

M. P. HERMANN.

PENCIL HOLDER.

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1,007,693.

Patented Nov. 7, 1911.

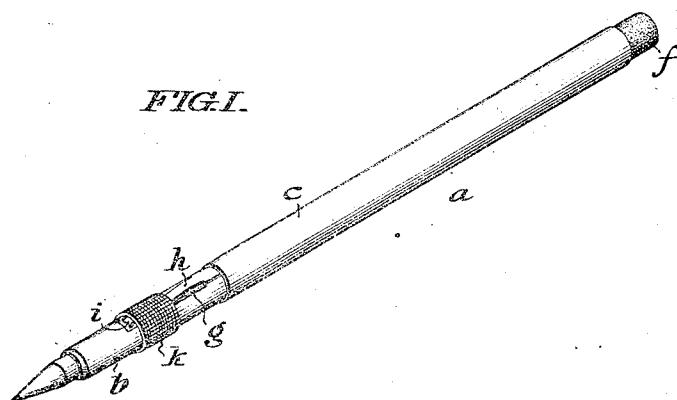


FIG. I.

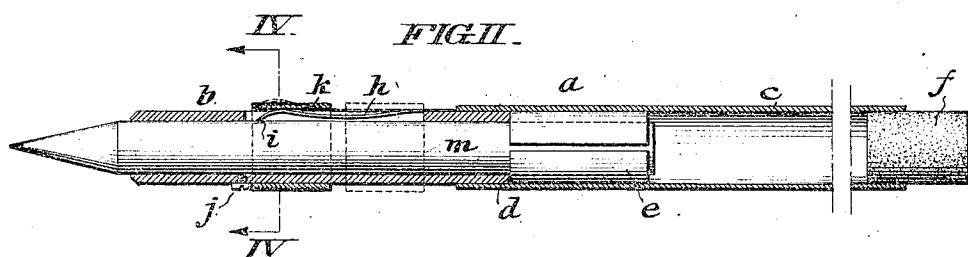


FIG. II.



FIG. III.

FIG. IV.



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PENCIL-HOLDER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAX P. HERMANN, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, in the State 5 of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pencil-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to holders for pencils, and the like, of the character in which 10 the pencil may be shifted lengthwise alternately to its outer or protruded position, or position for use, and to its inner or protected position, in which last named position its point is covered by the casing and protected 15 from injury.

It is the object, generally, of my invention, to provide a device of this class in the use of which the pencil may be very quickly shifted, by a one-hand operation, from 20 either position to the other.

My improved holder is especially devised for the purpose of using, in connection with it, the ordinary wood-covered, or paper or otherwise covered, pencil, as distinguished 25 from uncovered leads, and comprehends provisions which enable the very satisfactory use of such pencils.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure I is a view in perspective of a device which 30 constitutes a good embodiment of my invention. Fig. II is a longitudinal sectional elevation of my device, with the contained pencil shown in its protruded position. Fig. III is a view similar to Fig. II, with the 35 pencil in its innermost or protected position. Fig. IV is a transverse sectional elevation of the device on the section line IV—IV of Fig. II.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

In the accompanying drawings, the body of the holder is shown as formed as a tubular container *a*, in the bore of which, at any desired point, is provided a fixed stop or 45 shoulder *d*. Said body may, if desired, be conveniently formed of two short lengths of tube *b*, *c*, the end of the smaller, *b*, of which is inserted within the end of the larger, *c*, and secured in such position by solder or 50 otherwise, and, in such construction the upper end of the tube *b* will constitute the stop or shoulder *d*.

A stop *e*, carried by the pencil, and cooperating with the stop *d* in automatically 55 arresting the descent of the pencil, at the selected point when the pencil is dropping to its protruded position, may be conveniently

formed as a split ring of moderately resili- 60 ent material. Said stop *e* will, with the pencil, have longitudinal movement with re- 65 spect to the tubular holder, and will by its encounter with the stop *d* limit the descent of the pencil at a point determined by the set of said stop *e* on the pencil, which is of course a matter of adjustment.

The upper end of the holder may be closed in any desired manner, and conveniently by a partially projecting and readily removed and replaced plug or stopper, *f*, of erasing rubber.

The wall of the lower portion of the holder body, whether said body is constructed as illustrated or otherwise, is formed with a slot or opening, *g*, extending preferably from a point above the adjacent open 75 end of said body, a suitable distance upward, according to the proportioning of the parts, along said body.

h is a light quick-acting spring tongue, carried by said body, the basal end of which 80 tongue is relatively fixed, and the body of which is adapted to move or swing radially in and out with respect to the holder, the normal set of the spring tongue being, how- 85 ever, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. II, outward, and such as to tend to maintain it out of contact with a pencil contained in the holder. Said spring tongue is in the construction illustrated formed or provided with the inwardly projecting end or tooth *i*, 90 the end edge of which, from side edge to side edge, preferably embodies a concave recess, (see Fig. IV) which approximately conforms to the external curvature of the pencil bodies against which, in use, it will engage.

