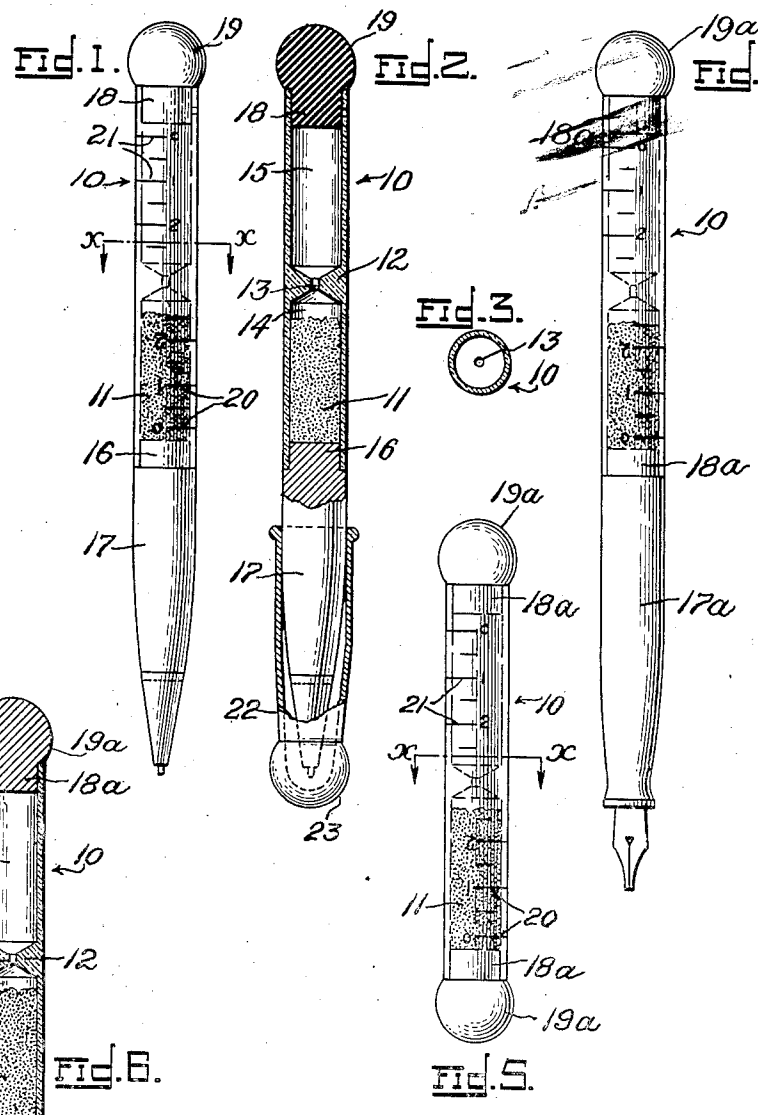
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TELEPHONE DIALING INSTRUMENT

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TELEPHONE DIALING INSTRUMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 161—19)

Our invention relates to an instrument for use in operating existing dial telephones and for timing the calls that are made.

The invention has for its object to provide an instrument of the class described which will be of simple, efficient and inexpensive construction; which can be conveniently carried in a pocket of the clothing without injury to the latter and which preferably is constructed for use also as a writing implement.

To these ends we have provided a telephone dialing and timing instrument which, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, may be constructed as hereinafter set forth, the several novel features of the invention being separately pointed out and defined in the claims at the close of the following description. It is to be understood, however, that the illustrated embodiments of the invention are to be taken as preferred examples of the latter and that various changes in shape, size and arrangement of the parts of the device may be resorted to without departing from our invention as defined in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a telephone dialing and timing instrument constructed in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevation, partly in section, of the instrument shown in Fig. 1, and with the addition of a cap applied to one end thereof.

Figure 3 is a section on line x—x of Figs. 1 and 5.

Figure 4 illustrates a modification.

Figure 5 is a side elevation of a telephone dialing and timing instrument embodying a third form of the invention.

Figure 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of the instrument shown in Fig. 5.

Each embodiment of our invention illustrated in the accompanying drawing comprises an exteriorly and interiorly cylindroidal tubular member 10 made from rigid transparent material such as "Lucite," glass or the like and containing a body of granular material 11 such as sand. This member 10 is divided interiorly near its middle by an integral partition 12 that is formed with a central aperture or passage 13, thus providing two chambers 14 and 15, one at each side of the partition whose inner ends are connected by the constricted passage or port 13.

