Jan. 12, 1954 A. J. MASTRELLA 2,665,487

GAUGE LINE HOLDER

Filed July 11, 1952

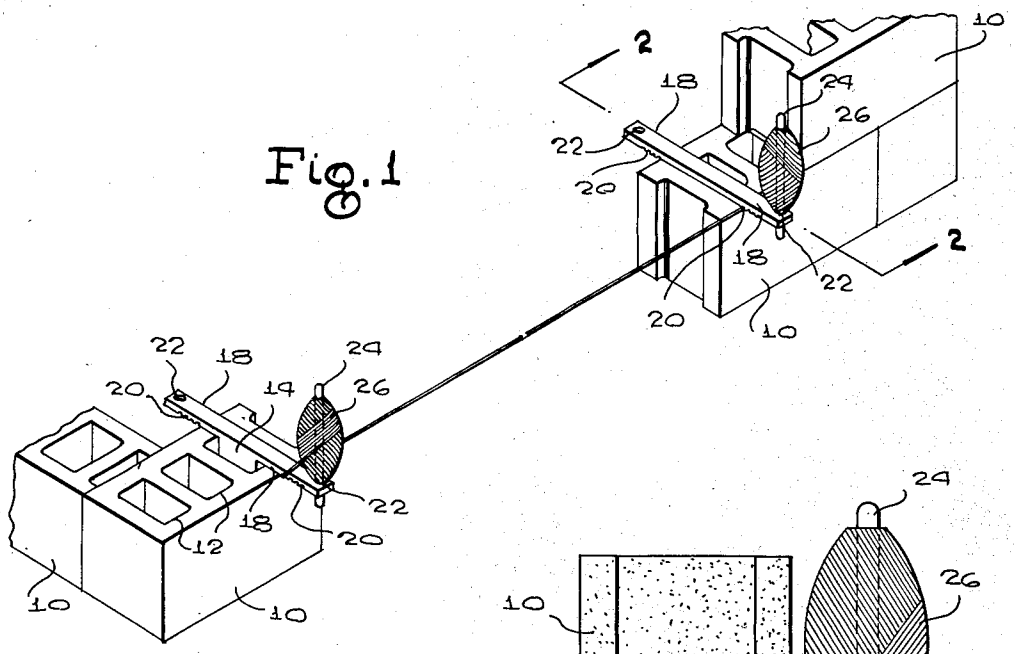


Fig. 1

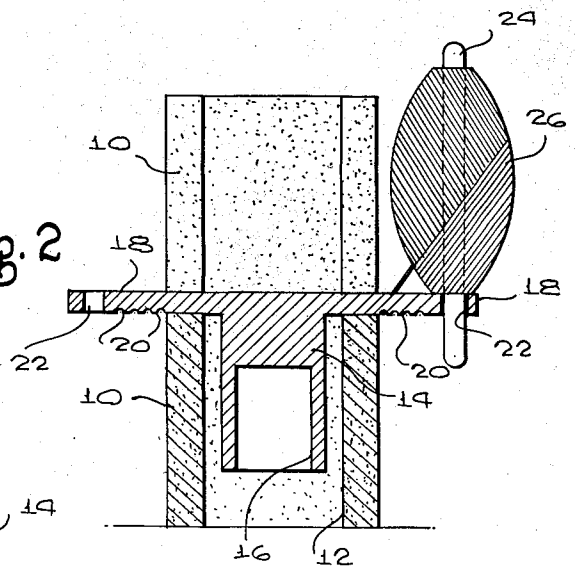


Fig. 2

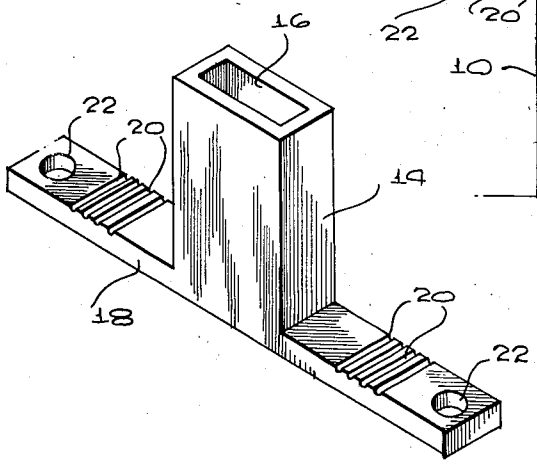


Fig. 3

INVENTOR.

ANGELO J. MASTRELLA

BY

McMorrow, Berman & Davidson

ATTORNEYS

Patented Jan. 12, 1954

2,665,487

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,665,487

GAUGE LINE HOLDER

Angelo J. Mastrella, Rochester, N. Y.

Application July 11, 1952, Serial No. 298,237

3 Claims. (Cl. 33—85)

1

This invention relates to a gage line holder, and more particularly, has reference to a holder of the type stated adapted particularly for use in laying building blocks.

