W. J. HAHN.

RULER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 6, 1920.

1,343,968.

Patented June 22, 1920.

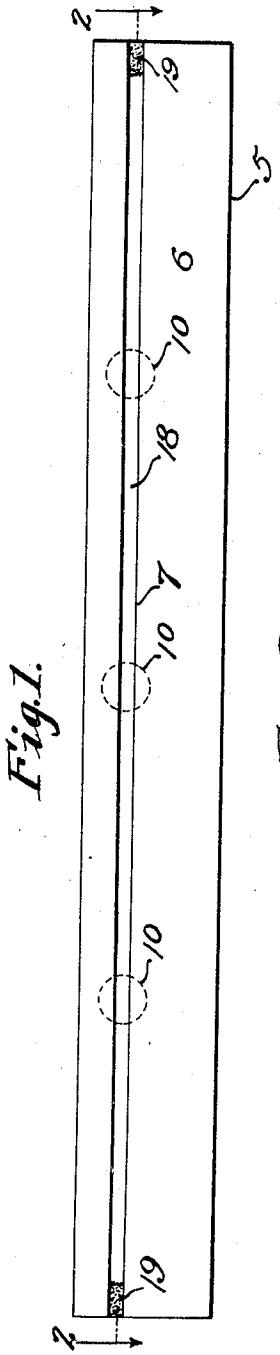


Fig. 1.

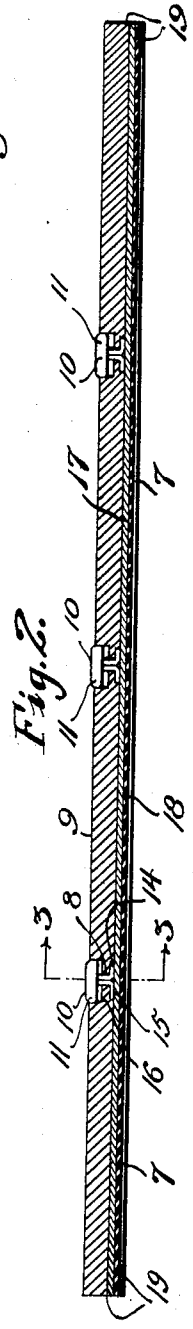


Fig. 2.

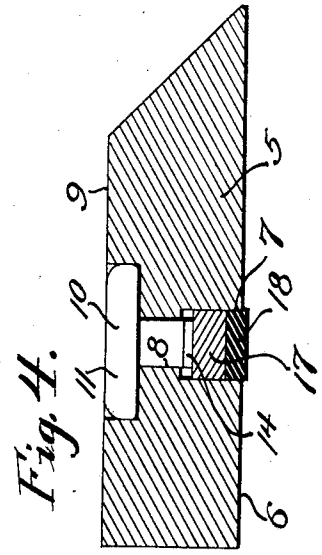


Fig. 4.

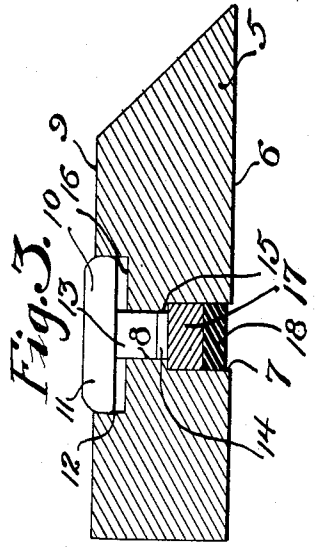


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RULER.

1,343,968. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented June 22, 1920.**

Application filed January 6, 1920. Serial No. 349,717.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. HAHN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rulers, of which the following is a specification.

One object of my invention is to provide a ruler or straight edge which will be so constructed that it can be used for measuring or drawing lines on extremely smooth or uneven surfaces and at the same time will not accidentally slip during use.

Another object is to so construct my improved ruler that the anti-slipping portion will be automatically rendered inoperative so that when desired the ruler can be freely slid from place to place without interference by said anti-slipping portion.

A further object is to make my improved ruler of a strong and durable construction and so that it can be easily and quickly made at a low cost.

