July 31, 1962 J. W. PEARSON 3,046,884

MARKING DEVICE

Filed May 11, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

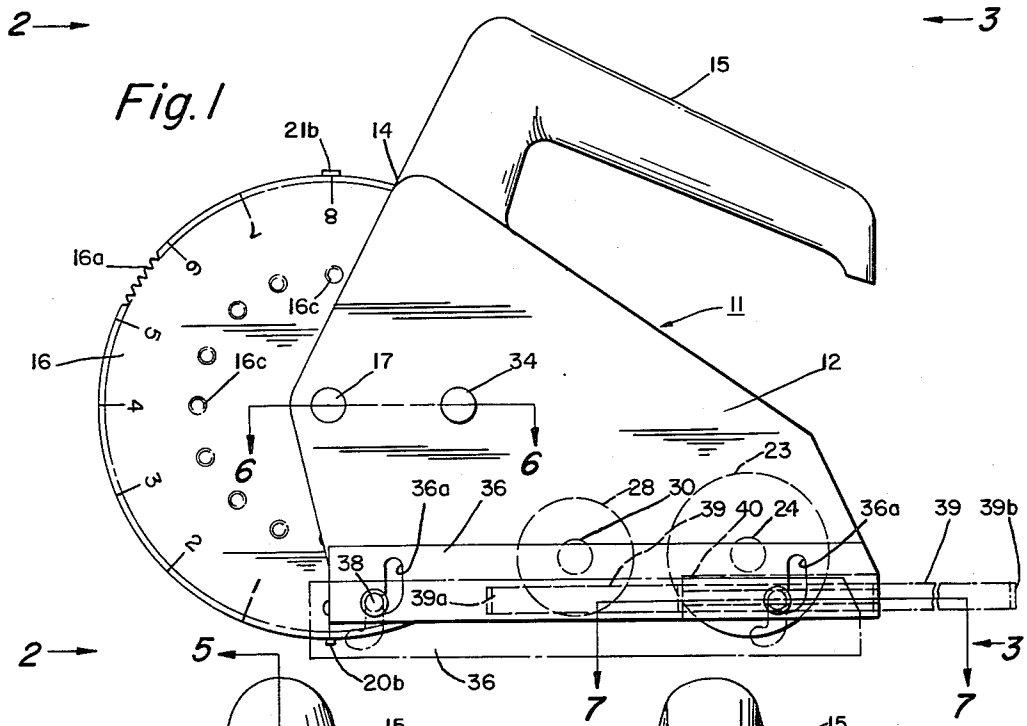


Fig. 1

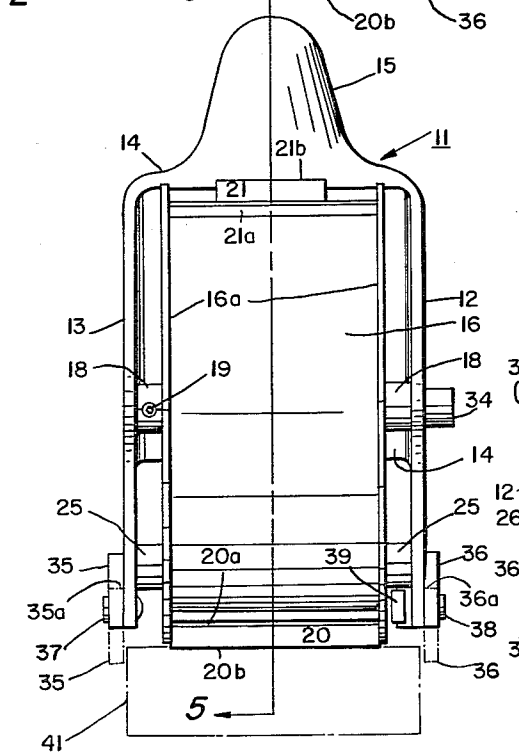


Fig. 2

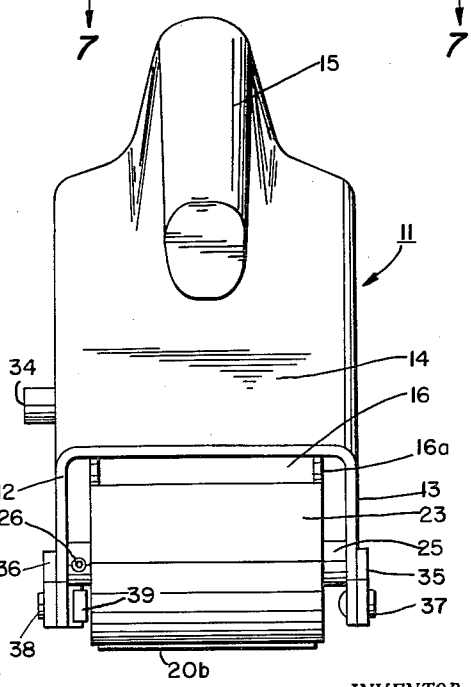


Fig. 3

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July 31, 1962 J. W. PEARSON 3,046,884

