Feb. 20, 1940. E. B. NICHOLS 2,190,910

WRITING IMPLEMENT

Filed Dec. 1, 1938

FIG. 1.

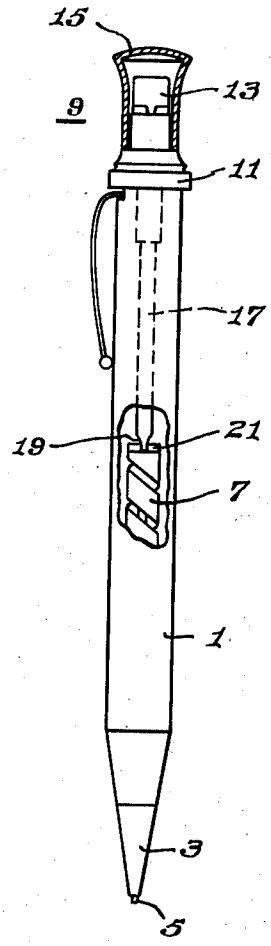


FIG. 2.

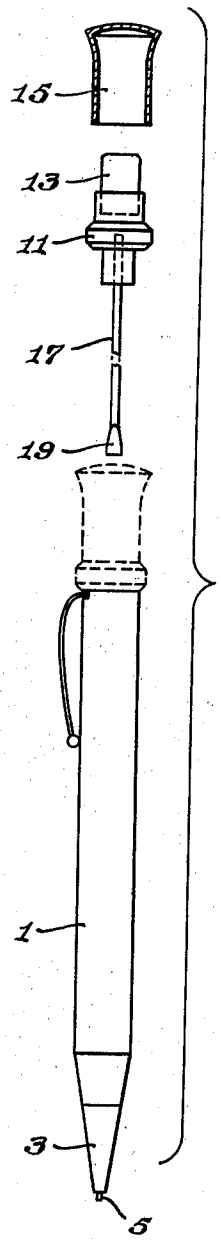


FIG. 3.

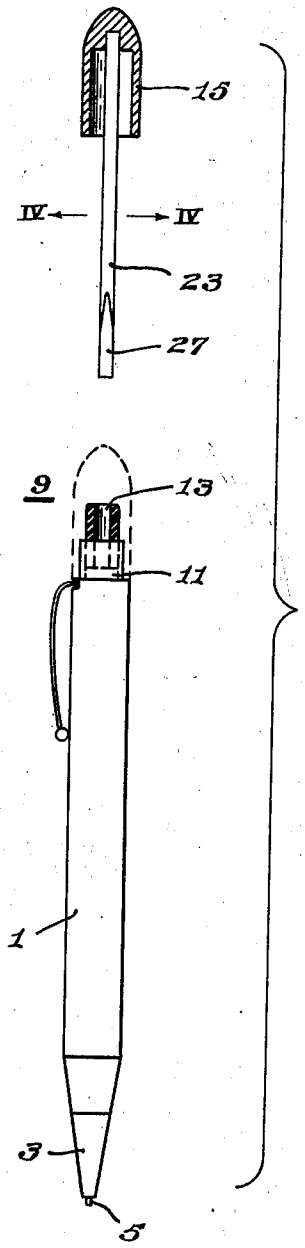
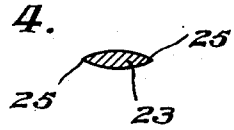


FIG. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,190,910

WRITING IMPLEMENT

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Application December 1, 1938, Serial No. 243,310

7 Claims. (Cl. 120—18)

This invention relates essentially to writing implements, and more particularly to a pencil of the magazine type.

In pencils of this type, there is usually provided a casing within which are arranged a lead holding member and a spiral actuating member, the latter being arranged to cooperate with the lead holding member to effect expulsion of the lead from or retraction of the lead within the casing, as the case may be. The actuating and lead holding members of many such pencils are arranged to occupy only a portion of the casing, leaving the remainder of the casing free for the reception and storage of extra leads.

Many users of such pencils often find that they have very frequent occasion to use other implements or tools, either in connection with their work, or in some other connection. For example, the mail clerk in an office which receives mail in large quantity has occasion to use a letter opener considerably, while also having use for a pencil in marking the mail for distribution. Similarly, a radio technician may very frequently find himself in need of a screw driver, particularly one made of non-conductive material, while at the same time having need for a pencil to record observed technical or other data. Again, a pipe smoker often has occasion to tamp down the tobacco when filling his pipe and to scrape out the bowl now and then after having smoked his pipe several times. There are many other instances in which similar needs have arisen, and the primary object of my present invention is to provide an improved combination pencil and other tool which will meet such requirements.

More particularly, it is an object of my present invention to provide an improved combination pencil and screw driver or the like in a unitary structure which will occupy no more space than the conventional pencil of the magazine type.