In laying building blocks, the mason generally starts a course at opposite ends thereof, thereafter laying the blocks between the ends of the course. In this connection, it is customary to extend a gage line between the end blocks, said line being in the plane of the upper surface of said end blocks, and being tensioned between the blocks so as to be in alignment with the outer edges of said upper surfaces thereof. In this way, the mason is enabled to lay the intermediate blocks of the course in a straight line.

Heretofore, the practice has been to lift the blocks supported upon the end blocks of a course to be laid, for the purpose of receiving pegs, nails, or other devices to which the ends of the gage line may be secured, and in many instances, the mason will drive said devices into the blocks for the purpose of anchoring the gage line securely.

Obviously, this is a time consuming, undesirable method of properly locating and anchoring a gage line, and heretofore, it has been proposed to provide gage line anchors or holders which will permit elimination of the undesirable practices presently followed. However, so far as I am aware, those gage line holders heretofore devised have not found widespread commercial favor, and I believe that this may be due to the fact that in many instances, said holders are undesirably complicated and expensive. I believe, too, that in other instances, the failure of the gage line holders to find favor commercially may be due to the fact that the holders themselves require some time in so far as mounting the same upon the end blocks of a course is concerned, and do not, even when mounted properly, insure the proper tensioning of the gage line in a manner which will cause it to extend with desired straightness between the end blocks of the course to be laid.

Accordingly, I propose to provide a new gage line holder which will have none of the disadvantages noted above. To this end, the gage line holder constituting the present invention is formed from a single piece of material, which can be readily fashioned from molded plastic, wood, or any other inexpensive substance. The holder which I have devised, further, is formed as to eliminate the necessity of attaching the holder directly to the block on which the same is to be supported, the holder being adapted to be extendable into the conventional opening provided in the block, in a manner that will cause the holder to be properly positioned without requirement on the part of the user of making special adjustments or using devices to anchor the holder to the block.

2

Summarized briefly, the holder constituting the instant invention is, as noted above, formed from a single piece of material shaped to include a body having the characteristics of a weight, said body being generally elongated and preferably rectangular in cross sectional configuration, the body being proportioned to extend downwardly within the conventional opening of a building block. At one end of the body, there is integrally formed thereupon a pair of wings, said wings being flat and coplanar, and extending in opposite directions from that end of the body to which they are secured. The wings are adapted to be supported upon the opposite walls of the building block, and are so proportioned as to length as to extend beyond said walls. In the block engaging surfaces of the wings, which surfaces will be coplanar with the upper surface of the block, there are formed transverse grooves, selectively adapted for extension therethrough of a gage line, thus to permit the use of a groove registering with the outer edge of the building block on which the holder is supported. The free ends of the wings have openings, receiving the spindles of spools on which the gage line is wound.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claims appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a pair of holders formed in accordance with the present invention, as said holders appear when in use during the laying of a course of building blocks;

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is an inverted perspective view of one of the holders per se.

The reference numeral 10 has been applied a building block, the blocks illustrated in Figure 1 being wholly conventional. Thus, the blocks are provided with the usual openings 12 spaced longitudinally of the blocks and communicating between the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

The device constituting the present invention is illustrated per se in Figure 3, and as will be noted, each holder includes, medially between its opposite ends, a generally elongated body 14 which is preferably of square or rectangular cross

sectional configuration, the body being formed, at one end, in the illustrated embodiment of the invention, with an end recess 16 extending inwardly a substantial distance longitudinally of the body. The recess 16 is formed, in this connection, in what can be conveniently termed the free end of the body 14, the other end of the body being solidly formed as best shown in Figure 2, thus to impart to the body the characteristics of a weight.

Integral with the body 14, at the solid end thereof, is a pair of flat, coplanar wings 18, said wings being relatively elongated and extending laterally of the body in opposite directions, from the end of the body to which they are integrally secured.

In each wing 18 I form a longitudinal series of transverse grooves 20, said grooves being spaced from one another selected distances, so as to accommodate the device to use on building blocks of different widths. As will be noted from either Figure 2 or Figure 3, the series of grooves 20 of each wing begins at a location spaced a substantial distance away from the adjacent side surface of the body 14, said series ending at a location spaced a substantial distance inwardly from the outer or free end of the wing in which the series of grooves is formed. The smooth, ungrooved surface of the wing disposed between the series of grooves 20 and the adjacent side wall of the body 14 is adapted to be supported upon the top surface of the building block (see Figure 2), the wing being so proportioned as to length as to project laterally of and beyond the wall of the block on which the wing is supported. Thus, a selected groove 20 is brought into registry with the outer edge of the top surface of the building block, when the device is used.

