Feb. 9, 1926. 1,572,062

F. AHLBURG

MARKING DEVICE

Filed May 8, 1922

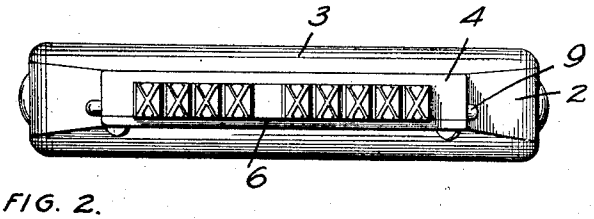


FIG. 2.

FIG. 1.

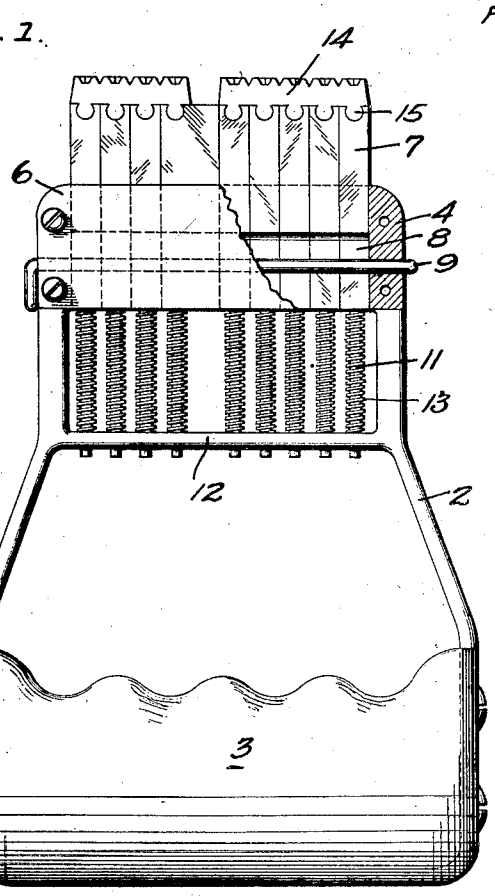


FIG. 4.

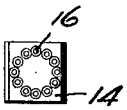
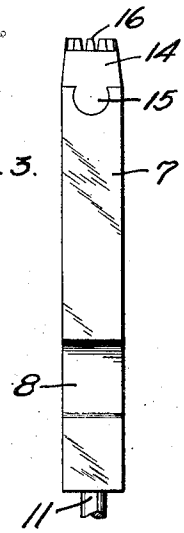


FIG. 3.



WITNESS:
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Patented Feb. 9, 1926. 1,572,062

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK AHLBURG, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

MARKING DEVICE.

Application filed May 8, 1922. Serial No. 559,171.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK AHLBURG, a German citizen, and a resident of Los Angeles, county of Los Angeles, and State of California, have invented a new and useful Marking Device, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to branding or marking devices and one of the objects of the invention is the provision of a marking tool for use on objects of irregular contour such as melons and fruits, and particularly on such articles after they have been crated.

My invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of my invention. It is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the showing made by the said description as I may adopt variant forms of my invention within the scope of the claims.

Referring to the drawings: Fig. 1 is an elevation of one form of my marking device, a portion thereof being broken away to more clearly show the construction. Fig. 2 is an end view of the device showing the dies. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of one of the die bars, showing a single die block thereon, and Fig. 4 is an end view of the die shown in Fig. 3.

Broadly considered, my invention comprises a frame suitable for hand manipulation and terminating in an elongated head in which the die elements are arranged. While my marking tool may be otherwise used, it is contemplated that one of its most valuable uses will be in connection with the marking of musk melons after the melons have been crated, the head of the device being inserted between the slats of the container in which the melons are customarily packed. The head of the tool comprises a plurality of die bars slidably arranged therein and resiliently pressed outwardly. A deformable die block is detachably connected across the outer end of the die bars and desired characters are arranged on the die block. If desired, the characters may be formed of a plurality of closely spaced studs of the same deformable material as that composing the die block and integrally formed therewith. When pressed upon a surface of irregular form the deformable character of the dies and die blocks coupled with the mounting on resilient bars permits the reaching of all portions of the surface to be marked, and melons of exceedingly rough surface, and even pineapples may be successfully marked by my tool.

In using the device the operator impresses the die face upon a pad to suitably ink the die characters and then reaching thru the space between the slats of the crate, in which the melons or fruit are packed, impresses the inked surface of the die upon the surface to be marked, rocking the die slightly to insure contact with all portions thereof.

More particularly, my marking tool comprises a frame 2, terminating at one end in a handle 3 and at the other end in a head 4 recessed in one side and adapted to receive a plate 6 to close the recess.

Slidably mounted in the recess are a plurality of die bars 7 preferably of rectangular section and arranged contiguously to provide mutual support. In the side of each die bar is formed a recess 8, the recesses being alined transversely across the tool when the die bars are assembled in the head. Extending across the head in the recesses is a stop pin 9, the function of which is to limit the movement of each die bar in either direction. Formed on the inner end of each die bar is a stud 11 which extends thru the transverse web 12 forming part of the frame. A coil spring 13 interposed between the transverse web and the body of the die bar provides means for resiliently pressing the die bar outwardly against the stop pin.

At the other end of the die bar is mounted a die and I prefer to form the die of deformable material, such as rubber, in a block 14 extending over several die bars but attached to each. In Fig. 1, I have shown two sets of die blocks. Suitable keys 15 formed on the die block and seating in a similarly shaped recess in each die bar, connects the die block to the die bars in such manner that the die blocks may be readily changed or replaced.

In forming the characters on the die block, I prefer to form the characters of a plurality of short studs 16 integral with the die block. I find that for some uses where the surface to be marked is very rough that this form of die gives a better result. Thus a deformable character is arranged on a deformable die block, which is in turn supported by the resiliently held die bars, providing a very flexible marking tool capable

of imprinting clear-cut-characters on surfaces which have hitherto defied the marking devices.

I claim:

1. A marking device comprising a frame, a plurality of die bars slidably mounted in said frame, each bar being transversely recessed, a stop pin lying in said recesses and mounted in said frame, a spring for pressing each bar against said stop pin, and dies carried by said bars.

2. A marking device comprising a frame terminating at one end in a handle and at the other end in a head recessed on one side, a plate closing said recess, a plurality of contiguous die bars slidably disposed in said recess, each die bar being transversely recessed on the side thereof and said bar recesses being alined transversely across the frame, a stop pin lying in said recesses and mounted between said frame and said closing plate, a spring for pressing each bar against said stop pin, and dies carried by said bars.

3. A marking device for objects of irregular contour comprising a frame terminating at one end in a handle and at the other end in a narrow elongated recessed head, a plurality of contiguous die bars slidably disposed together in abutting relationship in the recess in said head to provide a mutual support for one another, a spring for pressing each die bar resiliently outwardly, stop means for limiting the movement of the die bars in either direction, and a unitary deformable die detachably carried by the said plurality of die bars.

4. A marking device for objects of irregular contour such as melons and fruits comprising a frame, terminating at one end in a handle and at the other end in a narrow elongated recessed head, and a plurality of contiguous die bars slidably disposed together in said recessed head and mounted in abutting relationship to provide a mutual support for each other, a unitary deformable die of a substantial corresponding narrow elongated formation detachably mounted on said plurality of bars, and die characters on said block comprising a plurality of closely spaced deformable studs.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

FRANK AHLBURG.