Aug. 15, 1961 E. J. SINKIEWICZ 2,996,004

MAGNETICALLY SUPPORTED RUBBER STAMPS AND THE LIKE

Filed Feb. 9, 1959

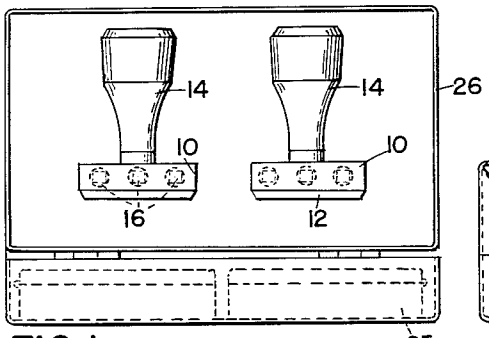

FIG. 1

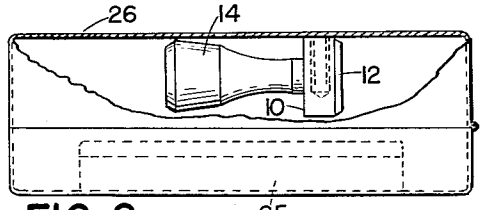

FIG. 2

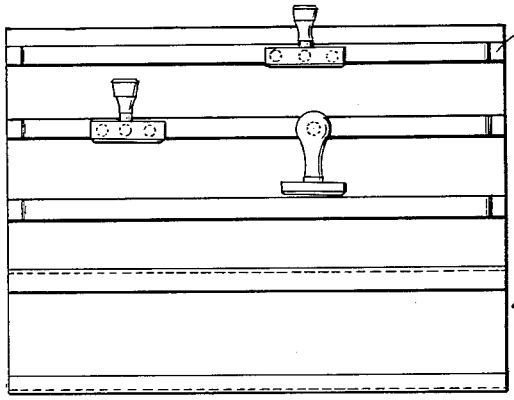

FIG. 3

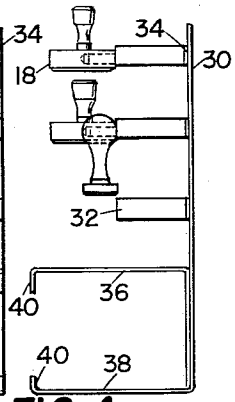

FIG. 4

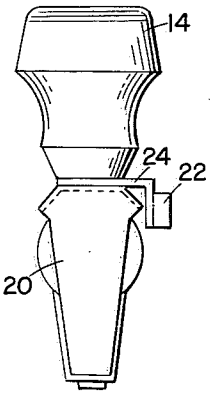

FIG. 5

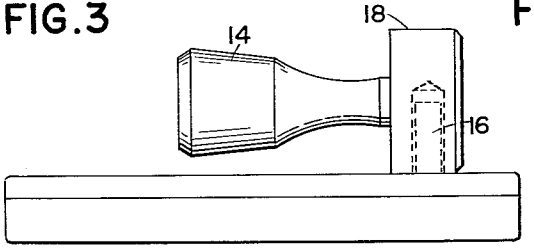

FIG. 6

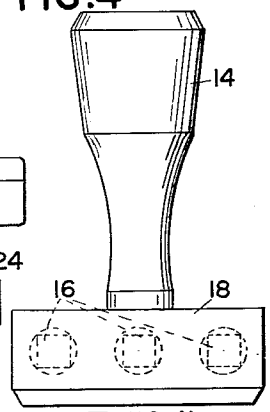

FIG. 7

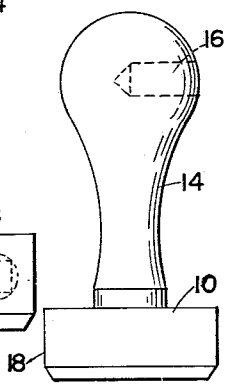

FIG. 8

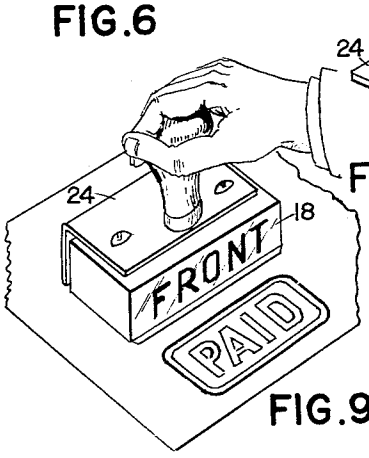

FIG. 9

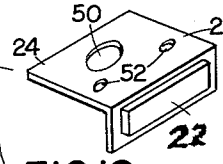

FIG. 10

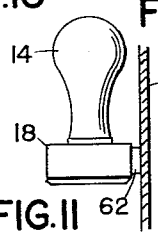

FIG. 11

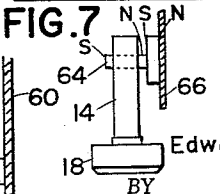

FIG. 12

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MAGNETICALLY SUPPORTED RUBBER STAMPS AND THE LIKE

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This invention relates to stamps, such as the ordinary rubber stamps mounted on wooden bases, and to devices such as racks and boxes for the holding and storage thereof. In many offices and shipping rooms a variety of stamps bearing different designations are required, and it is important that these may be supported or stored in the most convenient manner for ready accessibility. The present invention provides means for accomplishing these results, and in particular it provides a means by which the stamps are always presented to the user in oriented position so that the user, upon grasping the stamp, will always find it turned in the right direction for proper impression of the stamp. Stamps of the character described are usually provided with a marking and a flat finger surface to enable the user to be sure that the stamp is applied right side up to the thing to be marked; but in spite of this, it is an every-day experience of the stamp user to find that frequently, in the hurry of applying the stamp, they have not been grasped properly and the impressions will be made upside down. The present invention eliminates this danger.

