United States Patent

Gordon

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[54] COMBINED PEN OR PENCIL AND COMPARTMENT

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **401/195,** 401/99

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B43k 29/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 401/195, 52, 109–111, 401/117, 99, 202, 213, 243, 262; 40/334, 335

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An attachment or container for use with a pen or pencil. The container comprises a housing disposed atop the pen and it actuates the pushbutton of said pen when the container is depressed. The container is also provided with a secret compartment for holding pills, coins, tokens, a perfume bottle, or the like.

10 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

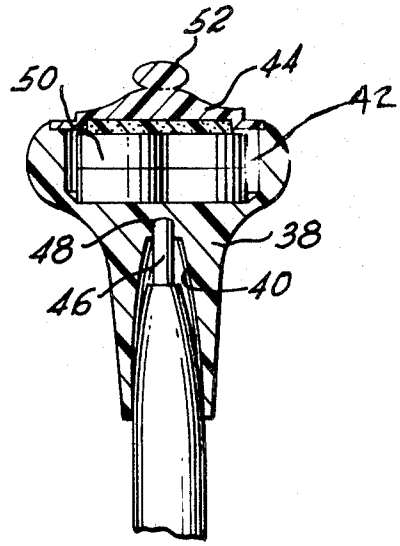


FIG. 1

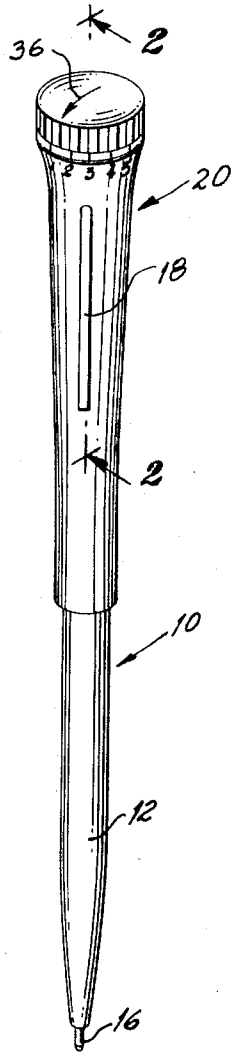


FIG. 2

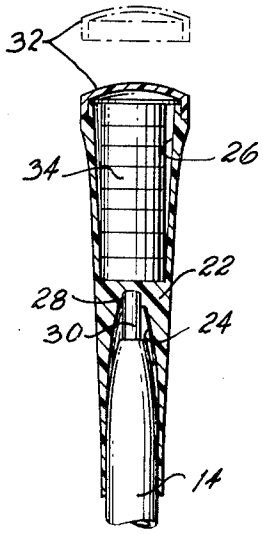


FIG. 4

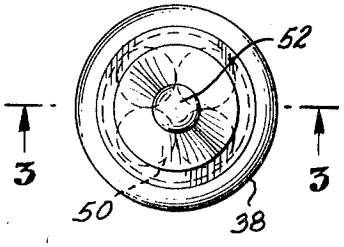
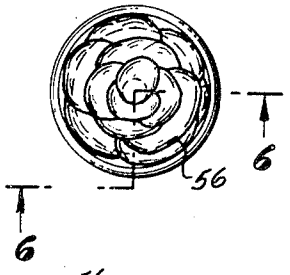


FIG. 5



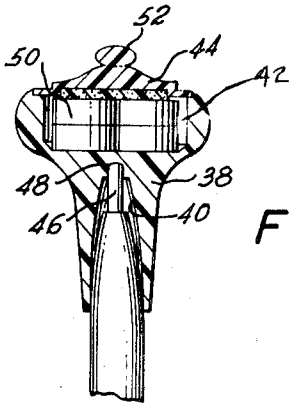


FIG. 3

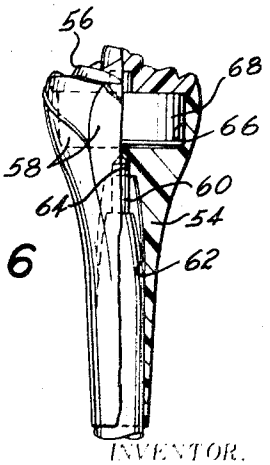


FIG. 6

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COMBINED PEN OR PENCIL AND COMPARTMENT

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE INVENTION

Combined pencils or pens and compartment cases are not new but heretofore such items which were primarily adopted for pocket use or personal wear were complexion design and required numerous elements and intricate parts. Some of the more simple devices, however, were for retaining extra lead, etc., but such structures invariably contained an inner compartment within the pencil housing for holding the spare leads. Other special designs provided compartments for pills or the like but such designs did not lend themselves to being adapted to the conventional pen or pencil which is mass marketed by the industry.

It is, therefore, an object of the invention to provide a pen compartment which may be fitted over the end of a conventional pencil or pen and which is capable of containing a plurality of pills or tokens, a perfume bottle, and like articles.

Another object of the invention is to provide a compartment housing which is readily fitted over and telescopingly associated with the upper portion of a conventional pen.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a combined pen and compartment which is relatively simple in construction and one which can be readily manufactured economically.

