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L. G. BALMER
PENCIL LEAD INDICATOR
Filed Nov. 23, 1931

1,885,171

Fig. 1.

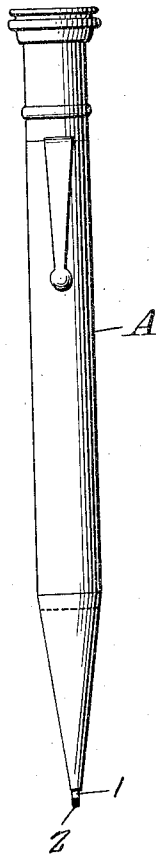


Fig. 2.

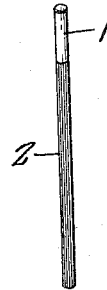
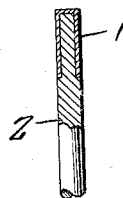


Fig. 3.



P. Hickey
WITNESS:

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LESLIE G. BALMER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

PENCIL LEAD INDICATOR

Application filed November 23, 1931. Serial No. 576,890.

This invention relates to indicators and its general object is to provide leads or lead refills for mechanical lead pencils with indicating means thereon so that it can be ascertained at a glance when the lead is practically consumed, at which time it can be replaced, thereby overcoming the inconvenience of having the stub lead drop from the pencil during the use of the latter which generally happens when the lead is approximately one-eighth of an inch in length, and again when the lead becomes the length as set forth, if it does not fall from the pencil it is loose and wobbly and therefore practically useless.

Another object of the invention is to provide an indicating means for leads or lead refills for mechanical pencils, that is extremely simple, inexpensive and efficient in operation and service.

This invention also consists in certain other features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, to be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

In describing my invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawing wherein like characters denote like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a mechanical lead pencil showing my indicating means in use.

Figure 2 illustrates a lead having my indicating means thereon.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken through the lead and indicating means.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the reference numeral A indicates a mechanical lead pencil of the usual construction and which is adapted to receive leads or lead refills having my indicating means thereon. While I have shown a lead with indicating means in the form of a cap which is indicated by the reference numeral 1, I want it understood that the indicating means may be integrally formed with the lead, or the lead may have one of its end portions colored, but in any event the indicating means is of a contrasting color with respect to the color of the lead, and the indicating means is approximately

three-sixteenths of an inch in length so that it can be seen at a glance when the lead is practically consumed, as shown in Figure 1.

In the form as shown in the drawing, the lead 2 is reduced at one end to accommodate the cap 1 which of course is of tubular formation and of the same diameter as the major portion of the lead as shown in Figure 3. One end of the cap is closed, and the cap may be formed from any desired inexpensive material.

It is thought from the foregoing description that the advantages and novel features of my invention will be readily apparent.

I desire it to be understood that I may make changes in the construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, provided that such changes fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a lead for mechanical lead pencils, an indicating means comprising a cap disposed on one end of the lead.

2. In a lead for pencils, an indicating means therefor comprising a cap of tubular formation secured on one end of said lead and said cap being of a color contrasting to the color of the lead.

3. In a lead for mechanical lead pencils, an indicating means for said lead and comprising a cap of tubular formation, said lead having a reduced end having said cap mounted thereon, said cap having a closed end and being of a color contrasting to the color of the lead.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
LESLIE G. BALMER.