The external face of the spring tongue is shaped to embody an inclined plane, against which the annulus (whereof hereafter) in its movement impinges, and along which it 100 rides to occasion the depression of said tongue. Said incline and the crest of the incline, when not depressed by the annulus, extend, in the embodiment illustrated, outside the external face of the holder.

k is an annulus, mounted upon, and free to slide for a short distance with respect to, the body of the lower portion of the holder, being, in the embodiment illustrated, limited in its downward movement by the screw 110 stud *j*. Said annulus surrounds the spring tongue, and, when the former is in the position shown in full lines in Fig. II, it maintains said tongue in its depressed posi-

tion so that the end or tooth projects within the bore of the holder.

5 *m* is a pencil of ordinary character, in which the lead is the center of a cylindrical body of wood, paper, or other suitable material, and the upper end of which is embraced by the stop in the form of a ring *e*.

In Fig. II the pencil is shown as in its protruded position, and with the annulus in 10 its first or normal position over the free end of the spring tongue; in this position of parts the annulus presses the end or tooth of the spring tongue against the side of the pencil and thus forces the body of the pencil 15 against the opposite wall of the holder, whereby said pencil is held firmly against play or wabbling.

In Fig. III the pencil is shown in its closed or protected position, with the annulus in its "first" position, and, as shown, 20 the tooth or end of the spring tongue, projects within the bore of the holder, in front of the inclined or tapered face of the pointed end of the pencil, and thus confines the 25 pencil in its contained or protected position, by blocking its egress.

In operation, when the pencil is in its protruded position, and it is desired to bring it to its protected position, the holder 30 is held in the hand with the pencil point uppermost, and the thumb placed on the annulus, whereupon by a first movement of the thumb the annulus is drawn to the second position (*i. e.* the position shown in 35 dotted lines in Fig. II); instantly the spring tongue moves radially outward, releasing the pencil, and instantly the pencil descends by gravity to a position wholly 40 within the holder, and thereupon, with a reverse movement of the thumb, the annulus is returned to first position, with the result that the pencil will thereupon be blocked against egress by the tooth or end of the tongue, as shown in Fig. III.

45 When it is desired to use the pencil,—the parts being in the set shown in Fig. III,—the holder is held with the open end downward, and with a thumb movement the annulus is drawn from first to second position, thereupon the tongue instantly flies radially outward, and instantly the pencil descends by gravity until the pencil stop *e* 50 encounters the stop *d* and the pencil comes to rest,—and thereupon, by a reverse thumb movement, the annulus is restored to first position, and the pencil thus secured in its protruded position the tongue thereby depressed.

Manifestly the thumb movements, being 55 short, and being, furthermore, in the embodiment shown, made in the direction of the length of the holder, are very easily

and quickly made, and in making them, no readjustment of the position of the body of the user's hand itself upon the holder, is required. Hence, the bringing of the pencil from closed to open position, or the reverse, may be accomplished not only quickly and easily with one hand, but without even requiring the use of the eyes.

70 When it is desired to substitute a new pencil, the plug *f* is removed, and the used pencil withdrawn through the open upper end,—the stop *e* placed upon the new pencil, the latter inserted in the holder, and the plug replaced. Manifestly the pencil may be withdrawn in the same way when it is desired to adjust the set of the split ring stop *e* lengthwise of the body of the pencil.

75 The small size of the bore of the lower end of the holder enables a snug fit as between the body of the pencil and the lip which said lower end constitutes,—while the ring *e* snugly fits within the larger bore of the upper portion of the holder; by this arrangement the pencil is centered in the holder and lateral play therein reduced to a minimum. In the claim, I employ the word "pencil" in the sense of covering writing points and the like of all character.

80 Having thus described my invention, I claim:

In combination, a tubular holder body adapted to contain an endwise moving pencil which pencil may occupy alternately a protected position and a protruded position, an internal stop carried by the holder, a stop adapted to be carried by the pencil and adjustable to different positions intermediate of the length of the latter, said stops being adapted to make contact when the pencil reaches its selected protruded position, said holder embodying a slot in its wall near its lower end, a spring tongue the body of which has radial movement with respect to the holder and which tongue has a part 90 adapted to project through said slot and within the bore of the holder and has also an inclined external face, and a ring of length greatly inferior to that of the holder body mounted on said holder body and adapted to be reciprocated longitudinally of said body and on and off of the inclined face of the spring tongue to alternately depress and release said spring tongue.

95 In testimony that, I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have hereunto signed my name this twenty-fourth day of May, A. D. 1910.

MAX P. HERMANN.

In the presence of—
Wm. CLEMENT LEES,
F. NORMAN DIXON.