

June 15, 1948.

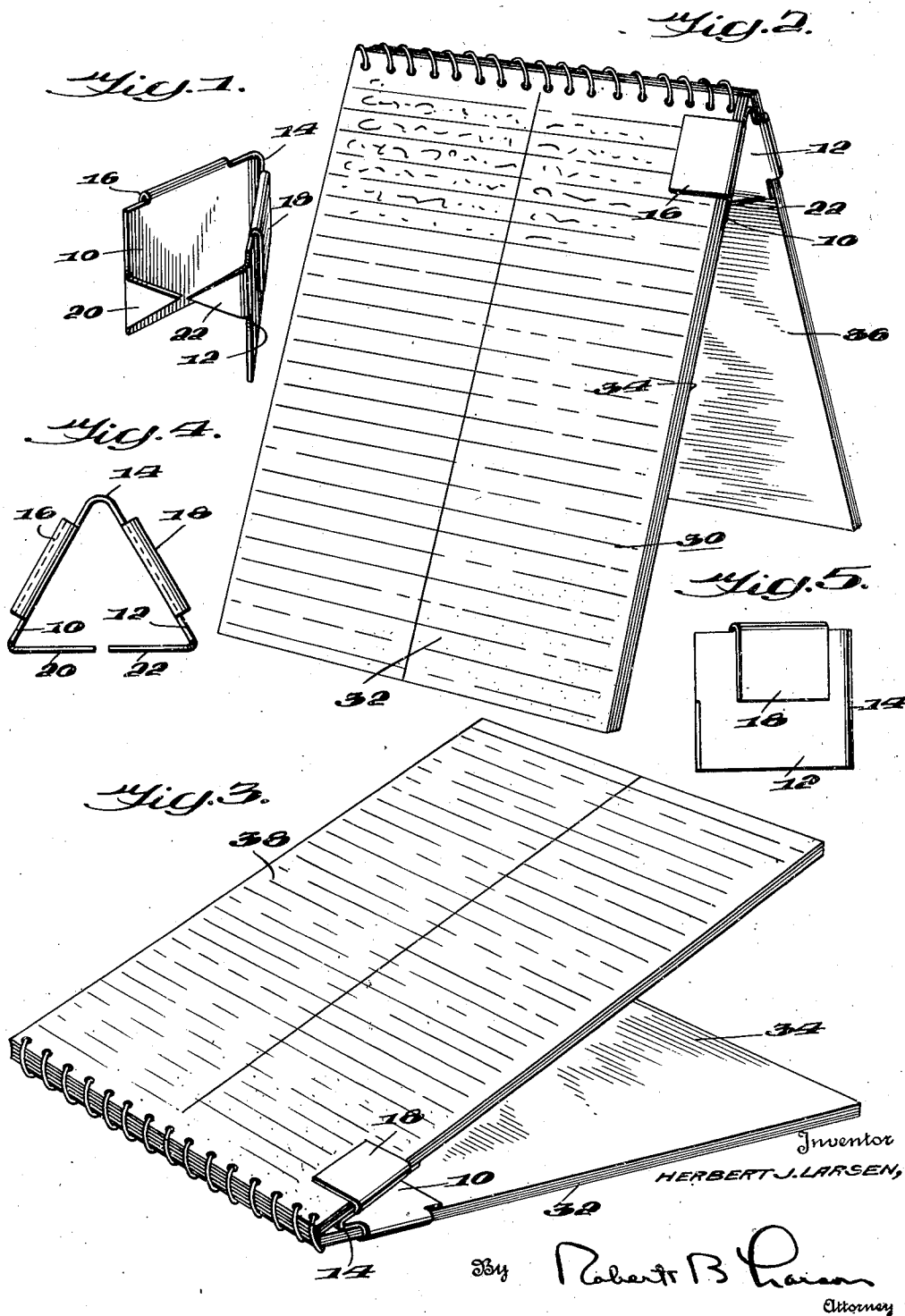
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STENOGRAPHIC NOTEBOOK HOLDER

