Oct. 7, 1941. J. M. MILLER 2,258,501

INK PAD

Filed May 29, 1939

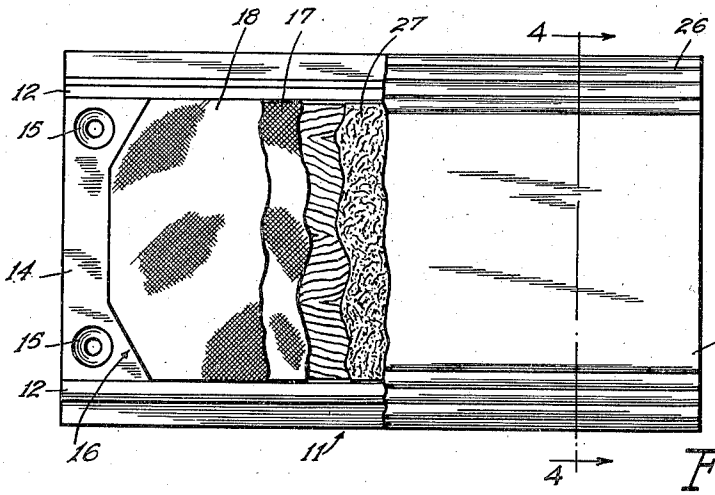


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

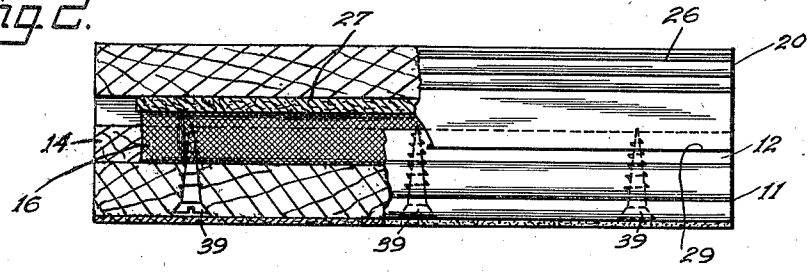


Fig. 1.

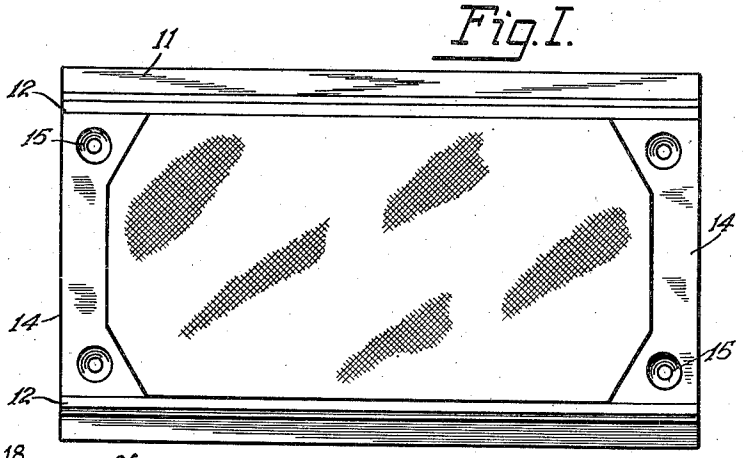
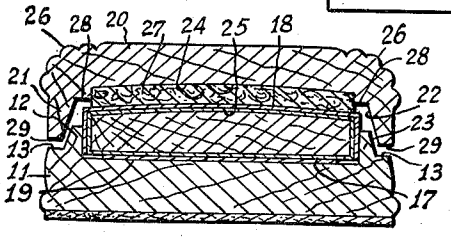


Fig. 4.



Inventor:
Jacob M. Miller.
By Dana T. Schubert
Atty.

Patented Oct. 7, 1941

2,258,501

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,258,501

INK PAD

Jacob M. Miller, Chicago, Ill.

Application May 29, 1939, Serial No. 276,293

16 Claims. (Cl. 91—54.5)

This invention relates to improvements in ink pads and has particular reference to an ink pad used in the finger-printing art for applying ink to the fingers of a person whose finger-prints it is desired to record.

Heretofore the application of ink to the fingers has been a serious problem. The ink must be applied evenly over the area to be printed so as to get good prints. The best previous method has been to apply ink to a flat glass or metal slab and then to distribute the ink evenly over the surface by means of a roller which is passed over the surface. The fingers were then placed upon the inked surface of the slab to acquire a sufficient amount of ink to record the prints of the subject upon a recording chart.

