

COSMETIC HAND COVER FOR A HOOK

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INTRODUCTION

A glove-like cosmetic hand cover which can be readily slipped on and off a hook, and pocketed by the wearer, can be a useful adjunct to the equipment of a cosmesis-conscious hook user.

The authors do not conceive this device as universally applicable, since there are many hook users who manifest no concern about the appearance of the hook. However, there are others who, when in unfamiliar public places, will invariably attempt to hide the distal end of the prosthesis by inserting the terminal device into a side pocket. It is for such patients that the cosmetic cover was devised (Fig. 1, 2, and 3).



FIGURE 1.—The uncovered hook.



FIGURE 2.—The cosmetic cover has been applied. Note curve in middle finger which receives the fingers of the hook.



FIGURE 3.—Note curve in middle finger. Allowing the initial curve to remain unmodified does not affect the ease of insertion of the hook into the cover, and will retain the hook-carrying function.

The procedure of donning and doffing the cosmetic glove is much more simply and more rapidly accomplished (Fig. 4 and 5) than that of switching from a hook terminal device to a hand terminal device. In addition, the confirmed hook user who has some need for cosmesis is not pleased

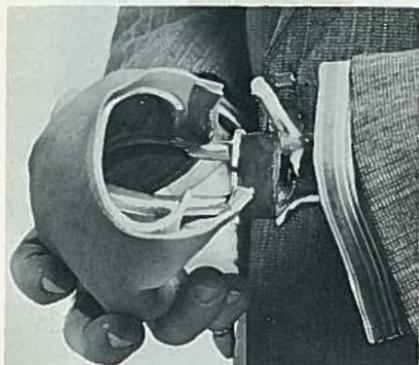


FIGURE 4.—Inserting the hook.



FIGURE 5.—The hook seated within the cosmetic cover prior to closure of the zipper.

with the necessity to change to a functional or passive hand. When he knows that his hook is readily available beneath his cosmetic hand cover he is provided with a comfortable feeling of security. The hook is always there and can be put to use immediately. For example, a hook wearer can use his hook to drive his car to a social event, and then slip on his cosmetic glove with much the same ease that a non-amputee would require to put on his gloves.

FABRICATION TECHNIQUE

Fabrication of Flexible Shell

1. Select a basic inner hand form from stock and modify for a cosmetic hand cover for a subject with a hook as follows:
 - a. Determine size of inner hand form by comparison with subject's normal hand.
 - b. Reposition fingers of inner hand form to match curvature of hook.
2. Use outer surface of modified hand form as a mold.
 - a. Dip modified hand form in polyvinyl chloride acetate ("Cordo Solution Plain" (1)) *four* times at $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour intervals.
 - b. Position a thin, porous, cotton glove over the solution-coated hand form.
 - c. Add eight more coats of "Cordo Solution Plain" as described above, to increase strength.
 - d. Allow completed shell to remain on mold 4 days to prevent shrinkage while drying.
 - e. Cut the shell open through center of palm from margin of cuff to three quarters the length of the middle digit (Fig. 6).
 - f. Remove shell from inner hand form mold.
 - g. Place armatures in ring and little fingers and in thumb and index fingers, allowing the middle finger open for placement of the hook.

Fabrication of Cosmetic Glove

1. Prepare the standard-type VA "Cordo Solution" cosmetic glove (1, 2).
2. Remove glove from mold immediately upon completion for maximum flexibility.
3. Pull completed glove over flexible shell.
4. Cut cosmetic glove open at the palm from margin of cuff to base of middle digit overlying the opening of the cosmetic shell.
5. Install zipper in cosmetic glove (Fig. 6).