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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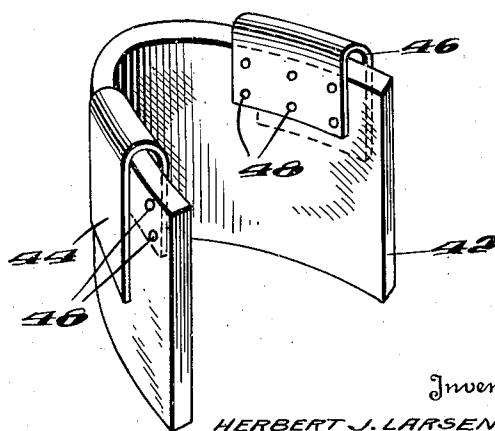
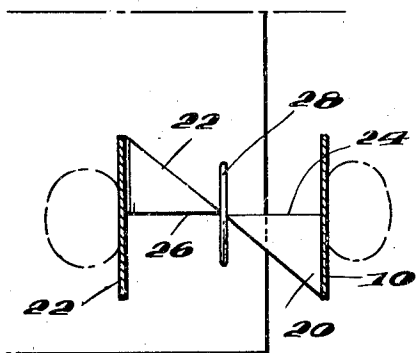
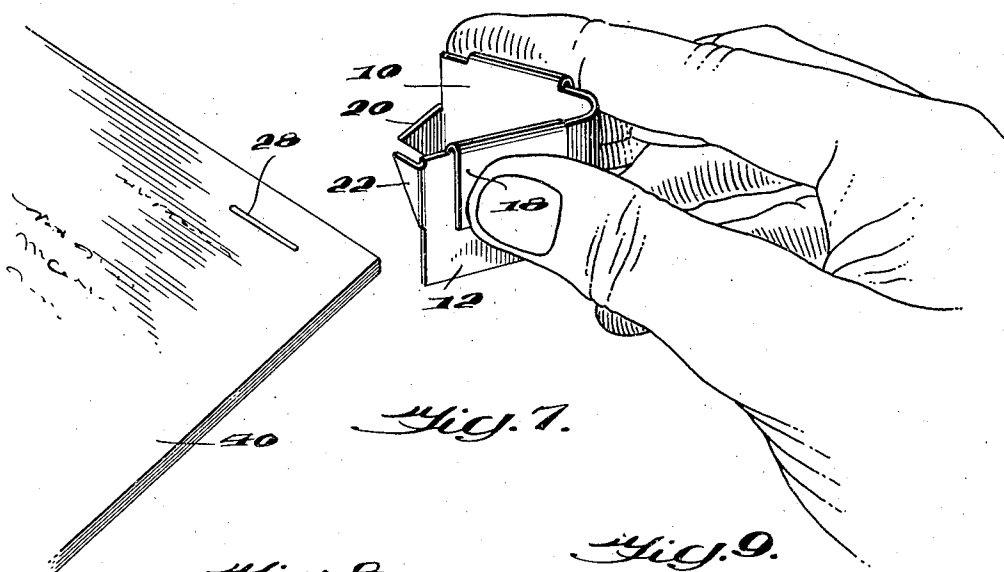
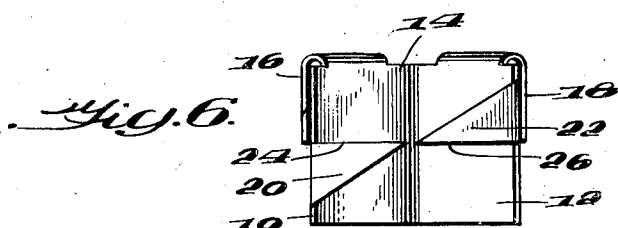
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STENOGRAPHIC NOTEBOOK HOLDER

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STENOGRAPHIC NOTEBOOK HOLDER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 120—28)

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This invention relates to devices for supporting stenographic notebooks and the like in a suitable position on a desk so that the shorthand notations may be easily read during transcription on a typewriter.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a device which, unlike the usual cumbersome devices employed for this purpose, is of simple construction and which will suitably support the notebook in either of two positions. The device secures the covers of the notebook at an acute angle to each other thus permitting the notebook to support itself. In one of its two positions the notebook is adapted to rest on those edges of the cover which are opposite the hinge. In the other position of use, one cover of the notebook rests flat on the desk surface with the hinge edge toward the typist and with the other cover extending upwardly at angle so that the pages supported thereby are within full view of the typist.

The invention has as a further object the provision of a device for holding notebooks in position for the transcription of shorthand notes, which device may be easily manufactured from sheet metal, such as sheet spring steel or the like. In such form of the invention the device is constructed to perform a second function. When not in use as a notebook holder it may serve to remove staples of the type now commonly employed to secure a number of sheets of paper together. For such purpose the device is formed with a pair of inwardly directed, oppositely disposed, pointed prongs, which, when the device is pressed between the thumb and forefinger are adapted to be inserted between the staple and the paper and to remove the staple. It is an important object of the invention to provide a device capable of performing these two distinct and useful functions.

These and other objects of the invention will become more apparent from the following description and claims when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of the device.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the use of the device in holding a shorthand notebook in one position for the transcription of the notes.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing how the device holds a shorthand notebook in the other position for the transcription of the notes.

Fig. 4 is an end elevation of the device.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation.

Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing the device

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as being gripped between the thumb and forefinger for the removal of a staple.

