Aug. 2, 1960 J. McKNIGHT BALLOU 2,947,243

TYPE HOLDER

Filed July 20, 1959

FIG. 1.

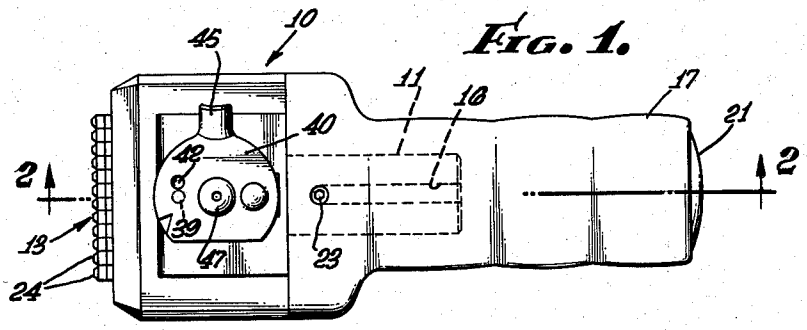


FIG. 2.

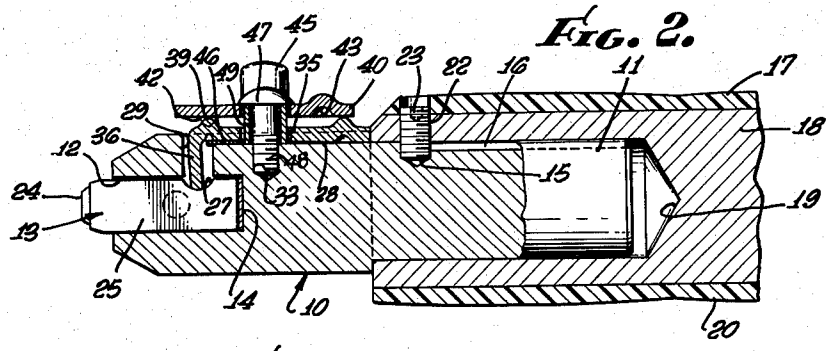


FIG. 3.

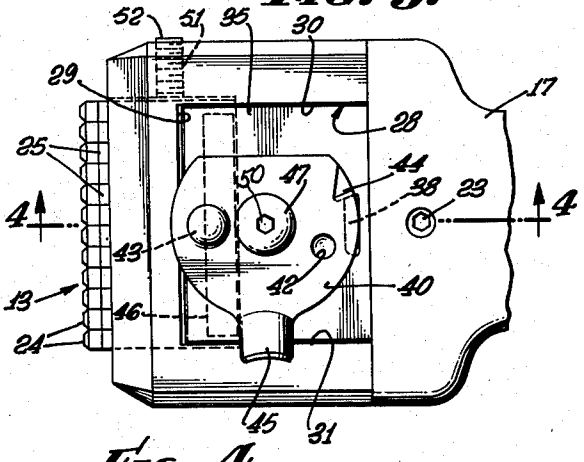


FIG. 5.

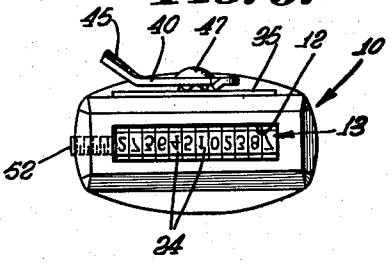


FIG. 6.

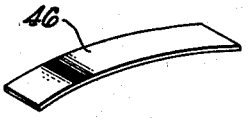
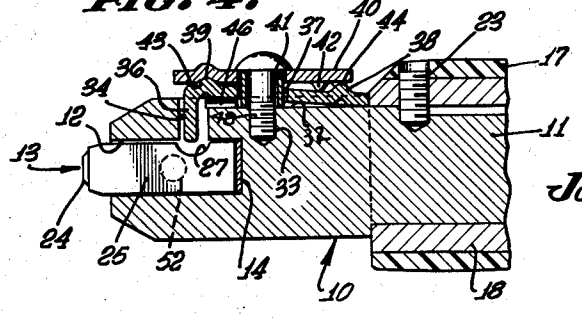


FIG. 4.



