Nov. 24, 1959 C. L. STRUNK 2,913,836

WRITING GUIDE FOR THE BLIND

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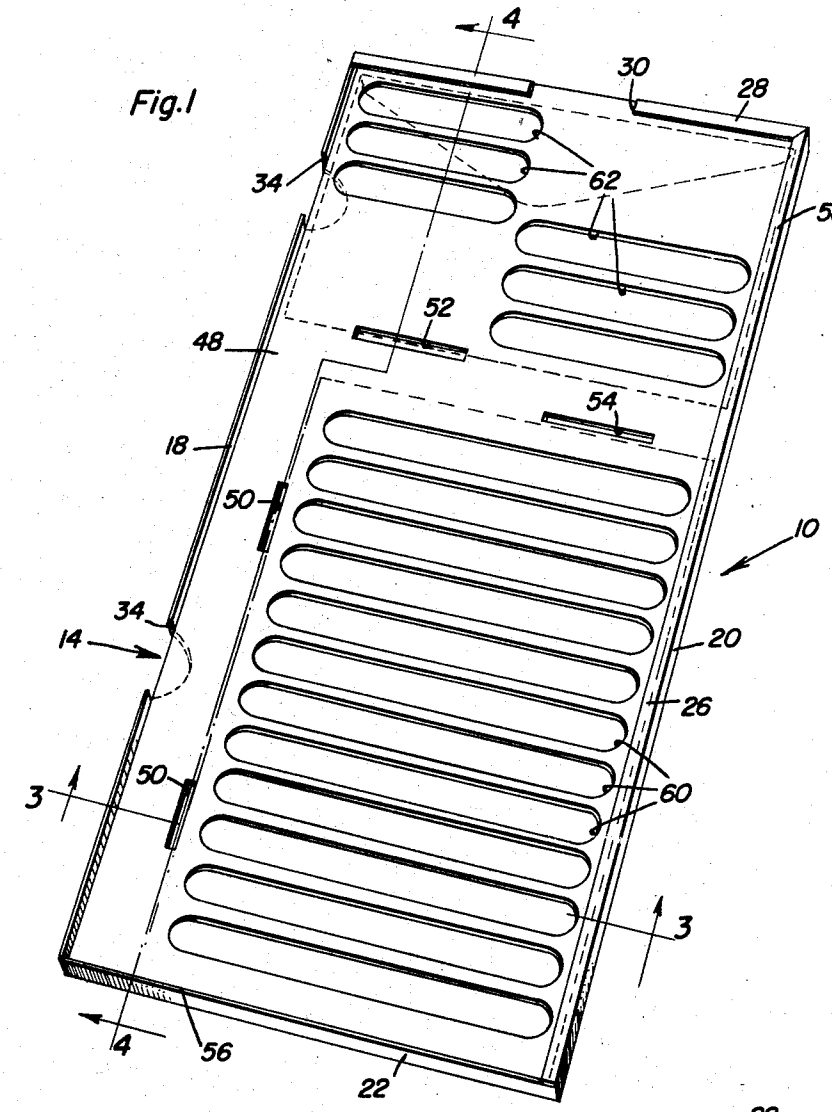
Fig.1