Fig. 8 is horizontal section taken through the device, looking downwardly as the staple removing prongs of the device are about to enter and remove a staple, and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a modified form of the invention capable of use as a notebook holder.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8 inclusive, the device may be comprised of sheet metal, such as spring steel. It is formed with two flat sides 10 and 12 disposed in planes which are normally at an acute angle to each other and connected integrally at one end by a curved "hinge" portion 14.

One side edge of each of the flat sides 10 and 12 is formed with flat cover engaging elements 16 and 18 respectively. These are integral with the flat sides and are bent back so as to be disposed in planes substantially parallel to and spaced from the outer surfaces of the flat sides 10 and 12.

The edges of the flat sides 10 and 12 opposite the "hinge" portion 14 are formed with integral, inwardly projecting triangular prongs 20 and 22, which, as will be described hereinafter, are used when the device is employed in removing staples. The tips of these prongs 20 and 22, when the device is in normal inoperative position, are slightly spaced from each other (see Figs. 1 and 4). They extend from opposite ends of edges of the sides 10 and 12 and as will be clear from Fig. 8 are in the form of right angled triangles with their edges 24, 26 parallel, and slightly spaced so as to slide past each other when the tips of the prongs are disposed beneath a staple 28 and the sides 10 and 12 of the device are squeezed toward each other.

Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate the manner in which the device may be employed to support a stenographic notebook 30 in position on a desk or the like so that the stenographic notes may be easily viewed for transcription. From these figures it will be noted that the pages of the notebook are first turned so that the first page 32 to be transcribed faces the typist. The covers of the book are then disposed at an angle and the device is then "clamped" in position near the hinge of the book. In such "clamped" position the inner face of each side 10 and 12 engages the outer faces of the cover 34, 36 of the notebook 30 while the elements 16 and 18 engage the outer surfaces of the two exposed pages of the notebook or the inner faces of the covers themselves. Moreover, because the sides 10 and 12 themselves are connected by a "hinge" portion 14 also of spring material, it will be appreciated that positioning of the device

either toward or away from the "hinge" of the notebook so that the angle of the covers of the notebook does not agree with the normal angle of the sides of the device will increase the "clamping" action.

Portions of the elements 16 and 18 adjacent the line of connection of these elements to the sides 10 and 12 may be disposed closer to the sides than the free ends of the elements. In other words, the plane of the elements 16 and 18 may diverge slightly outward from the plane of the sides 10 and 12. Since the device may be constructed of spring steel or the like, it will now be clear that each side 10 and 12 and its respective element 16 and 18 is adapted to clamp between them a cover of the notebook or the cover and the pages lying there against.

In the position shown in Fig. 2 the device holds the covers of the notebook securely so that the edges of the notebook opposite the hinge may rest on the surface of the desk without slipping apart.

When the typist has transcribed all of the shorthand notes on page 32 (Fig. 2) the notebook, still "clamped" by the device, may be moved to the position shown in Fig. 3. In that position, page 32 which has just been transcribed is flat against the surface of the desk, and page 38 is now positioned in view of the typist for transcribing.

In accordance with another feature of the invention, the device is provided with the special prongs 20 and 22 (which have been described). The purpose of these prongs is to enable the device to be employed as a staple remover when it is not employed as a notebook holder. This added feature renders the device doubly useful to the stenographer, and in large offices particularly, results in saving and efficiency.

The use of the device as a staple remover is illustrated especially in Figs. 7 and 8. Fig. 7 shows a sheaf of papers 40 secured by the staple 28. The device is shown as being gripped between the thumb and forefinger of the user. When so held the device is placed on the paper so that the points of the prongs 20 and 22 are positioned on each side of the staple 28 (Fig. 8). The sides of the device are then pressed together causing the prongs 20 and 22 to be inserted between the staple 28 and the paper. As the prongs pass beneath the staple, the combined width of the prongs becomes larger than the length of the staple and the staple is sheared and freed from the paper. Such action is similar to that of some staple removers now frequently used and apart from the fact that the present device incorporates the staple removing feature along with other features, no novelty is claimed for the shape of the prongs and their function.

The elements 16 and 18 of the device do, however, perform a useful and important function when the device is used as a staple remover. It is these elements with which the thumb and forefinger of the user come in contact when the device is gripped. When the staple is finally severed by the device the two members 10 and 12 snap together with a slight jar. This jar is not, however, transmitted to the user since the elements 16 and 18 act in the manner of shock absorbers. Thus the elements 16 and 18 perform the dual function of acting as securing means for holding the side edges of the covers of a notebook when the device is used as a notebook holder, and as acting as shock absorbers when the device is used as a staple remover.