These objects, and other advantageous ends which will be described hereinafter, I attain in the following manner, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is an inverted plan view of a ruler made in accordance with my invention,

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 showing the anti-slipping portion in its normal inoperative position, and

Fig. 4 is a view of the same general character as Fig. 3, showing the anti-slipping portion having been moved into a position capable of preventing accidental slipping of the ruler.

Referring to the drawings, 5 represents the body portion of the ruler which can be made of stiff wood or other material out of which rulers are usually made. This body portion on its under face 6 has a groove 7 formed therein which preferably extends from end to end. A number of holes 8 extend downwardly from the top 9 of the body portion. These holes intersect or communicate with the groove 7 at positions spaced apart throughout the length of the body portion.

Buttons 10 have heads 11 which fit and are adapted to slide downwardly within enlarged portions of the holes 8; said buttons having shanks 13 which are bent at substantially right angles in opposite directions at their lower ends, as shown at 14. These ends 14 normally fit within recesses 15 surrounding the lower portions of the holes 8 and which communicate with the innermost portion of the groove 7. Thus the ends 14 of the button shanks limit the upward movement of the button heads into the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3. When in this latter position the buttons of the heads 11 are spaced above the inner surfaces 16 of the inner portions 12 of the holes 8 so that the buttons are capable of being moved downwardly to the extent of the space between the heads 11 and the surfaces 16.

An elongated strip 17 of springy or resilient wood or other material is positioned within the groove 7 immediately adjacent the bent ends 14 of the buttons 10. The ends of the strip 11 are preferably glued or otherwise secured directly to the body portion 5 but the portion intermediate the ends of the strips 17 is free so that it can be bowed outwardly when any of the buttons 10 are pressed inwardly.

A rubber strip 18 is also positioned within the groove 7 and has its opposite ends glued or otherwise secured to the ends of the strip 17 and to the sides of the groove 7, as shown at 19. The strip 17 and the rubber strip 18 are preferably entirely within the groove 7 when the parts are in their normal position, such as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so that there is no portion of the rubber strip 18 which normally extends to the bottom face 6 of the body portion 5. Thus the ruler can normally slide over a surface without interference. However, when it is desired to prevent slipping of the ruler, any of the buttons 10 can be depressed and this action will cause the buttons to bow the strips 17 and 18 outwardly and the rubber strip 18 will be pressed against the surface upon which the ruler is placed and due to the non-slipping qualities of rubber, the ruler will be firmly held in frictional or non-slipping engagement with the surface upon which the ruler is placed.

While I have described and illustrated a number of buttons it will be obvious that one or more buttons can be used if desired

without departing from my invention. However, I preferably use three buttons as illustrated since the fingers of a person are capable of stretching a sufficient distance to simultaneously depress two or more of the buttons and thereby secure sufficient friction and leverage to prevent slipping. Furthermore, I have described specifically the strip 17 as being made of wood and the strip 18 of rubber, however, it will be understood that other materials can be substituted which will have the same qualities as these materials. The strip 17 forms a backing for the comparatively soft rubber strip 18 and thereby prevents the button shanks from directly engaging the rubber.

While I have described my invention as taking a particular form, it will be understood that the various parts of my invention may be changed without departing from the spirit thereof, and hence I do not limit myself to the precise construction set forth, but consider that I am at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly come within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. A ruler of the character described including a body portion having a groove; a strip of non-slipping material positioned within said groove; and means for moving said strip outwardly so as to press against a surface upon which the ruler is placed; substantially as described.

2. A ruler of the character described including a body portion having a groove; a strip of non-slipping material normally positioned entirely within said groove, said strip being secured at portions spaced apart relatively to said body portion; and means for moving said strip outwardly against a surface upon which the ruler is placed, said means being operative upon the portion of said strip between said secured portions thereof; substantially as described.

3. A ruler of the character described including a body portion having a groove and a hole communicating with said groove; a button within said hole; a resilient strip positioned within said groove and secured relatively to said body portion at places located at opposite sides of said button; and non-slipping material adjacent the outer surface of said strip whereby when said button is pushed, said non-slipping material will be pressed into engagement with the surface upon which the ruler is placed; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. HAHN.

Witnesses:
ANNA RENTON,
CHAS. E. POTTS.