

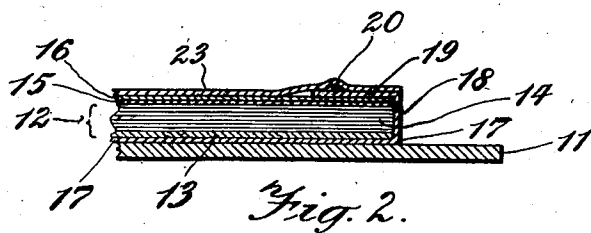
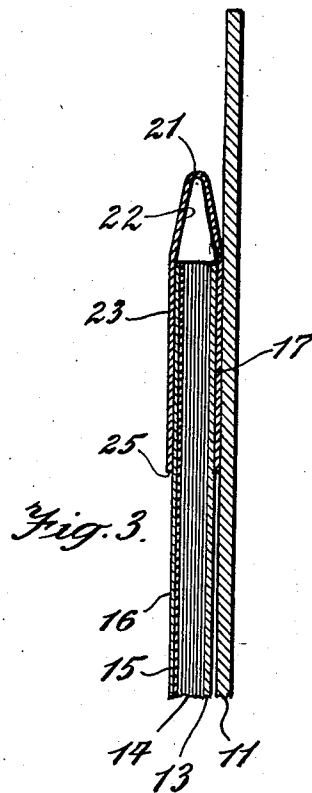
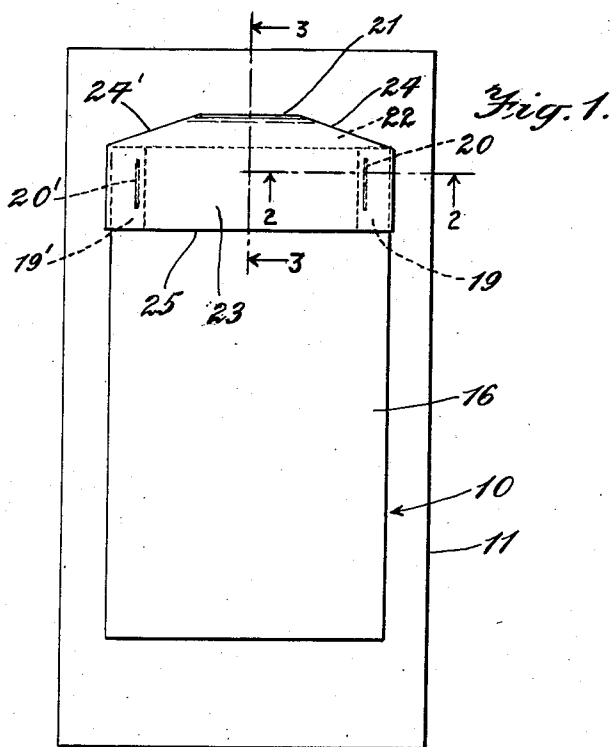
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WRITING PAD

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WRITING PAD

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3 Claims. (Cl. 282—22)

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This invention relates to a writing pad for use in the dark.

It frequently happens that a person, after retiring at night, recollects information that he would like to preserve, but in the usual case, he is unwilling to arise, turn on the light, and assemble the necessary materials to make a written note. Usually he feels that he can wait until the next day to write it down, but then he is likely to have forgotten it again. The invention provides a writing pad designed for use in such and similar situations, for it can be kept on a table or stand adjacent the bed and when the table or bedside light is turned off, it will glow in the dark sufficiently to enable it to be readily seen without, however, emitting such light as would tend to be disturbing.

The invention may be more fully understood by referring to the accompanying drawing, in which Fig. 1 is a plan view of the writing pad; Fig. 2 is an enlarged partial view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is an enlarged partial view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing, 10 is the writing pad as attached to a base 11. The pad comprises an ordinary small-sized tablet 12 comprising a cardboard back 13 and a stack of paper sheets 14. Above the uppermost sheet of stack 14 is a sheet 15 coated on its lower side with conventional transfer material. Sheet 15 may suitably be ordinary carbon paper. Above it is a smooth, wear-resistant sheet 16, preferably of plastic material, which incorporates a phosphorescent agent distributed throughout the entire sheet. The foregoing sheets 13-16 are held together at one end by means of a clamp 17 of heavy paper which extends transversely across the underside of the pad, is folded up at the side of the pad as at 18, and then is folded down over the edge portion of the pad to provide a flap 19. Staple 20 holds the flap 19 firmly on the pad and serves to hold the various components of the pad together. That side of the pad opposite 18 is similarly constructed.

