Jan. 23, 1940. R. F. SMITH 2,188,210

MANUSCRIPT MANIPULATING DEVICE FOR SPEAKERS

Filed Sept. 13, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

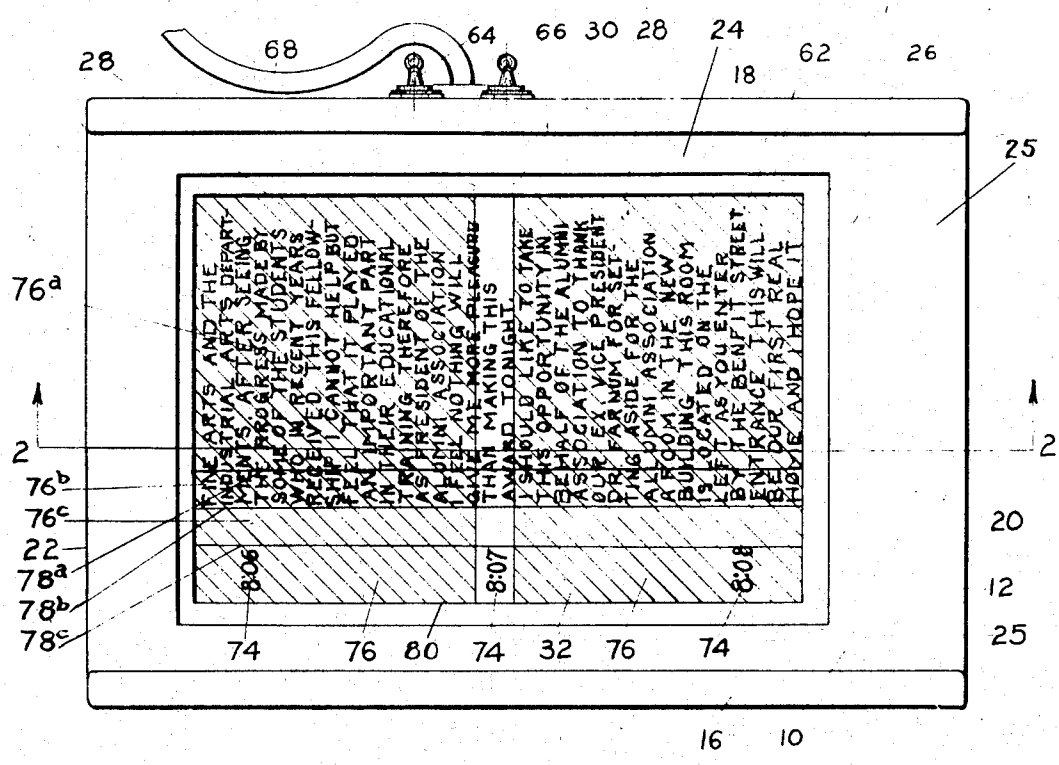


FIG 1

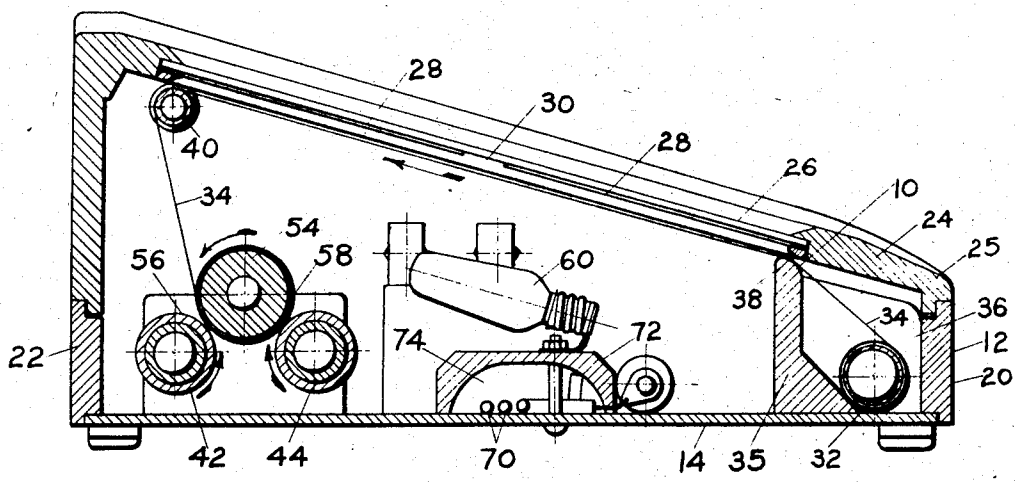


FIG 2

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MANUSCRIPT MANIPULATING DEVICE FOR SPEAKERS