A characteristic feature of the invention in its preferred form comprises the attachment to the stamp body or handle of one or more permanent magnets, these being attached to one side and spaced from the other side of the stamp. The stamp is used in connection with a non-magnetized but magnetic surface or support of iron or steel. Owing to the disposition of the magnet or magnets on the stamp close to the rear side of the stamp and spaced from the front side of the stamp, the stamp can only be magnetically supported upon the iron or steel supporting surface when the back of the stamp is applied thereto. Therefore, the the front of the stamp is always towards the front, and when the stamp is picked off the support by the user, it is necessarily held in right position for proper application of the stamp.

The stamp may also be used with a permanently magnetized supporting bar or base. In this event the stamp has affixed thereto an armature of soft iron or the like which should be so placed that the stamp can be suspended only when the front of the stamp is exposed. Or the stamp may carry a permanent magnet so polarized with respect to the supporting permanent magnet that it will adhere thereto only when stamp is properly oriented.

Referring to the drawings in detail:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of a box having an iron or steel lid shown in raised position with two stamps magnetically applied thereto, the box containing an ink pad or pads.

FIG. 2 is an end elevation with part of the side wall of the lid broken away, showing the box of FIG. 1 with the lid closed. The lid is made deep enough to hold the stamps above the ink pads.

FIG. 3 is a front elevation of a stamp rack showing three stamps supported thereon.

FIG. 4 is an end elevation of the rack shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is an end elevation of a rubber date stamp having a mounting magnet applied thereto.

FIG. 6 shows a conventional ink pad having a magnetic stamp located on top thereof.

FIGS. 7 and 8 are elevations showing stamps with holding magnets applied to the base and handle respectively.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing how the stamp is used.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a bracket carrying a magnet which may be attached to a stamp.

FIG. 11 is an end view showing a stamp supported by a permanent magnet; and

FIG. 12 is a similar view showing a stamp with a polarizing magnet in its handle supported by a magnetized bar.

