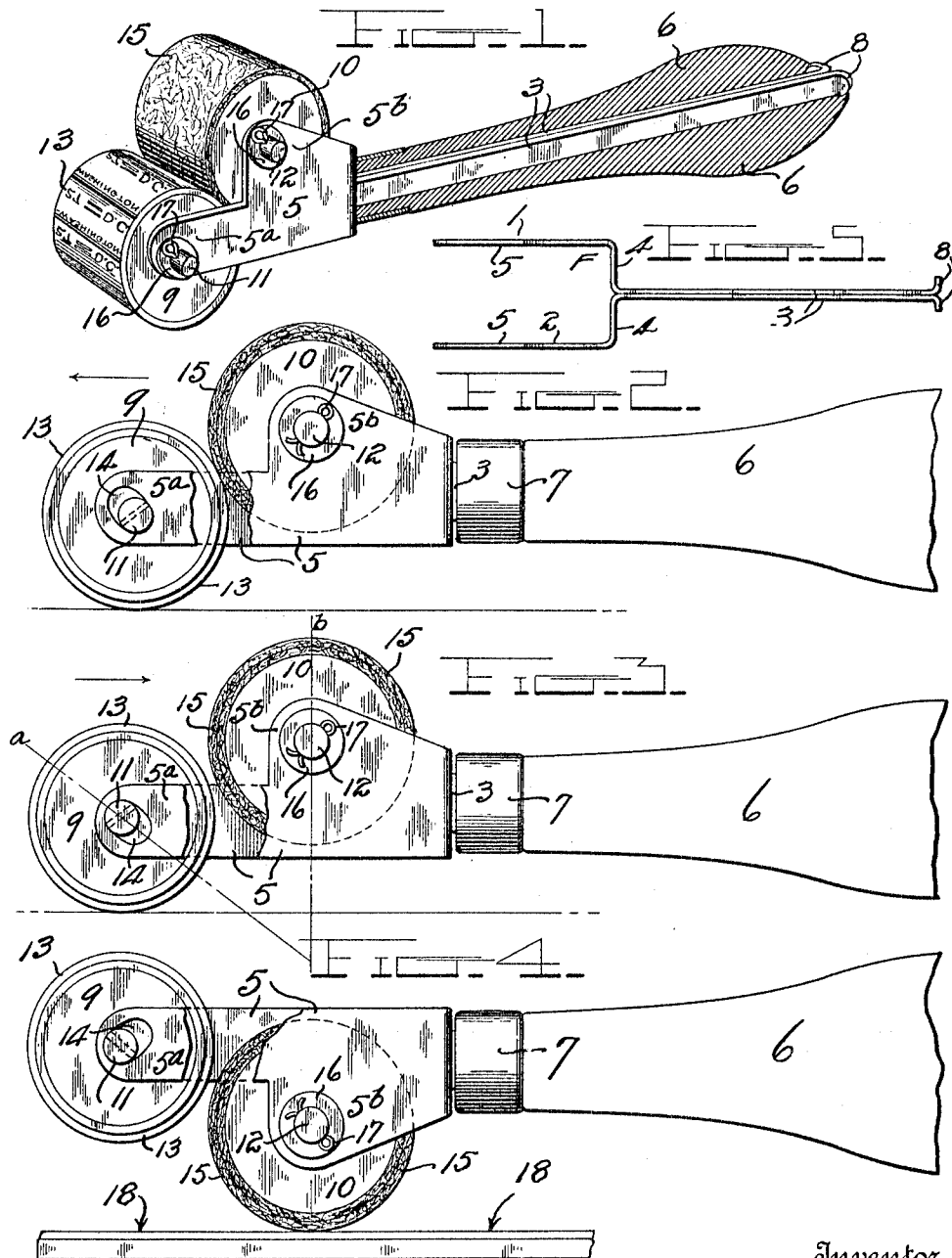


O. H. SMITH.
MAIL MARKER.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 27, 1914.

1,107,630.