Looking at Fig. 3, the clamp 17 extends upwardly to the fold line 21 where it is bent downwardly, forming a transversely extending pocket 22 for a pencil. The downward fold of the clamp provides a headpiece 23 which is glued to the pad and to the flaps 19. Fold line 21 stops short of the sides of the pad, two diagonal cuts 24, 24' being provided which extend from the top of the pad to the fold line.

The pad 10 may be attached to the base 11 in any suitable way, as by means of glue applied to the underside of clamp 17.

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In use, the pad is exposed face up to an ordinary table or bedside lamp for a time, and this may be conveniently done during the time a person is preparing to retire. Such exposure to light activates or energizes the phosphorescent agent in or on the sheet 16 so that when the lamp is turned off, the agent emits visible light in the dark for a period of several hours. The pad is simply left on the bedside table where it continues to glow. Its position is thus visible and the user simply grasps the pad without turning on the light and makes any note that he wishes. The glow of the agent lights up the entire surface area of sheet 16, and when the user's hand is in a writing position over this sheet, the hand and pencil are clearly outlined, enabling the note to be quickly and conveniently jotted down. The user writes on the smooth upper surface of plastic sheet 16, and the writing pressure causes a visible written notation to form on the uppermost sheet of stack 14 through the medium of the carbon paper. By "visible" notation is meant a notation that will be visible under ordinary light after the sheets above the uppermost sheet of stack 14 have been turned up to expose the writing to view. Such uppermost sheet is then torn off and serves as the written memo, the lower edge 25 of the headpiece 23 serving as a guide to enable the sheet of stack 14 to be torn off. No writing appears on sheet 16, which may be used over and over again.

The phosphorescent agent in or on plastic sheet 16 may be activated by ordinary natural light, such as sunlight, as well as by ordinary artificial light such as electric table and bed lamps, etc. The agent may be incorporated in the plastic sheet at the time of formulation of the plastic, that is, prior to its manufacture into sheet form. The agent may also be applied to one side of the plastic sheet, preferably the underside, by painting or spraying it on, using a suitable vehicle for carrying the agent. In the latter case, the plastic sheet is preferably transparent, suitable clear plastics being acrylic, polystyrene, cellulose acetate, vinyl chloride-acetate resins, etc. The phosphorescent agent preferably comprises a sulfide of magnesium, calcium, zinc, strontium, or cadmium. Zinc oxide is a suitable agent, as are also titanium compounds. When painted or sprayed on the sheet 16, the agent in a state of subdivision may be dispersed in a conventional vehicle like nitrocellulose or vinyl resin lacquers, conventional resin varnishes, ordinary paint-type vehicles comprising vegetable oil and a drier, and the like. The amount of agent in the vehicle should be sufficient to produce a good

glow, and may comprise, for example, 10 to 30%, or more of the dispersion.

In the light of the foregoing description, the following is claimed:

1. A writing pad for use in the dark comprising an upper sheet incorporating a phosphorescent agent, a sheet of conventional transfer material beneath the upper sheet, and at least one other sheet for receiving a visible written notation.

2. A writing pad for use in the dark comprising an upper sheet incorporating a phosphorescent agent distributed throughout the entire sheet, an intermediate carbon sheet, and at least one lower sheet for receiving a visible written notation, said last-mentioned sheet being non-transparent.

3. A writing pad for use in the dark comprising an upper sheet of thin transparent plastic material incorporating a finely divided phosphorescent agent, a second sheet having at least its lower side coated with conventional transfer material, and a stack of blank, non-transparent

memorandum sheets underneath the second sheet for receiving visible written notations, said phosphorescent agent on the plastic sheet being adapted to emit visible light in the dark after having been exposed for a time to ordinary light and thus to light up the entire surface of the plastic sheet, said plastic sheet being adapted to be written on to produce by means of the second sheet visible written notations on the upper memorandum sheet of said stack, and said plastic sheet itself showing none of said visible notations.

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