(No Model.)

H. C. BENSON.

PENCIL CLASP.

No. 333,590. Patented Jan. 5, 1886.

Fig. 1.

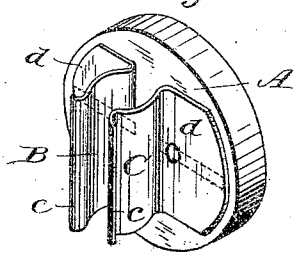


Fig. 2.

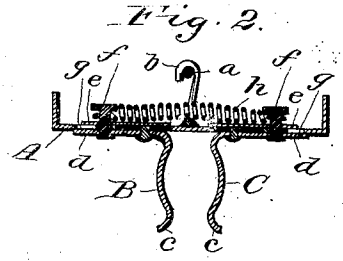


Fig. 3.

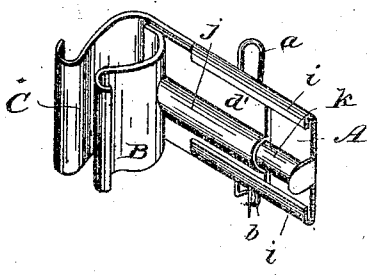


Fig. 4.

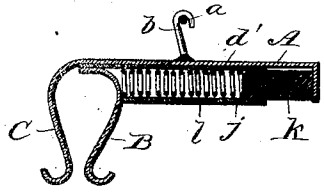


Fig. 5.

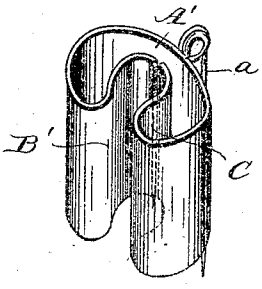
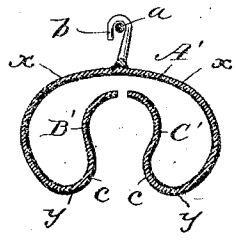


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:
A. P. Lord
C. A. Beck

Inventor:
Henry C. Benson
by Marcellus Bailey
his attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY C. BENSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO THE EAGLE PENCIL COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

PENCIL-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 333,590, dated January 5, 1886.

Application filed October 27, 1885. Serial No. 181,041. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY C. BENSON, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Pencil-Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

The pencil-clasp in which my improvement is comprised is one having two jaws for clasping the pencil. Such a kind of pencil-clasp is, broadly considered, old, and it has been usual, also, in this old kind of clasp to make the jaws spring-acting and yielding, which feature characterizes my improved pencil-clasp also.

The features possessed by my improved device over and above what is found in other pencil-clasps heretofore devised or used to my knowledge are that the jaws, while having the spring action needed to enable them to clasp the pencil, are also bodily movable to and from one another, so that the same jaws will accommodate and adapt themselves to widely-different sizes of pencils, and are also so formed and arranged that the pencil can be introduced between the jaws either from the front or from either end of the clasp, which latter feature enhances much the convenient use of the device.

The nature of my improvement will be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are respectively a perspective view and a transverse section of a pencil-clasp embodying my improvement. Figs. 3 and 4 are corresponding views of a modified form of the same. Figs. 5 and 6 are corresponding views of still another modification.

In the device represented in Figs. 1 and 2, the clasp consists of a base-plate, A, provided with the customary pin and hook, *a b*, or equivalent means for attaching the device to the garment of the user. On the base-plate are mounted so as to stand at about right angles thereto the parallel or approximately parallel jaws B C, which at their outer edges, *c*, flare or round outwardly, to permit the pencil to be easily introduced between them from the front. At the same time the pencil can be introduced also from either end of the jaws, if required, for which purpose the ends may also be made outwardly rounding or flaring, if desired. The jaws, made, preferably, of sheet-brass or other spring metal, have each a base-piece, *d*. This base-piece is attached to a disk, *e*, in the rear of the plate A by a pin, *f*, which passes through a transverse slot, *g*, in said plate. The jaws are thus held in place on the base-plate, while at the same time they can slide to and from one another a distance equal to the combined length of the two slots *g*. A coiled spring, *h*, extending between and fastened to the two pins *f*, serves to draw the jaws together with yielding force, so as to permit them to expand or move bodily apart whenever occasion demands.

The clasp shown in Figs. 3 and 4 is substantially the same as that already described, the difference being that but one of the jaws is movable on the base-plate A. The movable jaw B, in this instance, has a base-piece, *d'*, which slides in guides *i* on plate A, and has the form along its longitudinal center of a sleeve, *j*, which encircles and slides on a cylindrical plug or block, *k*, on the base-plate. In the sleeve is a spring, *l*, that presses the jaw B toward its fellow jaw C.

The device shown in Figs. 5 and 6 mainly differs from those shown in the preceding figures, in that the jaws and base-plate are formed of a single strip of spring sheet metal bent into the form indicated clearly in Fig. 6.

The part A' of the strip constitutes the base-plate, to which the pin and hook *a b* are attached, as customary, and the parts B' C' constitute the jaws. These jaws (which have rounded outer edges, *c*) are spring-controlled yielding jaws, and at the same time are capable of moving bodily apart by reason of the fact that they are susceptible of movement to and from each other at the points *x* and *y*.

Other modifications might be illustrated; but the foregoing are sufficient to indicate to one skilled in the art the numerous ways in which the improvement may be carried into effect.

What I claim as new and of my own invention is—

1. The combination, with the base or supporting plate, of spring-controlled yielding jaws standing at right angles, or thereabout,

to said base plate, provided with flaring or rounded outer edges, *c*, and susceptible of bodily movement to and from one another, substantially as and for the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

2. A pencil-clasp the body of which is formed of a single strip of spring sheet metal, bent as hereinbefore shown and described, so as to form a base-plate, A′, and bodily-yielding spring-jaws B′ C′, provided with flaring or rounded outer edges, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HENRY C. BENSON.

Witnesses:
SAMUEL KRANS,
ANDREW S. VEDDER.