

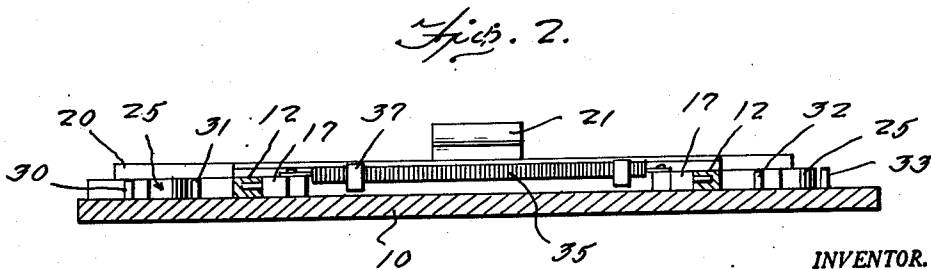
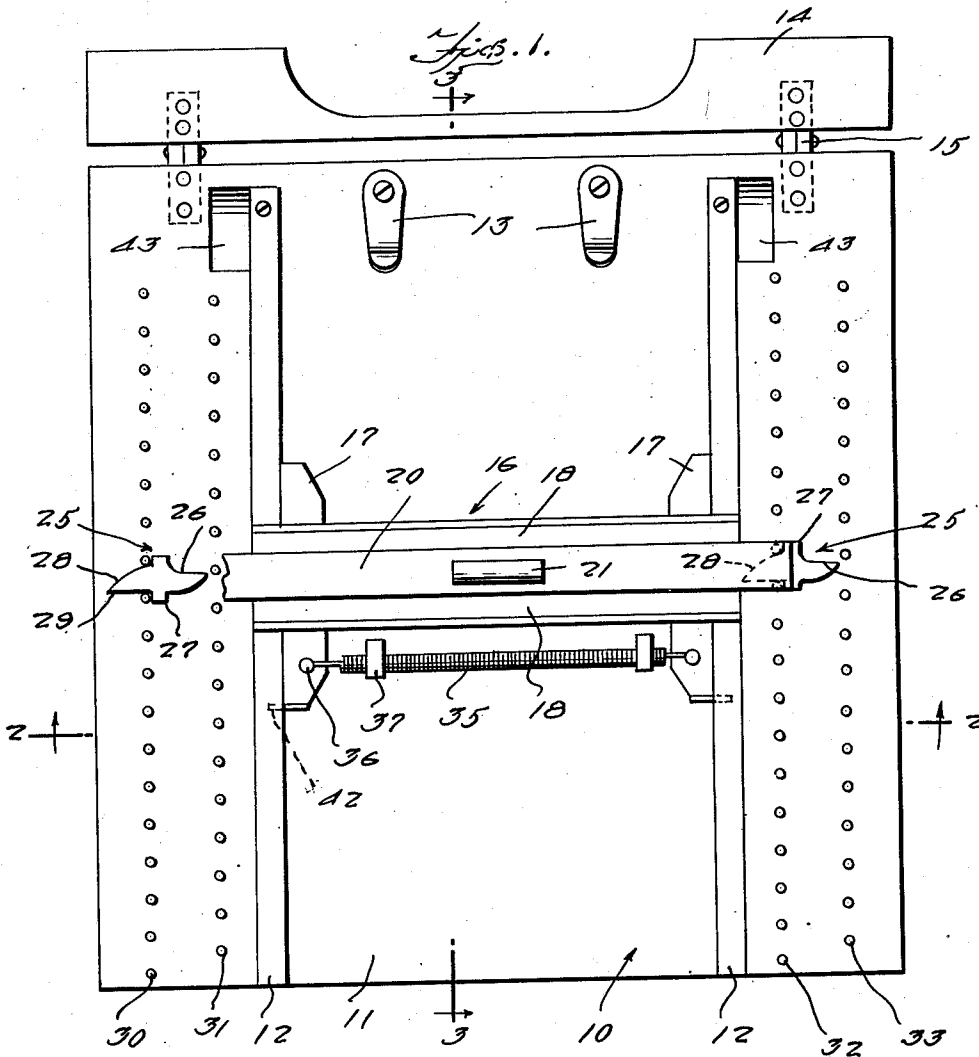
Nov. 7, 1950