Modification of Hook

The hook may be modified by grinding down the thumb projection (Fig. 7A, 7B, and 7C). The curve of the fingers in the unmodified hook

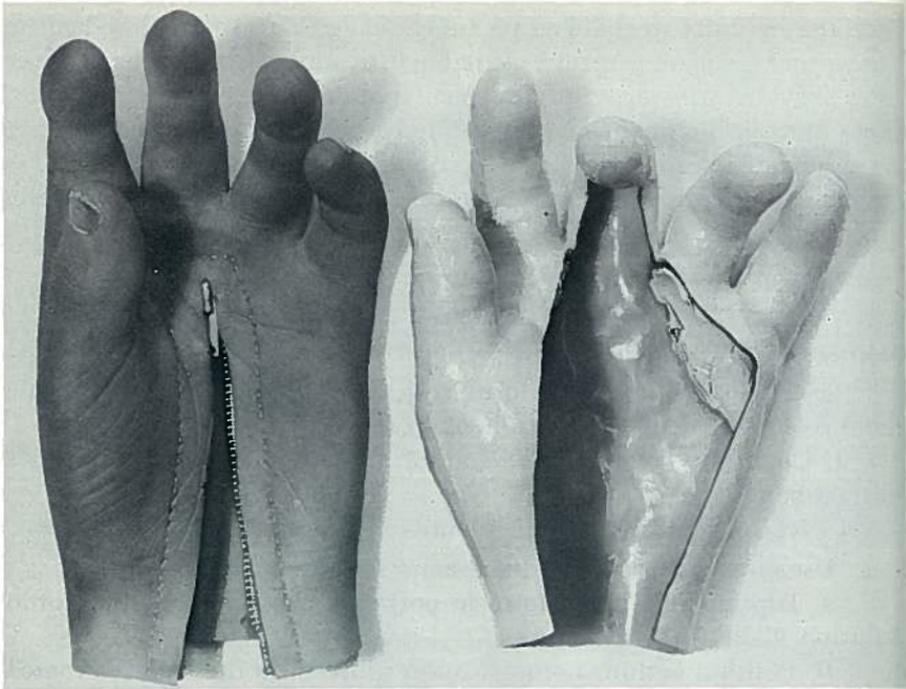


FIGURE 6.—Cosmetic cover and inner shell. RTV elastomer has been used to give body to the fingers into which the armatures were inserted.

(Fig. 7A) has been opened up slightly in the other two hooks to improve cosmesis. This is not essential and should not be done if carrying function of hook is to be retained.

CONCLUSION

A glove covering for a hook is described and is suggested as a useful cosmetic accessory for hook wearers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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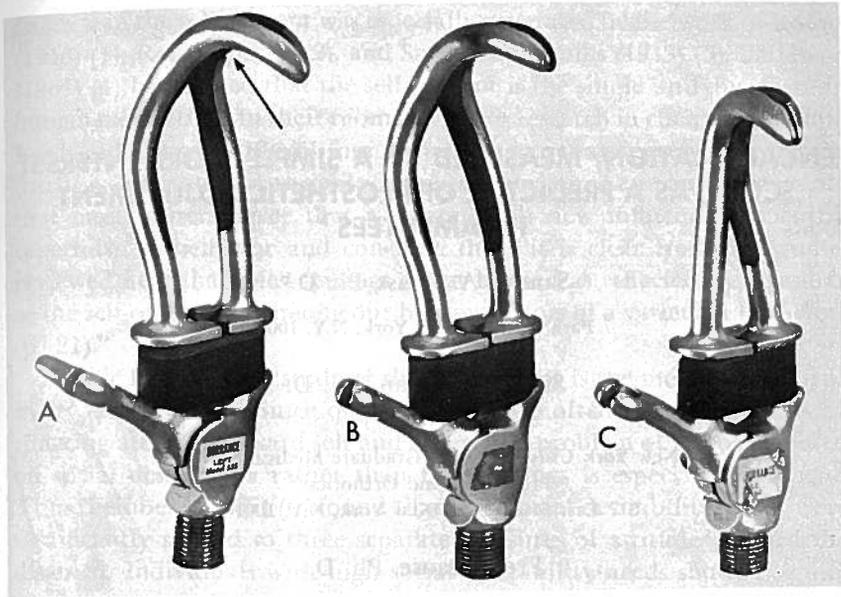


FIGURE 7.—The thumb prominence (A) has been ground down (B and C). The curve of the unmodified hook at arrow has been decreased slightly as shown in the lyre hook (B) and the canted hook (C). The lyre hook (B) is the identical hook to that used in Figure 1. The camera angles are responsible for the apparent difference.