

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SIDNEY W. ROWELL, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

TYPE-WRITER KEYBOARD.

943,466.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 14, 1909

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIDNEY W. ROWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Type-Writer Keyboards; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to the art of arranging the key letters of a typewriter keyboard and has for an object to produce an arrangement whereby the letter keys most commonly used are grouped at the center of the key board.

A further object of the invention is to produce a key board having the letters most commonly used grouped at the center and with the letter keys often used but with less frequency grouped upon opposite sides of such center group with the seldom used letters positioned upon opposite sides and without the last-mentioned groups.

In the drawing is shown in plan the key board of a typewriter employing the usual and ordinary manipulation keys, as the margin release key 1, the shift keys 2 and 3, and the shift lock 4, such keys forming no part of the present invention and being illustrated simply for the purpose of properly identifying the invention with the conventional keyboard. Along the top of the key board are also arranged the keys representing numerals and characters in the usual ordinary manner, such top row forming no part of the present invention.

At the center of the key board a group of nine letters is provided as follows:—

H O R
S E A
T I N

Upon each of the letter keys shown on the drawing numerals appear representing the relative frequency of use of the several letters. From a computation based upon such figures it is apparent that the nine letters appearing on the above group represent sixty nine per cent. of the total letters used. The nine letters referred to appear within dotted parallelogram indicated on the drawing at 5.

Upon opposite sides of the group of nine letters just referred to appear two other groups of three letters, each as follows, such groups being

F D
C L
M U

shown on the drawings within the dotted parallelogram 6 and 7 respectively. Based upon a computation the same as heretofore employed it is found that the last two groups of six letters represent nineteen per cent. of the letters used so that the entire three groups of fifteen letters arranged as shown within the parallelograms 5, 6 and 7 represent eighty-eight per cent. of the total number of letters used. It will, therefore, be apparent that practically all of the writing will be accomplished right at the middle of the keyboard where the letters will be in position to be touched by either or both hands and without movement of the hands other than the fingers in depressing the keys.

The grouping of the letters outside of the groups of fifteen letters referred to is not material and forms no parts of the present invention as such other letters are so infrequently used as to render their position upon the key-board comparatively unimportant. It is, of course, desirable that even of those letters outside of such groups the letters most commonly used should be grouped nearer the middle of the keyboard. No claim is made, however, for the grouping of such other letters.

What I claim is:—

1. A typewriter key board so arranged that the group of letters

H O R
S E A
T I N

is positioned approximately at the center of the key board.

2. A typewriter key board so arranged that the nine letters most commonly used are grouped approximately at the center of the key board and the groups

F D
C L
M U

arranged upon opposite sides of such center group.

3. A typewriter key board so arranged that the group of letters

F H O R D
C S E A L
M T I N U

5 is positioned approximately at the center of the key board.

4. A typewriter key board so arranged
10 that the letters H, S, T, O, E, I, R, A and N appear in a group of three rows of three letters each.

5. A typewriter key board so arranged that the letters H, S, T, O, E, I, R, A, N appear in a group of three rows of three lines 15 each positioned approximately at the center of the key board.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SIDNEY W. ROWELL.

Witnesses:

GERRIT Y. LANSING,
JEANIE MINOT ROWELL.