M. M. ERICKSON
WRITING GUIDE FOR THE BLIND

2,529,005

Filed May 2, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
Myrtle M. Erickson
BY

W. W. Morrison, Sherman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

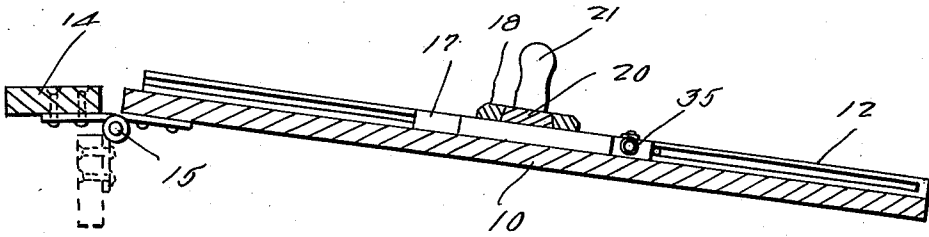


Fig. 4.

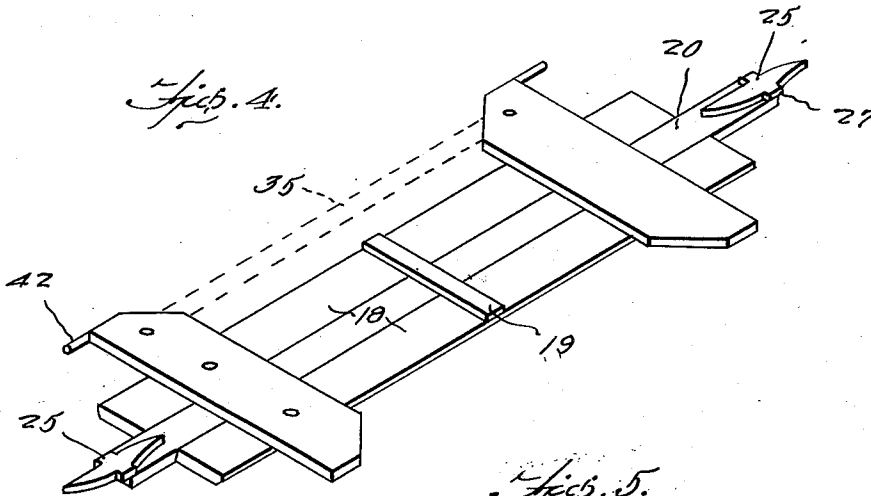
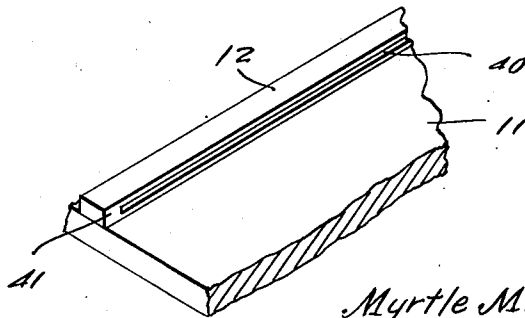


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
Myrtle M. Erickson
BY

W. Morrow, Bertram & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,529,005

WRITING GUIDE FOR THE BLIND

Myrtle M. Erickson, Longview, Wash.

Application May 2, 1947, Serial No. 745,398

3 Claims. (Cl. 35—38)

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This invention relates to a writing guide for the blind, and has as its primary object the provision of a board and guide associated therewith, whereby a blind individual may write with pen or pencil in accurate alignment and suitably spaced lines.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device provided with a horizontal, resilient guide bar whereby a line of writing may be accurately positioned horizontally of the paper, the resiliency affording means whereby lower case letters having depending portions may be utilized without materially deflecting the guide bar.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of means whereby the guide bar may be moved downwardly in progressive equal steps by transverse movement thereof.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character which is sturdy and durable in construction, reliable and efficient in operation, and relatively inexpensive to manufacture, as well as simple to use.