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2,947,243

TYPE HOLDER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 101—28)

This invention relates to metallic type holders or marking devices wherein a plurality of interchangeable metallic type members, identical except for their character-bearing stamping faces, are removably secured in alignment in a type holder with their shanks in juxtaposition and their characters exposed, the type holder being adapted to be fixed in a stamping machine for punch press operation under load or to be struck by a hammer, as a hand stamp, to cause the characters to make an impression in a surface.

In the prior art, various metallic type holders have been developed for use in a stamping machine and other holders have been devised for use as a hand stamp. Since such type holders are subject to rough usage in the marking of products, many attempts have been made to produce a means for locking the metallic type members securely in position. There are a number of disadvantages to the type holders of the prior art. A considerable amount of time is necessary to screw and unscrew the various locking devices when set-up changes are made. Under conditions of repeated use, the assembled parts have a tendency to come loose or fall apart. When both stamping machines are used and also hand stamp operation, separate type holders must be used with resultant added cost to the user by reason of the necessity for maintaining two different type holders. The above disadvantages are obviated by my invention which provides a time saving type locking means so that a "flip of the thumb" locks or opens the type for quick set-up change, while the type holder itself is of solid, durable construction which may be used in a stamping machine, or by the addition of a handle, may be used as a hand stamp, eliminating the necessity for duplicate type holders for machine or hand stamping.

The general object of the invention is to provide a metallic type holder which may be used either in connection with a stamping press or as a hand stamp, which has an improved latching assembly to alternately lock and release a plurality of metallic type members in alignment in the type holder.

A further object of the invention is to provide a simple locking assembly in a type holder wherein a plurality of selected, interchangeable type members may be positioned in juxtaposition with their characters exposed within a cavity in the type holder and by a simple manual operation, a "flip of the thumb," may be quickly and instantly locked securely in alignment and by a further simple manual operation, another "flip of the thumb," the type members may be quickly and instantly released for the purpose of substituting other type members with other characters within the type receiving cavity in the type holder.

Another object of the invention is to provide a stamping device in which a type holder which carries a plurality of interchangeable type members may be used in connection with a stamping press for stamping metal and the like and also as a hand stamp by the provision of a removable handle, thus eliminating the necessity and expense of two separate type holders, one for press stamping and one for hand stamping.

A further object of the invention is to provide a removable handle for a type holder, which handle is provided with a bonded plastic coating which is easy to grip, prevents slipping and absorbs hand shock when the handle is grasped by the operator and the handle struck with a hammer during manual operation.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a metallic type holder of simple, unitary construction, having a minimum of parts which is durable, relatively simple to manufacture, and easy to use either as a hand stamp or in a stamping machine.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated, by way of example, but not by way of limitation, a specific embodiment of my invention. In such drawings, Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation of the type holder equipped with a set of type, the locking device in locked position, with the handle attached for use as a hand stamp, the dotted lines delineating the shank of the type holder adapted to be fitted into a stamping machine; Fig. 2 is an enlarged view in longitudinal section, partly broken away, along the lines 2—2 of Fig. 1 in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 3 is an enlarged view in side elevation, partly broken away, of the type holder equipped with a set of type, the locking device in open position, with the handle attached for use as a hand stamp, the dotted lines delineating the side auxiliary type locking stud, the opening in the holder through which the finger of the leaf member fits for alternately locking and releasing the type members, and the raised guide member on the leaf member; Fig. 4 is a view in longitudinal section along the lines 4—4 of Fig. 3 in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 5 is a view in end elevation of the type holder equipped with a set of type, the locking device in closed, locked position, the dotted lines delineating the side additional locking stud bearing against the type members; and Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the spring member.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which similar reference characters identify similar parts in the several view, **10** designates the type holder body, generally, which has a shank **11** at its upper end portion, generally cylindrical, adapted to be fitted into a stamping machine for punch press operation. The bottom end portion of the type holder body **10** is provided with a type receiving cavity **12** in which an assembly of type members **13** may be placed in juxtaposition with their ends seating upon the basal wall **14** of the type receiving cavity **12**. To provide for uniform impression depth, the basal wall **14** of the type receiving cavity **12** is heat treated. I have discovered that uniform impression depth may be accomplished by fitting and bonding a heat-treated platen to the body **10** by suitable means, such as adhesive to form the basal wall **14**.

