R. M. HODGE.

RIBBON MOISTENING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 8, 1920.

1,366,802. Patented Jan. 25, 1921.

Fig. 1.

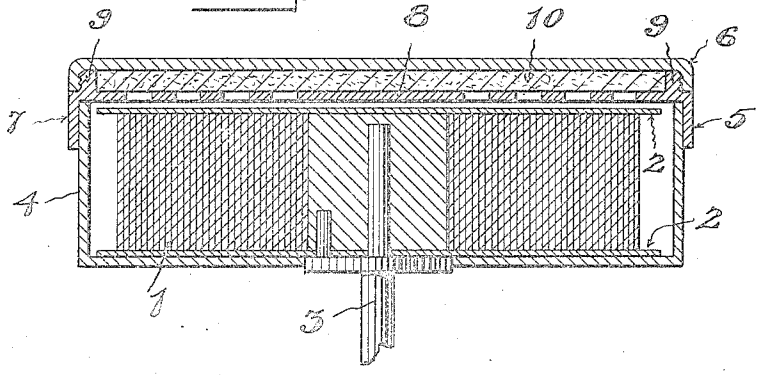


Fig. 2.

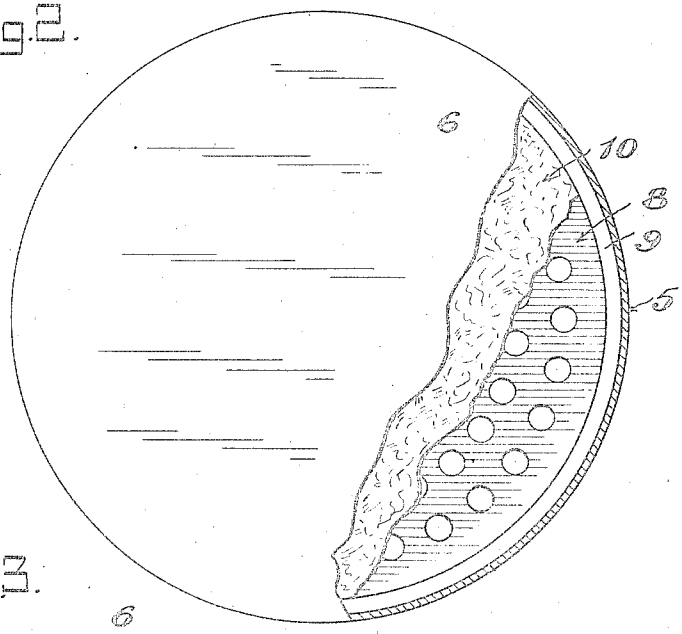
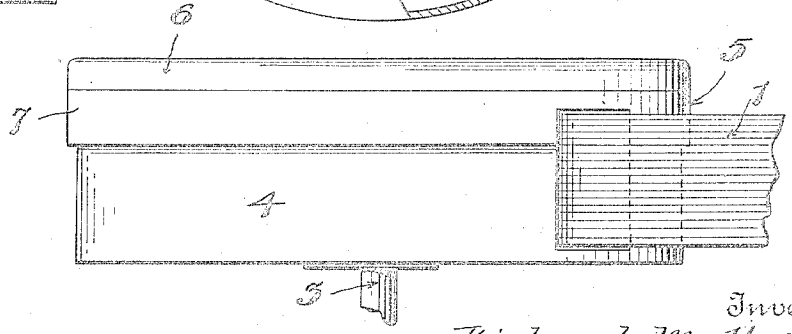


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RIBBON-MOISTENING DEVICE.

1,366,802. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 25, 1921.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD M. HODGE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Ribbon-Moistening Devices, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a moistener which will always provide a suitable atmosphere for a typewriter tape or ribbon so that the same will never dry when in use. Such ribbons are hydroscopic and as a rule do not wear out but dry out through a loss of moisture. By the use of my invention, it is possible to greatly prolong the life and usefulness of a ribbon for typewriters and similar instruments by keeping the ribbon always in a suitable condition for use and preventing it from drying out and supplying it with any moisture which may be necessary to make up the loss incidental to its exposure in the machine.

This and other objects are accomplished by my invention, one embodiment of which is hereinafter more particularly set forth.

For a more exact description of my invention, reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a typewriter spool and spool casing with my moistening device attached thereto.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 1, parts being broken away to more clearly show the structure.

Fig. 3, is a side elevation of a typewriter ribbon casing embodying my invention.

Through the various views of the drawings, similar reference characters designate similar parts.

An ordinary typewriter ribbon 1 may be mounted on its spool 2 which is connected to a spindle 3 of the ribbon mechanism in the conventional manner. This ribbon is surrounded by the usual casing 4 which is usually secured to the frame of the typewriter in a manner which is well understood. Ordinarily it is common to provide some sort of cap or cover for such casings 4 with perforations through which the ribbon may be viewed so that its condition may be determined from time to time and the operator will know when a shift will occur from one end of the ribbon to another. In the preferred embodiment of my invention, the ordinary cover is done away with and a closed cap 5 is substituted which is provided with a top 6 which is secured to the bottom 7 by screw threads or other suitable means, and this bottom 7 has a perforated central portion 8 which is surrounded by a flange 9 to which the top 6 is secured and between the top 6 and perforated portion 8 is a chamber in which is interposed any suitable absorbent material 10 such as blotting paper which will readily absorb moisture when immersed in liquid and gradually permit the same to depart through the perforations in the part 8 of the bottom 7.

Assuming the parts to be as shown and described the operation of my device will be readily understood. When the ribbon is inserted the cap 5 is off and before it is restored it is immersed in water or treated in any other suitable manner so as to moisten the pad 10 and then the cap 5 is put in place on the casing 4. The hydroscopic characteristics of the ribbon 1 causes it to absorb just what moisture it needs and neither more or less, from the top so that as long as the pad remains moist the ribbon will be in a suitable condition for use. When the ribbon shows a tendency to dry out, the cap is removed and the pad moistened as above set forth, and then the cap is restored and the ribbon will soon regain its proper condition. The closed cap 5 has openings into the interior of the casing 4 and not otherwise so that the interior of the chamber is at all times protected from dust and the moisture of the pad is concentrated in this chamber and is not allowed to become dissipated from outside atmospheric conditions.

While I have shown and described one embodiment of my invention, it is obvious that it is not restricted thereto, but that it is broad enough to cover all structures that come within the scope of the annexed claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A device of the class described comprising means for inclosing a spool with a typewriter ribbon thereon and means closed except at a part adjacent to an edge of the ribbon, holding a moistening means, so that the edge of such ribbon is submitted to a moist atmosphere, whereby the ribbon will always be in a proper condition for use.

RICHARD M. HODGE.