No. 640,562. Patented Jan. 2, 1900.

# B. B. HILL.

## HAND STAMP.

(Application filed Oct. 24, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

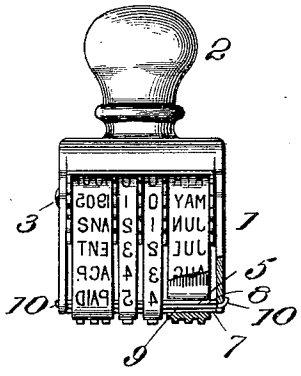



Fig. 2.

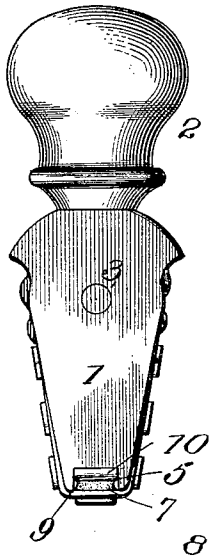



Fig. 3.

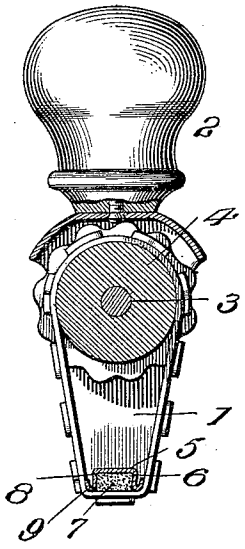
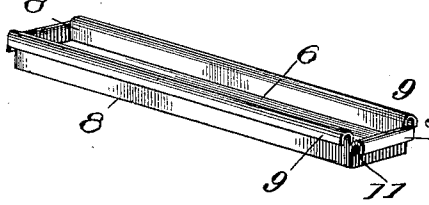



Fig. 4.




Witnesses
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN B. HILL, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## HAND-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 640,562, dated January 2, 1900.

Application filed October 24, 1899. Serial No. 734,651. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN B. HILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Hand-Stamps, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This improvement relates to that class of hand-stamps in which type-bands are employed, and is mainly designed to make the type on the bands all print substantially alike, although they may vary in thickness.

To thi send the invention consists in the construction hereinafter more particularly described and then definitely claimed at the end hereof.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a stamp constructed according to my improvement, with part represented as broken away. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same. Fig. 3 is a central vertical cross-section of the same. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a bridge which will be more fully described hereinafter.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by numerals, 1 indicates the ordinary yoke, and 2 the knob or handle, secured thereto in any convenient way. At 3 is shown a pin or spindle for the drums 4, which carry the bands 2, all of which are of the ordinary form.

At the lower part of the stamp is a bridge 5, having a recess 6 to receive a cushion 7, preferably of sponge-rubber. This bridge, as shown in the drawings, is preferably formed of sheet metal, having its side edges 8 bent downward to make a recess to receive the cushion 7 and then bent upward, as shown at 9, so as to form a smooth surface at the edges in order that the bands may pass over the bridge without rubbing against the sharp edges of the metal. The ends 10 are also first turned down and then turned up, so as to form a recess 11 to receive the lower ends of the yoke. The yoke is provided with projecting lugs 10 to keep the bridge from moving laterally, and the tension of the bands keeps it in place vertically. This construction will be found to be very convenient and a great improvement over the ordinary style of bridge. There is great difficulty in making the rubber bands all of the same thickness in the first place, and, moreover, as some are moved and used more than others they wear faster and so become thinner, both of which causes poor printing from the uneven impression due to the differing thicknesses of the bands. This is avoided by the use of the sponge-rubber, the elasticity of which makes up for any deficiency in the thickness of the bands, so that a fairly good impression is produced even if the bands vary considerably in thickness. Besides this advantage the sponge-rubber cushion prevents the bands' slipping should they become so loose as to slip out of place, as they will do when the "life" or elasticity of the rubber bands is lost from age or from the action of the ink. Under these circumstances the bands are apt to slip over a metal surface, where they would not when in contact with rubber.

I am aware that it has been proposed to use spring-actuated bearing-surfaces for type-bands in hand-stamps; but in such stamps the bearing-surfaces are of metal, and I therefore do not claim such, inasmuch as my invention is essentially different therefrom, as it consists of a bridge having its edges bent to form a recess and a cushion supported in said recess. So far as I am aware this is entirely new and is a decided improvement in the art.

What I claim as new is—

In a hand-stamp, the combination with a yoke, the type-bands, and drums of a band-dater, of a bridge having its edges bent to form a recess, and a cushion supported in said recess, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses, this 23d day of October, 1899.

BENJAMIN B. HILL.

Witnesses:
THOS. E. ROBERTSON,
ARTHUR E. DOWELL.