

(No Model.)

H. S. RUMFIELD.
PENHOLDER.

No. 566,623.

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Fig. 1.

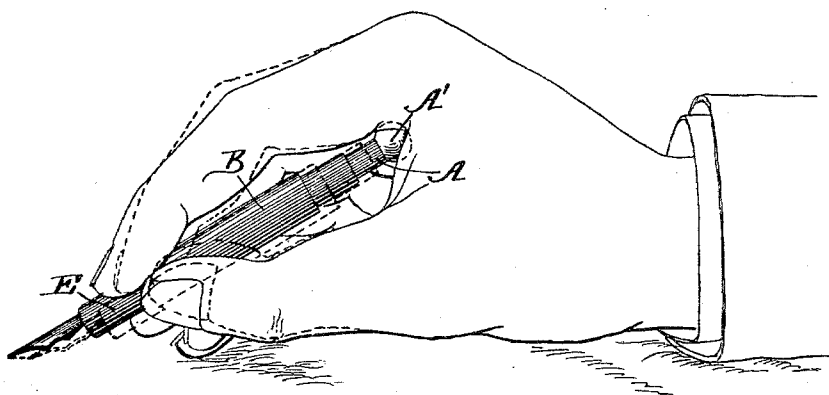


Fig. 2.

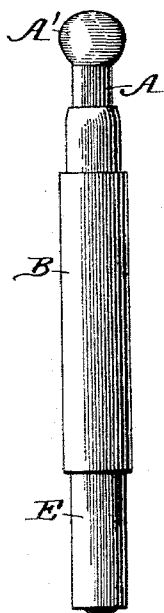


Fig. 3.

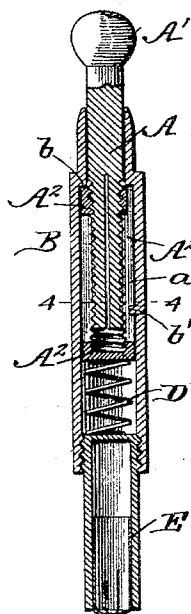


Fig. 5.

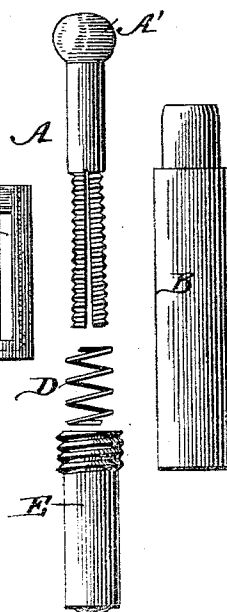
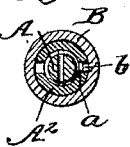


Fig. 4.



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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM S. RUMFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salt Lake City, in the county of Salt Lake, in the State of Utah, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Penholders, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part thereof, and in which—

Figure 1 is a view of my improved penholder as in use. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section. Fig. 4 is a cross-section taken on the line 4 4, Fig. 3, and Fig. 5 is a view showing the several parts detached.

The object of my invention is to provide a penholder which will permit the free movement of thumb and fingers in writing by forming the holder with a longitudinally-yielding spring-pressed upper staff-section, the outer end of which bears against the fleshy portion of the hand at the base of the thumb and forefinger, so that the penholder-sections will reciprocate longitudinally, one on the other, in the act of writing. Moreover, as the fingers of different persons vary in length a further object is to render the upper sliding section adjustable.

In the drawings, B represents the tubular open-ended body of the staff or holder, having its upper end reduced to form an internal annular shoulder *b* and provided on its interior with a lug or projection *b'*. A is the upper section of the staff, having a free sliding movement through the upper contracted end of the body and provided at its outer end with a knob or head *A'*, adapted to rest firmly against the fleshy portion of the hand at the base of the thumb and forefinger, as shown in Fig. 1. The sliding section A is screw-threaded and split at its inner end and screws into an internally-threaded sleeve *A*², sliding freely within the body B. This sleeve *A*² is forced upwardly by a spiral spring D, which bears against its lower end, and the upper end of the sleeve *A*² engages the shoulder *b* and prevents the spring from pressing the sliding section A out of the body B. The section A may be adjusted longitudinally, however, by screwing it in or out, as may be desired. In order that the sleeve *A*² may not rotate when the section A is rotated, said

sleeve is provided with a longitudinal slot or groove *a*, which receives the lug or projection *b'* above referred to.

E represents the pen-socket, of any suitable construction, fitted into the lower end of the body B, and against the inner end of which the lower end of the spring D bears. In the present construction the inner end of this pen-socket is externally threaded and is screwed into the lower internally-threaded end of the body B.

The parts are assembled as follows: The sleeve *A*² is first inserted into the body B through the lower end thereof with the slot *a* registering with lug or projection *b'*, then the spring D is entered, then the pen-socket E is screwed in place, and finally the upper staff-section A is passed through the upper end of the body and screwed into the sleeve. The person using the penholder will screw the section A in or out till the proper adjustment is effected, and the split portion of the said section, by its tendency to spring apart, will hold it against accidental rotation in the sleeve *A*², and thus the adjustment will be preserved.

The penholder is grasped near the pen-socket between the thumb and first two fingers, just as in the ordinary penholders, but the upper end of the holder will rest, as before described, against the fleshy portion of the hand at base of the forefinger and thumb, and the holder-sections will slide in and out or reciprocate as the fingers and thumb are moved during the act of writing.

The advantages of the above construction are as follows: All strain is removed from the muscles of the thumb and fingers, except for the purpose of forming the letters. In the use of the ordinary penholder, as commonly held and supported, there is a constant strain on the muscles of the thumb, whether writing or not, and that part of the penholder which extends beyond the forefinger or knuckle is altogether useless. Hence in the use of my penholder there is less fatigue to the thumb, fingers, and hand, and consequently less liability to writers' paralysis or cramp. It will be found far better for nervous persons. After one has become used to the change in mode of use the greater ease with which writing can be done will be quite

evident. It can be used for back-hand, vertical, or angular writing with equal facility. In adjusting the holder to the fingers care should be had to get it just the right length, so that the point of the pen will touch the paper about an inch beyond the end of the forefinger, and when thus adjusted much greater freedom of motion will be afforded than with the old penholders. In writing, the finger movement alone, the forearm movement, or a combination of both, may be used.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A penholder comprising a tubular body, a sleeve sliding in the body and pressed upwardly by a spring, and an upper sliding section, extending through the upper end of the body, adjustably connected with said sleeve and adapted when the holder is in use to bear and be pressed by said spring against the fleshy part of the hand at the base of the thumb and forefinger, substantially as set forth.

2. A penholder, comprising a tubular body, contracted at its upper open end, to form a shoulder, a spring-pressed sleeve sliding in

the body and pressed against the said shoulder, a tongue-and-groove connection between said sleeve and body, and an upper body or staff section extending through said contracted upper end and screwed adjustably into said sleeve, the upper end of said sliding section, when the holder is in use being pressed against the fleshy part of the hand at the base of the thumb and forefinger, substantially as set forth.

3. A penholder, comprising the tubular body, the spring therein, the internally-threaded sleeve pressed upwardly in the body by said spring, and the upper body or staff section sliding through the upper end of the body and having a split, externally-threaded lower end, screwed into said sleeve, the upper end or head of the said sliding section, when the holder is in use, being pressed by the spring against the fleshy part of the hand at the base of the thumb and forefinger, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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