, wood, or others. Brush bristles of brush bristle bundles are difficult to dye-mold, and are usually planted. Animal/vegetable-derived hard fibers can be used as the brush bristles; however, plastic fibers are preferable in terms of costs, processability, and so on.

[0035] In the applicator of the present disclosure, the above-described essential members and other members may be formed integrally, or a mounting style may be adopted in which they are formed as separate members and mounted together. Alternatively, some members may be configured to be foldable as disclosed in Patent Document 2.

[0036] The mounting-style includes a detachable style in which a mounted member can be detached, and a non-detachable style in which a mounted member cannot be detached. A configuration of the joint for mounting the member is not limited, and various mounting mechanisms can be employed, such as a configuration in which a screw of one member and a threaded hole in the other member are screwed together, or a configuration in which a hook projected from one member is put into a hook hole in the other member to couple the members together.

[0037] Next, it is preferable that the applicator of the present disclosure have a configuration in which respective members, such as the comb section and the slice-taking stick, are provided on the same plane, that is, a configuration in which the entirety of the applicator has a shape like a thin plate, from the

standpoint of ease of storage in a package box, and so on. Being “provided on the same plane” refers to a state in which respective members are positioned along the completely same plane, or a state in which respective members are positioned along the substantially same plane.

[0038] In forming the applicator into a thin-plate-like shape as a whole, the thickness of the applicator is optionally decided in consideration of the physical strength of the applicator and/or ease of storage in the package box. For example, the thickest portion of the applicator may be 15 mm or less, and particularly preferably about 5 to 10 mm. The size of the entirety of the applicator in a planar direction is also decided optionally in consideration of ease of storage in the package box, and so on. For example, the size of the applicator in the planar direction thereof measured from one longitudinal end to the other longitudinal end of the applicator may be 25 cm or less, and particularly preferably about 15 to 20 cm.

[0039] [Comb Section]

The comb section comprises the multiple comb teeth. These comb teeth are arranged linearly in arrangement directions of the comb section (also referred to as “directions L1”) with certain mutual intervals, or regularly arranged in a non-linear staggered manner. The comb teeth are projected in a direction (also referred to as a “direction T”) perpendicular to the directions L1. The height of the respective comb teeth (projected width in the direction T) is not limited, and can be, for example, about 10 to 20 mm. The width of the comb section in the arrangement directions (the length in the directions L1) is not limited, and can be, for example, about 40 to 120 mm.

[0040] The comb section may be configured such that, as viewed from a front side in FIG. 1, an imaginary line connecting top ends of the multiple comb teeth is a straight line by forming the multiple comb teeth in the comb section to have the same height. More preferably, the imaginary line connecting the top ends of the multiple comb teeth forms a curved line having a concave

arc-like shape. Particularly, for the reason described above, it is preferable that a bottom of the curved line having the concave arc-like shape be positioned deviated from the center of the comb section to a leading end side thereof.

[0041] The depth of the curvature in the curved line having the concave arc-like shape (i.e., a difference in height between both ends and the bottom of the curved line) can be optionally set and can be, for example, about 1 to 4 mm. It is particularly preferable that the bottom of the curved line be deviated from the center of the comb section in the arrangement directions to the leading end side of the comb section by, for example, about 5 to 10 mm.

[0042] The comb section may comprise: a base having one side surface; and the multiple comb teeth arranged on the one side surface of the base and projected from the base. The slice-taking stick may project from a leading end side of the base in arrangement directions of the multiple comb teeth to a side to which the comb teeth are projected. The top end of the slice-taking stick may be arranged spaced apart from the comb section by a distance larger than a distance between the comb teeth adjacent to one another. The distance between the top end of the slice-taking stick and the comb tooth adjacent to the slice-taking stick may be larger than the distance between the comb teeth. In this application, the distance between the top end of the slice-taking stick and the comb tooth adjacent to the slice-taking stick means a distance between the central axis of the comb tooth adjacent to the slice-taking stick extending in an extending direction of the comb tooth, which is one of the multiple comb teeth of the comb section, and a straight line extended from the top end of the slice-taking stick in parallel to the central axis. The distance between the comb teeth means a distance between the central axes of the comb teeth adjacent to one another. The distance between the comb teeth is preferably 1 to 7 mm, and more preferably 2 to 5 mm.