The device described and illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8, inclusive, can be made from a single unitary

integral blank of sheet metal such as spring steel, which is then bent into the form illustrated, and if desired, heat treated in a manner to assure the spring character of the material. The spring character of the material insures the "clamping" action when the device is used as a notebook holder, and when employed as a staple remover causes the device to assume its normal shape after the sides have been pressed together in the staple removing operation.

In addition to the advantages of simplicity of manufacture, and the capability of the device of performing two functions, both well, the invention possesses the attribute of being small in size. Either when in use, or when stored ready for use, it occupies but very little space in contrast to many cumbersome copy book holders.

A modified form of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 9. In this modification the device is not provided with the staple removing feature but serves admirably as a stenographic notebook holder. Here the device may advantageously be formed of a relatively thick strip of plastic, such as transparent "Lucite" or the like. The strip 42 is bent intermediate its ends so that the resulting opposed sides are disposed at a suitable angle to support a notebook properly. Side edges of the strip 42 have elements 44 and 46 secured thereto by rivets 48 or the like. These elements 44 and 46 are then bent back over the edges of the strip and into planes which are spaced from and substantially parallel to the sides of the device but diverge slightly from the planes of the sides. In use the device is secured to the notebook so that the covers and supported pages of the notebook are "clamped" between the sides of the device and the elements 44 and 46, similarly to the device in Figs. 2 and 3. The elements 44 and 46 are preferably of spring metal so as to insure the "clamping" action heretofore discussed.

The modification illustrated in Fig. 9 may be comprised of a number of different materials such as fiber, vulcanized rubber, metal and the like. Preferably, however, the material of the strip 42 should possess a slight flexible or spring quality. If desired the elements 44 and 46 may be of the same material as the strip 42 and integral therewith. In such case the elements 44 and 46 will be bent back into planes similar to those described above.

I claim:

1. A clip for holding stenographic notebooks and the like in position for the transcription of notes therefrom, said clip having two flat members disposed normally at an acute angle to each other and joined together by a spring hinge portion, each member having one side edge which extends from said hinge portion and which side edge has a flat element projecting laterally therefrom and bent back over the outer face of the member from which it projects so as to be positioned in a plane spaced from and at a slight angle from the plane of the member, whereby side edge portions of a cover of a notebook adjacent the hinge of the notebook may be engaged between said elements and said flat members and held substantially at said acute angle of the clip thus permitting the notebook to be supported in such open position on a desk surface.

2. A clip for holding stenographic notebooks and the like in position for the transcription of notes therefrom, said clip being of spring sheet metal and having two flat members disposed normally at an acute angle to each other and joined together by an integral spring hinge portion,

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each member having one side edge extending from said hinge portion and which side edge has an integral rectangular sheet metal flat element projecting laterally therefrom and bent back over the outer face of the member from which it projects so as to be positioned in a plane spaced from and at a slight angle from the plane of the member, whereby side edge portions of the cover of a notebook adjacent the hinge of the notebook may be engaged between said elements and said members and held substantially at said acute angle of the clip thus permitting the notebook to be supported in such open position on a desk surface.

3. A clip for holding stenographic notebooks and the like in position for the transcription of notes therefrom, said clip having two flat members disposed normally at an acute angle to each other and joined together by a spring hinge portion, each member having one side edge which extends from said hinge portion and which side edge has a flat element projecting laterally therefrom and bent back over the outer face of the member from which it projects so as to be positioned in a plane spaced from and at a slight angle from the plane of the member, whereby side edge portions of the cover of a notebook adjacent the hinge of the notebook may be engaged between said elements and said flat members and held substantially at said acute angle of the clip thus permitting the notebook to be supported in such open position on a desk surface, the edges of the flat members opposite the hinge of the clip each having inwardly projecting prongs, whereby the device may also be employed as a staple remover by inserting the tips of the prongs between the staple and the paper and squeezing the members of the clip toward each other.

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4. A clip for holding stenographic notebooks and the like in position for the transcription of notes therefrom, said clip being of spring sheet metal and having two flat members disposed normally at an acute angle to each other and joined together by an integral spring hinge portion, each member having one side edge extending from said hinge portion and which side edge has an integral rectangular sheet metal flat element projecting laterally therefrom and bent back over the outer face of the member from which it projects so as to be positioned in a plane spaced from and at a slight angle from the plane of the member, whereby side edge portions of the cover of a notebook adjacent the hinge of the notebook may be engaged between said elements and said members and held substantially at said acute angle of the clip thus permitting the notebook to be supported in such open position on a desk surface, the edges of the members opposite the hinge of the clip each having an inwardly projecting flat triangular prong, whereby the clip may also be employed as a staple remover by inserting the tips of the prong between the staple and the paper and squeezing the elements of the clip toward each other.

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