The cylindrical shank **11** of the type holder body **10** has a depression **15** formed therein and a longitudinal slot or groove **16**. A handle **17** has a metal body **18** with a centrally disposed hole **19** formed therein adapted to fit over the cylindrical shank **11** of the type holder body **10**. As shown in Fig. 1, if it is desired to use the device as a hand stamp, the removable handle **17** is fitted over the cylindrical shank **11** of the type holder body **10**. I have discovered that a handle which is easy to grip, will not slip and which will absorb hand shock may be provided by bonding to the metal a vinyl plastic coating **20** around the grip portion of the handle **17**. The head **21** is rounded to provide a head for receiving hammer blows. A threaded hole **22** is provided adjacent to the lower end of the handle **17**, through the metal body **18** and the plastic coating **20**, the hole

22 being adapted to register with the depression 15 in the shank 11 of the type holder body 10. A set screw or stud 23, with a countersunk hexagonal depression of the "Allen" type is positioned within the threaded hole 22 so that when it is desired to use the device as a hand stamp, after the cylindrical shank 11 of the type holder body 10 has been slipped into the centrally disposed hole 19 of the handle 17, in proper registry, the set screw 23 may be screwed in with a suitable "Allen" wrench so that the stud 23 seats in the depression 15 in the shank 11 so that the handle 17 is securely held in place. The handle 17 may be made of any desired shape and size suitable for being grasped by the operator when the device is used as a hand stamp. The plastic coating 20 makes for easy gripping of the handle, prevents slipping and absorbs hand shocks from hammer blows when the head 21 of the handle 17 is struck by a suitable instrument, such as a hammer. If, after the device has been used as a hand stamp, it is desired to use a machine operation, the stud 23 is unscrewed with a suitable wrench, the handle 17 slipped off the shank 11 and the device may be placed within the ordinary stamping press (not shown).

The type members, generally designated as 13, are interchangeable, severally removable type members having numerals or other characters at one end 24, which characters or numerals may be impressed upon the surface of the article to be stamped. The type members 13, which are identical, except for their character-bearing stamping faces 24, have a shank 25, the other non-character bearing end 25 of the type members 13, when placed in juxtaposition within the type receiving cavity 12 in the holder 10 seat upon the basal wall 14. The shank 25 of the type members 13 have a notch 27. The several notches 27 in an assembly of type members 13 seated within the type receiving cavity 12 in side-by-side relationship form a continuous notch.

An important feature of my invention is the latching means whereby the type members 13 may be quickly and securely held in juxtaposition or quickly released for the purpose of substituting other type members 13 with other characters within the type receiving cavity 12 in the type holder 10. The upper face of the type holder body 10 is formed with a three-sided shallow depression 28, having a forward wall 29, two side walls 30 and 31 and a basal wall 32, while the rear portion of the depression 28, opposite the forward wall 29 is open. A threaded hole 33 is drilled in the type holder body 10 through the basal wall 32 of the cavity 28. Through the basal wall 32 of the depression 28, adjacent the forward wall 29, a rectangular opening or slot 34 is cut out leading to and communicating with the type receiving cavity 12.

A metallic leaf member 35 is seated to have limited up and down movement by the forward end thereof, without flexure, within the rectangular depression 28, the leaf member 35 having an inwardly turned downwardly depending finger 36 passing through the slot 34, the lower extremity of the finger 36 being adapted to fit into and engage the notches 27 in the shank 25 of the type members 13 when the finger 36 is depressed to locking position. The leaf member 35 has an aperture or hole 37 drilled therein. A raised rib or upwardly projecting member 38, positioned rearwardly on the upper surface, is integrally formed from the metal of the leaf member 35 which, as will be described below, acts as a support and stop member. A substantially hemispherically shaped protuberance or upwardly projecting member 39 is punched out forwardly on the upper surface formed from the metal of the leaf member 35.

