April 10, 1945. J. T. RAKAUSKAS 2,373,338

DEPTH GAUGE

Filed July 21, 1942

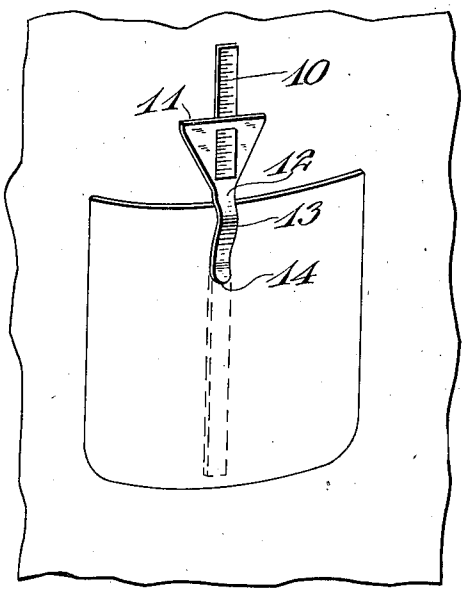


Fig. 1.

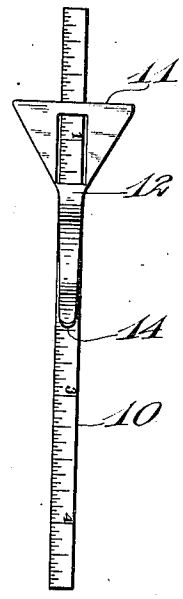


Fig. 2.

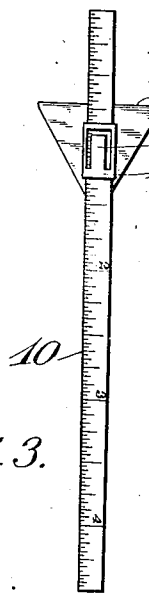


Fig. 3.

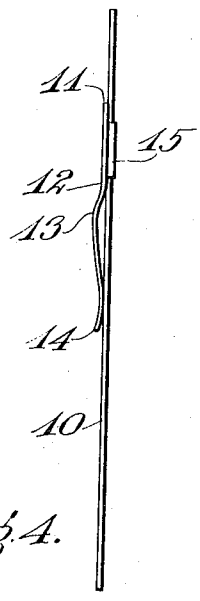


Fig. 4.

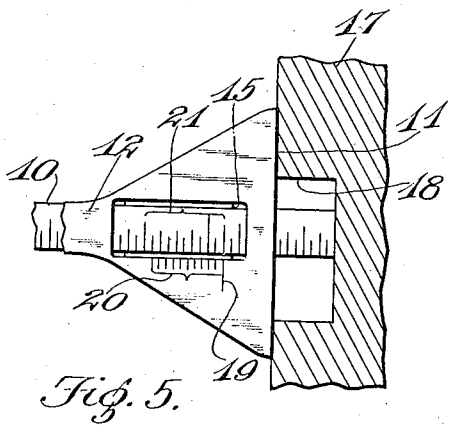


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DEPTH GAUGE

James T. Rakauskas, Chicago, Ill.

Application July 21, 1942, Serial No. 451,785

2 Claims. (Cl. 33—173)

My invention relates to rules or scales used by mechanics and of a size to be carried in the pocket, and more particularly to devices in which a depth gauge is combined with the rule, such depth gauge carrying a clip for attaching the device to the pocket, and my main object is to improve this type of device by making it exceedingly simple.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination depth gauge and pocket clip which is made in one piece.

Another object of the invention is to so construct the novel device that it is tapered in one direction to form the pocket clip while widened in the opposite direction to present a broad front to serve as the depth gauge.

An important object of the invention is to form the novel device in a manner to serve all its purposes with a minimum of material and size.

With the above objects in view, and any others which may suggest themselves from the description to follow, a better understanding of the invention may be had by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the novel device mounted in a garment pocket;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the device;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the main portion thereof;

Fig. 4 is an edge view; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmental view of the device positioned horizontally and applied as a depth gauge.

While devices combining a depth gauge and pocket clip for rules or scales have been devised from time to time, those which have come to my attention are more or less involved, made of several parts, and formed to take up undue room or catch in clothing by the projection of minor parts. Thus, these disadvantages detract from the convenience and efficiency of those devices, and it has therefore been my intention to provide a device for the same purpose, but so constructed that it combines the qualities neatness and simplicity.