MARKING DEVICE

Filed May 11, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

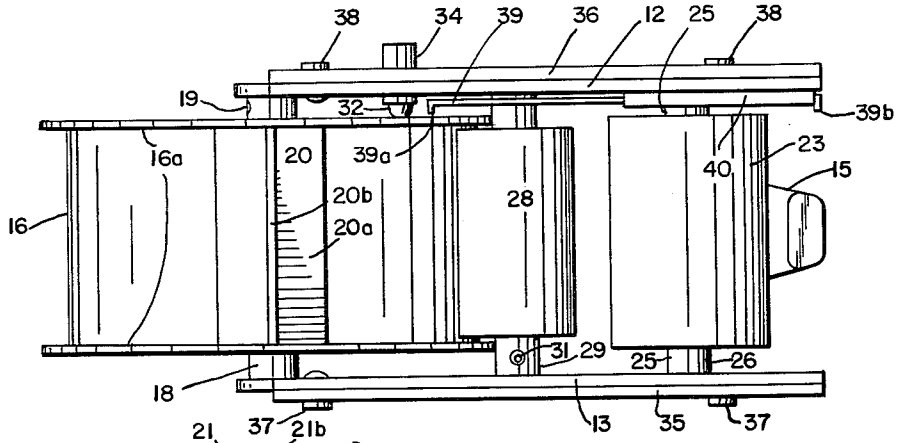


Fig. 4

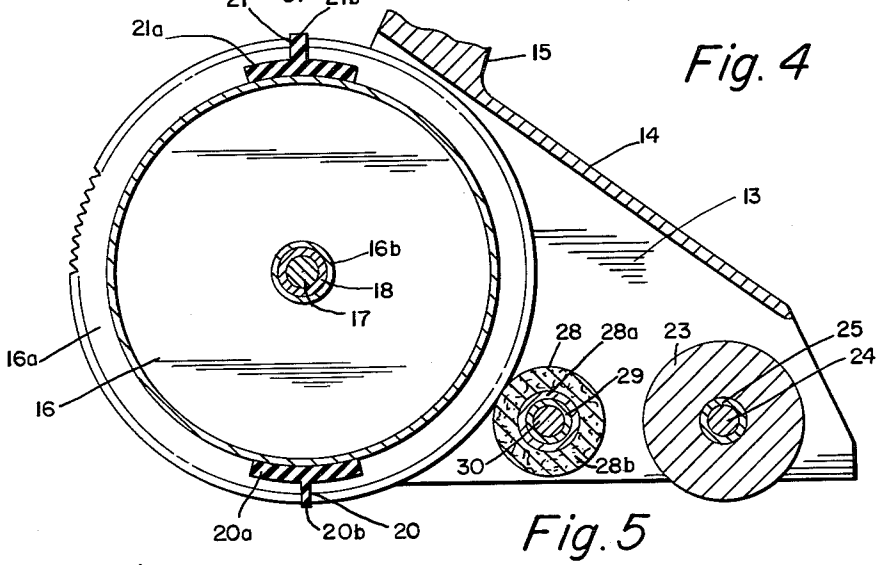


Fig. 5

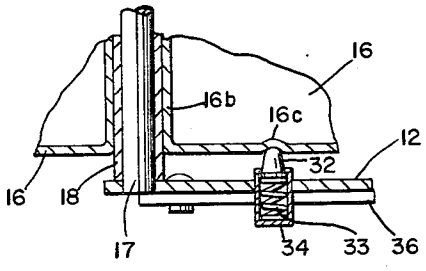


Fig. 6

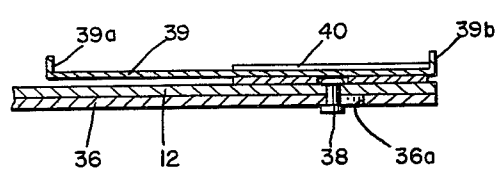


Fig. 7

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United States Patent Office 3,046,884 Patented July 31, 1962



3,046,884

# MARKING DEVICE

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Filed May 11, 1960, Ser. No. 28,271
9 Claims. (Cl. 101—329)

My invention relates to marking devices and particularly to marking devices used for making marks at predetermined intervals along a course.

An object of my invention is the provision of an improved device for making marks along a board or the like such as a plate upon which uprights are to be secured at spaced intervals in a building structure.

Another object is the provision for marking the centers for uprights upon a building plate, such as a board at the base of a wall in a building structure.

