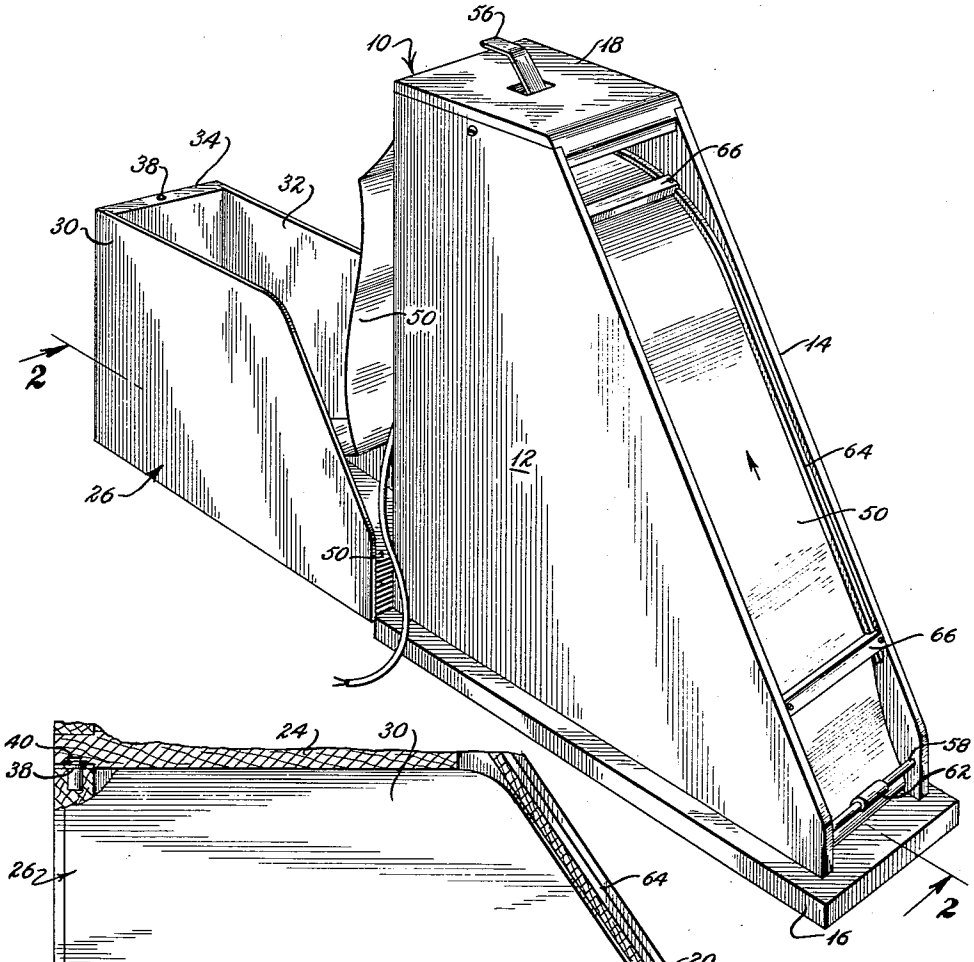
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STENOGRAPHIC RECORD HOLDER

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Fig. 1



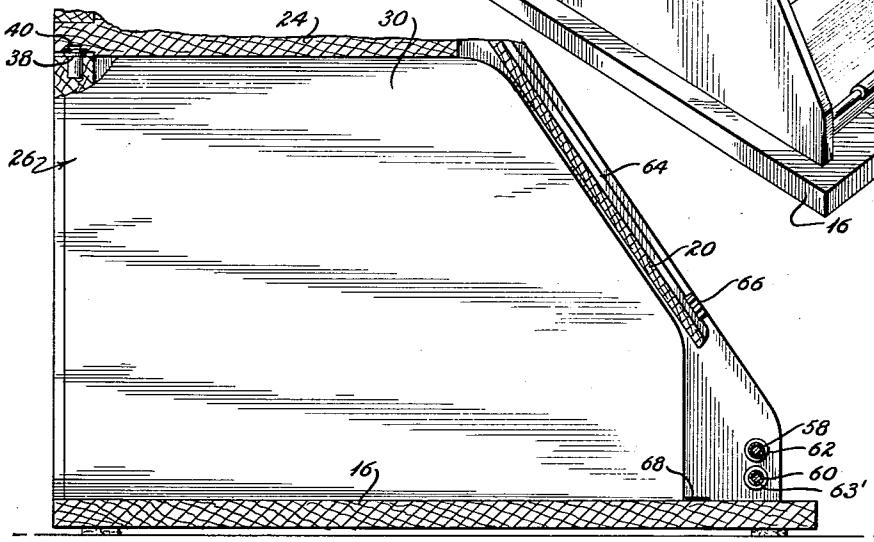


Fig. 3

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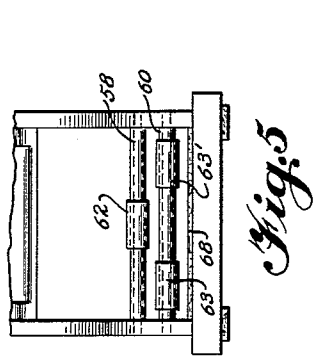