Filed Sept. 13, 1938 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

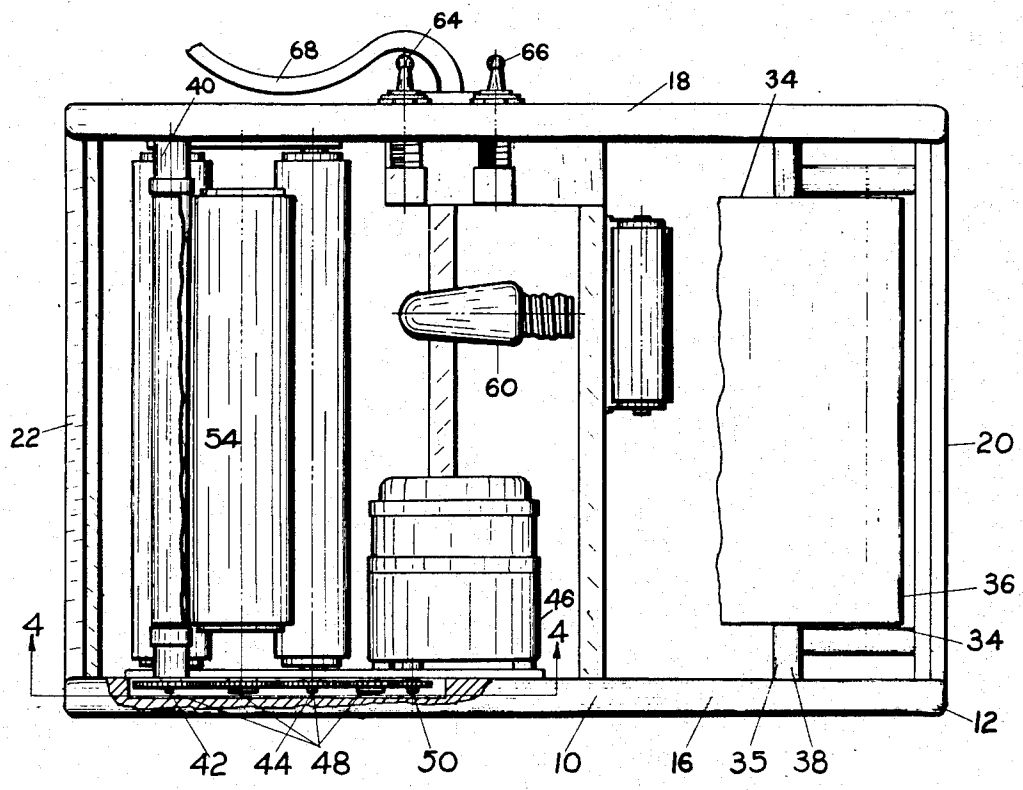


FIG 3

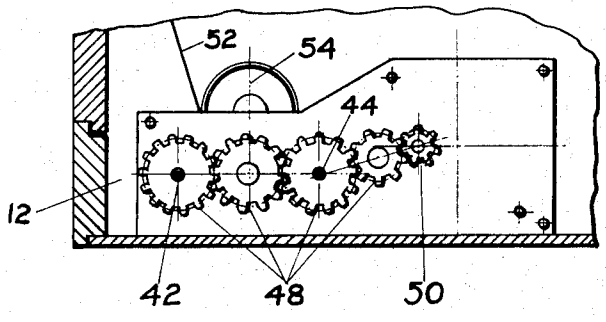


FIG 4

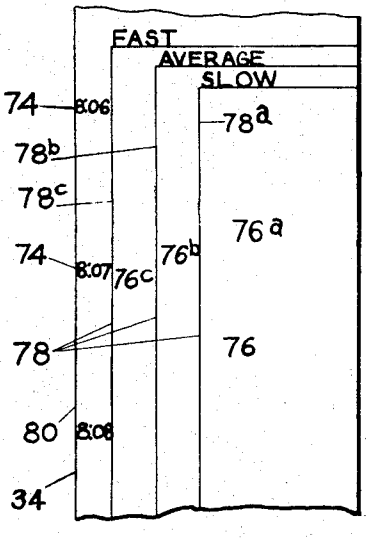


FIG 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,188,210

MANUSCRIPT MANIPULATING DEVICE FOR SPEAKERS

Russell Follett Smith, Providence, R. I.