Another object is the provision for marking locations for the positioning of members to be erected at intervals along a base member of a building structure.

Another object is the provision of a device for assuring accurate and speedy marking of locations along a longitudinal member at predetermined intervals.

Another object is the provision for facile means for rapid and accurate marking of structural elements at spaced intervals therealong such as the marking of centers for uprights along the horizontal members forming the wall of a building structure.

Another object is the provision of an improved marking device operating in a novel manner to obtain results not heretofore readily obtainable.

A particular use of this device is for marking the locations at which two-by-four uprights, for example, are to be located along the length of a board forming a base plate and also a horizontal board forming a top plate of a wall between which the uprights are to be secured. Ordinarily, a carpenter must laboriously measure off the locations at which the uprights are to be positioned. As he starts from one end of the board upon which the locations are to be marked, there is a tendency to accumulate errors or inaccuracies so that by the time the opposite end of the board is reached, there may be considerable accumulated error. It is a usual practice in this country, for example, to position the two-by-four uprights in a wall structure at 16-inch centers, that is, spaced 16 inches apart. This requires the accurate marking of the locations along upper and lower horizontal members, at which locations the upright members are to be secured. In some situations, markings are to be made at other intervals, such as at 24-inch intervals. For example, the trusses and beams of a roof structure are sometimes placed at 24-inch intervals along horizontal supporting members. This, of course, requires accurate marking of the locations at which such trusses or beams are to be located. In the construction of many buildings, there is the use of sheets of material, such as sheets of plywood, which have a uniform width accepted in the trade. As the edge portions of these sheets are to be mailed or secured to uprights, it is important that the uprights be accurately spaced so that there is correct correspondence between the locations of the uprights and the edges of the sheet material secured thereto.

My invention has as an object the provision of a satisfactory and efficient tool useful for carrying out the foregoing function of marking locations.

Other objects and a fuller understanding of the invention may be had by referring to the following description and claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a marking device embodying my invention;

FIGURE 2 is a left-hand end view of the device looking in the direction of the arrows 2—2 of FIGURE 1;



FIGURE 3 is a right-hand end view looking in the direction of the arrows 3—3 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a bottom view looking upward from below the device shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of the device looking in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary sectional view of the device looking in the direction of the arrows 6—6 of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 7 is a fragmentary sectional view looking in the direction of the arrows 7—7 of FIGURE 1.

The marking of lines and other indicia on a board or other structural element may be readily accomplished by any fluid or flowable material of various viscosities so long as the material is transferable and is capable of being readily seen when applied to a surface of another color, as for example, to the raw or unfinished color of a wooden board. For convenience this material for marking will be referred to as ink and it will be understood that this term includes such material as die, paint, stain and various colored liquids and pastes capable of being transferred for application to a surface to be marked.

My device, as illustrated, includes a frame member denoted generally by the reference character **11**. This frame member is in the form of an inverted U, forming a longitudinal channel. One side portion of the frame **11** is denoted by the reference character **12** and the opposite side portion is denoted by the reference character **13**. The two side portions **12** and **13** are joined along their upper edges by a back portion **14**.

Although in this description there is reference to upper and lower parts of the device, it will be understood that these terms are merely used for convenience and as used refer to the disposition of the device as illustrated in FIGURE 1. Of course, the device may be used upside-down to mark on the under surface of a structural element, such as a board or the like. However, for convenience, in this description and in the claims, directions and disposition of the parts will be as they appear in FIGURE 1 of the drawings.

Carried by the upper end of the back portion **14** and extending upwardly therefrom and then rearwardly along the length of the body portion of the frame member **11** is a handle member **15**. Preferably the body portion, made up of side portions **12** and **13**, back portion **14**, and handle portion **15**, is one integral casting, although it may be fabricated in other ways also. Journaled to the side portions **12** and **13** in the channel therebetween is a marking roller **16**, this roller being positioned adjacent the forward end of the frame member, that is, the end having the greatest height. This marking roller **16** has a knurled rim **16**–*a* of annular shape on opposite ends thereof. The spaced rims **16**–*a* protrude radially outward a short distance beyond the circumferential surface of the roller **16** intermediate the rims **16**–*a*. The knurled rims **16**–*a* provide frictional engagement of the roller **16** with a board or the like.

As better seen in FIGURE 6, the marking roller **16** has an inner hub **16**–*b* extending therethrough, this hub being welded or otherwise secured to a cylindrical sleeve **18** which extends from the opposite axial ends of the roller **16**. A shaft **17** extends through aligned openings in the side portions **12** and **13** of the frame member and through the cylindrical sleeve **18** in such a manner that the roller **16** is free to rotate on the axis of the shaft **17**. A set screw **19** may secure the sleeve **18** to the shaft **17**. The shaft **17** is free to rotate within the aligned openings in the side portions **12** and **13**.