This method provided fairly satisfactory results but had many undesirable characteristics when put into actual practice. It was necessary to thoroughly clean the slab and roller each time prints were made. This was very messy and bothersome. The necessity of preparing the ink slab for use consumed much time which made the taking of finger-prints a comparatively slow process. The technique of making inked impressions with the roller and slab method required a skillful manipulator because of the great care necessary to acquire usable prints.

My invention obviates the above difficulties and makes the taking of prints a much quicker and easier task. The practical efficiency and usefulness of the device is evidenced by its acceptance by the trade.

An object of my invention is to produce an ink pad for use particularly in making finger-prints which is clean and immediately ready for use.

A further object of my invention is to produce an ink pad which is readily portable and available for use over an extended period of time, on one supply of ink.

A further object of my invention is to produce a device capable of facilitating the making of good, clean cut impressions which show no weave pattern or "fuzz" in the ridges.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following description.

In the accompanying drawing like reference characters in the several views designate like parts; and

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the base of my ink pad with the cover removed;

Fig. 2 is a view, partly sectional, of my ink pad;

Fig. 3 is a plan view with some of the parts broken away; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view along the line 4—4 in Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

The preferred embodiment of my invention shown in the drawing comprises a base 11 composed in this example of wood, provided with longitudinal strips 12 which protrude upwardly from the base 11 in such a position as to provide flanges 13. End portions 14 are provided and secured to the base 11 within the confines of the longitudinal strips 12 by any suitable means such as glue or by the use of screws which may pass thru the orifices 15 and engage the base 11. The strips 12 and end pieces 14 are of substantially the same height and form a hollowed out portion in which the inking slab is inserted and secured.

The ink slab 16 may be composed of any smooth, hard, flat material such as wood or the like. A piece of material 17 impervious to liquids and especially to ink is fastened to the wood block or ink slab 16. This material 17 covers the entire upper and side surfaces of the block 16. Over the waterproof material 17 is placed a piece of woven material 18 having a very smooth and even texture such as silk or a similar fabric. The silk 18 is stretched very tightly across the upper surface of the slab and fastened in place by a piece of strong material 19 which is glued to the bottom of the block 16 and the ends of the silk 18. Screws 39 pass thru the block 11 and enter the slab 16 to secure the slab 16 in place in the hollowed out portion formed by the strips 12 and end pieces 14. The slab 16 is somewhat thicker than the height of the strips 12 and end pieces 14 and therefore extends above the upper surface of the strips 12 and end pieces 14.

A cover 20 is provided with downwardly extending portions or legs 21 which are of a size and spacing to contact the flanges 13 of the bottom member when pressure is applied to the cover. The inside face 22 of the legs 21 is slanting at the same angle as the outside face 23 of the strips 12 so that normally they are parallel to each other and slightly separated.

The inside surface 24 of the cover 20 is slightly concave and the upper surface 25 of the slab 16 is slightly convex. The two surfaces are concentric so as to counteract any tendency of the middle of the block 11 to sag after extended usage. The actual arc in practice is not as great as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing which has been slightly exaggerated. Longitudinal grooves 26 are provided in the cover 20 to provide a gripping surface for the fingers of the operator.

A strip of absorbent material 27 such as felt or the like is shaped to fit within the shoulder

portions 28 formed in the faces 22 of the legs 21. The felt pad 27 is slightly thicker than the depth of the shoulders 28 and constitutes the ink reservoir of the device. The felt 27 is secured on the surface 24 in any suitable manner such as by gluing.

In using the device the operator first applies ink to the reservoir by means of a brush. It should be applied over the entire surface of the pad although this is not absolutely necessary. The cover 20 is then placed on the bottom portion and normally the only contacting surfaces will be the felt pad 27 and the silk 18. A certain amount of ink will of course be transferred from the reservoir 27 to the silk 18. However when the operator desires to use the device for making fingerprints he will grasp the cover 20 between the fingers by means of the grooves 26 and apply pressure thereto.

The various parts of the device are so shaped and of a certain size so that the application of pressure to the cover 20 causes the parallel angle faces 22 and 23 to engage each other; and the edges 29 of legs 21 engage the shoulders 13. The cover 20 is then moved longitudinally back and forth several times and this movement causes the proper amount of ink to be transferred from the reservoir to the silk 18. The shoulders 13 are engaged by the edges of the strips 21 and these parts are proportioned so that only a certain amount of pressure can be applied to the cover. The inking process cannot therefore be spoiled by the application of too much pressure. The sliding movement distributes the ink evenly over the surface of the pad and the subject's fingers when applied to the pad will acquire the proper amount of ink which will be distributed so as to give perfect impressions which will be free of all weave pattern and not fuzzy in the ridges.