A locking plate or cap member 40, mounted for limited rotatable movement on said leaf member 35, has an aperture or hole 41 drilled therein adapted to register with the aperture 37 in the leaf member 35 and the threaded hole 33 in the basal wall 32 of the depression 28. A substatnially hemispherically shaped protuberance or downwardly projecting stop member 42 is punched out on the lower surface from the metal of the cap member 40 which, as will be described below, acts as a stop member limiting counter-clockwise rotation of the cap member 40. A substantially hemispherically shaped recess 43 is punched in the metal of the locking cap 40 adapted to receive, when in registry therewith, and mate with the complementary hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member 39 on the leaf member 35. A downwardly projecting claw stop member or lug 44 is formed from the metal of the locking cap 40, which claw stop member 44 acts as a stop limiting clockwise rotation of the cap member 40 against the raised rib 38 of the leaf member 35, as will be explained more fully below. An outwardly projecting finger lever member or tab 45 is provided, integral with the locking cap 40, for "flip of the thumb" rotation of the cap member 40.

A bowed leaf spring 46 (see Fig. 6), serving as a tension member, is positioned underneath the leaf member 35 paralleling the length of and adjacent to the slot 34 through which the finger 36 of the leaf member 35 passes, the leaf spring 46 serving to urge the forward portion of the leaf member 35 upwardly and the finger 36 out of engagement with the notches 27 in the shank 25 of the type members 13. The spring member 46 is retained in position against forward displacement by the finger 36 of the leaf member 30, against backward displacement by the tubular shank 49 of the bolt 47 and against lateral displacement by the side walls 30 and 31 of the rectangular depression 28.

The various operating parts of the latching assembly are held in relationship by means of the bolt 47 which has a lower screw threaded portion 48 adapted to pass through the aperture 41 in the cap member 40, the aperture 37 in the leaf member 35 and to be screwed into the threaded hole 33 in the body 10 of the type holder. The bolt 47 has an enlarged tubular shank portion 49 which is of the proper height to enable the leaf member 35 and the locking plate 40 to operate cooperatively, as will be explained below, and which shank portion 49 operates as a bearing around which the rotatable locking cap member 40 turns. The bolt 47 is provided with a hexagonal recess 50 to receive an "Allen" wrench. I may secure the bolt 47 so that it may not be removed by using a standard commercially available lock-nut or by cementing the bolt 47 into fixed position.

The stamping device, ready for use as a hand stamp (or in a machine press by removing the handle 17, as described above) with the type members 13 in locked position is illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 5. The type members 13 are seated in juxtaposition within the type receiving cavity 12 of the type holder body 10 with their character bearing stamping faces 14 projecting forwardly of the type holder body and their lower ends 26 bearing upon the basal wall 14 of the type receiving cavity 12. The type members are so positioned that the several notches 27 of the assembly of type members 13 in juxtaposition form a continuous notch, as shown most clearly in Fig. 2. The finger 36 of the leaf member 35 is in type-engaging position, the lower extremity of the finger 36 fitting into the notches 27 of the type members 13 and held in such position by reason of the action of the underside of the rotatable cap member 40 bearing against the upwardly projecting member 39 on the leaf member 35, which serves to act against the tension of the spring 46 forcing the spring 46 to assume a substantially flat position, as shown most clearly in Fig. 2. In locking position the rotatable locking cap member 40 is supported forwardly by the upwardly projecting member 39 on the leaf member 35 and rearwardly by the upwardly projecting supporting rib member 38.

If it is desired to change the type members 13, the operator merely contacts the outwardly projecting finger lever member 45 on the locking cap member 40 and by manual pressure rotates the locking cap member 40 in a clock-

wise direction to the "open" position, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. During this turning, the locking cap member 40 is supported by the upwardly projecting member 39 and the upwardly projecting supporting rib member 38 of the leaf member 35 bearing against the underside of the locking cap member 40. When the finger lever member 45 has been rotated clockwise approximately 180 degrees to the position shown in Fig. 3, i.e. to the "open" position, the upwardly projecting member 39 snaps into and fits within the complementary hemispherically shaped recess 43 in the locking cap member 40 and held there by reason of the tension of the spring member 46, as shown most clearly in Fig. 4. Further rotation of the locking plate 40 in a clockwise direction is limited by the claw member 44 on the locking cap member 40 bearing against the raised rib 38 on the leaf member 35. In this "open" position, the finger 36 of the leaf member 35, under spring tension, is held out of the notches 27 of the type members 13. This entire action is accomplished by a "flip of the thumb." The type members 13 may be then interchanged, as desired.

