

Cuticulum enlargibilis



In 1284, Italian cheese sculptor Salvino D'Armato invented the first eye glasses. They were indeed rudimentary and consisted of neither lenses nor frames. Instead, the wearer touched his index finger to his thumb so as to form a circle, which released the magnification powers of the human cuticles (*cuticulum enlargibilis*). The wearer then positioned his fingers in front of his eyes until satisfactory vision was achieved. The only downside was that the wearer couldn't do anything else with his hands, a definite disadvantage during, say, fencing duels. Even so, "eye glassers" put up with this inconvenience until the mid-1500s, when a frame and lenses were finally added to the device. Said one very relieved myopic surgeon at the time, "Why the deuce didn't they think of this sooner?!"