[0043] [Slice-taking Stick]

The slice-taking stick is a member projecting from the leading end of the comb section in the arrangement directions thereof and having the top end positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. The shape and length of the slice-taking stick is not limited, and the slice-taking stick can be a linear member, for example, having a length of about 15 to 20 mm and tapering toward the top end.

[0044] As the embodiment configured such that “the top end of the slice-taking stick is positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section”, at least two modes can be exemplified, that is, (1) the mode in which the slice-taking stick projects in a direction with an angle opening with respect to the multiple comb teeth of the comb section, and (2) the mode in which the slice-taking stick projects spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. However, the embodiment is not limited to these modes. The distance (spaced width) between the top end of the slice-taking stick and the comb tooth adjacent to the slice-taking stick can be, for example, about 0.5 to 2 cm, but is not limited to such a spaced width.

[0045] In the above-described mode (1), specifically, the slice-taking stick projects in a direction with an angle between the directions L1 and the direction T described above (for example, in a direction with an angle of about 15° to 30° opening with respect to the direction T); thus, the top end is to be positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. In this case, the slice-taking stick may project directly from the leading end of the comb section, or may project from a position where the leading end of the comb section is extended a little in the arrangement directions.

[0046] In the above-described mode (2), specifically, the slice-taking stick projects from the position where the leading end of the comb section is extended a little in the arrangement directions; thus, the top end is to be positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. In this case, the slice-taking stick may project in a direction with an angle

between the directions L1 and the direction T, or may project in a direction substantially parallel to the direction T.

[0047] In the above-described mode (1) and/or mode (2), for the above-described reason, the height, in the direction T, of the top end of the slice-taking stick positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section is preferably equal to or smaller than the height of the respective comb teeth, and more preferably smaller than the height of the respective comb teeth. Specifically, the height of the top end of the slice-taking stick is preferably smaller than the height of the respective comb teeth by 0.5 to 10 mm, and particularly preferably smaller by 0.5 to 5 mm. If the height of the top end of the slice-taking stick in the direction T is excessively smaller than the respective comb teeth, for example, smaller by as much as 10 mm or more, there is a risk of somewhat reducing operability of the slice-taking stick in slice-taking.

[0048] [Brush Section]

The applicator of the present disclosure may comprise the brush section. Also in the case where the applicator comprises the brush section, a position where the brush section is provided in the applicator is not limited. However, for the above-described reason, it is preferable that the applicator comprise the brush section, and as for the position where the brush section is provided in the applicator, it is preferable that the brush section be provided on the rear side with respect to the projected direction of the multiple comb teeth in the comb section. The brush section may comprise the brush bristles and/or the brush teeth. It is preferable that the brush section comprise: a shorter teeth group with multiple brush teeth; and a longer teeth group with multiple brush teeth longer than the brush teeth of the shorter teeth group. Further, the brush section may comprise a medium teeth group with multiple brush teeth having a length between that of the brush teeth of the shorter teeth group and that of the brush teeth of the longer teeth group. It is preferable that the medium teeth group be arranged between the longer

teeth group and the shorter teeth group. The brush bristles of the brush section may be planted so as to extend in a direction substantially opposite the direction T of the multiple comb teeth of the comb section. In the case where the multiple comb teeth are projected from the above-described one side surface of the base in the comb section, the brush section may be provided to the other side surface of the base opposite the one side surface from which the multiple comb teeth are projected.

[0049] The brush section may comprise a plurality of or multiple brush bristle bundles, which are brush bristles bundled and planted. These brush bristle bundles preferably have a thickness of about 2 to 6 mm, and can be arranged, for example, in a straight line, or in a so-called staggered manner, with mutual intervals of a few millimeters.