If it is then desired to lock the new type members 13 in place, the operator merely again contacts the finger lever 45 on the locking cap member 40 and by manual pressure rotates the locking cap 40 in a counter-clockwise direction to the "closed" position. As this operation is performed the upwardly projecting member or protuberance 39 rides out of the complementary hemispherically shaped recess 43 in the locking cap member 40 and the spring 46 is forced to assume a substantially flat position. When the finger lever member 45 has been rotated approximately 180 degrees counter-clockwise to the "closed" position, as shown in Fig. 2, further counter-clockwise rotation is limited by the hemispherically shaped protuberance 42 on the bottom of the locking cap member 40 bearing against the hemispherically shaped protuberance 39 on the leaf member 35. As described above, the type members 13 are in locked position, as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 5. The entire locking operation is, again, accomplished by a "flip of the thumb."

While my construction has been found to be an effective locking means for interchangeable type members, suitable for prolonged trouble-free use in commercial stamping operations, when used either as a hand stamp or in a machine press, I may provide an auxiliary locking means for the character bearing type members. To this end, as shown in Figs. 3 and 5, a screw threaded hole is formed in the side of the type holder body 10 opening into one of the side walls of the type receiving cavity 12. A set screw or stud 52, with a countersunk hexagonal depression of the "Allen" type, is positioned within the threaded hole 51 so that, if desired, the operator, by the use of a suitable "Allen" wrench may provide a second or additional lock for the type members 13 by turning said screw 52 so that its bottom face bears against the shank 25 of the outermost of the type members 13 to press the assembly of type members towards the end wall of the type receiving cavity 12 to hold the type members 13 in a double lock, that of the action of the stud 52 and by the action of the finger 36, as shown most clearly in Fig. 2. If the auxiliary lock with the stud 52 is used, of course, when it is desired to change the type members 13, the stud 52 must be unscrewed in order to be able to remove the type members 13 from the type receiving cavity 12 after the locking cap member 40 has been rotated to the "open" position, as described above.

While I have described a particular embodiment of my inventive structure, it is clear that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity at one end for receiving a plurality of interchangeable type members, each of said typing members having a notch, a leaf member mounted on said body portion having a finger for engaging said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member, tension means serving to urge said finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches in said type members, cooperating stop means on said cap member and said leaf member permitting limited rotational movement of said cap member in both clockwise and counter-clockwie direction and cooperating means on said leaf member and said cap member whereby when said cap member is manually rotated in one direction said finger of said leaf member is depressed against the tension of said tension means to engage said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position and when said cap member is manually rotated in an opposite direction said finger of said leaf member, under urging of said tension means, is withdrawn from said notches in said type members to unlock said type members.

2. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity at one end for receiving a plurality of interchangeable type members, each of said type members having a notched shank to form a continuous notch when said type members are assembled in juxtaposition in said type receiving cavity, a leaf member mounted on said body portion having an inwardly turned downwardly projecting finger passing through a slot in the wall of said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity for engaging said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member, tension means interposed between said body portion and said leaf member to urge said finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches in said type members, cooperating stop means on said cap member and said leaf member permitting limited rotational movement of said cap member in both clockwise and counter-clockwise direction and cooperating means on said leaf member and said cap member whereby when said cap member is manually rotated in one direction said finger of said leaf member is depressed against the tension of said tension means to engage said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position and when said cap member is manually rotated in an opposite direction said finger of said leaf member under urging of said tension means is withdrawn from said notches in said type members to unlock said type members.