In the outer end portion of each wing 18, that is, that portion of the wing disposed between the free end edge of the wing and the outer terminus of the series of grooves 20 thereof, I form an opening 22, adapted to receive the spindle 24 of a spool on which a gage line 26 is wound.

In use, the holders appear as shown in Figure 1. Thus, a pair of identically formed holders is employed, one of the holders being supported upon one end block 10 of a course to be laid, and the other holder being supported in the other end block 10 of said course. The body 14 is extended downwardly within a selected opening 12 of the block 10 on which the holder is positioned, and due to the weight of the body, the wings affixed rigidly to said body will be urged downwardly into frictional engagement with the roughened upper surface of the associated block 10. Thus, the necessity of special fastening devices whereby the holder is secured to the block is obviated.

Depending upon the width of the block, a selected groove 20 is brought into registry with the outer edge of the top surface of the block, and the gage line is extended about one side edge of the wing, through said groove, the gage line extending between the wings at opposite ends of the course to be laid, in the manner shown in Figure 1.

It will be understood, in this connection, that the gage line, after being extended between the holders with which it is associated, is tensioned by rotation of the spindles 24 within the openings 22, and if desired, the tension can be retained by wrapping the gage line one or more times about the wings on which said spindles are supported. In any event, the bodies 14 will, of course, be engaged by those side walls of the openings 12 in which the bodies 14 are disposed, adjacent the space in which the intermediate blocks of the course are to be laid.

The mason is then enabled to lay said intermediate blocks, the gage line providing the desired guide whereby the blocks will be laid in a straight line.

Important characteristics of the invention may now be readily noted. As will be seen, the holder constituting the present invention is so designed as to permit its manufacture at relatively low cost, the holder having no moving parts, and being easily formed from a single piece of material. Additionally, the holder is adapted to be used not only on building blocks of the type illustrated in the drawing, but also on tiles of various sizes. In each instance, the use of the holders is the same, and not only eliminates the necessity of lifting end blocks or driving anchoring elements into the blocks, but also allows the holders to be mounted upon or removed from the blocks on which they are supported with maximum speed and ease.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A gage line holder for use in laying building blocks, comprising a single piece of material shaped to include a weighted body intermediate its ends with said body proportioned to extend downwardly within the opening of a building block, said holder including flat, coplanar wings extending laterally in opposite directions from the upper end of the body, the weight of said body being adapted to exert a downward pull on said wings tending to engage the undersides thereof frictionally with the upper surface of said block in planes common to that of the upper surface of the block, each of said wings having in its underside a plurality of transverse line-receiving grooves grouped side by side within an area spaced inwardly both from said body and from the free end of the wing, for alignment of a selected groove with an adjacent side edge of said block, the free ends of said wings being apertured to receive the spindles of spools on which a gage line is wound.

2. A gage line holder for use in laying building blocks, comprising a single piece of material shaped to include a weighted body intermediate its ends, with said body being formed to a thickened, rectangular, cross sectional shape and being proportioned to extend downwardly within the opening of a building block, said holder including coplanar wings extending laterally in opposite directions from the upper end of the body, the weight of said body being adapted to exert a downward pull on said wings tending to engage the undersides thereof frictionally with the upper surface of said block in a plane common to that of said upper surface, each of said wings having in its underside a plurality of transverse line-receiving grooves, said grooves being spaced longitudinally of their associated wings with

each groove extending fully from one longitudinal edge to the other longitudinal edge of a wing, said grooves being relatively shallow for engaging a gage line in a selected groove while still holding said line in the plane of the upper surface of the block, the grooves of each ring being disposed in a series of closely spaced grooves, spaced inwardly a substantial distance from the opposite ends of the wing.

3. A gage line holder for use in laying building blocks comprising a single piece of material shaped to include a weighted body intermediate its ends, with said body being formed to a rectangular, thickened, cross sectional shape, the body being formed with a downwardly opening recess extending inwardly from the lower end of the body to a location disposed approximately medially between the opposite ends of the body, whereby to concentrate the weight of the body in that portion thereof disposed between the upper end of the body and the inner end of the recess, said holder further including coplanar wings extending laterally in opposite directions from the upper end of the body, the weight of said body being adapted to exert a downward

pull on the wings tending to engage the undersides thereof frictionally against the upper surface of said block in a plane common to that of said upper surface, each of said wings being formed with a plurality of transverse line-receiving grooves in its underside, the grooves of each wing being disposed in a series spaced inwardly from the opposite ends of the wing, each groove being of shallow formation so as to effect the engagement of a gage line within a groove while retaining the gage line in a plane common to that of the upper surface of the block, the free ends of the wings being apertured to receive the spindles of spools on which said gage line is wound.

ANGELO J. MASTRELLA.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,630,475	Elder	May 31, 1927
2,215,663	Frisk	Sept. 24, 1940
2,562,597	Breuninger	July 31, 1951
2,592,717	Mann	Apr. 15, 1952