Other objects will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out as the description of the invention proceeds, and shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of one form of device embodying features of the instant invention, parts thereof being broken away.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Figure 1, as viewed in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Figure 1, as viewed in the direction indicated by the arrows, certain portions of the apparatus being disclosed in the different positions of adjustment.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a constructional detail.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a further constructional detail.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, the device of the instant invention comprises a writing board generally indicated at 10, preferably of rectangular shape, and including a central, smooth writing surface 11 defined by longitudinally extending guide bars 12. Paper is adapted to be positioned on the writing space 11 and secured thereon, as by spring clips 13, while the board may be utilized in horizontal position, or may be elevated at an angle by means of an extending portion 14 hingedly secured, as by hinges 15, to the upper edge of the board.

A guide member and spacer generally indicated at 16 is adapted to be positioned for longitudinal movement between the guide bars 12, and takes the form of two side plates 17, adapted for slidable engagement with the inner sides of

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guide bars 12, connected by transversely extending plate-like members 18, connected on their under sides by a connecting strip 19, the bars 18 being spaced to form a channel within which is movably positioned a spacer bar 20. The spacer bar 20 is provided at a mid-point with a handle 21, to facilitate longitudinal movement thereof in the channel between the members 18. The outer extremities of bar 20 extend a substantial distance beyond the guide members 12, and are provided on the under side of their extremities with specially constructed spacing deflector members 25. Each of the members 25 includes an arcuate cam surface 26, concave with respect to the top of the board 10, and separated by an abutting flange 27 from an opposite projecting portion including an arcuate cam surface 28, which is convex with respect to the top of the board, and terminates in a point. The arrangement is such that both of the members 25 at opposite extremities of the member 20 are aligned, in that both concave surfaces 26 are on the right side of the board, and both convex surfaces 28 on the left, the purpose of which arrangement will be more fully pointed out hereinafter. Exteriorly of the guide plates or bars 12, the board is provided on both sides with two spaced rows of equidistantly spaced pins, the rows being indicated at 30, 31, 32 and 33. It is to be noted that row 31 is staggered relative to row 30, as is row 33 relative to 32, the pins of rows 30 and 32 and the pins of rows 31 and 33 being substantially in alignment. It is further to be noted, as best shown in Figure 1, that the pins of each row are spaced apart a distance less than the width of the flanges 27, so that lateral movement of the bar 20 may move the spacer members 25 laterally between the rows, but the flanges 27 will limit such movement to the distance between rows 30 and 31, and rows 32 and 33.

A guide member 35 comprised of a tension spring is extended between apertures 36 positioned in end plates 17 below the lowermost of members 18, and is provided with slidable stop members 37 which may be suitably spaced from the extremities of the spring 35 in order to define the length of the lines.

As best shown in Figure 5, each of guide bars 12 is provided on its interior side with a channel or groove 40, the groove being closed, as by a block 41, at its lower extremity. Pins 42 carried adjacent the lower extremities of guide plates 17 are adapted to engage in the channels 40; thus holding the spacer member 16 and its associated guides 35 substantially flush with the writing surface 11 under normal conditions, but permitting pivotal tilting of the same about the axis formed by pin 42 when it is desired to release the members 25 from their associated rows of pins to permit returning of the spacer to the top of the board. Stop blocks 43 are provided at the upper extremities of guide members 12 to permit initial aligning of the spacer and guide at the start of a new page.