Patented Aug. 18, 1914.



Witnesses
Harry B. Rook
Emory L. Goff.

By

Inventor
Oliver H. Smith
A. J. McLaughlin
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER H. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MAIL-MARKER.

1,107,630.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 18, 1914.

Application filed February 27, 1914. Serial No. 821,359.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER H. SMITH, citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Markers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the general subject of mail-markers, and has special reference to a hand device that is particularly designed for the cancellation of postage stamps, or affixing the postmarks.

Hand stamps of various types are now in use for marking pieces of mail matter, and accomplish their functions in a more or less satisfactory manner. However, the increased volume of work imposed upon the postal service due to the establishment of the parcel post and also the increased general use of the mail as a transmitting agent, necessarily involves means for facilitating the manual handling thereof. Canceling machines solve the problem of disposing of flat pieces of mail, but they cannot quickly mark and cancel envelops, packages, or boxes of irregular shapes and sizes. Thus, all of such matter, which embraces allailable articles other than first class, including parcel post packages, must be canceled by hand. Most of the portable hand stamps that are now used for this purpose are of the type that perform their work by a downward thrust upon the package, which, if of flimsy material, does not furnish a solid surface for the stamp to make a good imprint upon. Then too, the force of the blow may crush the package or contents, and thereby work other damage, aside from not providing a clear distinct postmark or proper cancellation.

Accordingly, it is the object of the present invention to provide a novel, simply constructed, and consequently inexpensive marking-roller device which will fulfil the requirements of the postal service, and greatly facilitate the handling of mail matter without the objections previously noted.

Another object is to so arrange the parts of the device that the stamp roller will always be provided with ample ink on its printing surface, without pressing the same onto a separate inked pad between each imprint. This feature is one of great importance inasmuch as it saves time by supplying ink to the roller without resorting to an

inked pad which is often removed from the direct line of work or at one side of the operator. Further, in this connection it may be said that the present device provides for evenly and fully distributing the ink over the entire printing surface of the roller without over-feeding, thereby insuring a clear, clean-cut imprint from the stamp at all times.

A further object of the invention is to provide a substantial construction which will readily withstand the wear of exacting and heavy service conditions, at the same time however, being arranged to permit ready disassembling for making repairs, and also arranged so that the inking roller may be resupplied with inking fluid without being removed from the frame.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail side elevation showing the positions of the printing roller and the inking roller when the device moves in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the relative positions of the rollers when the device is moved in the opposite direction. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail side elevation of the device showing how the inking roller may be resupplied with ink without being removed from the frame, and Fig. 5 is a detail plan view showing the roller supporting frame.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying out the invention lightness and strength are embodied to the best possible advantage, and accordingly to this end a supporting frame F is employed of light strong metal. This supporting frame preferably consists of the frame members 1 and 2 each of which includes a handle portion 3, arranged side by side and bent outwardly at one end as at 4, and then forwardly to form the carrier arms 5. The said handle portions 3 are preferably inserted in a suitable

grip handle 6 having the usual ferrule 7, and locked therein against withdrawal by having their tips 8 turned outwardly as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. This construction prevents the turning of the frame in the handle, and renders the device more stable than it would be otherwise. It will also be obvious that without this construction, the constant application of pressure on the carrier end of the frame would soon break or bend the same at the point where it joins the handle.