SUMMARY

According to the present invention, there is provided in combination with a writing pen having a pushbutton protruding from the top thereof, a container for holding small items comprising a housing having openings at both ends, one opening telescopingly fitted over the upper portion of said pen and having centrally disposed therein means for engaging said pushbutton, the other opening comprising a chamber or compartment for said items, and a cover cap for closing the top opening of said chamber or compartment whereby the pen is actuated by depressing said housing which, in turn, depresses said pushbutton.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of one embodiment of the combined pen and compartment;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along the lines 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate another embodiment of the invention wherein FIG. 3 shows the device in section and FIG. 4 is a plan view of the pen attachment;

FIG. 5 is a plan view of a further embodiment of the invention wherein a flower design is employed; and

FIG. 6 is a sectional view, partly in elevational, taken along the lines 6—6 of FIG. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings and particularly to FIGS. 1 and 2, there is shown a writing instrument **10**, such as a pen. As shown therein, the pen **10** is of conventional construction and comprises a lower half **12**, an upper half **14**, a tip **16** (ballpoint type as shown in FIG. 1).

Disposed about the upper portion **14** of the pen **10** is an attachment or container device **20** of the invention. As best shown in FIG. 2, the container **20** comprises, preferably a housing **22** having respectively therein lower and upper bores **24** and **26**. These bores are disposed or located at opposite ends of the housing **22**. Suitably, the housing **22** is provided with a pocket clip **18**.

The lower bore **24** is adapted to be telescopingly or slideably fitted over the upper portion **14**. Within the base of the lower bore **24** is means for engaging **28** the pushbutton **30** of the pen **10**. Such means **28** preferably comprises a small aperture having means, such as tits (not shown) adapted to snap-fit about the upper portion of the pushbutton **30**. It is at this point which transmits the necessary force to depress the pushbutton so as to actuate the ballpoint pen. The housing **22** may also be secured to the pushbutton **30** by other suitable means, such as by an adhesion.

The upper bore **26** is suitably fitted with a cover cap **32**. The cover cap **32** may be of such a type which is threaded to the housing, snap-fitted to the housing and the like. A plurality of items **34** (8 shown), in this case pills, are illustrated as being stacked one on top of the other in the upper bore **26**. In such a particular embodiment of the invention, it is preferable to employ indicia, such as numerical markings, along the outside periphery adjacent the top opening of the bore **26**. Associated therewith is a marker **36** located on the cover cap **32**. Such indicia may be designed so as to indicate the hour of the day in which the next pill should be taken or it can be arranged so that the number of items remaining in the bore is visible without having to open the cover cap and count the units remaining.

In the case of tokens, for example, the indicia may serve as the means for counting the remaining tokens. Of course, the housing **22** may suitably be provided with a window in the form of a slot (not show) so that one can visually observe the remaining items in the bore.

Referring now to FIGS. 3 and 4, another modification of the invention is shown. In these figures, there is illustrated a housing **38** having a lower bore **40**, an upper bore **42**, and a cover cap **44**. The means for engaging the pushbutton **46** is shown at **48** and within the upper bore **42** a plurality of items **50** are arranged. FIG. 3 more clearly shows the arrangement whereby four items are disposed adjacent each other. The cover cap **44** is provided with a centrally disposed knob **52** which facilitates grasping the cover cap. Such a container as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 may suitably hold a perfume bottle, coins, or any other small item.

In the embodiment of FIGS. 5 and 6, another housing **54** is illustrated. In this particular modification, the housing and associated cover cap **56** is in the form of a flower, such as a rose. The petals **58** are clearly illustrated along the sides of the housing **54** and also about the cover cap **56**. The lower bore and means for engaging the pushbutton **60** are respectively shown at **62** and **64**. The upper bore **66** is shown as holding or retaining a perfume bottle **68**.

It should also be noted that the invention is also applicable to a housing having upper and lower bores analogous to the housing described hereinabove except that within the upper bore is disposed a container having a cover cap (not shown). Such a container would simply reside within the upper bore by means of a frictional fit; hence, the upper bore need not necessarily have a cover cap where a container is fitted within said bore and said container is provided with its own cover cap element.

While, in the foregoing specification, a detailed description of the invention has been set down for the purpose of explanation, many variations in the specific details herein given may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a writing pen having a pusbutton protruding from the top thereof, a container for holding small items comprising a housing having bores at opposite ends, one bore being telescopingly fitted over the upper portion of said pen and having centrally disposed therein means for engaging said pushbutton, the other bore comprising a chamber or compartment for said items, and a cover cap for closing said chamber or compartment whereby said pushbutton of said pen is actuated by depressing said housing.

2. The combination according to claim 1, wherein said housing is snap-fitted to said pushbutton.

3. The combination according to claim 1, wherein said compartment is adapted to contain a plurality of disclike objects.

4. The combination according to claim 3, wherein said housing is provided with numerical indicia along the outside periphery adjacent said other bore and said cover cap is provided with a reference mark.

5. The combination according to claim 4, wherein the upper portion of said housing is in the form of a flower.

6. The combination according to claim 5, wherein said flower is a rose, and said cover cap is provided with simulated roselike pedals.

7. The combination according to claim 4, wherein said cover cap is snap-fitted about said other bore.

8. The combination according to claim 4, wherein said cover cap is threadably secured to said housing about said other bore.

9. In combination with a writing pen having a pushbutton protruding from the top thereof, a housing having bores at opposite ends, one bore being telescopingly fitted over the upper portion of said pen and having centrally disposed therein means for engaging said pushbutton, the other bore releaseably retaining a cup-shaped container for holding small items, and said cup-shaped container for holding small items, and said container having a cover cap for closing the open end of said cup-shaped container whereby said pushbutton of said pen is actuated by depressing said housing.

10. The combination according to claim 9, wherein said container is held in said other bore by a friction fit.

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