Fig. 5

Fig. 2

Fig. 4

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STENOGRAPHIC RECORD HOLDER

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Application October 7, 1955, Serial No. 539,065

1 Claim. (Cl. 120—31)

The present invention relates to copyholders as used in transcribing stenographic records.

As is well known, stenographic records are commonly taken on long, relatively narrow paper strips which are prior to and subsequent to the recording stored in a stack of alternately directed folds, or a "fan fold." The assumption of this folded disposition naturally imparts to the strip a series of oppositely directed creases which are retained in the strip, making it awkward and cumbersome to manipulate.

Copyholders for stenographic record strips as described in the prior art have attempted to cope with this problem. In many earlier devices the strip is kept taut in the area on the supporting surface. This is generally accomplished by means of a bar or roller pressed by gravity or spring means into engagement with a portion of the record strip, pressing it against one end of the supporting surface, while at the other end, the strip-pulling means engages the paper. Such pressure bars and rollers have their disadvantages. Namely, the pressure on the paper is concentrated on a narrow transverse area of the strip, so that if too little pressure is applied, the strip is not held sufficiently taut and the creases are not sufficiently pulled out to promote a smooth conveyance across the supporting surface. If, on the other hand, the bar or roller exerts too great a pressure in forcing the strip against the stationary surface, the conveyance is stopped completely or the strip breaks.

An object of the present invention is to provide a copyholder with means for gently and efficiently reducing the pronouncement of the creases in a "fan-fold" of stenographic tape during the process of transcription. This means obviates the stoppage of the conveyance and the breakage of the strip because the surfaces imparting "drag" to the strip act over a wide area on the strip and are roller surfaces at all times moving with the paper rather than remaining stationary while the paper is pressed against it. Also the means herein employed for imparting "drag" leads the strip through a sinuous path of convolutions tending to reduce the pronouncement of creases.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be more apparent from the following detailed description of one approved form of apparatus involving the principles of this invention.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of the holder in operation;

Fig. 2 shows a vertical sectional view of the holder in operation taken on a line intermediate the side walls and parallel thereto; i. e., along line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken on a line intermediate the side walls and parallel thereto showing the record-receiving drawer closed for portability;

Fig. 4 shows a cross section taken on the line 4—4 in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 shows a fragmentary front view taken on the line 5—5 in Fig. 2.

Similar reference characters will be used throughout to designate corresponding parts.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the copyholder comprises a box generally designated **10**, see Fig. 1. It includes the spaced apart and parallel side walls **12** and **14** secured to a base **16** and to a top **18**, the latter two of which are also parallel to each other. The side walls have parallel top and bottom edges, with the bottom longer than the top, a vertical rear edge and an upwardly inclined edge. The front wall **20**, or copy supporting surface, is likewise secured to the side walls **12** and **14** and starts a short distance above the base **16**, follows the incline of the front edge of the side walls, and curves inwardly adjacent the top **18** to terminate at the rear edge of the side walls **12** and **14**. The partial rear wall **22** is secured to the inside of the side walls **12** and **14** adjacent the rear edges thereof and extends downwardly part way to the base **16** from the underside of the rear edge of the front **20** to which it is also secured. To add to the strength of the copyholder, a shelf **24**, disposed parallel to the base **16** is secured to the inside of the side walls **12** and **14**. The shelf **24** starts from the rear edge of the side walls **12** and **14** where it abuts and is secured to the bottom of the partial rear wall **22** and extends forwardly to a point adjacent the front **20**.

It can thus be seen that the box **10** is a closed structure except for the openings between the bottom edge of the rear wall **22** and the base **16** and between the bottom edge of the front **20** and the base **16**. The purpose of these openings will be described.

A strip-receiving drawer, generally designated by **26** is provided to be received into the rear opening in the copyholder between the base **16** and the shelf **24**, see Fig. 3. The receiving drawer **26** includes the elongated rectangular bottom **28**, to whose longitudinal edges is secured the front **34** with the fingerhole **36** therein and the sides **30** and **32**. The sides **30** and **32** are generally rectangular except for the upper forward corners which are cut off at an angle to preclude abutment with the inclined underside of the front **20**. A spring latch **38** is installed in the top edge of the back **34** to cooperate with the keeper **40** mounted on the underside of the shelf **24** in retaining the drawer **26** in the closed position. The drawer **26** is adapted to be received in the box **10**. Drawer **26** is by its construction open at the front and top and is adapted to receive the strip **50**.

