Analysis of the Westcott Scissor

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Introduction

Scissors have a wide range of uses. They are used to cut hair, used for crafts, and used for surgery. One of the most popular brands of scissors are craft scissors made by Westcott. The Westcott brand states, "Revolutionary coating and cutting technology has made our patented Titanium Bonded Scissors the most popular around the globe and has merited the title of 'The World's Favorite Scissors'" (*Westcottbrand.com, n.d.*). They make their blades efficient with their durable and sharp titanium that is efficient for crafts work. (*Westbrand.com, n.d.*). The Westcott brand was founded by its creator, Henry Westcott, in 1872. The Westcott brand is known for their school products and supplies. They are most known for their titanium scissors that are mostly used in school settings. There are many simple parts in a Westcott titanium scissor that contribute to making sharp and precise cuts. However, what are those parts, what are they made of, and is it easy to recreate with such simple parts?

History of Scissors

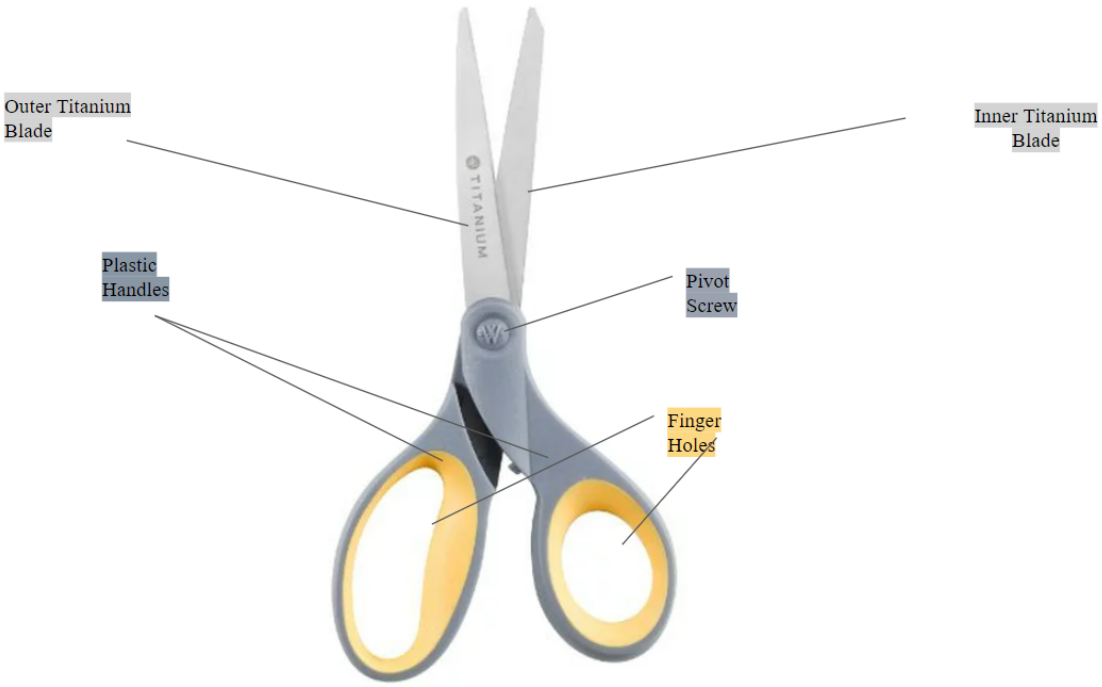
The invention of scissors started out as 'shears' in the first century of AD. Scissors were made with bronze and eventually replaced with iron. These scissors would rust over time. However, these scissors were used for the purpose of cutting hair or surgery. The precise time where people used scissors for craftsmanship purposes is unknown." Although the facts are sketchy and uncertain, it is probable craft and domestic scissors were introduced during the Dark Ages, possibly in the Middle East.". (*John Kirkup, The history and evolution of surgical instruments, 199*8). This article suggests that they were used in the Dark Ages which is about 500 to 1500 AD. Scissors at this time were used by multiple countries like Ancient Rome, China,

Korea, and Japan. (*Wikipedia.org, n.d.*). Scissors are now used commonly in the modern day and 64.3% of all scissors in the world are manufactured in China, as of 2019. (*Wikipedia.org, n.d.*)

Components

The parts of a Westcott scissor are its titanium inner and outer blades, plastic handles with holes to fit your fingers in, and a screw or pivot point to connect the two blades. These components work together to cut anything like plastic bags and paper.

Figure 1



(Westcott Titanium Bonded Scissors with Soft Grip Handles, 8-Inch Straight, New Handle Design; walmart.com, n.d.) (Labeled by Dylan DeJesus)

Titanium Blades

The titanium blades are more durable than steel. “The high performance patented Titanium Bonded blades provides three times the strength of classic stainless steel blades and they stay sharp and effective even after long use.” (*westcottbrand.com, n.d.*). These blades are stated to be “Ideal for heavy usage cutting of plastic packages, thick fabric and boxes”. (*westcottbrand.com, n.d.*). The outer blade is usually on top of the inner blade.

