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**Little**

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(54) **WELDING TORCH STRIKER WITH SAFETY STOPPER**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A novel safety stopper for use with a conventional welding torch striker includes a sleeve made of a flexible, non-flammable, heat-resistant material. The sleeve is shaped to enclose a central portion of both arms of a conventional welding torch striker, while allowing relative movement first and second push-tabs. The sleeve is retained on the arms by spring force. The sleeve is shaped to cover a substantial portion of the open area defined by the arms and the strike plate, while exposing the strike plate and the flint. A novel welding torch striker includes an integral safety stopper made of a flexible, non-flammable, heat-resistant rubber and formed as a web, a first handle-grip, and a second handle-grip. The stopper extends between both arms of the striker with the first handle-grip surrounding a portion of the first arm and the second handle-grip surrounding a portion of the second arm.

**35 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets**