From the foregoing the operation of the device should now be readily understandable. A sheet of writing paper is first clamped under the spring clips 13, the board having been first suitably adjusted in either flat or inclined position by means of the hinged portion 14, and the spacer member 16 is moved to the uppermost portion of the board, the previously described tilting movement about the pins 42 permitting such movement by disengaging the members 25 from their associated rows of pins. The blind individual utilizing the device now writes along the guide member 35, which serves effectively to align the writing, but, due to the previously discussed flexibility, permits the insertion of depending portions of such letters as may be necessary. When the end of the line is reached, as indicated by the adjustable stop member 37, the handle 21 may be grasped and moved first to the right, and then to the left. In effecting such movement, it will be noted that when the device is at the extreme left, as shown in Figure 1, the flange 27 of each member 25 is seated against two pins in rows 30 and 32, respectively. Movement of the device to the right will now cause engagement of the arcuate cam surface 26 with an associated staggered pin in rows 31 and 33, which will serve to move the device downwardly. Reverse movement will now cause the arcuate cam surfaces 28 to engage associated pins in rows 30 and 32, thus completing the downward movement of the device a distance equal to the spacing between the pins, and firmly centering the spacer at a predetermined distance below the previous line.

The procedure may obviously be repeated until the page is filled, whereupon a new page may be inserted, as previously described. The blocks 41 serve as end stops to indicate the bottom of a page. However, if the paper is too short for the blocks 41 to serve in this manner, the user must feel the lower edge of the paper and calculate its relation to the guide member 35.

From the foregoing it will now be seen that there is herein provided an improved writing device for the blind which accomplishes all the objects of this invention, and others, including many advantages of great practical utility.

As many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A writing guide for the blind comprising a rectangular board having its upper end mounted on a supporting surface, four parallel rows of spaced projecting pins on the upper surface of said board, a pair of said rows of pins arranged along the opposite sides of said board and defining therebetween a writing area, the pins of the respective pairs of rows being staggered with respect to each other and the individual pins of alternate rows of the respective pairs being in parallel alignment with the upper end of the board, an elongated guide member disposed across said writing area, means mounting said guide member perpendicular to said rows of pins for sliding movement parallel therewith, a spacer bar mounted on said guide member for reciprocal sliding movement longitudinally thereof and having its ends projecting beyond the ends of said member and above said pins, a deflector on each of the projecting ends of the bar disposed intermediate the rows of pins of the proximate pair

of rows for coaction successively with adjacent pins of first one and then the other row of said pairs of rows at each reciprocation of the spacer bar for imparting step by step line spacing movement to said guide member, and a writing implement guide means on said member.

2. A writing guide for the blind comprising a board having a smooth upper writing surface, four parallel rows of spaced projecting pins on said surface of said board, a pair of said rows of pins arranged in parallel spaced relation with the other pair of said rows and defining therebetween a writing area, the pins of the respective pairs of rows being staggered with respect to each other and the individual pins of alternate rows of the respective pairs being aligned normal to the rows of said pins, an elongated guide member disposed across said writing area, means mounting said guide member perpendicular to said rows of pins for sliding movement parallel therewith, a spacer bar mounted on said guide member for reciprocable sliding movement longitudinally thereof and having its ends projecting beyond the ends of said member and above said pins, a deflector on each of the projecting ends of the bar disposed intermediate the rows of pins of the proximate pair of rows for coaction successively with adjacent pins of first one and then the other row of said pairs of rows at each reciprocation of the spacer bar for imparting step by step line spacing movement to said guide member, and a writing implement guide means on said member.

3. A writing guide for the blind comprising a rectangular board having its upper end mounted on a supporting surface, four parallel rows of spaced projecting pins on the upper surface of said board, a pair of said rows of pins arranged along the opposite sides of said board and defining therebetween a writing area, the pins of the respective pairs of rows being staggered with respect to each other and the individual pins of alternate rows of the respective pairs being in parallel alignment with the upper end of the board, an elongated guide member disposed across said writing area, means mounting said guide member perpendicular to said rows of pins for sliding movement parallel therewith, a spacer bar mounted on said guide member for reciprocal sliding movement longitudinally thereof and having its ends projecting beyond the ends of said member and above said pins, a deflector embodying a pair of cam portions arranged in end to end and reversed relation with respect to each other on each of the projecting ends of the bar disposed intermediate the rows of pins of the proximate pair of rows for coaction successively with adjacent pins of first one and then the other row of said pair of rows at each reciprocation of the spacer bar for imparting step by step line spacing movement to said guide member, and a writing implement guide means on said member.

MYRTLE M. ERICKSON.

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