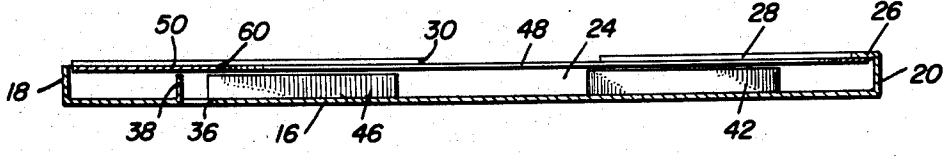


Fig.3

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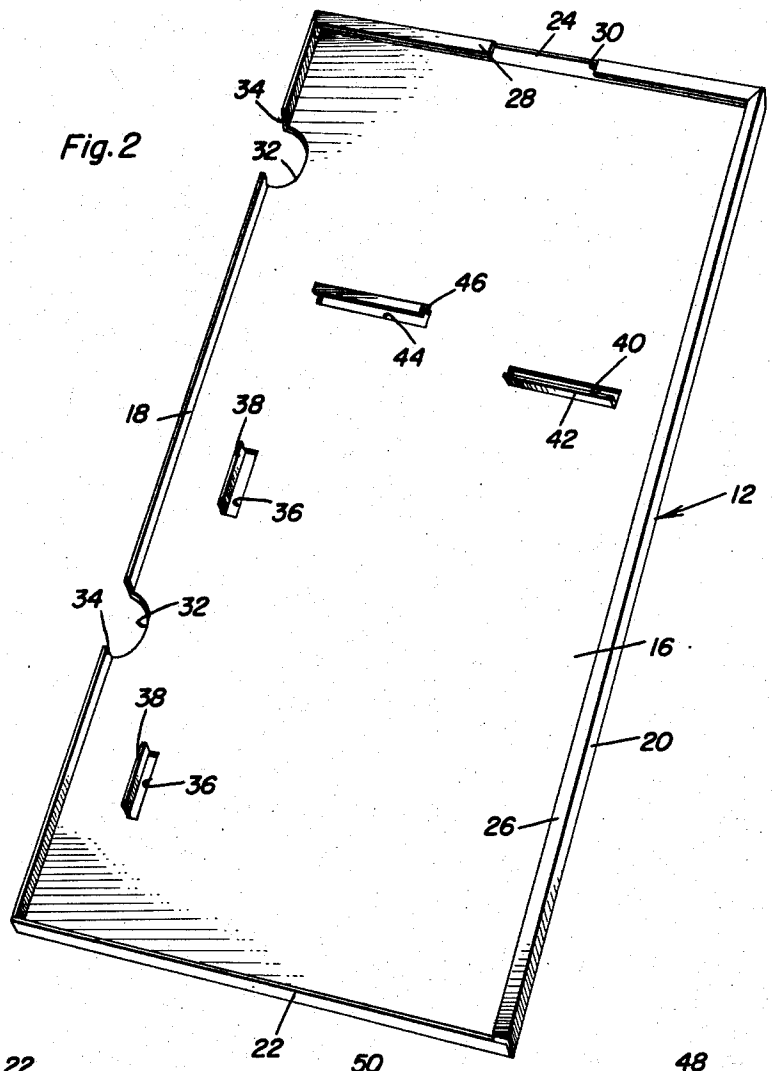
Fig. 2



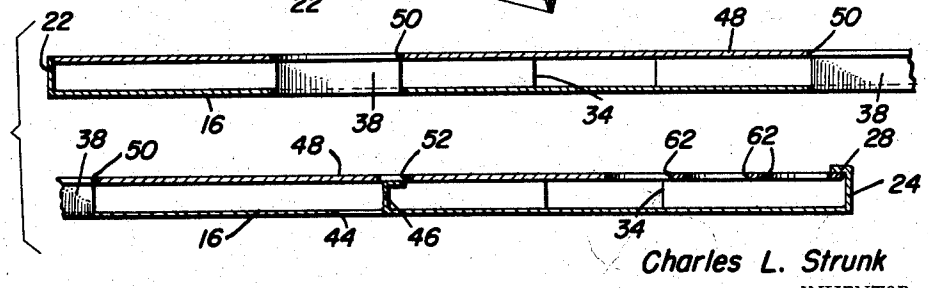


Fig. 4

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WRITING GUIDE FOR THE BLIND

Charles L. Strunk, Chicago, Ill.

Application February 28, 1958, Serial No. 718,237

2 Claims. (Cl. 35—38)

This invention relates generally to writing aids, and more particularly to a writing guide for the blind.

Blind persons because of their affliction are not able to write letters wherein the lines will be spaced from and parallel to each other, as is the case with conventionally written letters. This, of course, is understandable since these persons have no means for ascertaining whether or not the writing is on a horizontal line. Therefore, their letters are usually written wherein the lines are tilted at an angle upwardly or downwardly, or in some cases even intersect each other. Therefore, the primary object of this invention is to provide a writing guide for the blind, so that persons whose sight is affected to an extent that they cannot clearly determine whether the lines they are writing are parallel, may write neat letters in a ready and simple manner.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device of the character described wherein persons so afflicted will, by the use of this device, be able to have complete control over both the envelope and the paper, which is absolutely necessary in the writing of a letter.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device of the character described, wherein a plurality of sheets may be stored therein, so that when it is necessary to use more than one sheet, the uppermost sheet may be removed, very simply, and expose a clean fresh sheet for continued writing.

An even further object of this invention is to provide stops or projections which will allow the envelopes and writing paper to be correctly placed within the device by feel alone without the necessity for a person to see what he is doing.

