M. J. McNEILL.

WRITING PAD FOR THE BLIND.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 30, 1920.

1,372,360. **Patented Mar. 22, 1921.**

Fig. 1.

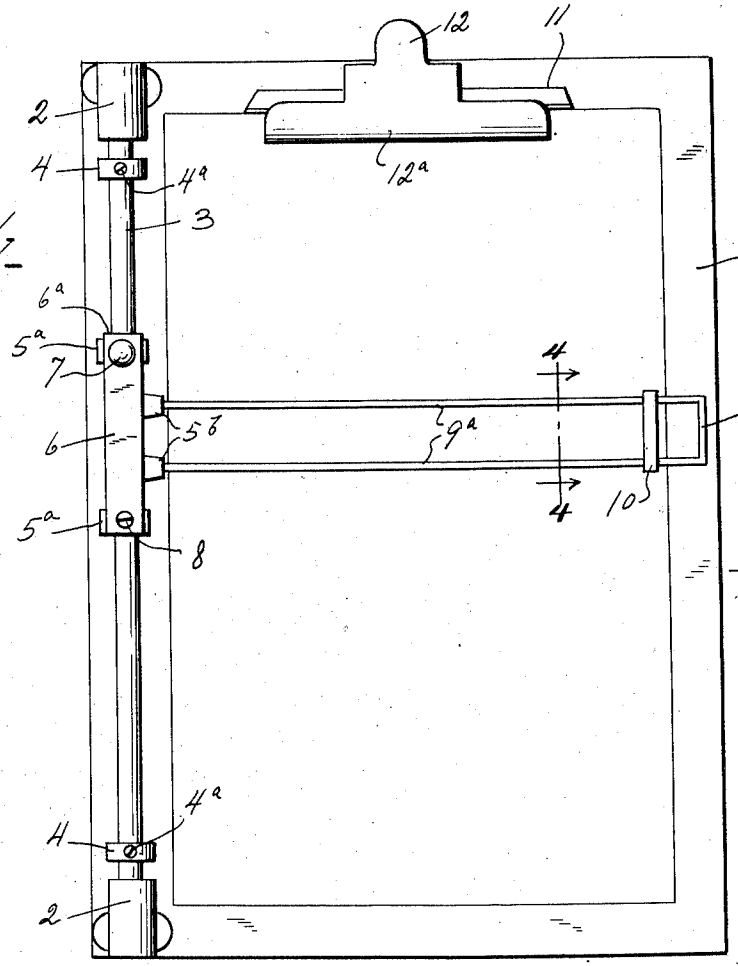


Fig. 4.

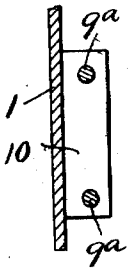


Fig. 2.

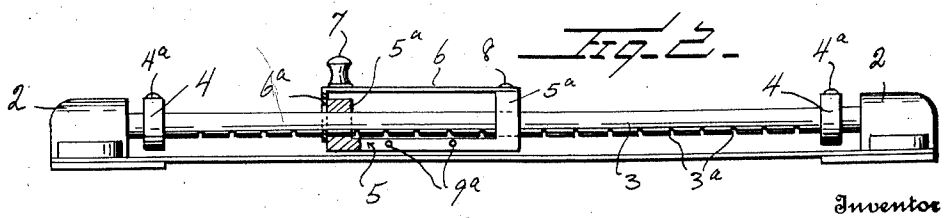
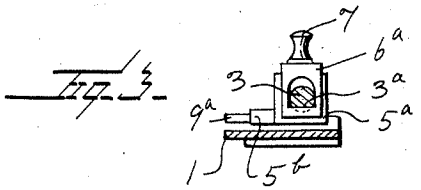


Fig. 3.



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WRITING-PAD FOR THE BLIND.

1,372,360. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 22, 1921.

Application filed June 30, 1920. Serial No. 393,053.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MALCOLM J. McNEILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Seattle, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Writing-Pads for the Blind, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in writing pads for the blind.

An important object of the invention is to provide such a device wherein means are provided whereby the sightless may properly aline a sheet of paper upon the pad in combination with guiding means extending transversely of the sheet and adjustable longitudinally thereof, whereby the written line may be guided.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which may be adjusted for use with paper sheets of varying widths and lengths.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this type which may be readily and cheaply manufactured and which does not easily get out of order.

These and other objects and advantages I accomplish by the combination and arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention and wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of my writing tablet.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the operation with a latch mechanism, and

Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 1 indicates a suitable base provided at the top and bottom thereof at one side of the base with upstanding lugs 2 which receive and position the shaft 3 extending longitudinally of the base 1.