3. A type holder for a plurality of interchangeable metallic type members adapted to be fixed in a machine for punch press operation or to be struck by a hammer in hand operation to cause the characters of the type members to make an impression in a surface comprising a body portion, one end of said body portion having a shank adapted to be fitted into a machine for punch press operation, a handle member adapted to fit over said shank of said end portion and be removably secured thereto by securing means for hand stamp operation, the upper end of said handle portion having a head for receiving hammer blows, a type receiving cavity at the other end of said body portion for receiving a plurality of interchangeable type members having shanks with notches therein, a slotted opening in said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity, a leaf member having a finger passing through said slotted opening in said body portion for engaging said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member, tension means interposed between said body portion and said leaf member to urge said finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches in said type members, cooperating stop means on said cap member and said leaf member permitting limited rotational movement of said cap member in both a clockwise and a counter-clockwise direction

and cooperating means on said leaf member and said cap member whereby when said cap member is manually rotated in one direction said finger of said leaf member is depressed against the tension of said tension means to engage said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position and when said cap member is manually rotated in an opposite direction, said finger of said leaf member under urging of said tension means is withdrawn from said notches in said type members to unlock said type members.

4. A type holder for a plurality of interchangeable metallic type members adapted to be fixed in a machine for punch press operation or to be struck by a hammer to cause the characters of the type members to make an impression in a surface comprising a body portion, one end of said body portion having a shank adapted to be fitted into a machine for punch press operation, a handle member having a plastic shock-absorbent coating adapted to fit over said shank of said end portion and be removably secured thereto by securing means for hand stamp operation, the upper end of said handle portion having a head for receiving hammer blows, a type receiving cavity at the other end of said body portion for receiving a plurality of interchangeable type members having shanks with notches therein, a slotted opening in said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity, a spring impelled leaf member having a finger capable of movement through said slotted opening in said body portion to alternately engage or disengage said notches in said type members respectively to locked or released position, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member, cooperating stop means on said cap member and said leaf member permitting limited rotational movement of said cap member in both a clockwise and a counter-clockwise direction and cooperating means on said leaf member and said cap member whereby when said cap member is manually rotated in one direction said finger of said leaf member is depressed to engage said notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position and when said cap member is manually rotated in an opposite direction, said finger of said leaf member is withdrawn from said notches in said type members to unlock said type members.

5. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity at one end for receiving a plurality of interchangeable type members, a plurality of type members assembled in juxtaposition in said cavity and seating with their ends upon the basal wall of said cavity, the basal wall of said cavity being constituted by a heat treated platen fitted and secured to said body portion, a leaf member mounted on said body portion having a finger for engaging notches in said type members to hold said type members in locked position, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member, tension means serving to urge said finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches in said type members, cooperating stop means on said cap member and said leaf member permitting limited rotational movement of said cap member and cooperating means on said leaf member and said cap member whereby when said cap member is manually rotated said finger of said leaf member moves in and out of type engaging position.

6. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity with a slot in its upper wall at one end for receiving a plurality of notched interchangeable metallic type members identical except for their character bearing stamping faces, said type members when assembled in juxtaposition in said type receiving cavity presenting a continuous notch, a shank at the other end of said body portion adapted to be fitted into a machine for punch press operation, a handle member adapted to fit over said shank and be removably secured thereto by securing means for hand stamp operation, said handle member having an outer plastic shock-absorbent coating bonded to its outer surface covering the grip portion of said handle and a head adapted to receive hammer blows, a manually operable latching assembly for alternately locking and releasing said type members, said latching assembly comprising a leaf member mounted on said body portion, said leaf member terminating at one end in an inwardly turned downwardly projecting type engaging finger engageable into said continuous notch formed by said type members, said finger being capable of limited up and down movement through said slot in the wall of said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity, said leaf member having an upwardly projecting supporting member positioned rearwardly on its upper surface, an upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on its upper surface and an aperture positioned between said supporting member and said upwardly projecting member, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member for limited rotational movement, said cap having a downwardly projecting claw member, a finger lever member, a downwardly projecting stop member, a recess adapted to register with and receive said upwardly projecting member on said leaf member and an aperture adapted to register with the aperture in said leaf member, tension means interposed between said leaf member and said body portion bearing against the forward underside portion of said leaf member to urge said type engaging finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches of said type members and fastening means passing through said apertures in said leaf member and said cap member to secure said leaf member and said cap member to said body portion.