Application September 13, 1938, Serial No. 229,712

4 Claims. (Cl. 40—31)

My invention relates to improvements in manuscript manipulating devices for speakers. I am aware that others have attempted to provide manuscript strip manipulating devices for speakers, but so far as I am aware these have not worked in a satisfactory manner in practice. Such types of devices are particularly desirable in radio use where a broadcast has to begin and positively end on time. My invention is also adapted to be used by other types of speakers, such as political speakers, after-dinner speakers, etc.

A feature of my invention, particularly adapted for radio use, is to permit a ghost writer to actually prepare the manuscript so that the high priced artist or speaker can positively get through on time. An object of my invention is to provide such a device wherein either the ghost writer or the transcribing typewriting secretary is familiar with the speed of talking or enunciation of the artist or orator, so that once the speed of delivery of the artist or orator is known, the ghost writer or secretary can positively continuously write speeches for the artist or orator which will positively be concluded within the time limit.

A further feature of my invention is to provide such a device wherein a certain leeway is given for applause. This feature of my invention is more particularly adapted for political or after-dinner speeches, which speeches are often interrupted by applause, as may also often happen at guest nights in radio broadcasting studios, and for this purpose I provide as large a display area as possible in the manuscript manipulating device, and provide a central emphasizing slit to tell the orator or speaker where he should be at each instant of his speech to finish approximately on time, so that he may selectively either omit portions of his manuscript or speed his rate of delivery to catch up, or again, if he anticipates applause, to anticipate his delivery to allow for applause at the proper time.

A further feature of my invention relates to the mechanism I preferably employ for driving the strip manuscript through the device, such mechanism being constructed in a simple manner with a minimum number of parts, both for cheapness of manufacture and ease of assembly and ease of changing manuscript. For this purpose I provide a friction drive with a weighted roll for mounting of the hollow manuscript containing roll, or manuscript itself therein, to insure positive frictional driving contact at two nips. A further structural feature of my invention is that I merely provide a compartment for containing the feed roll, the weight of the manuscript roll itself, vertically movable within the compartment, providing sufficient weight so that the manuscript will be fed under the window in taut strip form.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device which may conveniently employ a synchronous electric motor positively run at constant speed so that as it constantly drives the manuscript strip, a definite amount of manuscript will be bared to the speaker's vision in a definite time interval. The disadvantage in using a constant speed synchronous motor has been that there are now no variable speed synchronous motors on the market, and no varying means have been hitherto provided for speakers with different rates of delivery. For this purpose, therefore, I provide a constant speed synchronous electric motor, and I provide variations for different rates of delivery in the strip manuscript material itself. I provide said manuscript strip with equally longitudinally spaced markings thereon indicative of equal lapses of time, providing between them successive areas of equal size for receiving equal amounts of manuscript printed matter or indicia. To provide a combination which will accommodate different rates of delivery, I provide on said strip manuscript a plurality of markings successively spaced from the left hand margin thereof, in the embodiment shown three, the one nearest the left hand margin being for fast delivery, the center one for average delivery, and the one furthest from the left hand margin for slow delivery, whereby the secretary or stenographer in transcribing the written matter on the manuscript strip, knowing the rate of delivery of the orator or artist, may selectively employ one of the lines as the left hand margin of the equal areas to accommodate different amounts of indicia in said areas for varying degrees of rate of speech delivery. Upon knowing the rate of delivery of the artist or orator, the script may be so set up that the artist or orator thus may positively finish within his allotted time interval.

Further features of my invention relate to the specific structure of the various parts thereof, including the manuscript strip itself.

These and such other objects of my invention as may hereinafter appear may be best understood from a description of the accompanying drawings which illustrate various parts thereof.

In the drawings

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a manuscript manip-

ulating device, constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a plan view thereof with the cover removed and portions of the manuscript strip and a side wall partially broken away.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3, and illustrating the train of drive gearing I preferably employ.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a sheet of manuscript strip I preferably employ.