A single application of ink to the reservoir will permit as many as forty sets of ten finger prints to be made. The pad does not have to be cleaned each time it is used; it can be put away for future use without cleaning. It is not necessary to roll ink on a slab for each set of prints it is desired to obtain as the pad is immediately ready for use at any time.

While I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention, I do not desire to be confined to the structure shown and described but to have my invention defined by the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A device of the character described comprising a base member, a hollowed out portion in said base, a slab fitted within said hollow portion, material impervious to liquids for covering said slab, a second material having a smooth even surface located over said first material, a cover slidable over said base member, means for guiding said cover during movement, and an absorbent material secured in said cover.

2. An ink pad comprising a base member, an inking slab secured in said base, a woven material over said slab, a cover member slidable over said base member, means for guiding said cover during movement, and an absorbent material in said cover forming an ink reservoir.

3. An ink pad comprising an inking slab, a woven material over said slab, a cover member slidable over said inking slab, means for guiding said cover during movement, and an absorbent material in said cover forming an ink reservoir.

4. An ink pad comprising an inking slab, an ink impervious material over said slab, a woven material over said slab, a cover member slidable over said inking slab, means for guiding said cover during movement, and an absorbent material in said cover forming an ink reservoir.

5. An ink pad comprising an inking slab, a silk like material stretched tightly over said slab, a cover member slidable on said slab, means for guiding said cover during movement, and an absorbent material secured to said cover.

6. An ink pad comprising an inking slab, a fabric covering said slab, a cover member slidable over said slab, means secured in said cover for storing ink and for evenly applying said ink to said slab, and means for guiding said cover on said slab during said distribution.

7. A device of the character described comprising a base member, upwardly extending strips thereon, a block member fitted between said strips comprising an inking slab, a cover having depending strips and slidable on said member, an ink reservoir fitted between said strips, said reservoir being of a thickness to normally separate said upwardly and downwardly extending strips when said cover is placed on said inking slab, said upwardly and downwardly extending strips serving as guide members for said cover during movement.

8. A device of the character described comprising a base member, upwardly extending strips thereon, a slab fitted between said strips, a fabric stretched over said slab, a cover slidable over said base member, said upwardly extending strips serving as guiding means for said cover, and an absorbent material forming an ink reservoir in said cover and arranged to engage said fabric when the cover is in place.

9. A device of the character described including a base member, upwardly extending strips thereon, a slab fitted between said strips, a fabric stretched over said slab, a cover having depending strips slidable on said base member, said strips acting as guiding means, an absorbent material in said cover adapted to engage the said fabric when the cover is in place.

10. A device of the character described including a base member, upwardly extending strips thereon, a slab fitted between said strips, a fabric stretched over said slab, a cover having depending strips slidable on said base member, said strips acting as guiding means, an absorbent material in said cover adapted to engage the said fabric when the cover is in place, said depending strips and upwardly extending strips adapted to co-act to limit the cover to longitudinal movement over the base member.

11. In a device of the character described including a base member, longitudinal strips on each side thereof, end pieces secured to said base, said strips and end pieces forming a hollow, a slab of wood secured in said hollow, a liquid impervious material covering said slab, a smooth surfaced fabric covering said material, a cover member slidable on said base member, depending legs on said cover member, said legs being spaced slightly more than said longitudinal strips and coacting therewith to guide said cover during movement, and an absorbent material in said cover.

12. In a device of the character described including a slab having its upper surface slightly arched, a cover having its inner surface formed on an arc concentric with the upper surface of said slab, said cover being movable on said slab, means for guiding said cover on said slab during

movement, and an absorbent material on said curved surface of said cover.

13. In a device of the character described including a slab having its upper surface slightly arched, a fabric covering said slab, said fabric being impervious to ink, a second fabric over said first fabric, a cover having its inner surface arched, said cover being movable on said slab, means for guiding said cover on said slab during movement, and an absorbent material on said inner surface of said cover.

14. In a device of the character described including an inking slab, a cover for said slab, an absorbent material in said cover acting as an ink reservoir, said cover being slidable on said slab, and means for guiding said cover on said slab during movement.

15. In a device of the character described including an inking slab, a cover for said slab, an absorbent material in said cover acting as an ink reservoir, said cover being slidable on said slab, and means for guiding said cover on said slab during movement, and means for preventing an excessive downward movement of said cover.

16. A device of the character described comprising a slab, a cover member, an ink reservoir in said cover, said cover being longitudinally movable on said slab to evenly distribute ink from the reservoir over the slab, and means for guiding said cover on said slab during movement.

JACOB M. MILLER.