The under side of the shaft 3 is provided with spaced notches 3^a, these notches being separated a distance equal to suitable spacing between lines of hand writing. Stop collars 4 are adjustably mounted upon the shaft 3 and may be held in such adjusted position by means of set screws 4^a or the like.

Slidably and rotatably mounted upon the shaft 3 is a yoke 5 embodying spaced arms 5^a suitably apertured to receive the shaft. A spring 6 is provided having a down bent shoulder 6^a which is likewise apertured for the reception of the shaft 3, the shoulder 6^a being of slightly less transverse thickness than the width of the notches 3^a. An operating thumb piece 7 is provided by means of which the spring 6 may be depressed to release the shoulder 6^a from the notches 3^a, one end of the spring being secured to one of the shoulders 5^a as at 8 and the shoulder 6^a being arranged adjacent the other of the shoulders 5^a.

A U shaped guiding and spacing bar 9 is provided having the arms 9^a thereof parallel and extending transversely of the base 1, the ends of the arms being mounted in suitable lugs 5^b formed in the yoke 5. A plate 10 is provided, suitably apertured to receive the arms of the yoke and is slidably mounted thereupon. This plate as shown in Fig. 4 is of sufficient size to hold the outer end of the U shaped guiding and spacing member elevated from the base 1 and forms a guide to prevent overrunning of the edge of the paper in writing.

The top of the base 1 is provided approximately centrally thereof with a spring clip 12 by means of which sheets of paper used in writing may be held in position. Beneath the clip 12 and intermediate the clamping portion 12^a thereof and the top of the base 1 a straight edge 11 is secured to the base 1 parallel to the arms of the guiding and spacing member 9.

In the employment of my pad the paper may be inserted by elevating the member 9 and rotating the yoke 5 about the shaft 3. The clip 12 is then elevated and the paper inserted therebeneath with its upper edge against the straight edge 11 when the clip may be released to hold the paper. When the guiding and spacing member 9 has been oscillated so that it is in a vertical position, the yoke 5 is slidable upon the shaft 3 as the notches 3^a are only formed in the under surface thereof and consequently when the yoke is rotated through an angle of 90 degrees the shoulder 6^a of the spring will not engage in these notches. It will be seen that the yoke with the guiding and spacing member 9 in this position may be slid upwardly upon the shaft 3 until it contacts the uppermost of the stop members 4 when it may be rotated to bring the arms contiguous to the paper.

The stop 10 can then be adjusted to suit the width of the paper. At the completion of each line of writing the writer releases the yoke 5 by depressing the spring 6 through the medium of the thumb piece 7 and moves the yoke together with the guiding and spacing arms 9^a downwardly until the shoulder 6^a engages the next notch. When the yoke 5 contacts the lowermost of the stop members 4^a the writer will realize that he has reached the bottom of the sheet and will insert another for use.

It will be obvious that many changes are possible in the shape, size and arrangement of the various parts herein shown without in any manner departing from the spirit of my invention, and I accordingly do not limit myself to the specific structure hereinbefore set forth, but may make any such changes, which do not depart from the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having now described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In a device of the type described, a base, a member extending transversely of the base and adjustable longitudinally thereof, a stop member carried by said member and adjustable longitudinally thereof, a clip secured to and adapted to engage said base adjacent the top thereof, and a straight edge secured to said base intermediate said clip and the top of said base and parallel to said transverse member, said stop member holding one end of said transverse member in spaced relation to said base.

2. In a device of the type described, a base, a stationary shaft extending longitudinally of said base at one side thereof, said shaft being provided in one side thereof with spaced notches, a yoke slidably and rotatably mounted upon said shaft, a member secured to said yoke and extending transversely of the base and normally parallel with said base and a spring latch carried by said yoke and positioned to engage said notches when the transverse member is parallel to said base, said latch being free from engagement with said notches when said member is elevated.

3. In a device of the type described, a base, a shaft extending longitudinally of said base and provided at one side thereof with spaced notches, said shaft being held against rotation, a member slidably and rotatably mounted upon said shaft, a guide member secured to said member and extending transversely of the base and normally parallel thereto, a notch engaging member carried by said yoke and engaging the notches of said shaft when the guide member is parallel to said base, said notch engaging member being free from engagement with said notches when said member is elevated.

4. In a device of the type described, a base, a shaft extending longitudinally of said base and provided at one side thereof with spaced notches, said shaft being circular in cross section and held against rotation, a member slidably and rotatably mounted upon said shaft, a guide member secured to said member and extending transversely of the base and normally parallel thereto, a notch engaging member carried by said yoke and engaging the notches of said shaft when the guide member is parallel to said base, said notch engaging member being free from engagement with said notches when said member is elevated, and a stop adjustably secured to said shaft at opposite ends of the first named member whereby the movement of said member may be variably limited.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

MALCOLM J. McNEILL.