In the drawings, wherein like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates a strip manuscript manipulating device for speakers, constructed in accordance with my invention. This device includes a casing 12, having a base 14, side walls 16 and 18, end walls 20 and 22, and top wall 24. I provide the window 26 in the top wall 24 thereof so that the speaker may readily observe the manuscript. The top wall is preferably mounted so to be downwardly inclined towards the speaker and for this purpose the front end wall 20 is preferably of less than half the height of the rear wall 22. So that successive rolls or strips of manuscript strip may be successively inserted in, and employed on and removed from my device, I preferably provide a removable cover, including the top wall 24. The cover 25, whether it be removable or otherwise, is preferably provided with a window therein, in my preferred embodiment of slightly less than the length and width thereof. In my preferred embodiment said window 26 preferably has portions of lesser transparency 28 extending from each end thereof and terminating near the center thereof, providing between the inner ends thereof a central fully transparent emphasizing slit 30. In practice a transparent member is provided as the window which may be of glass or other suitable transparent material, and to provide the portions 28 of lesser transparency, the colored screens 28 may be cemented or otherwise secured to the inner surface of the glass. I provide means adjacent one end of the casing for rotatably mounting a roll 32 of manuscript strip thereon, said roll preferably comprising a cylinder 32, having laminated layers of manuscript strip 34 wound thereon. This cylinder 32 is preferably constituted of light steel to provide the desired weight.

In my preferred embodiment for this purpose the base 14 of the casing 12 is provided with a partition 35 projecting upwardly therefrom, exterior of and adjacent to one end of said window 26, forming a compartment 36 for loosely containing the roll 32 of manuscript strip therein. The upper end 38 of said partition 35 thus forms a guide for guiding the manuscript in strip form underneath said window 26. While I have shown a solid wall for this purpose, it is apparent that any type of a partition which will abut the ends of the roll to form the compartment 36 may be employed. In my preferred embodiment I provide the strip guide rod 40 extending transversely of said casing adjacent to the opposite end of said window 26.

I also provide rotatable take up roll means, mounted transversely of the opposite end of said casing, and a feature of my invention relates to the specific structure of this rotatable take up roll means. For this purpose, I provide the two slightly longitudinally spaced friction drive rolls 42 and 44, rotatably mounted transversely of said casing 12 below said guide roll 40. To provide means to drive said drive rolls I provide a constant sped synchronous electric motor 46 mounted in said casing, and I provide a train of gearing 48 connecting the motor shaft 50 with the friction drive rolls 42 and 44 as shown in more detail in Fig. 4. As stated, I preferably employ a constant speed motor as no other type of means drives said take up roll means at constant speed, and so far as I am aware there are no other types of positive constant speed motors now on the market, I preferably employ a so-called synchronous electric motor for this purpose, and it is obvious that the train of gearing 48, being driven by the motor shaft 50 will positively drive the friction drive rolls 42 and 44 at constant synchronous speed.

As the take up roll for the manuscript strip 34, I provide a heavy cylindrical weighted take up roll 54, adapted to have the manuscript strip 34 wound thereon in laminated layers resting on each of said feed rolls to be frictionally driven thereby with a double nip, namely a nip 56 against the feed roll 42, and a nip 58 against the feed roll 44, it being obvious that as the manuscript strip 34 is wound on the take up roll 54, that the take up roll 54 will increase in circumference but continuously abut the feed rolls 42 and 44 at said two nips 56 and 58.

I may, as shown in my preferred embodiment, provide a light 60 mounted within said casing preferably directly underneath said emphasizing slit 30, to perform the double function of emphasizingly illuminating said slit 30, and also the manuscript strip throughout the length of the portions 28 of lesser transparency to positively display the indicia or printed matter 62 thereon with lesser emphasis through said portions 28 than through said emphasizing slit 30. I provide suitable switch means 64 and 66 on the exterior of said casing 12 for connecting said motor 46, and light 60, where employed, to a source of electric current through the connecting cable 68. In the preferred embodiment shown the wires 70 from the connecting cable 68 are passed through the transverse cavity 74 in a hollow block 72 mounted transversely within said casing 12 to the motor 46 and light 60, each mounted on said block 72, said wires 70 thus being hidden from view.

While my invention as hitherto described is entirely suitable for feeding any type of manuscript strip to the view of artists, orators or other speakers, in order that a combination may be provided which will positively deliver the manuscript to the speaker so that he may positively finish on time, I preferably provide in combination with the device hitherto described requiring a constant speed synchronous motor, a novel type of manuscript about to be described. Said manuscript strip has the equally longitudinally spaced markings 74 thereon, indicative of equal lapses of time, in the embodiment shown, being indicative of successive minutes past eight o'clock, although other markings of equal time intervals may be employed. It is thus apparent that the markings 74 provide between them on the manuscript strip successive areas 76 of equal size for receiving equal amounts of manuscript indicia whether it be printed, typewritten or scribed.