7. A type holder as claimed in claim 6, including additional type member locking means comprising a screw threaded stud extending through a side wall of said body portion, one end of said stud being adapted to bear upon an outer type member positioned within said type receiving cavity so as to press the assembly of type members towards the opposite end wall of said type receiving cavity.

8. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity with a heat-treated basal wall, a slotted upper wall and two end walls for receiving a plurality of notched interchangeable metallic type members identical except for their character bearing stamping faces at their forward ends, said type members, when assembled in juxtaposition with their non-character bearing ends seated upon said basal wall presenting a continuous notch facing the slot in the said upper wall, a shallow depression in the upper surface of said body portion, a manually operable latching assembly for alternately locking and releasing said type members, said latching assembly comprising a leaf member mounted in said depression on said body portion, said leaf member terminating at one end in an inwardly turned downwardly projecting type engaging finger engageable into said continuous notch formed by said type members in juxtaposition in said type receiving cavity, said finger being capable of limited up and down movement through said slot in the upper wall of said type receiving cavity, said leaf member having an upwardly projecting supporting rib member positioned rearwardly on its upper surface, a substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on its upper surface and an aperture positioned between said rib and said upwardly projecting member, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member for limited rotatable movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction, said cap having a downwardly projecting claw stop member, an outwardly projecting finger lever member, a downwardly projecting stop member, a substantially hemispherically shaped recess adapted to register with and receive said complementary substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member on said leaf member and an aperture adapted to register with the aperture in said leaf member, a spring member posi-

tioned in said depression in said body portion, interposed between said body portion and said leaf member, bearing against the forward underside portion of said leaf member to urge said type engaging finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches of said type members, a bolt member having an enlarged tubular shank passing through said apertures in said leaf member and said cap member to secure said leaf member and said cap member to said body portion, said cap member having limited rotatable movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction around said tubular shank of said bolt member to alternately move said finger of said leaf member up and down out of and into locking position, respectively, in relationship to said notches in said type members and auxiliary type locking means comprising a screw-threaded stud extending through one end wall of said type receiving cavity adapted to bear upon an outer type member positioned within said type receiving cavity so as to press the assembly of type members toward the opposite end wall of said type receiving cavity.

9. In a type holder including a body portion having a type receiving cavity with a heat-treated basal wall and a slot in its upper wall at one end for receiving a plurality of notched interchangeable metallic type members identical except for their character bearing stamping faces at their forward ends, said type members when assembled in juxtaposition with their non-character bearing ends seated upon said basal wall in said type receiving cavity presenting a continuous notch and a depresion in the upper surface of said body portion adapted to receive a manually operable latching assembly for alternately locking and releasing said type members, said latching assembly comprising a leaf member mounted in a depression in said body portion, said leaf member terminating at one end in an inwardly turned downwardly projecting type engaging finger engageable into a continuous notch formed by a plurality of type members in juxtaposition in a type receiving cavity in said body portion, said finger being capable of limited up and down movement through a slot in the wall of said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity, said leaf member having an upwardly projecting rib member positioned rearwardly on its upper surface, a substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on its upper surface and an aperture positioned between said rib and said upwardly projecting member, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member for limited rotatable movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction, said cap having a downwardly projecting claw stop member, an outwardly projecting finger lever member, a downwardly projecting stop member, a substantially hemispherically shaped recess adapted to register with and receive said complementary substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member on said leaf member and an aperture adapted to register with the aperture in said leaf member, a spring member positioned in said depression in said body portion interposed between said body portion and said leaf member, bearing against the forward underside portion of said leaf member to urge said type engaging finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches of said type members and a bolt member having a tubular shank passing through said apertures in said leaf member and said cap member to secure said leaf member and said cap member to said body portion whereby, when the operator, by manual pressure on said finger lever member rotates said cap in a counter-clockwise direction around the shank of said bolt member to the position where said downwardly projecting stop member on said cap contacts said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the upper surface of said leaf member further counter-clockwise rotation is thus limited, said finger of said leaf member is depressed through said slot against the tension of said spring member into type engaging locking position into the notches of said type members by the action of the underside of said cap bearing against said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the upper surface of said leaf member, said cap being supported rearwardly by the upwardly projecting rib member on the surface of said leaf member, and when the operator, by manual pressure on said finger lever member, rotates said cap in a clockwise direction to the position where said claw stop member of said cap contacts said raised rib member of said leaf member further clockwise rotation is thus limited and said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the surface of said leaf member is in registry and snaps into and mates with said substantially hemispherically shaped recess in said cap and said finger of said leaf member is raised through said slot in the upper wall of said body portion, under tension of said spring member, out of type engaging position, out of the notches of said type members, releasing and permitting interchanging of said type members.