When member 10 is made from "Lucite" or the like as shown in the drawing a round bar of said material of the desired length is bored longitudinally from the opposite ends thereof to provide the chambers 14 and 15 and the integral partition 12 after which the latter is drilled through to provide the aperture or passage 13. If desired, however, the member 10 may be produced in completed form within a mold while the material thereof is in plastic condition.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the outer end of the chamber 14 is closed by a stopper 16 which is the reduced end portion of the body or shaft 17 of a magazine pencil of otherwise ordinary construction, said reduced end portion being telescopically fitted into the end of member 10 and secured in position by means of cement or otherwise. Also, in this embodiment of the invention, the outer end of the chamber 15 is closed by a stopper 18 which is a cylindrical boss forming an integral part of an exposed spherical or globular rubber eraser element 19 of greater diameter than boss 18 and also of greater diameter than that of the holes provided in the dials of existing dial telephones now in common use.

A predetermined quantity of sand or other fluid or granular material 11 is provided within the tubular member 10 so that when the device with the loaded chamber uppermost is held in a vertical position a predetermined length of time, three minutes, for example, will be required for all of said material to flow through the aperture 13 into the lower chamber. For measuring fractions of this three minute period of time the member 10 is marked with scales 20 and 21, one opposite chamber 14 and the other opposite chamber 15.

The magazine pencil section 17 is preferably provided with a removable metal cap 22, Fig. 2, that is telescopically fitted thereon as shown and frictionally held in place. This cap is made with a spherical outer end portion or head 23 which is of the same diameter as the spherical rubber head 19. Thus either end of the instrument may be applied to the telephone dial when the latter is to be operated and no time is lost at the start of the timing period in waiting while the material 11 is transferred from one chamber to the other as often would be required if the instrument were provided with but one head 19.

The form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 4 is constructed the same as above described with the exception that the closure 18a including its spherical outer end portion 19a may be made of any suitable rigid material such as "Lucite," hard rubber or the like, and also with the exception that the closure 16a for the opposite end of the tubular member 10 is a part of the body 17a of a fountain pen of otherwise ordinary construction. This form of the invention may also be provided with

a cap like that shown at 22 in Fig. 2, adapted to be telescopically applied to the writing implement 17*a*.

In the form of our invention illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 the body of fluid granular material 11 is confined within the transparent tubular member 10 thereof by two closure members 18*a* telescopically fitted within the opposite ends of said member, said closure members having exposed spherical outer end portions 19*a* which, like the corresponding elements of Figs. 2 and 4, are of greater diameter than the holes of the telephone dials now in use.

It is true of each of the above described forms of the invention that the elongate transparent tubular timing member 10 constitutes either the entire handle of the device (Figs. 5 and 6), or a substantial portion thereof (Figs. 1–4), and is grasped by the hand of the user while writing, erasing, dialing or timing. It is also true that in each instance the end closure elements of the tubular timing member 10 are constructed to serve other purposes, while the spherical forms at their outer ends prevent injury to the pocket of the user's clothing within which the device may be carried while not in use.

When operating the dial of a telephone one of the spherical elements is seated within a hole of the telephone dial and as the latter is rotated by means of our device said spherical element is free to rock within said hole after the fashion of a ball and socket joint.

It will be clear that the length of time the telephone is used will be measured and indicated by the timing member 10. Also, that a writing implement for use in making notes in connection with telephone calls is always available when the device is constructed as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4.

From the above description it will also be clear that the timing device may function simultaneously with the use of the device either for dialing or for writing and that at such times the movements and agitation of the device serve to facilitate the passage of the fluid material 11 through the aperture 13 and avoid clogging thereof.

What we claim is:

1. A telephone dialing and timing instrument comprising an elongate transparent tubular handle member whose interior is divided near its middle into two chambers by an apertured partition and whose exterior is provided with two scales that are graduated in time units, one of said scales being opposite one of said chambers and the other scale being opposite the other chamber; a predetermined volume of fluid material within said member, and two closure elements telescopically coupled respectively to the opposite ends of said member for confining said material within the latter, one of said closure elements having an exposed spherical outer end portion of greater diameter than the holes of the dials of existing telephones, and said fluid material, the aperture of said partition, and said scales providing a timer for timing the use of a telephone.

2. A telephone dialing and timing instrument comprising an elongate transparent tubular handle member whose interior is divided near its middle into two chambers by an apertured partition and whose exterior is provided with two scales that are graduated in time units, one of said scales being opposite one of said chambers and the other scale being opposite the other chamber; a predetermined volume of fluid material within said member, and two closure elements telescopically coupled respectively to the opposite ends of said member, for confining said material within the latter, each of said closure elements having an exposed spherical outer end portion of greater diameter than the holes of the dials of existing telephones, and said fluid material, the aperture of said partition, and said scales providing a timer for timing the use of a telephone.

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