I also provide a plurality of markings 78, as more particularly shown in Fig. 5, successively spaced from the left hand margin 80 of the manuscript strip, defining selective left hand margins for the successive equal areas 76 to cut down the size of said areas 76 to successively

accommodate different amounts of indicia in said areas for varying degrees of rate of speech delivery; thus as shown the markings 78c nearest the left hand margin of the manuscript strip 52, to provide the areas 76c of larger size for an orator employing a fast delivery; the center markings 78b to provide areas 76b of appropriate size for a speaker of average delivery; and the right hand marking 78a to provide areas 76a of desired still smaller size for a speaker of slow delivery. It is obvious, however, that in place of three markings, any desired number of markings may be employed.

To employ my device, the person setting up the manuscript strip first decides whether the speaker will have a slow, average, or fast delivery, and makes his areas 78 of the desired size for the desired rate of delivery employing one of the selective markings 78a, 78b or 78c for this purpose, and fills up the proper sized areas 76a, 76b or 76c with the written words of the text of the speech. It is then obvious that the markings 74 on the manuscript strip will indicate to the particular speaker the amount he is able to say within the time intervals indicated between the successive markings 74, in the embodiment shown, minutes. The manuscript is then wound on the roll 34, or in roll form if a mounting roll is not employed, and inserted in the compartment 36, threaded over the guide edge 38, underneath the window 26, over the guide rod 40, and around the weighted take up roll 54. The light 60 may then be lighted, the motor 46 started, and the speaker speaks. He then reads off and delivers his speech and where he should be in his speech is constantly brought before him through the medium of the emphasizing slit 30, but due to the great length of the window 26, it is obvious that he may either anticipate his time, or fall behind in the embodiment shown at least a minute, so that he can either anticipate applause or attempt to catch up after applause during the remainder of his speech. As stated hitherto, this feature is particularly useful where the speech is apt to be broken into by applause, as the manuscript is positively driven forward at constant speed and if the speaker keeps his slit 30 in the middle, he will positively finish on time. It is apparent, therefore, if the speaker keeps up with the device, the device is foolproof to make the speaker finish on time.

It is apparent that I have provided a novel type of strip manuscript manipulating device with the advantages explained above.

It is understood that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiment shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A strip manuscript manipulating device, comprising a casing, a cover for said casing having a window of slightly less than the length and width thereof therein, said window having portions of lesser transparency extending from each end thereof and terminating near the center thereof to provide a central transparent transverse emphasizing slit, said casing having a partition projecting upwardly therefrom exterior of and adjacent to one end of said window forming a compartment for loosely containing a roll of strip manuscript therein, the upper edge of said partition forming a guide for guiding the manuscript strip in strip form underneath said window, a guide extending transversely of said casing adjacent the opposite end of said window, two slightly longitudinally spaced friction drive rolls rotatably mounted transversely of the opposite end of said casing below said guide roll, means to drive said friction drive rolls at constant speed, a weighted take up roll adapted to have said manuscript strip wound thereon resting on said drive rolls to be frictionally driven thereby, and a light mounted within said casing underneath said emphasizing slit.

2. A strip manuscript manipulating device, comprising a casing, a cover for said casing having a window therein, said casing having a partition projecting upwardly therefrom exterior of and adjacent to one end of said window forming a compartment for loosely containing a roll of strip manuscript therein, the upper edge of said partition forming a guide for guiding the manuscript strip in strip form underneath said window, a guide extending transversely of said casing adjacent the opposite end of said window, rotatable take up roll means mounted transversely of said casing below said guide roll, and means to drive said take up roll means at constant speed.

3. A strip manuscript manipulating device, comprising a casing, a cover for said casing having a window therein, said window having portions of lesser transparency extending from each end thereof and terminating near the center thereof to provide a central transparent transverse emphasizing slit, means adjacent one end of said casing for rotatably mounting a roll of strip manuscript, rotatable take up roll means mounted transversely of the opposite end of said casing, means to drive said take up roll means at constant speed, and a light mounted within said casing underneath said emphasizing slit.

4. A strip manuscript manipulating device, comprising a casing, a cover for said casing having a window therein, means adjacent one end of said casing for rotatably mounting a roll of strip manuscript, two slightly longitudinally spaced friction drive rolls rotatably mounted transversely of the opposite end of said casing, means to drive said friction drive rolls at constant speed, and a weighted take up roll adapted to have said strip manuscript wound thereon resting on said drive rolls to be frictionally driven thereby.

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