In accordance with the foregoing, specific reference to the drawing indicates a typical pocket rule or scale at 10 which is approximately 6 inches long and from $\frac{3}{16}$ to ½ inch or more wide.

The novel device is primarily characterized by a triangular plate 11, designed to be laid upon one face of the rule to be slidable thereon. The plate is so positioned that one of its forward edges forms the upper end of the device and is positioned transversely of the rule. The side edges of the plate do not converge to a point, but only so far as to define a pendent strip 12 which is arched from the face of the rule as indicated at 13 and curved with an outward point 14 to form a conventional pocket clip.

In order that the plate 11 may be retained to the rule, the medial portion thereof is struck back to form a vertical sheath 15 within which the rule passes. In turn, the sheath 15 is stamped with an upward tongue 16 which is tensioned against the rule, whereby to impart a suitable amount of friction for the sliding movement of the device. It is understood that the latter will be made of spring steel to accomplish the purposes of the clip 12 and the tongue 16; in fact, the material is stainless steel in order to render the device immune to corrosion and lend the same a silvery polished appearance.

Fig. 5 shows the application of the device as a depth gauge in relation to a piece of work 17 made with a bore 18. In this connection, the plate 11 may be marked with an origin line 19 to denote the scale reading. It is also preferable to provide a unit 20 of graduations on the plate extending from the origin line 19. Thus, a unit 21 on the rule may contain a given number of divisions, such as 10 for a standard space, while the unit 20 contains the same number of divisions in a space equivalent to only 9 of the divisions in the unit 21. It is thus possible to procure a measurement on the rule in tenths of its regular divisions. This manner of marking the device is merely an example, and it may be modified for a different purpose if desired.

As will be appreciated from Fig. 4, the arched, or humped, intermediate portion 13 of the strip or tongue 12 not only provides a finger-engageable actuating portion for plate 10, but also causes the portion adjacent end 14 to frictionally engage rule 10 so as to act as a friction brake.

The novel device as described above presents several advantages. First, it is all made in one piece, eliminating the need of combining or attaching parts to each other. Second, the device presents a broad gauge for practical purposes, but recedes immediately from the gauge zone to occupy a minimum amount of room and employ only so much material as is necessary to form the clip 12. This form of the device makes it easy to lower it and the scale along the front of the garment preparatory to engaging the clip with the pocket; also, it renders the gauge neat and compact. Further, the sheath is firm by being pressed from the material of the plate, yet provides enough surface from which the

tongue 16 may be stamped out, so that no other part of the plate need be employed for the tongue or any other form of friction element. Further, the pressing of the plate to form the sheath provides an opening through which the reading of the rule is apparent for reference to the origin of other graduations on the plate. Finally, it is evident that the novel device is a smooth, thin and practically flat attachment for the rule, presenting no appreciable projection from the pocket when fitted thereto.

While I have described the invention along specific lines, various minor changes or refinements may be made therein without departing from its principle, and I desire to consider all such changes and refinements as coming within the scope and the spirit of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a flat, graduated rule having a slidable gauge member thereon, said gauge member comprising a plate slidable on the graduated face of the rule and providing at its outer end a transverse straight edge extending therebeyond, an open-ended rule-receiving sheath pressed from an intermediate portion of said plate and having its rear wall disposed below the lower face of same providing a rule-graduation exposing opening in the center of the plate, and an integral friction tongue struck from the rear wall of said sheath and bearing against said rule to hold the gauge member in set positions thereon.

2. In a flat, graduated rule having a slidable gauge member thereon, said gauge member comprising a plate slidable on the graduated face of the rule and providing at its outer end a transverse straight edge extending therebeyond, an open-ended rule-receiving sheath pressed from an intermediate portion of said plate and having its rear wall disposed below the lower face of same providing a rule-graduation exposing opening in the center of the plate, and an integral friction tongue struck from the rear wall of said sheath and bearing against said rule to hold the gauge member in set positions thereon, and the sides of said plate tapering inwardly and downwardly from said straight edge and terminating in a tongue of a width to be substantially entirely underlain by said rule, said tongue having an intermediate plate-actuating hump and a rule-engaging friction brake portion adjacent its free end.

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