Figure 2

(Westcott Titanium Bonded Scissors with Soft Grip Handles, 8-Inch Straight, New Handle Design, Westcottbrand.com, n.d.)

There are inner and outer blades that can cut an object on both sides. They will cut and meet back together when the handles have force applied to them by our fingers.

Plastic Handles

These plastic handles are stated to be environmentally friendly. " Westcott KleenEarth recycled scissors have sharp, lightweight stainless steel blades and handles that are made from 70% recycled plastic and 30% post-consumer content. These reliable, durable scissors are good for the environment." (*westcottbrand.com, n.d.*). The handles are also stated to be comfortable and are eligible for either left or right hand use. (*westcottbrand.com, n.d.*)

Figure 3

(Westcott Titanium Bonded Scissors with Soft Grip Handles, 8-Inch Straight, New Handle Design, westcottbrand.com, n.d.)

The handles are covering and built around the pivot screw that connects the blades together. They are painted in a gray color and the finger holes are painted yellow. The handles themselves are made out of recyclable plastic.

Pivot Screw

The pivot screw is at the center of the scissor. It is what holds the blades and the handles together. It is able to make the blades meet together when cutting. It is the main thing that makes the scissor work. Without it you cannot make the blades cut together at the same time. Below is what it looks like.

Figure 4

(Westcott Titanium Bonded Scissors with Soft Grip Handles, 8-Inch Straight, New Handle Design, westbrand.com, n.d.)

The screw is located at the center of the scissors.

Figure 5

(Precision Flat Screw, jowell.co.jp, n.d.)

This is the screw connecting the titanium blades together. The outer blade must be on top of the inner blade while the screw must be in between and screwed in the middle of the two.

Conclusion

Scissors are a very simple invention and very effective. It is really easy to make a custom scissor of your own. All you need is two durable blades, plastic holders with finger holes, and a screw. This is why it was invented centuries ago and is still being used today with little to no change. The Westcott titanium bonded scissor is a prime example of its effectiveness. A way to evolve a scissor from Westcott's scissor is to make the blades even more durable and sharp and to make the scissor more comfortable to use. For now, their technology for their scissors is what makes them "The World's Favorite Scissors". (*westcottbrand.com, n.d.*)

Sources

History of the Westcott Brand: *https://www.westcottbrand.com/about/history.html*

Description of Westcott Materials:

https://www.westcottbrand.com/about/technology.html#:~:text=Earth%2DFriendly%3A%20Westcott%20KleenEarth%20recycled,are%20good%20for%20the%20environment.

Figure 1:

https://www.walmart.com/ip/Westcott-Titanium-Bonded-Scissors-with-Soft-Grip-Handles-8-Inch-Straight-New-Handle-Design/197233400

Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure, 4 and blade description:

https://www.westcottbrand.com/westcott-8-soft-handle-titanium-bonded-scissors-13529-13529-parent.html

Figure 5:

https://www.joewell.co.jp/eng/specification/handle-screw.html

The history and evolution of surgical instruments, John Kirkup, 1999:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2503151/pdf/annrcse01616-0056.pdf

Wikipedia History of Scissors Page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scissors

Self-Reflection

When doing this project I have learned that analyzing something as simple as a scissor took more time than I thought. I have also realized that not many people seem to care about the specifics and history about the school items like a scissor or ruler. Finding their history and pictures of their materials was a challenge for me. The only relevant article I could find besides wikipedia was an article from 1998. To me, it seemed unreliable but it was about the history of the scissor which cannot be changed. However, in the future I will make an effort to find articles made as close to the present day as possible. The official website of Westcott gives a brief history of their brand but not a lot of information. Any further information about them are from non-peer reviewed websites. Furthermore, many of the official websites just say what their products are made out of but never show a picture of the exact materials. This is fair because I doubt customers would worry about the specific materials. Showing their materials may also risk competition and people recreating their products. Which may lead them to lose money. The history of the scissor is not recorded in many peer reviewed articles. Doing this project teaches me that planning is important. When I was researching the different parts of the scissor I got overwhelmed and did not know where to start. Creating the diagram that outlines each part of the scissor really made the project easier to understand and do. Technical descriptions need to be simple so the audience can understand it. This helped me a lot because explaining a scissor in simple terms is very easy to do. Correct citation was difficult for me because there are a lot of rules and regulations for citation in APA format. Overall, this project took much more time than I thought but less complicated than I thought. The hardest part was finding sources and images for

each part of the scissor. For the planning phase of my future papers, I would need to dedicate more time for finding the resources themselves.