Aug. 5, 1952 W. V. EAKINS 2,605,747

PENCIL POINT SHARPENER

Filed April 11, 1950

Fig. 1.

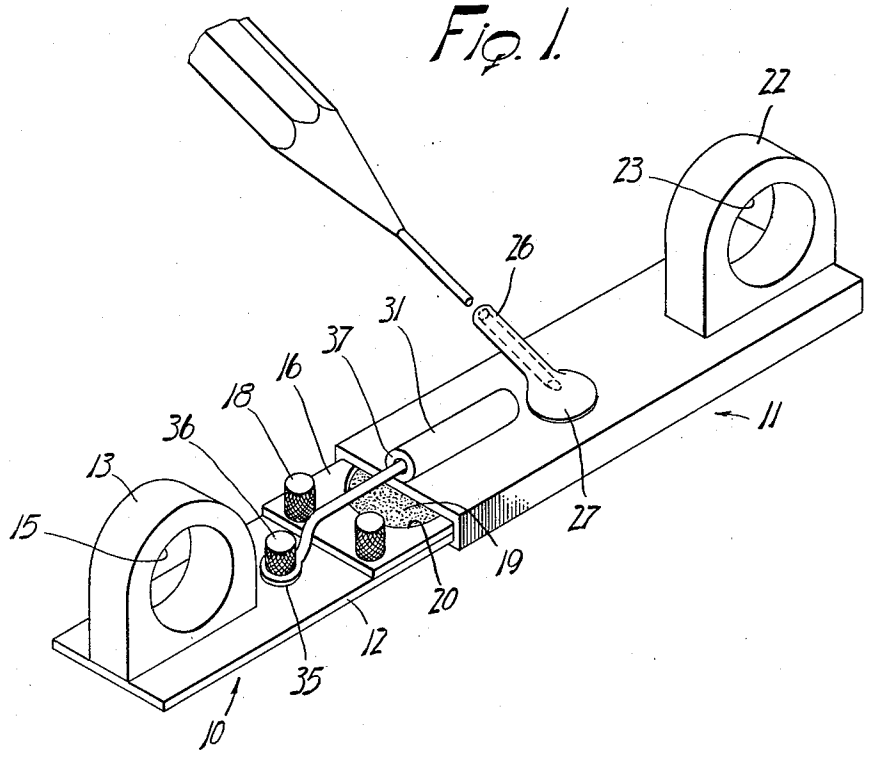
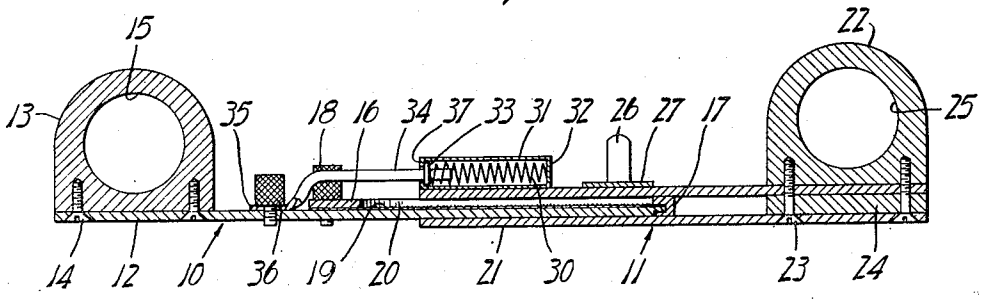


Fig. 2.



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PENCIL POINT SHARPENER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 120—89)

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This invention relates to pencil sharpeners and particularly to a novel device for sanding the point portions of pencils.

Draftsmen, artists, and others desiring a sharply pointed pencil usually employ a sandpaper paddle or the like to sand the point or graphite portions of pencils. These paddles are messy to handle and the degree of uniformity in results obtained is dependent entirely on the user.

Various mechanical contrivances have been proposed to render this point sanding operation more satisfactory, but none of the prior art proposals have been satisfactory. Either they are too complicated to manufacture and operate or the results obtained have been no more satisfactory than by the conventional use of an ordinary sandpaper paddle.

The present invention provides a relatively simple tool by which pencils may be pointed uniformly without any skill on the part of the operator and by a simple manipulation. The device of the present invention is simple to manufacture and may accordingly be made available economically.

Various advantages both in the manufacture and use of the device will occur to those skilled in the art from a study of the following specification, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing. It is to be understood, however, that the specific form of the invention thus illustrated and described is by way of example only, and the principles of the present invention are limited only as defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a general perspective view of one form of the sharpening device of the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view therethrough.