Mounted to the outer cylindrical surface of the roller **16** and intermediate the opposed rims **16**–*a* is a first ink-transfer device **20**. This device **20** has a flat base portion **20**–*a* which is secured by cement, adhesive or other suit-

able securing means to the cylindrical surface of the roller **16**. Extending upwardly from intermediate of the opposite sides of the base portion **20**–*a* is an edge portion **20**–*b*, which edge portion **20**–*b* protrudes upwardly between the rims **16**–*a* and radially beyond so as to slightly protrude beyond the maximum circumferential extent of the rims **16**–*a*. This device **20** is made of rubber or rubber-like material and is resiliently yieldable so as to slightly flex when the protruding edge portion **20**–*b* engages a surface to be marked. The material of the device **20** is such as to readily receive ink on the outer surface of the edge portion **20**–*b* and to transfer the ink to a surface engaged, such as the surface of a wooden board.

In the illustrated marking device, the marking roller **16** is dimensioned so as to have a circumference of 16 inches. Thus, the edge portion **20**–*b* of the ink-transfer device **20** recurrently is located in a downward position, such as in the position illustrated in the drawings, once every revolution and which would be at an interval of 16 inches along a board or the like upon which the marking roller **16** is rolled. Thus, the ink-transfer device **20** would mark with ink a line corresponding to the outer surface of the edge portion **20**–*b* every 16 inches along a structural element, such as a wooden board, as the marking roller is rolled longitudinally of such a structural element. As seen in FIGURE 1, digits marked around the side of the marking roller **16** indicates each one-inch interval around the circumference of the roller. A complete revolution of the marking roller **16** as it rolls along a flat surface computes and marks the longitudinal distance of 16 inches, that being the circumference of the marking roller.

Diametrically opposite the first ink-transfer device **20** there may be mounted a second ink-transfer device **21**. Assuming the ink-transfer device **20** is located in zero position in the roller **16**, then ink-transfer device **21** is located at the 8-inch location on the circumference of the roller. In some uses of the marking device, it may be desired to mark 24-inch intervals rather than, or in addition to, the 16 inch intervals. In such a case, the second ink-transfer device **21** is applied to the roller **16** and secured thereto by cement, adhesive or other suitable means. The ink-transfer device **21** has a base portion **21**–*a* which is secured to the outer circumference of the roller **16** between the rims **16**–*a* and has extending radially outwardly therefrom the edge portion **21**–*b*. The ink-transfer device **21** is different from the ink transfer device **20** in that the edge portion **21**–*b* on the outermost surface thereof is relatively wide and relatively short. Thus, a mark inked by the outer surface of the edge portion **21**–*b* on a board or the like may be readily distinguished in appearance by the mark left by the relatively narrow and long outer surface of the edge portion **20**–*b* of the ink-transfer device **20**. In those cases where only one marking for each revolution of the roller **16** is desired, the ink-transfer device **21** may be eliminated or removed.

Journaled to the opposite side portions **12** and **13** and adjacent the rearward end of the frame member, that is, the right-hand end shown in FIGURES 1 and 5, is a supporting roller **23**. This supporting roller **23** may be made of wood, metal, or any other suitable material. The body of the roller **23** is mounted on a cylindrical sleeve **25** which, in turn, is mounted on a shaft **24** extending axially through the roller **23**. A set screw **26** secures the sleeve **25** to the shaft **24**. The roller **23** is free to rotate in the aligned openings in the side portions **12** and **13**. The axis of the roller **23** is parallel to the axis of the roller **16**.

As seen in the drawings, the lowermost portions of the rollers **16** and **23** are exposed below the bottom edge of the side portions **12** and **13** so as to be free to engage the top surface of a structural element, such as a board, along which the marking device is rolled.

Also journaled on the side portions **12** and **13** at a location intermediate the rollers **16** and **23**, is an ink-applying roller **28** in such position that the axis of the roller **28** is parallel to the axes of the rollers **16** and **23**. The ink-applying roller **28** has a core portion **28**–*a* around which is formed an absorbent pad portion **28**–*b*, which may be of felt padding or other suitable material used for absorbing and holding ink and capable of applying the absorbed ink to any object engaging the peripheral surface of the pad portion **28**–*b*. The core portion **28**–*a* is mounted on a metal cylindrical sleeve **29** which is mounted upon a shaft **30**. A set screw **31** secures the sleeve **29** to the shaft **30**. The ends of the shaft **30** extend through aligned openings in the side portions **12** and **13** and the mounting is such that the roller **28** is free to rotate relative to the side portions **12** and **13** to which it is journaled.

