UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PENCIL PROTECTOR AND RETAINER.

971,797.


To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JONATHAN P. SMYTHE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Longbeach, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Pencil Protector and Retainer, of which the following is a specification.

The main object of the present invention is to provide means for protecting the point of a pencil, for example, when the pencil is being carried in the pocket.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for retaining the pencil in the pocket or to prevent accidental dislodgment of the pencil while in the pocket.

Other objects of the invention will be brought out in the following description.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention and referring thereto: Figure 1 is a side elevation of the pencil with the protector thereon. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the rubber friction ring removed. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the protector in section. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the protector slipped into position on the pencil for exposing the point. Fig. 5 is an end elevation of the pencil protector from the point end. Fig. 6 is a transverse section through the rubber friction ring. 1 designates a pencil, and 2 the point thereof. The point protector or guard comprises a sleeve or tubular member 3 adapted to slide on the pencil and provided with frictional retaining means 4 for holding it in position on the pencil and with spring fingers or elastic guard members longitudinally from the sleeve and adapted to extend over the point of the pencil to protect the same. The elastic fingers or guards 5 are formed as extensions from the tube 3 and preferably taper to a point at their ends, so that they will tend to assume a position as shown in Fig. 5 in which they all meet at a common point beyond the point of the end of the pencil. Sleeve or tubular member 3 has an annular bead 6 at the base of the fingers 5 and preferably two annular beads 7 in its upper end, the portion of the sleeve between these beads 7 forming a neck to receive and hold an elastic ring 8, preferably of soft rubber, which fits or snaps onto this neck. This neck portion of the sleeve is cut away to form slots 9 and the material of the elastic ring 8 squeezes or penetrates through these slots so as to come into contact with the body of the pencil 1 to frictionally engage the pencil and act as retaining means for the device. The ring 4 may be rounded or convex on its outer surface, this being the most convenient and ornamental shape and also facilitating the use of the rubber ring as an eraser as hereinafter described.

The device is used as follows: In normal position or when the pencil is not in use the protector will be in the position shown in Figs. 1 to 3, the tubular member 3 being slipped to the lower end of the pencil, so that the spring fingers 5 extend beyond the pencil point 2 and close on one another to form a cage or guard for the pencil point, preventing breakage thereof. When the pencil is to be used, the tubular member 3 is slipped upwardly upon the pencil body 1, say, to position shown in full lines in Fig. 4, exposing the point 2 of the pencil for use, the fingers 5 at this time being expanded so as to embrace the body 1 of the pencil. In this position the protector forms a convenient holder for the pencil enabling it to be grasped and manipulated by the fingers of the hand. Or if desired, the protector may be slid upwardly to position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4 enabling the rubber ring 4 to be used as an eraser. In any of these positions the friction of the said rubber ring on the body 1 of the pencil serves to hold the protector in the position in which it has been placed. With the protector in normal position shown in Figs. 1 to 3, the pencil may be placed point uppermost in the pocket and the enlargement or ring 4 then serves as a guard or retainer to prevent accidental dislodgment of the pencil from the pocket.

What I claim is:

1. A pencil protector consisting of a tubular member adapted to surround the pencil, elastic fingers extending longitudinally from said tubular member and formed to normally close on one another to protect the pencil point, and means for frictionally retaining the said tubular member on the pencil, said means consisting of a rubber ring surrounding the tubular member, said tubular member being slotted to enable engagement of the rubber ring with the body of the pencil.

2. A pencil protector consisting of a tubular member adapted to slide on a pencil, said tubular member being slit near its end to form a plurality of fingers, the said tubular
member being formed with a bead at the base of said spring fingers, the said spring fingers being formed with a curve near the said bead and their outer portions being straight, whereby the said spring fingers contact with each other at the tip to normally protect the point of the pencil.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 5th day of May, 1900.

JONATHAN P. SMYTHER.

In presence of—

ARTHUR P. KNIGHT,
P. H. SHELTON.