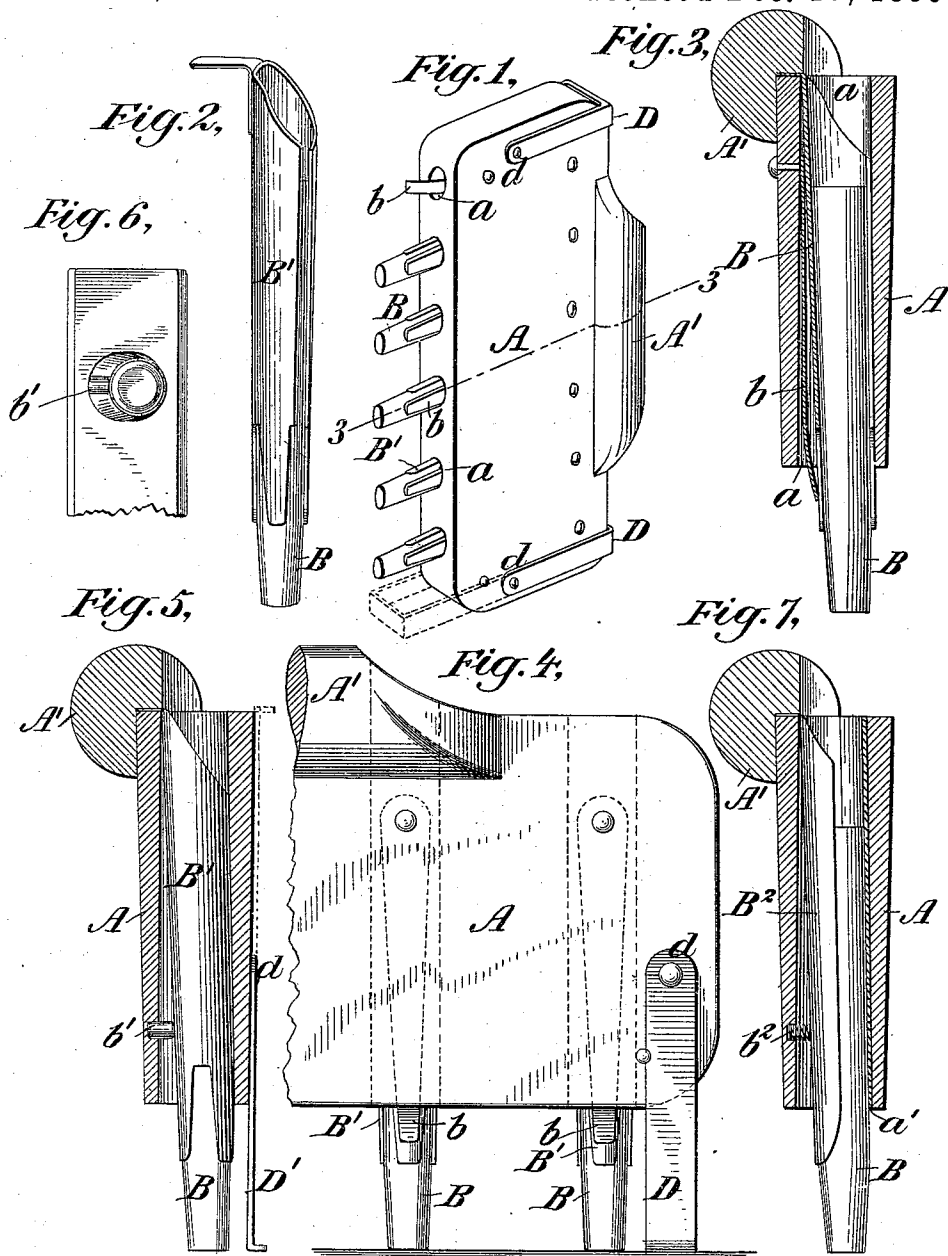


(No Model.)

B. H. TOQUET.
MULTIPLE RULING DEVICE.

No. 551,659.

Patented Dec. 17, 1895.



Witnesses:-

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN H. TOQUET, OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GEORGE W. PETTIT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MULTIPLE RULING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 551,659, dated December 17, 1895.

Application filed September 25, 1895. Serial No. 563,640. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN H. TOQUET, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Westport, Fairfield county, Connecticut, have invented an Improved Multiple Ruling Device, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to construct a simple and inexpensive device for drawing simultaneously a number of parallel lines upon a blackboard, rough paper, or any surface presenting irregularities.