Upon rotation of the roller **16**, the outer edge of the ink-transfer device **20** and the outer edge of the ink-transfer device **21** move by and engage with the ink-applying roller **28** with sufficient pressure that ink from the ink-applying roller **28** is evenly distributed to the outer edge of the respective ink-transfer devices **20** and **21**. When only the ink-transfer device **20** is mounted on the roller **16**, then only that ink-transfer device has ink applied thereto by the ink-applying roller **28**. When both devices **20** and **21** are mounted on the roller **16**, then both have ink applied thereto as they move by and engage with the ink-applying roller **28**. By having the ink-applying roller **28** rotatively mounted, there is less resistance to rotation of the roller **16** by reason of the interengagement of the ink-transfer devices **20** and **21** with the outer cylindrical surface of the ink-applying roller **28**. The ink-applying roller **28** absorbs and holds a considerable amount of ink, but upon its ink supply being exhausted, ink may be readily applied to the roller **28** so that it is again ready to act as a reservoir of ink to apply the ink as required to the ink-transfer devices carried by the roller **16**.

In some instances, it may be desirable to prevent the roller **16** from rotating too freely and at too rapid a rate of rotation. To provide some restraint on the rotation of the roller **16** and at the same time permit it to readily rotate as the marking device is moved along a board or the like in engagement therewith, there is provided a spring biased detent **32**. This detent **32** is carried by a cap or cylindrical housing **34** secured to the side portion **12**. A coil spring **33** within the cap **34** urges the detent **32** inwardly against the side of the roller **16**. A plurality of dwells or small recesses **16**–*c* are provided in the side of the roller **16** adjacent the detent **32** in such a manner that the detent **32** may readily slide in and out of the dwells **16**–*c* as the roller **16** rotates. A slight clicking sound is effected as the detent **32** moves in and out of a dwell **16**–*c*, thus giving an audible signal. As the illustrated roller **16** has a circumference of 16 inches and there is a marking indicated for each one-inch interval around the circumference, there are 16 dwells **16**–*c*, each dwell indicating the occurrence of a one-inch interval. Thus, the operator may both see and hear indicia and signals indicating the rotative position of the roller **16** as it rotates relative to the frame member and rolls along a surface to be marked.

As one of the usual uses of this marking device is to make marks at intervals along a board, such as the horizontal plate upon which uprights are to be mounted, it is desirable to provide guiding means to aid in assuring accurate longitudinal movement of the device along the length of the board. By having the device move accurately along the length of the board, it is assured that the ink marks applied to the board will be at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the board. Also by having a guiding means, the operator may more easily move the marking device along the board without the device moving sidewards on the board upon which the marking is to be applied. In such cases, the board to be marked has one or both opposite sides exposed, these opposite sides being at right angles to the surface to be marked. For example, on a horizontally disposed board to be marked, it may be desired to mark the top surface and to use one

or both vertically disposed sides of the board to guide the movement of the marking device. For this purpose, there are provided guide plates **35** and **36** arranged parallel to and along the sides of the opposite side portions **12** and **13**. A guide plate **35** is carried by and disposed adjacent side portion **13**. Guide plate **36** is carried by and is disposed adjacent side portion **12**. Guide plate **35** has a pair of J-shaped slots **35**–*a*, each slot being adjacent the opposite ends of the plate **35**. Also guide plate **36** has a pair of J-shaped slots **36**–*a*, each of which is located adjacent an end of the guide plate **36**. As seen in the drawings, the J-shaped slots **35**–*a* and **36**–*a* and the guide plates **35** and **36** are disposed with the long arm of each J-shaped slot in a vertical position and with the short arm of each J-shaped slot extending laterally from the bottom of the long arm and bent or hooked slightly upwardly of the outer end of the short arm of each slot.

The side portion **13** has extending outwardly therefrom a pair of spaced pins **37**. Each pin **37** extends through a respective slot **35**–*a*. The side portion **12** has extending outwardly therefrom a pair of spaced pins **38**. Each pin **38** extends through a respective slot **36**–*a*. The outer ends of the pins **37** and **38** are enlarged to be broader than the width of the slots **35**–*a* and **36**–*a* and thus to retain the plates **35** and **36** adjacent and parallel to the respective side portions **13** and **12**. By reason of the interfit of the protruding pins and the respective J-shaped slots, the guide plates **35** and **36** may be carried in an upper position or in a lower position. For example, as seen in FIGURE 1, the guide plate **36** is shown in full lines in a raised position so that its lower edge substantially coincides with the lower edge of the side portion **12**. The guide plate **36** as shown in broken lines in FIGURE 1 is in its lowermost position where it is disposed to guidingly engage the side of a board or the like along which the marking tool is moved. To shift the guide plate **36** between its upper and lower positions, the operator shifts the plate **36** so that the pins **38** engage either the top of the long arm of the J-shaped slots **36**–*a* or the top of the short arm of the J-shaped slots **36**–*a*. In the position shown in full lines in FIGURE 1, the pins **38** engage the top surface of the short arms of the respective J-shaped slots **36**–*a* and thus support the guide plate **36** in raised position. By moving the guide plate **36** so that the pins **38** are in alignment with the long vertical arms of the J-shaped slots **36**–*a*, then the guide plate **36** moves downwardly and the pins **38** are located at the top of the long vertical arms of the respective slots **36**–*a*. The guide plate **35** on the other side of the tool is similarly raised and lowered, as desired. Either guide plate **35** or **36** may be lowered or both guide plates **35** and **36** may be raised, or one or the other may be lowered while the other is held in raised position. Thus, guiding means are provided on alternative and both sides of the marking tool so that either or both opposite edges of a board or the like may be engaged by a guide plate and thus provide guidance for movement of the marking device along a board or the like.

