Nov. 9, 1943. W. H. LOWSTON 2,333,801

TYPE CLEANING IMPLEMENT

Filed Jan. 18, 1941

Fig. 1.

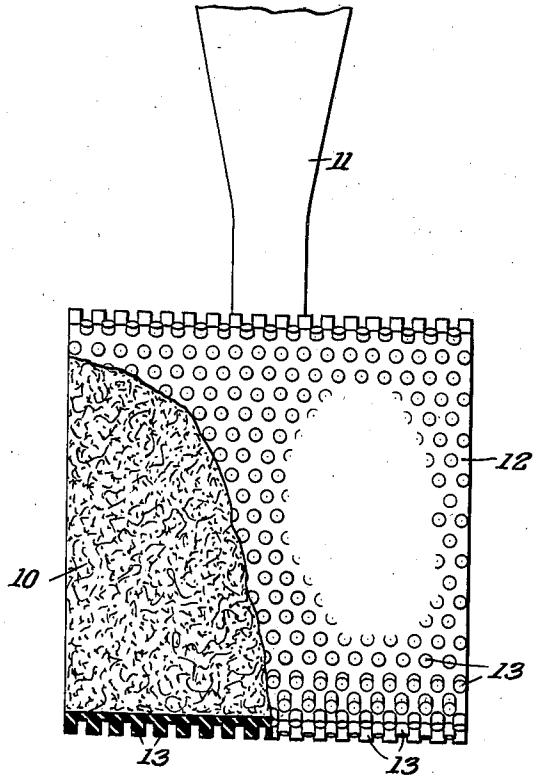


Fig. 2.

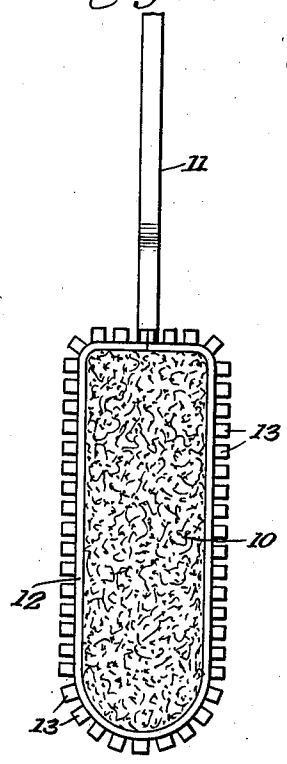


Fig. 3.

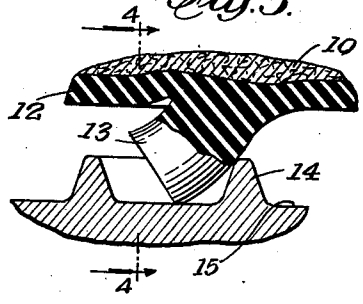
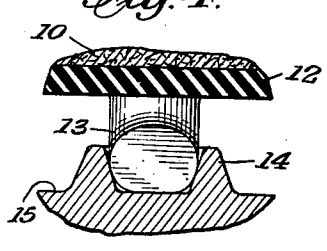


Fig. 4.



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TYPE CLEANING IMPLEMENT

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Application January 18, 1941, Serial No. 374,954

1 Claim. (Cl. 15—210)

This invention relates to devices or implements for cleaning type and maintaining the type in a clean condition without the use of cleaning fluids.

The common method of cleaning the type of typewriters is to apply a cleaning fluid with a piece of cloth or a brush. This method is at best a messy and odoriferous task, frequently being the cause of soiled fingers and clothes.

Plastic rubber has also been used for cleaning typewriter type, but this has many disadvantages in that a greasy film is left on the type after use, which serves to collect and hold dust and grime. Also the plastic rubber requires kneading after each use, thus causing soiling of the fingers, etc.

It has also been suggested that steel or other metallic wire brushes be used, but while these may be useful in digging out of the type any stencil wax that may have accumulated they, nevertheless, do not carry off the ribbon ink and they are apt to scratch the fine surfaces of the type and thus impair their efficiency.

Because of the disadvantages of cleaning typewriter type with cleaning fluids, it is usually infrequently done. In fact, if done frequently, the felt buffers underlying the type bars are apt to become saturated with the liquid and thus the type bed is thrown out of line since saturated felt impairs the buffing qualities of the felt. Hence, liquid cleaning of the type is only done from time to time, usually monthly, but in the meantime, the type becomes dirtier from day to day and accumulates so much ink and grime that unless cleaned, the type will not make a clean and sharp impression in use.