[0050] The brush bristle bundles may be configured with, for example, brush bristles having a constant length within a range of about 8 to 30 mm, or may be configured with brush bristles having a randomly varied length within a range of about 8 to 30 mm. Alternatively, the brush section may comprise a stepped structure configured with a shorter bristle portion with uniformly shorter brush bristles planted and a longer bristle portion with uniformly longer brush bristles planted. In the case where the brush section comprises such a stepped structure, the length of the bristles in the longer bristle portion is within a range of about 8 to 30 mm, and the length of the bristles in the shorter bristle portion is shorter than that by a few millimeters.

[0051] [Handle Section]

The applicator of the present disclosure may comprise the handle section. Also in the case where the applicator comprises the handle section, a position where the handle section is provided in the applicator is not limited. However, for the above-described reason, it is preferable that the applicator comprise the handle section, and as for the position where the handle section is provided in the applicator, it is preferable that the handle section be provided extending from the rear end portion of the comb section

in the arrangement directions. The direction in which the handle section is extendingly provided is not limited, and the handle section can be extendingly provided, for example, in the arrangement directions of the comb section, or in a direction a little inclined with respect to the arrangement directions of the comb section, in consideration of operability of the applicator.

[0052] The length of the handle section is not limited, and the handle section can be a thin-plate-shaped member having a length of, for example, about 7 to 13 cm. Further, it is also possible to provide, for example, a wider portion and a narrower portion to the thin-plate-like handle section for the purposes of ease of grip and/or prevention of slip when being gripped, and/or to provide a non-slip concave-convex portion with appropriate patterns on the front side and/or the back side of the thin-plate-like handle section.

[0053] [Embodiment]

An embodiment of the present disclosure will be described below with reference to FIGS. 1 to 4. The technical scope of the present disclosure is not limited to the below-described embodiment.

[0054] First, a configuration of an applicator 1 of the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. The entirety of the applicator 1 of the present embodiment has a shape like a thin plate with a thickness of approximately 5 mm, and has a length of approximately 18 cm along a vertical axis in FIGS. 1 and 2. Provided on a leading end side of the applicator 1 are a comb section 2 and a brush section 3, and a slice-taking stick 4 is projected from a leading end of the comb section 2. A handle section 5 is provided extending from a rear end portion of the comb section 2 (or from a rear end of a portion where the comb section 2 and the brush section 3 are provided). The applicator 1 is a plastic one-piece molded article aside from the brush section 3. Although FIGS. 1 and 2 show the applicator 1 in a simple manner, each adequate section in the applicator 1 may have a concave-convex shape and/or a thin part or a thick part of various

types, in consideration of design properties and handleability.

[0055] The comb section 2 comprises a base part 8 having an elongated plate shape, and multiple comb teeth 6 arranged in arrangement directions L1 along one side surface of the base part 8. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, in the comb section 2, the multiple comb teeth 6 regularly arranged in a staggered manner are projected in a projected direction T from the base part 8. The entire length, in the arrangement directions L1, of the base part 8 from which the multiple comb teeth 6 are projected is approximately 50 mm. The height of the multiple comb teeth 6 measured from the base part 8 in the projected direction T is within a range of around 18 to 20 mm. The height of the respective comb teeth 6 may be non-identical, and a configuration may be employed in which a line connecting the top ends of the respective comb teeth 6 forms a curved line α having a concave arc-like shape as shown in FIG. 1. In such a case, when the curved line α is viewed with respect to a linear basal part for the respective comb teeth 6, a bottom point A, which is a bottom of the curved line α , is positioned deviated to the leading end side by about 10 mm from the center of the comb section 2 in the arrangement directions L1.