The driving means generally indicated at **44** for conveying the record strip **50** is positioned adjacent an opening **42** in the upper portion of the supporting surface **20** and intermediate the edges thereof so that it extends lengthwise of the front **20**. The driving means **44** comprises a conventional electric motor **44'** of the "self-bouncing" type supported on an L-shaped bracket **46** secured to the inside of the rear wall **22**. Motor **44'**, preferably controllable by a foot switch (not shown), is equipped with a built-in speed reducing gear having output in a soft rubber wheel **48**. The wheel **48** is in a plane parallel to the side walls **12** and **14** and a portion of it protrudes through the opening **42** in the front **20** to engage the underside of the record strip **50**. An aperture in the top **18** receives operating arm **56** which is secured to a U-shaped bracket **54** pivotally mounted on the underside of the top **18**. The U-shaped bracket is spring-biased downwardly about its pivot and carries the idler roller **52** which engages the upper side of the strip **50** immediately above the wheel **48**. By pressing the operating arm **56**, the idler roller **52** can be retracted upwardly during the loading operation. The idler roller **52** has a longitudinally serrated periphery for better engagement with the strip **50**.

Positioned in the opening under the bottom edge of the inclined supporting surface **20** and journaled for rotation in the side walls **12** and **14** are the superposed rods **58** and **60**, see Fig. 5. The rods may be metallic and are preferably embraced by frictional sleeves **62**, **63**, and **63'** more efficiently to engage the record strip. In the preferred form, the uppermost rod **58** is provided with a single centrally-disposed sleeve **62** while the lowermost rod **60** is provided with two sleeves, **63** and **63'**, one on each side, proximate the side walls **12** and **14**. This has been found to be the most satisfactory arrangement from the standpoint of economy and efficiency.

Additional means provided to control the movement of the record strip **50** are the curbs **64**, see Fig. 4, formed in the supporting surface **22** proximate the side walls **12** and **14** to limit the transverse motion of the strip **50** during conveyance. Guides **66** at the top and the bottom, preferably of transparent material such as "lucite," are mounted transversely of supporting surface **20** on the curbs **64** and spaced above the surface of the front **20** to retain the strip against the supporting surface of the front **20** at all times. Also, a stop **68** is secured transversely of the base **16** to hold the untranscribed strip package away from interference with the rods **58** and **60**.

In preparation for use, the record strip receiving drawer **26** is withdrawn from the copyholder, see Fig. 2, and the untranscribed strip package is placed on the base **16**, with its forward edge abutting the stop **68**. The leading end of the strip package is then threaded out of the box **10** under the rod **60**, back into the box between the rods **60** and **58** and then to the top of its supporting surface **20** under the guides **66**. The operating arm **56** is momentarily depressed to allow the strip to be fed between the wheel **48** and the roller **52**. From this point on, operation of the motor **44** will convey the strip over the supporting surface **20**, out the back of the box and into folded condition in the record receiving drawer **26**.

Thus I have invented a compact copyholding device, sturdy in structure and neat and attractive in appearance. Its construction is simple and it includes few moving parts to get out of order. Above all, my invention

presents a device which conveys the record strip more smoothly than prior devices and this success is primarily due to the provision of the rotatable rod members which frictionally engage the strip, keeping it taut in the area between the rods and the driving means in a manner described above.

It will be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the specific construction or arrangement of parts shown, but that they may be widely modified within the invention defined by the claim.

I claim:

In a copyholder for stenographic record strips comprising a box including a base member, parallel side walls having vertical rear edges and front edges inclined upwardly and rearwardly secured to said base member and top edges spaced above said base, a top member secured to the top edges of said side walls, an inclined front wall secured to said side walls and extending therebetween and upwardly and rearwardly from a point spaced above and closely adjacent said base member to a point below said top, said inclined front wall extending beneath said top and terminating at the said rear edge of the said side walls, said inclined front wall forming a supporting surface for a stenographic record strip movable thereover, and driving means for moving said stenographic strip mounted in said box and engaging said stenographic strip; the improvement which consists of a pair of superposed rotatable rod members extending between and journaled in said side walls and positioned in the opening between the lowermost edge of said inclined front wall and said base and adapted to engage the stenographic record strip, and maintain said strip substantially taut between the point of engagement of said driving means and said strip and the point of engagement of said rotatable rods and said strip.

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