

Jan. 14, 1930.

P. N. WAGGENER
FINGERPRINTING DEVICE

1,743,641

Filed Nov. 12, 1926

FIG. 1.

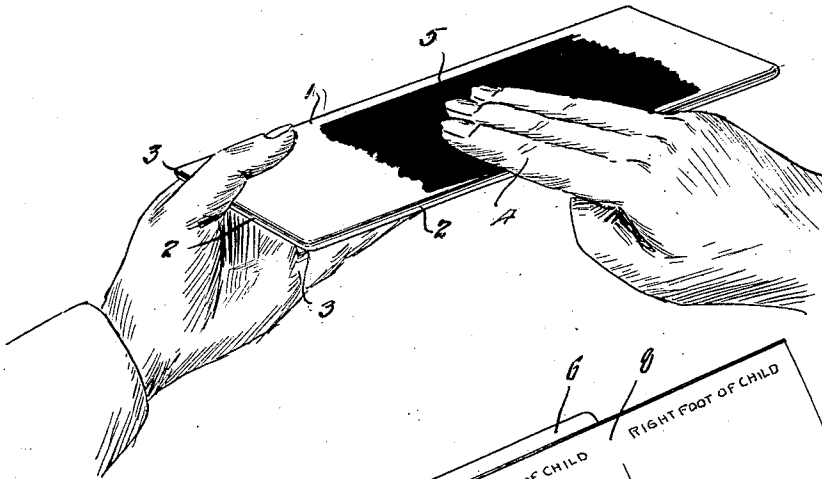


FIG. 2.

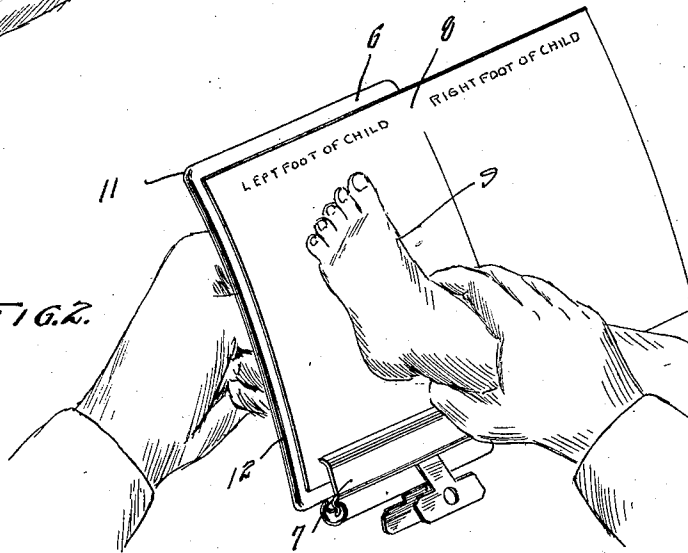
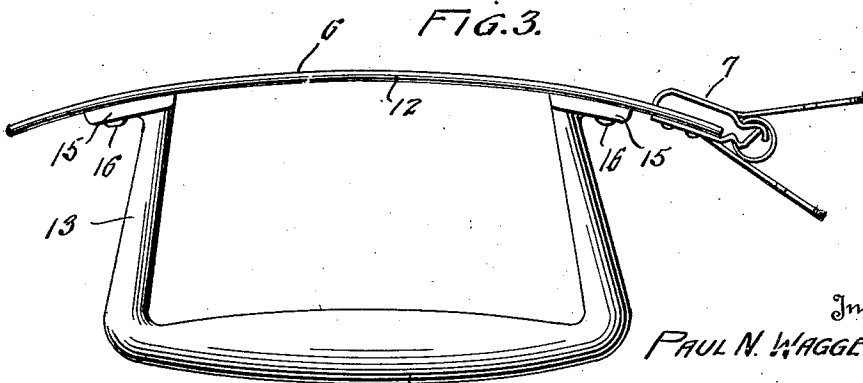


FIG. 3.



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FINGERPRINTING DEVICE

Application filed November 12, 1926. Serial No. 148,033.

My invention relates to identification of persons by the use of foot and fingerprints, with particular reference to a method and means for applying ink to fingers and feet, means for holding the recording means, and method of recording finger and footprints.

Either ink or oil has been used as a printing medium in recording fingerprints. If oil is the agent, it is necessary to raise to visibility the oil impression of the capillary ridges. This is accomplished by the application of either colored material, which adheres to the oiled impressions, or the application of acids, which in combination with the oil, render the prints visible. Ink, however, is the preferred medium because of the small cost thereof, the ease of application, and durability. But difficulty has been experienced in the use of ink in securing an even application of the ink to the fingers or feet, and a consequent uniform inked impression. The most common method has been by placing and pressing the fingers upon an inked pad. There has also been employed a mere application of paste-like or liquid ink directly to the fingers. Another and preferred method has been the imposition of ink upon a metal plate, usually copper, and the application of the fingers to be inked thereto. When such a plate is used it has been difficult to secure upon the plate a film of ink of uniform thickness. Another disadvantage has been the inability to completely remove all of the ink after use from the plate. As a result of this, a subsequent application of ink to the plate is super-imposed upon the ink which is caked upon the plate, rendering the surface of the ink film uneven.