[0056] The brush section 3 and the comb section 2 are provided in a substantially line-symmetrical manner with respect to a center line of the applicator 1 in longitudinal directions L3. The brush section 3 comprises a plurality of or multiple brush bristle bundles 7, which are brush bristles bundled and planted. The brush section 3 is provided to the other side surface of the base part 8 opposite the above-described one side surface. The brush bristle bundles 7 are planted so as to extend in a direction substantially opposite the projected direction T of the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2. In the brush section 3, the brush bristle bundles 7 are arranged in arrangement directions L2. The arrangement directions L2 of the brush section 3 and the arrangement directions L1 of the comb section 2 are substantially line-symmetrical with respect to a center line S of the applicator

1 along a longitudinal axis thereof. The arrangement directions L1 of the comb section 2 and the arrangement directions L2 of the brush section 3 are inclined with respect to the center line S of the applicator 1 in the longitudinal directions L3 such that the respective comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2 and the brush bristle bundles 7 of the brush section 3 become gradually closer to each other from a side closer to the handle section 5 toward a side away therefrom.

[0057] The length of the brush bristles of the brush section 3 is approximately 25 mm. In FIG. 1, the respective brush bristle bundles 7 are depicted such that the bundled brush bristles have the constant length; however, the length of the brush bristles in each brush bristle bundle 7 may be randomly varied to a certain extent.

[0058] In the case where the entirety of the applicator 1 is shaped like a thin plate with the thickness of approximately 5 mm as described above, the vicinity of the other side surface of the base part 8, where the multiple brush bristle bundles 7 of the brush section 3 are planted, may be designed to have the thickness of approximately 7 to 8 mm, which is relatively thick, from the standpoint of securing a supporting strength for the planting.

[0059] The slice-taking stick 4 having a length of approximately 20 mm projects from a position spaced apart by a few millimeters from the comb tooth 6 located at the leading end of the comb section 2, in a direction in which an angle γ with respect to the projected direction T of the comb teeth 6 becomes approximately 20° . The comb section 2 comprises the base part 8 and the multiple comb teeth 6 arranged on the one side surface of the base part 8 in the arrangement directions L1 and projected from the base part 8. The slice-taking stick 4 projects from the leading end, in the arrangement directions L1, of the base part 8 to a side to which the multiple comb teeth 6 project. The top end of the slice-taking stick 4 is arranged spaced apart from the comb section 2 by a distance larger than a distance between the adjacent comb teeth 6, 6. As a result, the top end of the slice-taking stick 4

is positioned somewhat (approximately 1.5 cm) apart from the comb tooth 6 located at the leading end of the comb section 2. The distance between the adjacent comb teeth 6, 6 of the comb section 2 (i.e., a distance between central axes of the comb teeth 6, 6) is 3.5 mm; thus, the slice-taking stick 4 is arranged spaced apart by a distance larger than the distance between the comb teeth 6, 6. The height of the slice-taking stick 4 in the projected direction T of the multiple comb teeth 6 is smaller than that of the comb tooth 6 located at the leading end of the comb section 2 by approximately 1 mm.

[0060] The handle section 5 is provided extending from the rear end of the comb section 2 substantially in the arrangement directions L1 of the comb section 2. The handle section 5 is integrally provided to a rear end of the base part 8. The base part 8 and the handle section 5 are made of plastic. The length of the handle section 5 in the longitudinal directions L3 is approximately 10 cm. In view of ease of grip and, further, reliability at re-gripping the handle section 5 with one hand in using the comb section 2 and the brush section 3 for different purposes, the handle section 5 is designed to have a planar shape in which a width perpendicular to the longitudinal directions L3 varies. Specifically, a larger width and a smaller width alternate to create a wavy shape as shown in the drawings.

[0061] Next, a use state of the applicator 1 of the present embodiment in self use will be described with reference to FIG. 3. FIG. 3 shows a schematic of the use state, and does not show details of specific descriptions below.

[0062] For example, the user grips the handle section 5 of the applicator 1 with one hand, which is his/her dominant hand, and takes a slice of scalp hair. At this time, the applicator 1 is to be gripped such that the comb section 2 with the slice-taking stick 4 projected therefrom is easily directed to face the user's head. Then, slice-taking is performed by moving the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 in a direction M shown in FIG. 3 along an intended parting line of scalp hair to be blocked, with the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 kept in contact with his/her scalp of the head where a slice of scalp

hair is to be taken (parting movement), to thereby expose the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line from the root thereof.

