April 6, 1926. 1,579,438

W. C. CORTELYOU

COMBINED RULER AND BOOK HOLDER

Filed Nov. 8, 1924

Fig. 1.

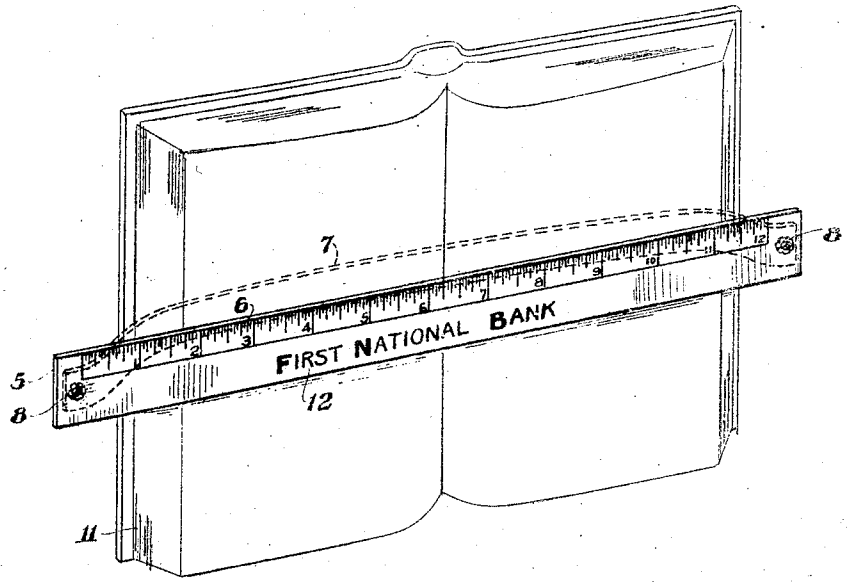


Fig. 2.

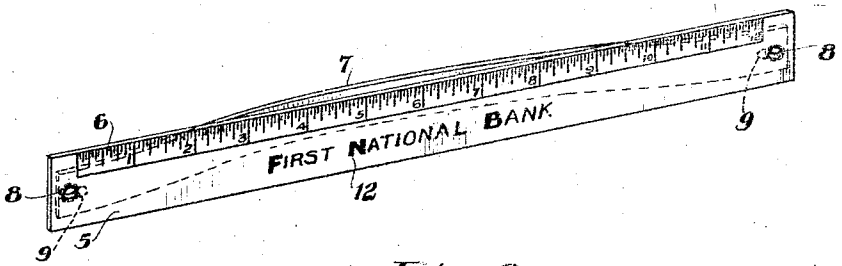


Fig. 3.

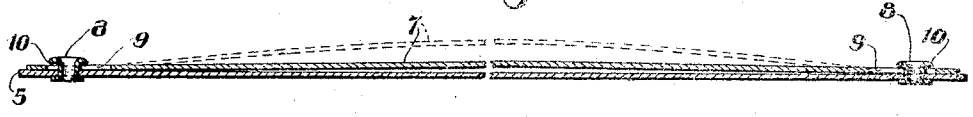
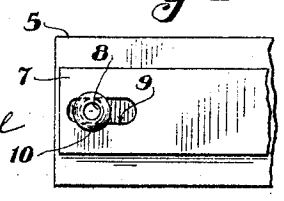


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. CORTELYOU, OF OBLONG, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED RULER AND BOOK HOLDER.

Application filed November 8, 1924. Serial No. 748,707.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. CORTELYOU, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oblong, in the county of Crawford and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Combined Rulers and Book Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a combination article, which is adapted to be used as a ruler, or as a device for holding books in open position. It may also be used to hold loose papers.

The object of the invention is to provide an article of this character, which is designed primarily for advertising purposes, and which may be manufactured at a small expense for banks, or other corporations, or mercantile establishments, to be given away to their friends and prospective customers. The specific construction of the invention and the manner in which it may be used will be more particularly explained in the following description, which is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawing, illustrating the invention in its preferred form.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention as used for holding an open book.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the invention removed from the book.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof.

Figure 4 is a detail plan view of one end of the invention.

The invention comprises a relatively broad, flat strip 5, of suitable material, having graduations 6 inscribed on its front face, and a superposed comparatively narrow strip 7. The strips 5 and 7 are connected only at their ends by eyelets 8 or similar fastening means, one of the strips, as 7, having a longitudinal slot 9 at each end through which the eyelet passes, with the flange or head 10 of the fastening means overhanging the sides of the slot. The strip 7 is flexible, so that it may be opened up to receive the open book 11, the eyelets 8, when the device is so used, engaging the outer ends of the slots 9. The strip 5 being wider than the strip 7, offers more resistance against flexure than the strip 5, even though it is made from the same material. When the strip 7 has been flexed, its outer face adjacent the slots 9 engages the under sides of the flanges 10 with considerable friction, preventing relative longitudinal movement, and the strip 5, which remains comparatively straight, acts as a brace to hold the book open.

Both of the strips 5 and 7 may be made from inexpensive material, such as bristol board, or, preferably, vulcanized fiber, so that the entire device may be cheaply manufactured and given away for the purpose of advertising. One or both faces may be inscribed with suitable advertising matter, as indicated at 12. The strip 5 may be used as a ruler, and the device as a whole may be used to hold an open book, as shown in Figure 1, or may be used for holding loose sheets of paper in a similar manner, the device when so used being preferably arranged with the strip 7 uppermost. Being flexible the device may be used for measuring curved or irregular surfaces, either convex or concave. When used for ruling with a pen, if the strip 7 is underneath it will hold the ruling edge up and prevent blurring or blotting. It will be particularly attractive and useful to students, clerks and professional men.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that various modifications may be made in form and material without departing from the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of a relatively broad, flat flexible strip of non-stretchable material constituting a ruler, a flat relatively narrow strip of similar material superposed thereon and having longitudinal slots near its ends, and eyelets secured in the first-mentioned strip and projecting through said slots and terminating in heads overhanging the slots.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of two normally straight superposed flat strips of flexible non-stretch-

able material, fastening means passing transversely through and connecting the ends of the strips, one of the strips having longitudinal slots for receiving the fastening means, the slotted strip being capable of being flexed outwardly from the other strip until the outer ends of the slots engage the fastening means, said fastening means having heads frictionally engaging the outer face of the slotted strip to prevent longitudinal movement of the latter when flexed.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

WILLIAM C. CORTELYOU.