In schools it has long been a desideratum to have a means for drawing, particularly upon a blackboard, a number of truly-parallel lines simultaneously, as for music-staves or writing-exercises; but, owing especially to the inequalities presented by the surfaces of blackboards, no satisfactory device for the purpose has been produced.

My present invention offers a simple and inexpensive multiple crayon-holder, which works efficiently for the desired purpose.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my multiple crayon-holder for ruling parallel lines. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of one of the crayon-tubes detached. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3 3, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a face view of one end of the device. Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a modification. Fig. 6 is a view of a part of the holder on that face from which the crayons project, and Fig. 7 is a sectional view of another modification.

My device consists of a holder A, of wood, metal, or other suitable material, provided with as many transverse grooves or perforations as there are crayons, leads, or other marking means to be carried in the holder. In the present instance there are shown six transverse perforations *a* for the reception of six leads or crayons B. These crayons are so carried in the holder and the perforations or grooves are so formed as that the crayons or other marking means will severally yield at their points independently of each other and in a direction preferably at about right angles to the lengths of the crayons, so that as the multiple holder is drawn over the blackboard or other uneven surface the several

crayons will accommodate themselves to such surface. For this purpose, when perforations *a* are used in the holder, they are made enlarged or elliptical at the ends through which the points of the crayons project, and springs of some kind are adapted to bear against the sides of the crayons to press them against the forward side of the openings *a*. In Figs. 1, 2, and 3 I have shown the spring as in the form of a strip *b*, of metal, hard rubber, or other suitable material. In Figs. 5 and 6 it is shown as in the form of a small piece of rubber *b'*, while in Fig. 7 it is shown as in the form of a small spiral spring *b*².

I prefer to mark the several crayons, leads, or other marking means in tubes B', Figs. 1, 2, 3, &c., preferably split, the upper or back ends of the tubes being secured in any suitable way to the holder A. In some cases these tubes may be simply half-tubes, as indicated at B² in Fig. 7; but in such case it will be preferable to line the opposite wall of the groove or perforation *a* with some soft material, such as felt, as indicated at *a'* in Fig. 7.

The back edge of the holder A is provided with a rounded rib A' or other suitable handhold for the user to grasp the device to draw it across the blackboard or other surface.

In order that the crayons may be conveniently adjusted to project all to the same distance out of the holder, I provide movable gages D D', which may conveniently consist of swinging legs, pivoted at *d* near opposite ends of the holder. In Figs. 1 and 4 I have shown the gage as in the form of a stirrup, while in Figs. 5 and 6 it is in the form of a single leg D'. It will be readily understood that by turning these gages to the positions shown in Figs. 4 and 5, and resting them upon a flat surface, the several crayons can be pushed forward all to the same distance as by a pencil inserted through the backs of the perforations *a*. Then, upon turning the gages D D' back to the positions indicated by full lines in Fig. 1 and by dotted lines in Fig. 5, the ruler is ready for use upon the blackboard or other surface.

If preferred, one or more of the crayon-tubes B', with the crayons, may be removable from the openings, being normally held in

place by friction or otherwise. Thus in the device illustrated in Fig. 1 all six crayons may be in place for use in drawing lines for writing, while the sixth can be removed, as indicated in the figure, when lines are to be drawn for music.

I claim as my invention—

1. A multiple ruler, consisting of a holder provided with a series of crayons, leads or other marking means adapted to yield in a direction at right angles to their lengths, as and for the purpose described.

2. A multiple ruler, consisting of a holder carrying a series of crayons, leads or other marking means and springs yielding in a direction at right angles to the lengths of the crayons, &c., to press the latter toward the forward side of the holder, substantially as described.

3. A multiple ruler, consisting of a holder, carrying a series of tubes, crayons, leads or other marking means adjustable in said tubes,

and yielding springs to bear against the sides of the tubes, substantially as described.

4. A multiple ruler, consisting of a block or holder having perforations, crayons, leads or other marking means, tubes laterally movable in said perforations and yielding springs to bear against the tubes, substantially as described.

5. A multiple ruler, consisting of a holder, provided with a series of crayons, leads or other marking means adjustable in the holder, and a gaging means to align the points of the several crayons, &c., substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

BENJAMIN H. TOQUET.

Witnesses:

EDITH J. GRISWOLD,
HUBERT HOWSON.