B. Snyder.
Reading Card.

No. 36,242. Patented Aug. 19, 1862.

Fig. 1.

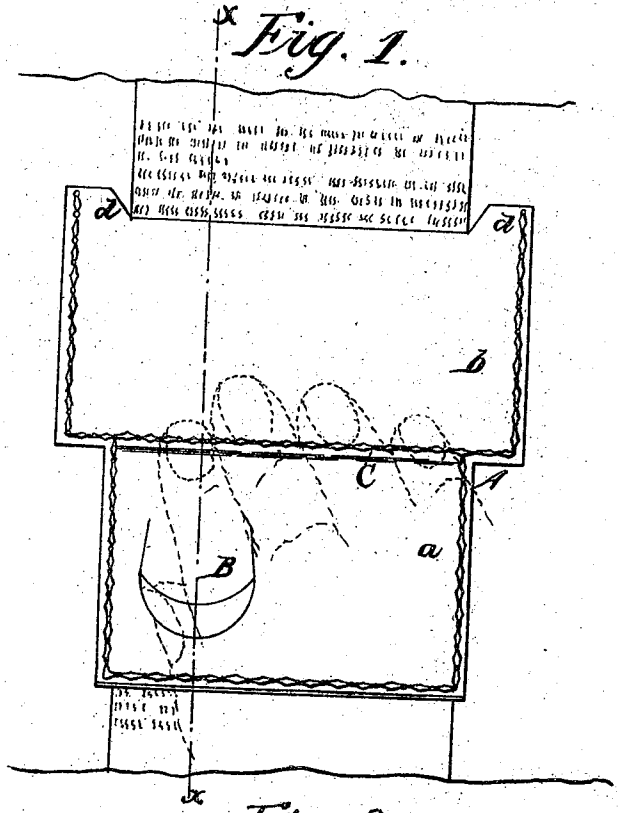


Fig. 2.

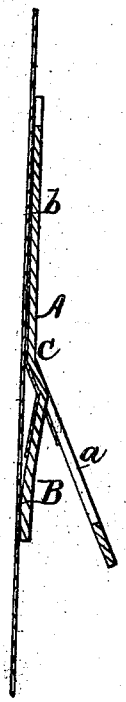
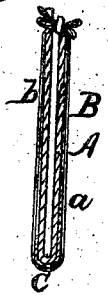


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN SNYDER, OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY.

READING-CARD.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **36,242**, dated August 19, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN SNYDER, of Trenton, in the county of Mercer and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful device for assisting persons in reading in railroad-cars, and which device I term a "Reading-Card;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of my invention applied to a column of a newspaper or printed matter; Fig. 2, a section of the same, taken in the line *x x*, Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a section of the device in a folded state.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to obtain a simple and cheap device to assist persons in reading in railroad-cars, and one which may be readily manipulated or adjusted over the paper or printed page from line to line, be firmly held in position, and when not in use capable of being compactly folded and carried conveniently in the pocket.

To this end the invention consists in the employment or use of a jointed or folding card or thin wooden or metal plate provided with a flap or thumb-piece constructed substantially as hereinafter fully shown and described.

To enable those skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a piece of card or pasteboard, which is folded at its center, so as to form two parts, *a b*, equal in length, but of different widths, the part *b* being wider than the part *a*, so that it will project beyond it at each side, as shown in Fig. 1. The fold in the card forms a joint, *c*, which may be strengthened by cementing or gluing a strip of muslin or other material over it at one side of the card. The part *b* is made sufficiently wide to admit of a recess being cut in its top edge equal in width to the column of printed matter to which it is to be applied, said recess leaving a projecting lip, *d*, at each side to serve as boundaries to the column to guide or keep the eye at the proper spot, as shown in Fig. 1. The part *a* of the card has a curved cut made in it to form a flap, B, which may be pressed outward from the part *a* against the paper or book to which the card is applied. The card is held to the paper or book and adjusted thereon from line to line by grasping the part *a* of the card, the fingers bearing against its outer or upper surface, as indicated by the red outline in Fig. 1, and the thumb pressing on the flap B, which prevents the card from casually slipping on the paper. The upper edge of the part *b* of the card is adjusted underneath each line to be read, and serves as a great relief to the eyes, and will enable persons while traveling in railroad-cars to read with comparative ease without injuring the eyes.

The flap B is an essential feature of the invention, as under the pressure of the thumb it is made to bear against the paper or book to prevent the casual displacement or slipping of the card—a contingency which otherwise would be liable to occur under the motion of the car.

When the device is not in use, the two parts *a b* may be folded in contact and kept in a closed state by a ribbon or small elastic band, so as to be conveniently carried in the pocket.

The outward or upward surface of the card may be of a green tint, as that color is not trying to the eyes. The opposite surface may be of any tint or color and ornamented in any way that will suit the fancy.

In case wood or metal be used instead of pasteboard, the construction will be precisely the same, the joint *c* being formed of any suitable flexible or pliable material cemented or otherwise secured to *a b*, the flap B being also secured to *a'* in the same way.

I would remark that the device may also be used by grasping the flap B with the thumb and forefinger and letting the remaining fingers press the part *a* against the paper. This difference in the application or use of the device, however, does not affect the character of the invention in the least.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent as a new and useful article of manufacture—

A reading-card formed of two parts, *a b*, connected by a joint, *c*, and provided with a flap, B, substantially as set forth.

BENJN. SNYDER.

Witnesses:
SUSAN L. ROGERS,
JAMES ROGERS.