Specially referring to the carrier arms 5, it will be observed that the same are designed to carry two rollers at different elevations, one roller 9 being a printing roller and the other roller 10 being an inking roller. In other words, the portions 5^a of the arms 5 form bearings for the removable axle pin 11 of the printing roller 9, while the laterally offset portions 5^b provide bearings for the removable axle pin 12 of the inking roller 10. The said printing roller 9 is of any suitable construction, though usually made of wood, and having upon its outer cylindrical face a rubber or equivalent covering 13 upon which is formed some suitable wording or design, depending upon whether or not the device is used for canceling postage stamps or for postmarking. This roller 9 may be preferably described as a movable printing roller, since its axle pin 11 is journaled in the elliptical obliquely disposed slots 14 in the ends 5^a of the carrier arms. The inclined plane *a* of the slots 14 intersects the longitudinal vertical plane *b* of the axis 12 of the roller 10 beyond the side of the frame F, opposite the said roller 10 as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3. At this point, it may be noted that the roller 10 is rotatably mounted, but not capable of bodily movement in any direction in the frame. That is, it has a fixed location, in the sense that it is not bodily movable in the frame like the printing roller 9. This arrangement of printing and inking rollers permits the former to be automatically forced into and out of contact with the inking surface 15 of felt or similar material of the latter, whose cylindrical body is preferably of the same material as the printing roller 9. With further reference to the removable axle pins 11 and 12 of the rollers 9 and 10 respectively, it will be observed from Fig. 1 that the same may be locked in the carrier arms 5 by means of washers 16 and cotter pins 17 in the usual well-known manner. Thus, they are quickly removable and replaceable when the occasion demands, though securely held in position when the device is in use.

From the foregoing description it is believed to be apparent that the two rollers are so mounted in the frame that the printing roller is movable in an oblique plane,

into and out of contact with the inking roller. That is to say, the printing or marking roller is out of contact with the inking roller when the device is drawn backward on the working stroke, as shown in Fig. 3, since the pressure applied to the handle causes the axle pin 11 to rise to the ends of the slots 14 which are farthest away from the axle of the roller 10.

The device can be drawn backward any number of times to bring the printing roller into play, or until the ink on the stamp needs replenishing. In the latter case it is only necessary to push the device forward with little or no pressure on the handle so that the axle 11 of the printing roller falls to the ends of the slots 14 which are nearest the axle 12 and the printing roller contacts with the inking roller, as shown in Fig. 2. To resupply the offset inking roller with inking fluid, the entire device is inverted thereby causing said roller to assume the lowermost position, that is, below the stamp roller as shown in Fig. 4, so that the same can be rolled over an inked surface or pad 18. This will permit the felt 15 of the roller 10 to absorb fresh inking fluid without removing it from the frame, which it would be necessary to do if it were not for this particular arrangement of the roller. Owing to the plane of inclination of the slots 14, the stamp roller 9 will fall to the ends of the slots which will take the same farthest away from the inking roller 10, when the device is inverted and the said latter roller absorbing ink. Thus the stamp does not become supplied with ink during the replenishing operation. This is an important feature, as it may often happen that a film of fresh ink will remain on the surface of the roller 10 for a short time, so that if the roller 9 did contact therewith at this time, the stamp 13 would become clogged and not give a clear imprint.

Without further description, it is thought that the many practical advantages of the invention will be readily apparent, and that its utility as a hand device for canceling irregular mail matter will also be evident.

I claim:

1. A reversible mail marker comprising a supporting frame having obliquely disposed slots, a printing roller having its axle mounted for free movement in the obliquely disposed slots, and an inking roller supported in a laterally offset position with relation to the printing roller, whereby the device when inverted for reinking purposes will direct the printing roller to a position out of contact with the inking roller.

2. A reversible mail marker comprising a supporting frame having obliquely disposed slots and laterally offset portions, a printing roller having its axle mounted for free movement in the obliquely disposed

slots, and a rotatable inking roller having its axle journaled in the laterally offset portions of the frame to thereby dispose the printing roller in a fixed location at one side of the plane of the printing roller, said printing roller being adapted to automatically move into and out of contact with the inking roller when the latter is uppermost, and to remain out of contact with

the inking roller when the latter is lowermost for reinking purposes. 10

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

OLIVER H. SMITH.

Witnesses:

E. H. McLACHLEN,
ELSIE C. SMALL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents Washington, D. C."