A. M. PRATER.

LEVEL.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 22, 1914.

1,173,860. Patented Feb. 29, 1916.

Fig. 1

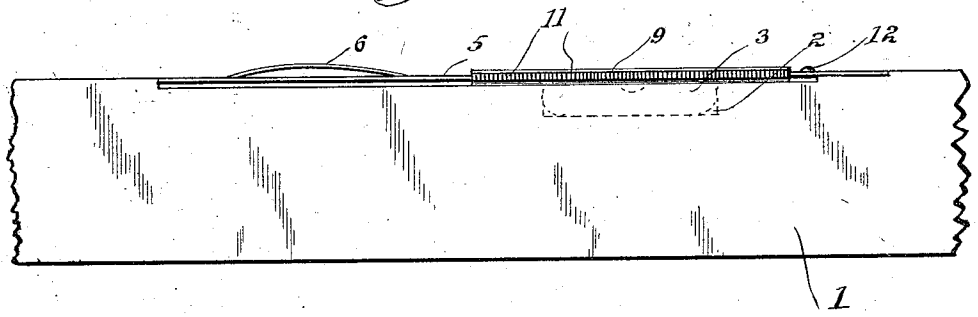


Fig. 2

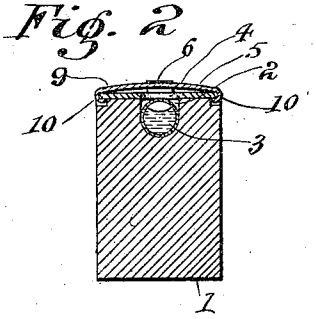
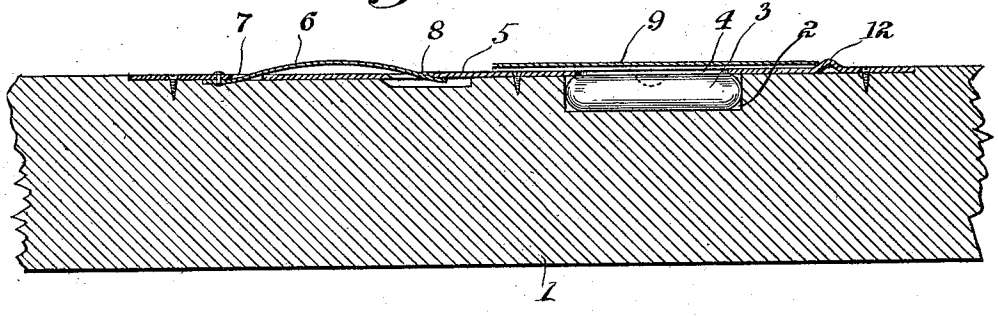


Fig. 3



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LEVEL.

1,173,860. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 29, 1916.

Application filed December 22, 1914. Serial No. 878,538.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ACIE M. PRATER, a white citizen of the United States, residing at Hugo, in the county of Choctaw and State of Oklahoma, have invented new and useful Improvements in Levels, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to levels and more particularly to guards or protectors for the bulbs of spirit levels. In this type of level the bulb is usually exposed through a slot in a cover plate secured to the edge of the level and the present invention is designed to protect the bulb against breaking when the level is not in use. It frequently occurs that when the level is put in the box, tool chest or other similar receptacle with other tools that the bulb becomes broken from contact with said tools, thereby necessitating replacement which entails considerable trouble.

It is, therefore, the object of this invention to obviate these difficulties and it is a further object to provide simple and efficient means for closing the slot and the cover plate and also for holding the closing means in inoperative position when the level is in use.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the following description is read in connection with the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this application, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the guard in operative slot closing position. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 3 is a detail longitudinal sectional view.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 1 represents the level body which is recessed at 2 to receive a spirit bulb 3, as is usual. Mounted over the recess and being provided with a longitudinal slot 4 is the cover plate 5 which in this instance is made somewhat longer than in ordinary instances. This cover plate is secured to the level body in any suitable manner and has connected thereto a leaf spring 6, one terminal of which is passed through a slot 7 in the cover plate and secured to the underside thereof. The opposite terminal of the spring is passed through a slot 8 and is free, as shown in Fig. 3

Slidably mounted upon the cover plate is a guard or protector consisting of a plate of any suitable material, generally indicated at 9, and having its marginal edges turned over the cover plate into retaining and guiding flanges 10. The side edges of the plate are preferably milled or suitably roughened, as indicated at 11, so as to provide a gripping surface and the forward movement of the plate is preferably limited by a knob or boss 12 pressed up from the cover plate, as shown.

When the level is not in use the guard is moved forwardly over the slot in the cover plate, thereby concealing the bulb and preventing breakage of the same.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a spirit level, a slotted cover plate for the spirit bulb, a guard plate slidably mounted over the cover plate and having the longitudinal edges thereof bent to form guideways, said guideways receiving the edges of said cover plate, means for holding the guard plate in inactive position, and means for limiting the movement of the guard plate when moved to active position.

2. In a spirit level, a slotted cover plate for the spirit bulb, a guard plate slidably mounted over the cover plate, said guard plate having the longitudinal edges thereof bent to form guideways for receiving the longitudinal edges of said cover plate, a leaf spring mounted in one end of said cover plate and engaging said guard plate when in inactive position, and a boss formed on the opposite end of said cover plate and serving to limit the forward movement of the guard plate when moved to active position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ACIE M. PRATER.

Witnesses:
V. M. TYLER,
RUTH STANFORD.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."