10. A type holder comprising a body portion having a type receiving cavity with a heat-treated basal wall and a slot in its upper wall at one end of said body portion for receiving a plurality of notched interchangeable metallic type members identical except for their character bearing stamping faces at their forward ends, said type members, when assembled in juxtaposition with their non-character bearing ends seated upon said basal wall in said type receiving cavity presenting a continuous notch, their character bearing ends projecting beyond end limits of said body portion, a three-sided depression in the upper surface of said body portion, a cylindrical shank at the other end of said body portion having a longitudinal groove and a depression in its outer surface adapted to be fitted into a machine for punch press operation, a handle member with a centrally disposed hole adapted to fit over said cylindrical shank of said body portion and be removably secured thereto by a set screw engageable into said depression in said cylindrical shank for hand stamp operation, said handle member having a head adapted to receive hammer blows and a plastic coating bonded to its outer grip surface, a manually operable latching assembly for alternately locking and releasing said type members, said latching assembly comprising a leaf member mounted in said depression in said body portion, said leaf member terminating at one end in an inwardly turned downwardly projecting type engaging finger engageable into said continuous notch formed by said type members in juxtaposition in said type receiving cavity, said finger being capable of limited up and down movement through said slot in the wall of said body portion communicating with said type receiving cavity, said leaf member having an upwardly projecting rib member positioned rearwardly on its upper surface, a substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on its upper surface and an aperture positioned between said rib and said upwardly projecting member, a cap member rotatably mounted on said leaf member for limited rotatable movement in a clockwise and counter-clockwise direction, said cap having a downwardly projecting claw stop member, an outwardly projecting finger lever member, a downwardly projecting stop member, a substantially hemispherically shaped recess adapted to register with and receive said complementary substantially hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member on said leaf member and an aperture adapted to register with the aperture in said leaf member, a bowed leaf spring member positioned in said depression in said body portion, interposed between said body portion and said leaf member, bearing against the forward underside portion of said leaf member to

urge said type engaging finger of said leaf member to a position out of engagement with the notches of said type members and a bolt member having an enlarged tubular shank passing through said apertures in said leaf member and said cap member to secure said leaf member and said cap member to said body portion by screw means, whereby when the operator, by manual pressure on said finger lever member rotates said cap in a counter-clockwise direction around the shank of said bolt member to the position where said downwardly projecting member on said cap contacts said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the upper surface of said leaf member further counter-clockwise rotation is thus limited, said finger of said leaf member is depressed through said slot in the upper wall of said body portion against the tension of said bowed leaf spring member into type engaging locking position into the notches of said type members by the action of the underside of said cap bearing against said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the upper surface of said leaf member, said cap being supported rearwardly by the upwardly projecting rib member on the surface of said leaf member, and when the operator, by manual pressure on said finger lever member, rotates said cap in a clockwise direction to the position where said claw stop member of said cap member contacts said raised rib member of said leaf member further clockwise rotation is thus limited said hemispherically shaped upwardly projecting member positioned forwardly on the surface of said leaf member registers and mates with said substantially hemispherically shaped recess in said cap and said finger of said leaf member is raised through said slot in the upper wall of said body portion, under tension of said bowed leaf spring member, out of type engaging position, out of the notches of said type members, releasing and permitting interchanging of said type members.

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