The device of the present invention comprises generally a pair of telescoping or intersliding members which may readily be held in and manipulated by one hand of the user. One of these members includes a sanding or abrading surface and the other includes means for supporting and guiding a pencil point during the sanding operation.

Like characters of reference denote like parts in the several figures of the drawing, and the numerals 10 and 11 designate generally the two relatively intersliding members referred to above. Member 10 comprises a base plate portion 12 which is provided at its outer end with an upstanding manipulating fitting 13 which may be fastened to base plate 12 as by screws 14. Fitting 13 is provided with a finger opening as at 15.

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A sandpaper retaining plate is designated 16 and is provided with a channel formation 17 at one end which hooks over the inner end of base plate 12. The other end of retaining plate 16 is removably secured against base plate 12 by means of thumb screws 18 and a sheet of sandpaper, emery cloth or the like, designated 19 in Figs. 1 and 2, is held between base plate 12 and retaining plate 16, access to its abrading surface being afforded by means of an opening 20 in retaining plate 16.

The companion member 11 comprises an inverted channel having inturned bottom flanges 21 to form a generally rectangular tube slidable over the assembled plates 12 and 16 of element 10. The outer end of element 11 is likewise provided with an upstanding manipulating fitting, as at 22, which may be secured to member 11 by screws 23, a filler block 24 being provided to facilitate securement of fitting 22. Fitting 22 is provided with a thumb opening 25.

The top surface of member 11 is provided with an angularly extending point guiding sleeve or ferrule 26, which may have a flanged base portion 27 for securement to member 11 by riveting or in any desired manner. The oblique or angular bore which sleeve 26 provides extends through the upper part of member 11 so that a pencil lead or point guided therein may be applied to the abrading surface of sandpaper 19 at the ideal angle and maintained at such angle, the operator being free to rotate the pencil during sharpening to produce a nicely rounded point or to hold the pencil against rotation if a chisel or wedge-shaped point is desired.

The intersliding members 10 and 11 are normally biased to their extended positions by a compression coil spring 30 which is housed in a tubular casing 31 fixed to the top of member 11. One end of spring 30 bears against the closed end of casing 31 as at 32 and the other end bears against a collar 33 which is fixed to a spring rod 34. The outer end of spring rod 34 is offset and is provided with an eye formation as at 35 to receive a screw 36 which secures it removably to the base plate 12 of member 10.

A portion of tubular casing 31 may be bent inwardly as at 37 after the spring 30 and spring rod 34, with collar 33, have been assembled in the casing. This limits outward movement of spring rod 34 and accordingly limits expanding movement of the members 10 and 11.

When disassembly is desired, as when the sandpaper needs changing, screw 36 is merely removed to permit members 10 and 11 to be separated from each other.

There is thus provided a device which the user may hold with the index finger and thumb of the left hand, for instance, while holding a pencil with its point in the tubular guide or sleeve 26 with the right hand. The device is then reciprocated by successive contracting movements of the index finger and thumb, during which time the pencil may be rotated, for a round point, or held stationary, for a wedge or chisel edge.

What is claimed is:

1. In a sharpener for pencils and the like, an elongate plate member having an abrasive surface portion, an elongate guide member engaging transversely about the plate member for relative longitudinal intersliding movement, a pencil point receiving guide opening in said guide member opening to said abrasive surface portion, spring means urging the plate and guide members to relatively expanded positions, each of said members having a finger receiving loop formation, said loop formations being spaced to receive the thumb and forefinger of a user's hand for producing relative reciprocation of the members by successive manual contracting movements of one of the user's hands.

2. In a sharpener for pencils and the like, a pair of members guided for relative contracting and expanding intersliding movement, spring means urging said members to expanded position, abrasive sharpening means on one of said members, and a tubular pencil receiving guide on the other member for guiding a pencil point against said surface, said members having portions engageable one hand of a user to impart

contracting movement thereto against the resistance of said spring means while the pencil is held and manipulated in said guide with the user's other hand.

3. In a sharpener for pencils and the like, a pair of members guided for relative contracting and expanding intersliding movement, spring means urging said members to expanded position, abrasive sharpening means on one of said members, and a tubular pencil receiving guide on the other member for guiding a pencil point against said surface, each of said members having a finger receiving loop formation so disposed as to be engageable by the thumb and forefinger of a user to impart contracting movement thereto against the resistance of said spring means by successive contracting movements of one of the user's hands.

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