Referring to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that the stamp comprises the usual wooden base **10** having a rubber printing face **12** and having a handle **14**, usually made of wood. In the stamp shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 6 and 7, a plurality of small permanent magnets **16** are firmly mounted in holes in the base, these magnets extending close to the back of the base but being of such size as to terminate a considerable distance from the front surface **18** of the stamp. With this construction the stamp will adhere magnetically if the back of the stamp is applied to a support of magnetic material such as iron or steel. However, the spacing of the magnet from the front of the stamp is such as to prevent sufficient attractive force being available to support the stamp if the front of the stamp is placed against the support instead of the back. Thus, the stamps can only be mounted on the support in the direction of orientation, so that when removed from the support by the operator, they will necessarily be grasped in the correct way. Use of magnets spaced on the body of the stamp also causes the stamp to be firmly held to the support without danger of displacement until manually removed. It is also possible to mount a magnet **16** in the handle of the stamp, as shown in FIG. 8, this magnet also being spaced from the side of the handle nearest to the front so that it can be applied firmly to the support only in proper orientation.

FIG. 5 shows another form of stamp, the common date stamp, which has a metal frame **20** carrying rubber ribbons with the indicia thereon. In this instance the magnet **22** may be mounted on a bracket **24** attached to the stamp. The magnet **22** will be located on the back of the stamp so that the stamp will be held in proper oriented position.

The magnet or magnets used may be of any suitable form, such as bar magnets, or they may be short magnetized blocks mounted in holes in the wooden stamp bases or handles. One way of mounting the magnet may be by means of a bracket of non-magnetic material such as **24** shown in FIG. 10 which may be readily applied to stamps of existing design. The bracket is shown as provided with a large hole **50** through which the handle stem or attaching screw passes, the bracket being clamped between the handle and frame of the stamp in the case of a stamp such as the metal frame stamp shown in FIG. 5. The bracket may also conveniently be provided with small holes **52** for attachment by screws to a wooden block base as shown in FIG. 9. The fronts of the magnets are preferably exposed, although a thin covering which will not prevent the magnetic attraction being exercised upon the metallic support will not interfere with operation of the device. It is important, however, that the magnet should be spaced sufficiently from one surface of the stamp as to insure that the stamp can be applied to the metallic base only in oriented position.

FIGS. 1 and 2 show how stamps may be conveniently used with an ink pad box **25** having a deep cover **26** of magnetic material so that the stamps may be placed inside of the cover, where they will be readily grasped when the cover is opened.

FIG. 6 shows how a stamp may be mounted on a conventional shallow pad box by being applied to the outside of the cover.

FIGS. 3 and 4 show a form of rack comprising a back plate **30** to which a number of rack bars **32** of iron or steel are applied. These may have rearwardly offset ends **34** attached to the back plate. Also attached to the back plate are shelves **36** and **38** for holding additional stamps, ink pads or the like. These shelves preferably may have front flanges **40** of magnetic material to which stamps may be applied, as to the rack bars **32**.

In some instances, as shown, for example, in FIG. 11, the stamp may be used with a permanently magnetized support or rack **60**, the stamp having a base of non-magnetic material provided on one side with a member of magnetic material such as an iron plate **62** which need not be permanently magnetized but which should be spaced far enough from the front side of the stamp to prevent adherence of the stamp to the rack in reversed position.

FIG. 12 illustrates a construction in which both the support and stamp include permanent magnets, the magnet **64** in the stamp being polarized with respect to the support magnet **66** so that it will adhere thereto only when the proper pole is presented, thus insuring correct orientation. If it is attempted to place the stamp against the support in reverse position, it not only will not adhere but will actually be repelled.

I have described preferred embodiments of my invention, but it is understood that this disclosure is for the purpose of illustration, and that various omissions or changes in shape, proportion and arrangement of parts, as well as the substitution of equivalent elements for those herein shown and described may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination, a support including a magnetized body, a printing stamp for temporary attachment to said support, said stamp having a permanent magnet fixed thereto in predetermined polarized relation to the printing surface of the stamp, whereby the stamp will adhere to the support only in an oriented position determined by the relative polarities of the magnets on the support and stamp.

2. In combination, a printing stamp having a base of non-magnetic material having a printing face on the bottom thereof and having a body of permanent magnetic material fixed near one side thereof and spaced from the opposite side thereof, in combination with an ink pad box having a cover of magnetic material spaced from the ink pad a sufficient distance to permit the said stamp to be located inside of the pad cover, the spacing of the body of magnetic material on the stamp base from the respective sides of the base being such that the stamp will adhere in magnetically supporting engagement with the box cover in only one position of orientation of the stamp.

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