An even further object of this invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive device yet one which is exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

This invention contemplates the use of a unit which has a tray for a bottom. This tray has projections extending therefrom, which support the envelopes and writing paper in proper location within the tray itself. Lips are provided along two of the upper edges of the tray so as to suitably position a stencil therein. This stencil which overlies the writing paper and the envelopes, has spaced, parallel slots formed therein which act as guideways in which writing may be placed, by feel alone, and are so set out as to properly be positioned over an envelope for adjusting the same, and over a writing paper for writing a letter. Notches are provided in one side of the tray, on one of the sides opposite to the lips, so that the thumb or forefinger of a person may be inserted therein in order to remove the stencil when desired, as for instance when removing the envelope and writing paper which has just been written upon, or when placing a fresh supply of envelopes and writing paper within the device.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the writing guide comprising the present invention illustrating the writing paper and envelopes in phantom lines;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the tray which is used to hold the various components of the writing guide;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along the plane defined by reference line 3—3 of Figure 1 illustrating details of construction thereof; and

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along the plane defined by reference line 4—4 of Figure 1, illustrating further details of construction.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, the numeral **10** generally designates the writing guide comprising the present invention which is constructed of a tray **12**, and a stencil **14** which fits therein.

The tray **12** is constructed of a single sheet of material, although it is to be understood that it may be made of several component parts. The tray has a flat bottom **16**, and upstanding side walls **18** and **20**, and also upstanding end walls **22** and **24**. An inwardly extending lip **26** is connected along the upper edge of side wall **20**, while a similar lip **28** is connected to the upper edge of the end wall **24**. A space **30** is provided in the middle of the lip **28**, and divides this lip into two separate parts. Notches **32** are formed in bottom **16**, adjacent the side wall **18**, and openings **34** formed in the side wall **18** communicate with these notches **32**. Two spaced slots **36** in vertical alignment with each other and near and parallel to side wall **18**, are formed in the bottom **16** with the flaps **38** which are punched out to form these slots **36** being bent upwardly at right angles to the bottom **16**, so as to provide a gauging surface for the writing paper. A horizontal slot **40** is punched out of the bottom **16** and is disposed above the slots **36** and adjacent side wall **20**, with the punched out tab **42** being perpendicular to bottom **16**, so as to provide an upper gauging surface for writing paper. A second horizontal slot **44** is punched in bottom **16**, parallel to slot **40**, but a small amount thereabove, and closer to wall **18**, and a punched out tab **46** is also perpendicular to bottom **16**, and this tab **46** provides a gauging surface for envelopes to be located in the upper portion of tray **12**.

Stencil **14** is constructed of a flat plate **48** of the same size and shape as bottom **16**. This plate **48** may be positioned on tray **12**, with the upper edges of the tray walls, and the lips **26** and **28**, being used to place the stencil plate **48** into its proper position. Vertical slots **50** are formed in the stencil plate **48** in such a position as to overlie the tabs **38** when the stencil is in correct position. Horizontal slots **52** and **54** are formed in the stencil plate **48** and when the stencil is in correct position, the slot **52** will overlie tab **46** while slot **54** overlies tab **42**. Writing paper **56** is inserted into the tray and abuts against the upstanding tabs **38** and **42**, while envelopes **58** are inserted in the upper portion of the tray and held in position by engaging tab **46**. A plurality of spaced parallel slots **60** are formed in stencil **48** directly overlying the writing paper **56**, so that a blind person may write in these slots onto the writing paper **56**, and by means of the slots **60** engage the location of the lines so that the writing will be in spaced parallel lines. Other slots **62** are formed in the upper portion of the stencil overlying the envelopes **58**, so that the envelopes may be properly addressed and the same guiding means provided therefor.

In use, a stack of writing paper would be inserted into the proper position within the tray, and also a stack of envelopes. Then, the stencil plate **48** may be positioned

thereupon, and the writing may be commenced. After the first sheet has been written, it is merely necessary to insert one's finger into the opening **34** and recess **32** whereby the stencil plate **48** is engaged and the same may be lifted up so that the uppermost sheet of paper may be moved thus exposing a fresh sheet. This may be continued until the writing is completed. As the stack of paper and the envelopes diminishes, the stencil will move downwardly within the tray, and eventually the tabs **38**, **40** and **46** will extend upwardly through the slots **50**, **52** and **54** provided in the stencil **48**, so that the stencil will be even more positively located within the tray.

It may now be seen that a new and improved type of writing guide for the blind has thus been provided, wherein a sightless person may write a neat letter with little or no trouble being involved.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A writing guide for the blind comprising a tray for accommodating a stack of writing paper and having a bottom and side walls, guide means for properly locating the paper in said tray including aligned vertical flaps on said bottom adjacent to and parallel with one side wall, a stencil removably positioned above said flaps and removably fitted between the side walls of said tray, said stencil having a plurality of spaced parallel slots therein for providing guideways for writing on the paper, said slots being spaced from the line of said flaps and from the other side wall of the tray to provide margins on the paper.

2. A writing guide according to claim 1, one of said side walls having openings therein and said bottom having notches therein communicating with said openings whereby to provide finger grip openings for use in grasping and removing the stencil.

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