While ordinarily there is no problem in keeping the visible or accessible parts of a typewriter clean, there, nevertheless, is a serious problem to keep clean and free from ink and accumulations, the most important part of the typewriter, that is its type.

Recognizing the above, this invention has for its primary object the provision of a type cleaning implement which will clean and polish type without the use of liquid, in a dry manner without injury to said type, and which can conveniently be used without effort and in a few seconds time.

The foregoing objects and other objects, features and advantages will become more clearly apparent from the following detailed description of the accompanying drawing in which a preferred form of the invention as at present conceived is illustrated.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front view, partly broken away, of a preferred form of a type-cleaning implement.

Fig. 2 is an end view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary detailed sectional view illustrating the association of a cleaning element of the implement shown in Fig. 1, with a type character of a standard typewriter.

Fig. 4 is a similarly enlarged sectional view as taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In that form of the invention which is illustrated, an implement preferably comprises a body 10, said body being preferably formed of a material such as sponge rubber or any material which is compressible, yieldable and self-sustaining. This body is provided with a handle such as 11 embedded therein. This handle, illustrated as projecting from the top narrow end of the body, may be secured at a midpoint of the wider side of said body, if desired.

As herein contemplated, the body 10 is provided with a cover member 12 which is also formed of a rubber material so as to be yieldable and pliable and have the quality or characteristics of being capable of adsorbing ribbon ink. As illustrated, this cover may be cemented and thus permanently secured to the body, although an interchangeable cover may be provided by merely wrapping the same about the body, and securing it in place by suitable fastening means such as pins, clips and the like. The cover may also be provided with a fabric backing or lining.

The surface of the cover member 12 is preferably provided with a multiplicity of cleaning projections 13. These projections are preferably, though not necessarily, uniformly and regularly spaced to provide the entire surface of the cover, with cleaning elements, each adapted to engage in a wiping manner, the type of a standard typewriter. It has been found that these projections should preferably be cylindrical, though obviously they may be of any shape; that their height may be anywhere from equal to their diameter, to equal to about twice their diameter, and that their diameter should be related to the size of the type of a standard typewriter. Thus, it has been found that if the diameter of these projections 13 is not greater than the width of the printing surface of the average letter, a projection would readily and easily enter certain of the openings in the type, as for instance the letters "o," "c," "e," "a," "g," and "s."

While the projections have been described as

being on a separate cover member, it will be understood that such cover member may be eliminated and that the projections may be integral with the compressible body member.

When passing the implement over a type character, the projections **13** will be bent, as shown in Fig. 3, and after entering the opening in the type **14**, will wipe or suck said opening clean of accumulated ink or grime. If the projections **13** were made too long, they would merely flex during the movement of the implement across the type without entering the openings thereof, and therefore, be unable to have their ends reach deep enough in said openings for cleaning thereof. If on the other hand said projections were too short, they would not be long enough to reach the surface of the type block holding the character, with similar undesirable results.

It is evident then that a few strokes of the implement across the type would cause a great number of projections to engage and wipe the type with the apparent result that said type would be thoroughly clean and would be given a high polish. It will be noted that because of the compressibility of the body **10**, considerable pressure may be exerted during the cleaning operation without deleteriously affecting the type insofar as to cause wear, with assurance that the projection will reach the base surface **15** as seen in Figs. 3 and 4.

It is also evident that a brand new typewriter presents the ideal condition for clean, sharp typing, and that if the implement were used for a few seconds each morning, the typist may have the equivalent of a new machine daily, since the previous day's accumulations are readily removed from the type; that the implement may be used to completely clean and polish the type of even a used typewriter and may then be used to keep the type clean and free of ink by frequent, at least daily, applications of the implement across the type. It is evident that the ease with which the type can be kept clean by the use of this implement and the improvement thus resulting, makes it desirable to every typist.

From the foregoing it may be seen that a simple, inexpensive and highly efficient implement for cleaning type, has been provided. Despite its simple nature, it is also evident that the invention may be practiced in other ways, without departing from the spirit and scope thereof as hereinafter claimed.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A type cleaning implement comprising handle, a compressible body secured to said handle, said body having substantially parallel sides, the edge of said body opposite the handle being rounded, a pliable cover on said compressible body overlying said parallel sides and the rounded edge, the ends of said body being uncovered, a multiplicity of integral projections on said pliable cover, each of said projections being approximately $\frac{1}{16}$'' in diameter and approximately $\frac{1}{16}$'' high.

WALTER H. LOWSTON.