Difficulty has also been encountered in preventing a print from smearing at the time of recording. This results from employing means not perfectly adapted to holding the recording medium while feet or fingers are being applied to the medium.

An object of my invention is to provide simple and inexpensive means for applying ink to fingers and feet.

Another object of my invention is to provide simple and inexpensive means for hold-

ing the recording medium of finger and footprints.

Yet another object is to devise a method of inking feet and fingers.

Still another object is to devise a method of recording finger and footprints.

To accomplish these and other important objects, my invention comprises an aluminum plate and an arcuate holder for the recording medium, and method of use of same.

Referring to the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an aluminum slab or plate for inking fingers and foot roller;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a holder for the recording medium;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 1 of the drawings, 1 illustrates a rectangular plate of highly polished aluminum having rounded edges 2 and corners 3. All sharp surfaces are rounded in order that there might be no possibility of a subject, especially a child, being cut during the operation. There are depicted fingers 4 being applied to the thin film of ink 5 spread upon the plate.

Fig. 2 illustrates an arcuate aluminum plate 6, with clamp 7 mounted thereon in a plane transverse to the arc and extending substantially the length of the side on which it is mounted, said clamping means holding in engagement with the face of the plate a card 8 used in recording footprints. There is also depicted the foot 9 of a child being imprinted upon the card. The plate is constructed with rounded corners 11 and curved edges 12.

In Fig. 3 there is depicted a handle, stamped from a single piece of aluminum, comprising a connecting bar 14 supported by the members 13, said support members being flanged at their free ends and substantially conforming to the plate 6 for mounting thereupon. The handle is securely fastened to the plate by means of rivets 16, or any similar securing means, cut flush with the face of the plate. This handle, mounted as it is subtending the arc of the plate, makes for easy operation of the holder and an even application of the clamped paper or card to the foot or finger to be recorded. Transverse to the

plane of the arc, and on the lower end of the plate, there is mounted clamping means 7 of the ribbon spring type, although any conventional clamping device may be employed.

5 The mode of operation of my invention may best be illustrated by the process of identifying children born at a hospital. Upon the aluminum plate 1 there is placed a paste-like ink, which is spread to a uniform
10 film by a roller. The plate is composed of aluminum because of certain properties inhering in this metal. Its light weight and durability are advantages especially to be desired in the sick room where, not only is
15 no assistance rendered by the subject, but frequently resistance to the operation is encountered. Aluminum is especially advantageous, however, because of its unctuous quality conducive to obtaining a smooth and
20 even film of ink. This same unctuous quality aids in cleansing from the plate the unused ink remaining thereupon when the process is completed. The cylinder of the roller employed to spread the ink is partially absor-
25 bent, and in the process of reducing the film to the desired thickness, a portion of the ink is absorbed, and the feet of the infant are then inked by running the roller over the entire soles of the feet. A card or paper is
30 then clamped to the holder in the proper position, the foot of the infant is firmly held, and the card is applied in an arcual movement from the heel to the toes. The card or paper is then shifted to the proper position
35 to receive the impression of the other foot in a like manner. The fingers of the mother are then inked by a gentle direct contact with the thin film of ink upon the plate 1. The card is again adjusted in the holder so
40 that the reverse side is exposed and the fingerprints of the mother are recorded by slightly rolling the engaged card upon the fingers. The advantages of the holder are apparent. It is made of aluminum and the
45 consideration which governs the selection of this metal for use for the composition of the plate 1 applies here. The arcual shape enables a more complete contact between the sole of the foot and the card, particularly
50 with reference to the instep of the foot. Inasmuch as the configuration of this holder permits of a rolling movement, there is also less likelihood of the impression being smeared during the process.

55 While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, I wish it to be understood that I do not confine myself to the precise details of construction herein set forth by way of illustration,
60 as it is apparent that many changes and variations may be made therein, by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention, or exceeding the scope of the appended claims.

65 I claim:

1. In a device for recording footprints, a holder comprising an arcuate metal plate, clamping means mounted thereon to engage a recording medium, and handle attached to the concave surface.

2. A holding device comprising an arcuate aluminum plate, clamping means adapted to hold in secure engagement on the convex surface a recording medium, and a handle mounted on the concave surface.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
PAUL N. WAGGENER.

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