[0063] The height of the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 is smaller by approximately 1 mm than the height, in the projected direction T, of the comb tooth 6 located at the leading end in the arrangement directions L1. Thus, during the above-described slice-taking, in order to keep the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 in contact with the scalp, for example, the applicator 1 having the slice-taking stick 4 as its leading end can be caused to contact a contact surface of the head in a position raised with an angle of about 2° to 25°, more preferably about 2° to 20°, with respect to the contact surface of the head. If this angle is excessively large like, for example, 30°, it becomes difficult to securely keep the parting line of the scalp hair by the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2, which will be described below.

[0064] When moving the slice-taking stick 4 along an intended parting line, a planar surface of the applicator 1 having a shape like a thin plate as a whole may stand perpendicular to the scalp surface or may be inclined, as long as the applicator 1 keeps the position raised with the above-described angle with respect to the head.

[0065] During such parting movement in the slice-taking, immediately after passage of the top end of the slice-taking stick 4, the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2 follow after the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 with a little distance (approximately 1.5 cm) kept therefrom. Thus, even when the user's scalp hair is short, the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2 subsequently keeps the parting line of the scalp hair as long as the length of the scalp hair is not 1.5 cm or shorter, theoretically. Accordingly, no inconvenience occurs, such as deformation of the parting line of the block of the scalp hair when the parted scalp hair becomes free from restraint by the slice-taking stick 4 after passage of the slice-taking stick 4. Further, since the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2 are somewhat apart from the

top end of the slice-taking stick 4, the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2 do not hinder the slice-taking stick 4 from performing slice-taking operation.

[0066] Notably, since the curved line α connecting the top ends of the respective comb teeth 6 has the concave arc-like shape and the bottom point A of the curved line α is positioned deviated to the leading end side by about 10 mm from the center of the comb section 2 in the arrangement directions L1, the above-described effect in the slice-taking is secured more easily.

[0067] After performing the slice-taking by the above-described operation, the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line is held by hand or fastened by a clip, and then a hair cosmetic material is put onto the brush section 3 of the applicator 1 to apply it to the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line. Next, the hair cosmetic material applied onto surface of the scalp hair adjacent to the parting line is evenly distributed to the scalp hair by combing by the comb section 2 of the applicator 1. At this time, the slice-taking stick 4 does not hinder such combing operation by the comb section 2 because the height of the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 is smaller than the height of the respective comb teeth 6 in the projected direction T by approximately 1 mm.

[0068] The applicator 1 of another embodiment is shown in FIG. 4. The applicator 1 comprises the comb section 2, the brush section 3, the slice-taking stick 4, and the handle section 5. The comb section 2 and the slice-taking stick 4 are similar to those of the above-described embodiment.

[0069] In the applicator 1 of such another embodiment, the brush section 3 comprises a base 80 provided on the other side surface of the base part 8, and multiple brush teeth. The base 80 has a surface perpendicular to a planar direction of the base part 8, and the multiple brush teeth are provided on such surface. The brush section 3 comprises a shorter teeth group 71 having the multiple brush teeth and a pair of longer teeth groups 72 having the multiple brush teeth. The shorter teeth group 71 is arranged in the center of the base

80. The pair of longer teeth groups 72 are each arranged on either side of the shorter teeth group 71 in directions the same as those of the shorter teeth group 71. The height of the respective brush teeth of the pair of longer teeth groups 72 is about 3 to 15 mm, and the height of the respective brush teeth of the shorter teeth group 71 is smaller than that of each longer teeth group 72 by a few millimeters. The shorter teeth group 71 and the pair of longer teeth groups 72 form a stepped structure. Provided to a leading end of the brush section 3 in the arrangement directions is a leading end brush teeth section 73. The leading end brush teeth section 73 is arranged spaced apart from the brush teeth of the shorter teeth group 71 and the pair of longer teeth groups 72, and extends in a direction inclined with respect to an extending direction of the brush teeth of the shorter teeth group 71 and the pair of longer teeth groups 72. An end brush section 74 is provided on a side opposite the leading end brush section 73 in the arrangement directions in the brush section 3.

