

(No Model.)

J. HOFFMAN.

RUBBER HOLDER FOR PENCILS.

No. 376,196.

Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 1.

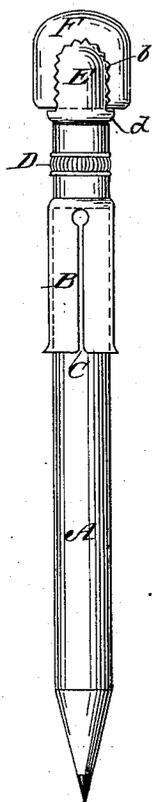


Fig. 2.

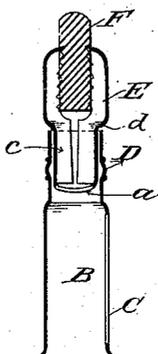


Fig. 3.

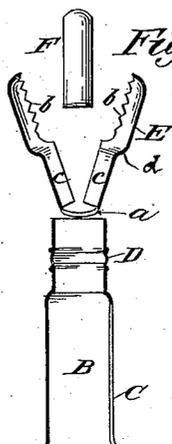
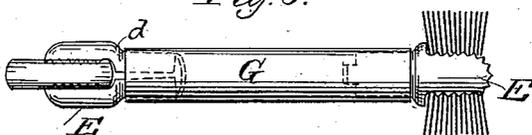


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



WITNESSES:

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RUBBER-HOLDER FOR PENCILS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,196, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed March 21, 1887. Serial No. 231,649. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HOFFMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hoboken, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rubber-Holders for Pencils, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in improvements in point-protectors and eraser-holders for pencils, being adapted also to other uses, as hereinafter stated.

In the drawings the same reference-letters illustrate the same parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 illustrates a plan of the invention as applied to a pencil. Fig. 2 illustrates a longitudinal section of the invention. Fig. 3 illustrates a longitudinal section of the invention, showing the parts detached. Fig. 4 illustrates a view of the rubber-gripping device with the bent part which connects the two jaws of the gripper presented forwardly. Fig. 5 illustrates my invention as applied to uses other than in connection with pencils.

A is the pencil.

B is a tube, preferably split at C, as usual, whereby it is rendered expansible and elastic, the better to hug on the pencil, and is also adapted to be used on pencils of different sizes. I prefer to form a rib or knurl at the upper part of the tube (seen at D) for the purposes of ornamentation.

E is the eraser-holder. It is blanked out from sheet metal, and has preferably a contracted part at *a*, which forms a spring-connection between the two halves of the holder, and teeth on the edges *b*. This blank is bent up, as seen in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, and the parts *b*, having the toothed edges, and also the plain parts *c* adjacent to them, are given a substantially half-tubular form, so that the part adjacent to the toothed part shall, when bent together, form a substantially cylindrical portion adapted to fit in the end of the tube B. The spring connecting part *a*, as shown, is bent flatwise of the metal, so that the two jaws of the holder will automatically spring apart when they are released from the tube B, or may be readily spread apart with the fingers. The upper parts, *b*, of the holder, which contain the teeth, are of about the same width as

the lower parts, *c*, which form the cylindrical portion of said holder, and in said upper parts a space or recess is formed, which is substantially rectangular in shape in vertical section and larger than the tapering or V-shaped space formed in said lower parts between their closely-approaching edges, so that there may be greater space between said upper parts of the holder for receiving the laterally-extending block of erasive material than between said lower parts, where such increased space is not needed. Without this enlarged rectangular space between the upper parts of the holder a block of laterally-extending rubber of the form shown in the drawings could not be held by all parts of the jaws and securely retained in working position.

In forming the eraser or rubber holder the lower or cylindrical parts, *c*, and the upper or toothed parts, *b*, are constructed of substantially the same length, the lower half or parts, *c*, being adapted or constructed to fit wholly within the tube B, while the upper half or parts, *b*, project wholly above said tube and form the clamping-jaws for the rubber.

Intermediate of the upper and lower parts of the holder is formed an enlargement or shoulder, *d*, which, when said holder is in operative position, rests upon the upper end of the tube B and prevents the upper half of said holder from entering said tube. Thus the parts of the holder constituting the jaws which grasp the rubber or eraser are above said shoulder and entirely outside of the end of said tube, thus enabling them to grasp and hold an eraser or rubber which is flat and of greater width than the holder, and which projects laterally beyond said jaws and entirely outside of the tube which incloses the lower half of the holder.

F represents the erasive material or rubber.

The operation is obvious. The rubber-holder is removed from the tube B, and thereupon the toothed surfaces or edges automatically spring apart somewhat under the action of the flat spring *a*. The erasive material is then inserted between the toothed edges. The cylindrical part *c* of the holder below the rubber-holding jaws is then crowded into the unslitted end of the point-protecting tube B. Thus the toothed edges are brought together

and pressed into the rubber, and it is firmly held in place by the tube B, the rubber projecting laterally beyond said tube. When desired, another piece of rubber can be readily substituted for a worn-out piece by removing the holder from the tube B and exchanging one piece of rubber for the other in the jaws. It is obvious that the tube B, instead of being a point-protecting tube, may be a section of tubing rigidly attached to the back end of the pencil; also, that the device may be used without the teeth *b*; but I prefer them.

In Fig. 5 I illustrate another use of my invention, the said figure illustrating a combined eraser and brush holder. In this figure, G is a section of tube, and E E are the two holders, one at either end thereof, one holding a piece of rubber, the same as in the case of the pencil, and the other holding a brush. My invention is applicable to a number of uses similar to those herein illustrated.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination of a tube, B, and a holder, E, consisting of clamping-jaws united by a flat-spring connection, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a tube, B, and a holder, E, the latter being formed with lower cylindrical parts, *c*, and upper toothed parts or jaws, *b*, of substantially the same length, and with a shoulder, *d*, beneath said upper toothed parts, said lower parts being adapted or constructed to enter and be contracted by said tube, and said upper toothed parts to project above said shoulder and entirely outside of said tube and form the clamping-jaws for a laterally-projecting rubber, which is also ar-

ranged entirely outside of said tube, substantially as described.

3. The combination of a tube, B, and a holder, E, the latter being formed with lower cylindrical parts, *c*, and upper toothed parts or jaws, *b*, of substantially the same length, with a shoulder, *d*, beneath said upper toothed parts, with a V-shaped space or recess between said lower parts, and with a rectangularly-shaped recess between said upper parts, said lower parts being adapted or constructed to enter and be contracted by said tube, and the upper toothed parts to project wholly above said tube and form the clamping-jaws for a laterally-projecting rubber which is arranged entirely outside of said tube, substantially as described.

4. The combination of a tube, B, and a holder, E, provided with clamping-jaws arranged entirely outside of the tube B, and with substantially cylindrical surfaces below the jaws and united by a flat-spring connecting-piece, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of the tube B, open at both ends, and the holders E, formed of cylindrical parts *c* and toothed parts or clamping-jaws *b* of substantially the same length, and the flat spring *a*, connecting the ends of said cylindrical parts, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 12th day of March, A. D. 1887.

JOSEPH HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. IVES,
GEORGE A. VOSS.