In the use of the marking device, it is sometimes desirable to predetermine the starting position of the marking device relative to a reference point at the end of a board o r the like, such as relative to a corner post extending up from a horizontal board upon which marks are to be applied. To provide for such relative positioning, an extension member **39** is provided which is in the form of a steel rule or longitudinal measure carrying distance indicia thereon. This extension member **39** is slidably carried by a strap member **40** welded or otherwise secured to the inner surface of the side portion **12** and so disposed that the extension member **39** may be slidably moved in the strap **40** to either extend rearwardly as shown in broken lines in FIGURE 1 from the rear end of the frame member **11**, or to be moved forwardly so as to be entirely within the channel formed by the frame member **11**, that is, so that the rearward end of the extension member **39** does not protrude rearwardly beyond the rear end



of the frame member. This slidable extension member or rule **39** has a forward bent over end **39**–*a* and a rearward bent over end **39**–*b*, these ends **39**–*a* and **39**–*b* retaining the extension member **39** within the strap member **40** but at the same time permitting the sliding of the extension member **39** relative to the strap member **40**.

The device is adapted to be moved along any surface for applying marks at intervals therealong. However, as suggested, one of its purposes is to mark a horizontally disposed board so as to apply marks on the upper horizontal surface and which board has vertically disposed sides, one or more of which is exposed for engaging a guide plate carried by the marking device. As seen in FIGURE 2, such a board is indicated in broken lines and denoted by the reference character **41**. FIGURE 2 being an end view of the device, the rectangle in dotted lines indicated by the reference character **41** represents an end view or a cross-sectional view of a board rather than a side view. The representation of a board or the like has not been shown in connection with the other views of the drawing in order to maintain clarity in the showing of the parts of the marking device.

The usefulness and practical desirability of the marking device here illustrated will be appreciated by those having occasion to mark structural elements and to otherwise do marking at intervals along a surface and who are acquainted with the problems and difficulties encountered without the benefit of this improved tool.

The present disclosure includes that contained in the appended claims, as well as that of the foregoing description.

Although this invention has been described in its preferred form with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of the preferred form has been made only by way of example and that numerous changes in the details of construction and the combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A marking device for making marks at predetermined intervals along a board or the like, comprising in combination, a frame member having substantially parallel and spaced side portions defining a longitudinally disposed open space, said side portions being joined along their upper edges by a top portion, a handle member carried by said frame member and extending above said top portion, a marking roller journaled to said side portions adjacent the forward end of the frame member to roll in said open space, a supporting roller journaled to said side portions adjacent the rearward end of the frame member to roll in said open space, an ink-applying roller journaled on said side portions intermediate the said marking roller and said supporting roller to roll in said open space, the axes of said marking roller, supporting roller and ink-applying roller being parallel to each other and disposed transversely of said longitudinally disposed open space, an ink-transfer device carried by said marking roller on the circumferential periphery thereof at a reference location on its circumference, said ink-applying roller being in juxtaposition to said marking roller to cause the ink-applying roller to engage, and recurrently apply ink to, said ink-transfer device upon each rotation of said marking roller, said side portions extending longitudinally of the device between said marking roller and said supporting roller and protruding downwardly to below said ink-applying roller to guard said ink-applying roller against contact at the sides of the device intermediate of the said marking roller and said supporting roller, guide means carried by a side portion of the frame member to extend adjacent both the marking roller and the supporting roller from the bottom edge of said side portion beyond a reference plane tangent to the circumferences of both the marking roller and supporting roller to guidingly engage, at spaced locations adjacent both the marking

roller and the supporting roller, the side of a board or the like along which the marking device is moved whereby the angular disposition of the marking device relative to the board or the like may be maintained.