[0070] The handle section 5 has a grid pattern on its surface and has multiple ornamental holes arranged therein.

[0071] One example of a method of using the applicator 1 shown in FIG. 4 will be described below. For example, a hair cosmetic material is put onto the brush section 3, and the hair cosmetic material is applied to hair by moving the brush section 3 over the scalp from the root of the hair to hair ends. In a case where the hair cosmetic material is composed of two kinds of agents, that is, a first agent and a second agent, it is possible to put the two kinds of agents onto the brush section 3 to apply them to hair. When the hair cosmetic material is put onto the brush section 3, the hair cosmetic material is held by the shorter teeth group 71, the longer teeth groups 72, and the end brush section 74 of the brush section 3. When moving the brush section 3 over the scalp, it is possible to apply the hair cosmetic material to hair while combing the hair with the longer teeth groups 72, and the shorter teeth group 71 makes it easy to release the hair cosmetic material from the brush section

3. Further, since the brush teeth of the longer teeth groups 72 and the shorter teeth group 71 are arranged in a staggered manner, in the case where the hair cosmetic material is composed of the two kinds of agents, they are mixed well. The leading end brush teeth section 73 extending in an inclined manner is used for application of the hair cosmetic material to delicate portions, such as sideburns.

[0072] After application of the hair cosmetic material throughout the hair, the hair is combed from the roots thereof with the comb section 2 to thereby smoothly spread the hair cosmetic material throughout the hair.

[0073] Before application of the hair cosmetic material by means of the brush section 3, the slice-taking is performed by means of the slice-taking stick 4. Similarly to the applicator 1 shown in FIG. 2, the applicator 1 shown in FIG. 4 is configured such that the top end of the slice-taking stick 4 is positioned spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth 6 of the comb section 2. Thus, deformation of the parting line of the block of the hair is unlikely to occur in the process of slice-taking.

[0074] [Industrial Applicability]

According to the present disclosure, an applicator is provided that makes it easy for a user to perform successful slice-taking by himself/herself even in a case where the user has short hair or where the user with long hair is not skilled in slice-taking.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hair cosmetic material applicator comprising:
a comb section with multiple comb teeth projected in a projected direction; and
a slice-taking stick projecting from a leading end of the comb section and having
a top end positioned somewhat apart from the multiple comb teeth of the comb section,
wherein the projected direction is a direction perpendicular to arrangement
directions of the multiple comb teeth, and
wherein the slice-taking stick projects in a direction inclined with respect to the
projected direction with an angle between the projected direction and the arrangement
directions, the angle being 15° to 30° opening with respect to the projected
direction.
2. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to claim 1,
wherein the comb section comprises:
a base having one side surface; and
the multiple comb teeth arranged on the one side surface of the base and
projected from the base, and
wherein the slice-taking stick projects from a leading end side of the base in
arrangement directions to a side to which the multiple comb teeth are projected, the top
end of the slice-taking stick being arranged spaced apart from the comb section by a
distance larger than a distance between the multiple comb teeth adjacent to one another.
3. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to claim 1,
wherein the slice-taking stick projects spaced apart from the multiple comb teeth
of the comb section.
4. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to claim 1,
wherein a height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction is equal to or
smaller than a height of the multiple comb teeth in the projected direction.

5. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to claim 1,
wherein an imaginary line connecting top ends of the multiple comb teeth in the comb section forms a curved line having a concave arc-like shape, a bottom of the curved line having the concave arc-like shape being positioned deviated from a center of the comb section to a leading end side thereof.

6. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to claim 1, further comprising:

a handle section provided extending from a rear end portion of the comb section;
and/or

a brush section provided on a rear side with respect to the projected direction in the comb section.

7. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein a distance between the top end of the slice-taking stick and one of the multiple comb teeth adjacent to the slice-taking stick is 0.5 cm or more and 2 cm or less.

8. The hair cosmetic material applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein the height of the slice-taking stick in the projected direction is smaller than the height of the multiple comb teeth in the projected direction by 0.5 mm or more and 10 mm or less.