It is also an object of my present invention to provide an improved combination pencil and screw driver or the like which is simple in construction, inexpensive in cost, and efficient in use.

In accordance with my present invention, I mount a screw driver, letter opener, awl, or similar device on the cap member or closure for the casing of the pencil and, when the cap is mounted on the casing, the screw driver or the like is located in that portion of the casing which normally houses the extra leads. Thus, no extra storage space is required. Preferably, although not necessarily, the active end of the screw driver or similar tool may be made to fit the end of the spiral actuating member whereby rotation of the cap and screw driver will effect rotation of the spiral actuating member and thus cause the lead to be expelled or retracted, as the case may be.

The novel features that I consider characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description of several embodiments thereof, when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is an elevation, partly broken away to show the interior construction, of one form of my invention,

Figure 2 is an exploded view thereof,

Figure 3 is an exploded view of a somewhat different form of my invention, and

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line IV—IV of Figure 3.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout, I have shown, in Figures 1 and 2, a pencil comprising a hollow, cylindrical casing 1 having a frusto-conical end member or nozzle 3 from which a lead 5 projects when advanced and into which the lead 5 is withdrawn when retracted. The lead 5 is held in a suitable lead holder or carrier (not shown) which is actuated by a spirally grooved operating member 7 in more or less conventional manner, and since this feed mechanism is not, per se, a part of my present invention, it is not believed necessary to describe it in further detail.

The spiral actuating member 7 is operated by an operating head generally designated as 9 and comprising a base member 11 in the upper portion of which is received an eraser 13, a cap member 15 fitting around the eraser 13 and, together with the base member 11, constituting a cap for the upper end of the casing 1. Secured to the base 11 in any suitable manner, as by cement or the like, is a tool or other implement 17 which may be in the form of a screw driver, for example. If desired, the screw driver 17 may be made of electrically insulated material, but in any event, the flattened, active end 19 thereof may be made to fit into a slot 21 formed in the upper end of the spiral actuating member 7. Thus, by turning the cap or head 9 in one direction, the screw driver 17 will be turned in the same direction and the spiral actuating member 7 will operate the lead holder to advance the lead 5. Turning the cap or head 9 in the oppo-

site direction will, of course, effect retraction of the lead 5 into the frusto-conical member 3. By merely withdrawing the head 9 from the casing 1, the screw driver 17 will be withdrawn with it, and it will be obvious that the screw driver will then be available for use as a separate tool.

In the modification of my invention shown in Figure 3, the eraser 13 is made hollow for the reception of a letter opener 23, which is preferably long and thin and has the cross sectional shape somewhat as shown in Figure 4, the longitudinal side edges 25 thereof being fairly sharp so as to be able to slit paper envelopes easily. The lower end 27 of the member 23 may be flattened or reduced in thickness similarly to the end 19 of the screw driver 17 to fit into the slot 21 of the spiral actuating member 7.

Although I have shown and described but two modifications of my invention, I am fully aware that many other modifications thereof, and changes in those herein described, are possible. I therefore desire it to be understood that I do not wish to have my invention limited except insofar as is made necessary by the prior art and by the spirit of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a pencil of the magazine type, the combination of a casing, a cap rotatably carried by said casing, a rotary lead actuating member within said casing having a slot therein at the end thereof nearest said cap, and means carried by said cap having a flattened end received within said slot whereby, upon rotation of said cap on said casing, said actuating member is rotated.

2. The invention set forth in claim 1 characterized in that said means is constituted by an elongated member having its free end flattened to constitute the active end of a screw driver, and characterized further in that said flattened end is the one received within said slot.

3. The invention set forth in claim 1 characterized in that said means is constituted by an elongated member of electrically insulated material having its free end flattened to constitute the active end of a screw driver, and characterized further in that said flattened end is the one received within said slot.

4. The invention set forth in claim 1 characterized in that said means is constituted by a relatively long, substantially flat member having longitudinal edges adapted to slit paper and a reduced end portion, and characterized further in that said reduced end portion is the one received within said slot.

5. In a pencil of the magazine type, the combination of a casing, a rotary lead actuating member within said casing in proximity to one end thereof, said member having a slot therein at the end thereof nearest the other end of said casing, a hollow eraser at said other end of the casing, a cap rotatably fitted over said eraser, and a relatively long member carried by said cap and extending through said eraser and into said slot.

6. As an article of manufacture, a closure member for the casing of a mechanical pencil, said member comprising a cap and a member depending from said cap, said last named member having its free end bevelled to permit engagement thereof with the lead propelling mechanism of the pencil.

7. As an article of manufacture, a closure member for the casing of a mechanical pencil, said member comprising a cap adapted to fit over the end of the casing, and a member depending from said cap, said last named member being adapted to be housed within said casing when said cap is applied to said casing and having its free end bevelled to permit engagement thereof with the lead propelling mechanism of the pencil.

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