2. A marking device for making marks at predetermined intervals along a board or the like, comprising in combination a frame member having an open bottom end, a marking roller and a supporting roller journaled on said frame member on parallel axes disposed transversely of said frame member to expose said rollers through said open bottom end, said rollers being adapted to rollingly engage the top of a board or the like along which the marking device is moved on a reference plane tangent to the circumferences of both said rollers, an ink-transfer device mounted on said marking roller to extend radially outward from the circumference of marking roller at a reference location on said circumference to revolve therewith and to transfer ink therefrom to the surface of a board or the like upon the coincidence of said reference location with said reference plane as the marking roller rolls along said board or the like, an ink-supply device carried by said frame member intermediate of said marking roller and said supporting roller and positioned in juxtaposition to the said marking roller to recurrently engage and supply ink to said ink-transfer device as said ink-transfer device revolves on the circumference of said marking roller, said frame member including spaced side portions extending downwardly and extending between said marking roller and said supporting roller to below said ink-supply device to guard said ink-supply device along the sides of the marking device intermediate of the marking roller and supporting roller, and guide means carried by said frame member along a said side portion and disposed along said open bottom end thereof to extend below said reference plane and engage a side of a said board or the like for guiding the device as it is moved along a said board or the like, said guide means having spaced guide bearing portions at a location along the said frame side portion adjacent the marking roller and at a location along the said frame side portion adjacent the supporting roller to provide guidance for the frame member at said locations.

3. A marking device comprising a marking roller having an ink-transfer portion at a reference location on its circumferential periphery for applying ink to a surface as the marking roller rolls along said surface to bring said ink-transfer portion into engagement with said surface upon each revolution of the marking roller, a rotatable supporting member adapted to rollingly engage said surface at a distance from the axis of said marking roller, a frame member for carrying said marking roller and said supporting member, an ink-applying device carried by said frame member for recurrently engaging said ink-transfer portion of the marking roller upon each revolution thereof to apply ink thereto, said frame member extending downwardly beyond said ink-applying device and extending between the marking roller and supporting roller to embrace said ink-applying device and provide protection thereto, and guide means carried by said frame member and extending along a line spaced from and parallel to a common line through an end of said marking roller and an end of said supporting roller for guiding longitudinal movement of the marking device along a path normal to the axis of said marking roller, said guide means extending forwardly to a location adjacent said marking roller and rearwardly to a location adjacent said rotatable supporting member to provide long-bearing guidance for the frame member at said locations.

4. A marking device comprising, a frame member having a body portion of inverted U-shape in cross-section and of gradually decreasing height from the forward end thereof to the rearward end, said frame member having a handle portion disposed above said body portion and extended longitudinally thereof, a marking roller journaled to said body portion adjacent the forward end thereof and disposed to rotate on an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of said body portion, a supporting roller journaled to said body portion adjacent the rearward end thereof and disposed to rotate on an axis parallel to the axis of said marking roller, said marking roller and supporting roller being adapted to be rolled along a board or the like along which the frame member is moved, said marking roller having spaced annular rims extending radially therefrom adapted to engage a surface of said board or the like as the marking roller is rolled therealong, an ink-transfer device of rubber-like material mounted intermediate said rims of the marking roller at a point around its circumference and protruding at said point radially outward beyond said rims to transfer ink from the ink-transfer device to a board or the like along which the marking roller is rolled, ink-supply means carried by said body portion of the frame member in position to supply ink to said ink-transfer device as said marking roller is rotated, said frame member having side wall portions extending downwardly to below said ink-supply means and longitudinally of the frame member between said marking roller and supporting roller to guard said ink-supply means along the sides of the device, and yieldable detent means interengaging said frame member and marking roller for resisting free rotation of the marking roller and for yieldably holding the marking roller in a selected position of a plurality of selectable rotatable positions.

5. A marking device comprising the combination of, a frame member defining a longitudinally extending channel and having spaced skirt portions extending along the sides thereof, a marking roller journaled to said frame member adjacent one end thereof to rotate on an axis transverse to said channel, said marking roller having spaced annular rims extending radially therefrom to engage a board or the like along which the marking device is moved, said rims having friction means on the outer edge thereof for providing frictional engagement with said board or the like, an ink-marking member mounted on said marking roller intermediate the said rims and protruding radially outward therefrom at a point on the circumference of the marking roller to mark ink on said board or the like upon said point becoming the point of tangency between said board or the like and the marking roller as the marking roller is rolled along said board or the like, an ink-supplying roller journaled to said frame member in said channel on an axis parallel to the axis of said marking roller and positioned to engage and supply ink to said ink-marking member as said marking roller rotates, a supporting member mounted to said frame member adjacent an opposite end thereof for engaging said board or the like to maintain the spacing of the frame member from the said board or the like as the marking device is moved longitudinally of said board or the like, said spaced skirt portions extending between the said marking roller and supporting member and to below the circumferential extent of said ink-supplying roller to guard the ink-supplying roller from the sides of the device, and a guiding member carried by said frame member independently of the marking roller and disposed along said channel to engage a side of said board or the like along a line longitudinally of the device as said marking device is moved along the board or the like for maintaining the alignment of the marking device with the said board or the like, said guiding member extending forwardly to adjacent the marking roller and rearwardly to adjacent the supporting member to provide engagement with the board or the like at points adjacent both said marking roller and said supporting member.

6. In a marking device for applying ink marks at predetermined intervals along a board or the like, the combination of a longitudinal frame member, a marking roller journaled to the frame member on an axis transverse to the said frame member, said marking roller having spaced rims projecting radially outward on opposite ends of the marking roller adapted to rollingly engage a surface along

which the marking roller is rolled, an ink-marking member of yieldable rubber-like material mounted on the marking roller intermediate said rims at a point on the circumference of the marking roller and extending parallel to the axis of the marking roller, said ink-marking member protruding radially outward of said rims to yieldably engage and mark ink upon a surface along which the marking device is moved at the point of tangency between said marking roller and said surface, a supporting roller journaled on said frame member at a distance from the marking roller on an axis parallel to the axis of the marking roller to support the frame member relative to said surface along which the marking device is moved, said frame member extending rearwardly of said supporting roller a predetermined distance to a reference location for providing a reference distance between said location and the said point of tangency between said marking roller and said surface, ink-supply means carried by the frame member for maintaining a supply of ink to said ink-marking member, and a spring-biased detent member carried by the frame member urged toward said marking roller, said marking roller having a plurality of dwells distributed therearound for cooperatively engaging said detent member whereby said marking roller may be selectively set at a predetermined rotative position upon inter-engagement of the detent member and a selected dwell.

7. The combination of a marking roller, a supporting roller, an ink-supplying roller, a frame member carrying said rollers on parallel spaced axes, said frame member having a portion extending rearwardly of said supporting roller to abut a reference upright plane a predetermined distance from the point of tangency of the marking roller with a horizontal plane along which said marking roller and supporting roller are rolled, an ink-transfer member mounted on the circumference of the marking roller at a fixed location thereon and disposed along a line parallel to the axis of the marking roller, said ink-transfer member upon reaching said point of tangency being positioned at said predetermined distance from said reference upright plane, said ink-supplying roller being disposed relative to the marking roller to engage and apply ink to the ink-transfer member on each rotation of the marking roller, resiliently yieldable detent means carried by the frame member, and a plurality of spaced detent-engaging means carried by the marking roller and associated with the detent means whereby the marking roller is yieldably restrained against rotation by the detent means engaging a selected one of the spaced detent-engaging means.

8. In a marking device, an ink-marking roller rollable along an upper surface of a board or the like, an ink-transfer member radially protruding from the circumference of the ink-marking roller along a line parallel to the axis of the roller, a supporting roller having an axis spaced from and parallel to the axis of the ink-marking roller, a frame member carrying said rollers to permit the rolling of the rollers together along a course, ink-pad means carried by the frame member in position for recurrently engaging and applying ink to the ink-transfer member upon each rotation of the ink-marking roller, a longitudinal guide member carried by the frame member along a line disposed in a first plane normal to the axes of the ink-marking roller and the supporting roller, and adjustable means for raising and lowering the guide member relative to a second plane tangent to the circumferences of said ink-marking roller and supporting roller engageable by said upper surface of a board or the like whereby the guide member may be lowered below the said ink-marking roller and supporting roller to guidingly engage the side of a said board or the like.

9. A marking device comprising a frame member, said frame member forming an inverted channel defined by spaced side walls and a top wall, a marking roller journaled to said side walls adjacent a first end of the frame member, a supporting roller journaled to said side walls adjacent an opposite end of the frame member, an ink-supplying roller for supplying ink to the marking roller journaled to said side walls immediate of said marking roller and said supporting roller, the axes of said marking roller, supporting roller and ink-supplying roller being disposed in parallel relationship, said marking roller being adapted to make an ink mark at the point of tangency between said marking roller and a common plane tangent to both said marking roller and said supporting roller and along which the device is rolled, said side walls extending between said marking roller and said supporting roller to embrace and protect the ends of said ink-supplying roller, at least one of said side walls extending beyond said common plane along which the device is rolled at a location adjacent the said first end of said side wall and at a location adjacent the said opposite end to provide guiding engagement at said locations with the side edge of a board or the like along which the device is rolled, said frame member having a reference portion extending at said opposite end along a side wall thereof a distance beyond said supporting roller to provide a predetermined spacing of said point of tangency from a reference point on said plane coinciding with said reference portion.


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