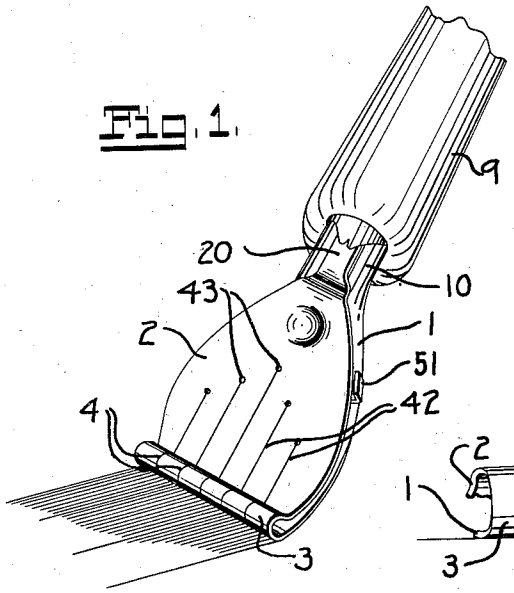
Feb. 17, 1942. R. F. GEORGE 2,273,702

BROAD-TIPPED PEN AND FEEDER

Filed Aug. 16, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



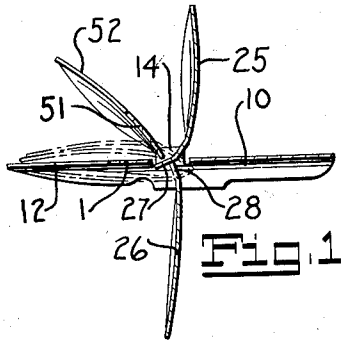
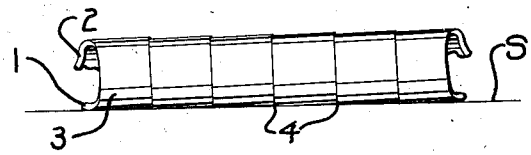


Fig. 15

Fig. 4.



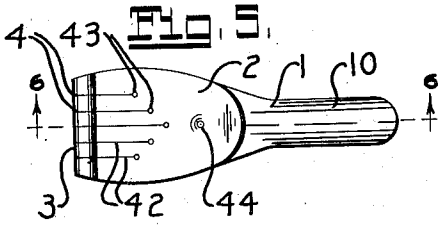


Fig. 5.

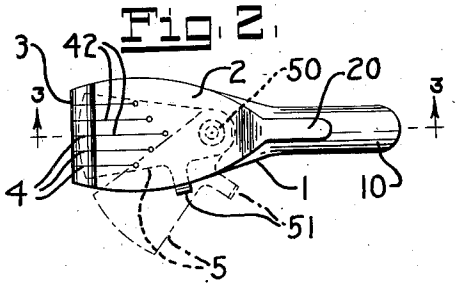


Fig. 2.

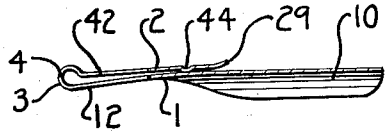


Fig. 6.

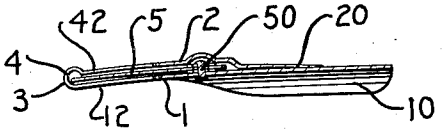


Fig. 3.

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BROAD-TIPPED PEN AND FEEDER

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Fig. 14

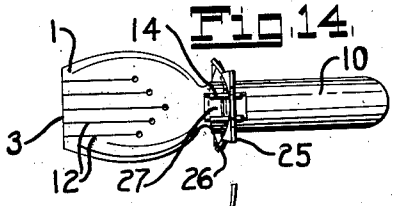


Fig. 15

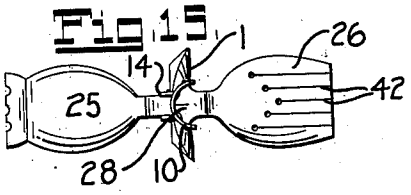


Fig. 16

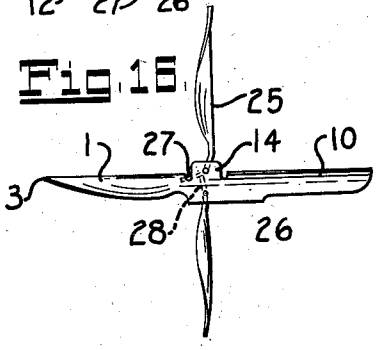


Fig. 11

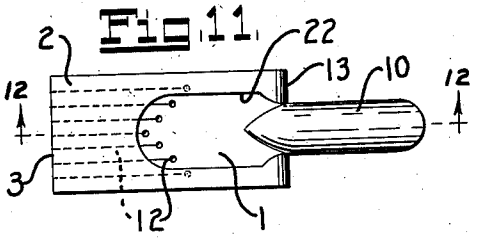
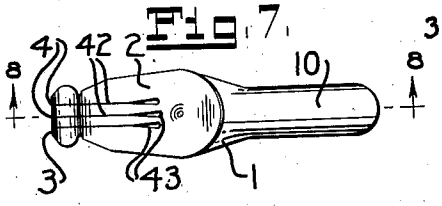


Fig. 7



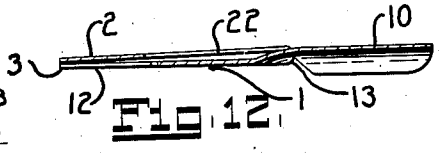


Fig. 12

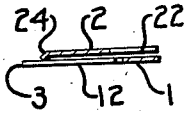


Fig. 13

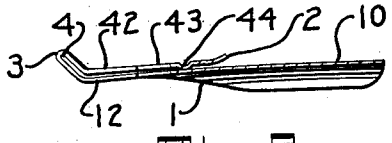


Fig. 8

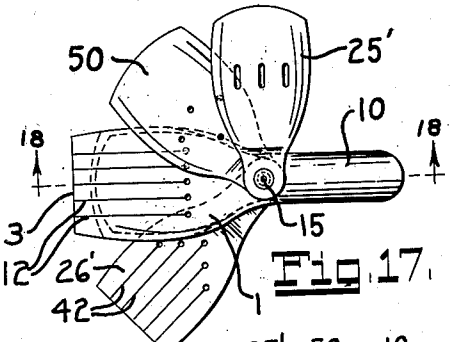
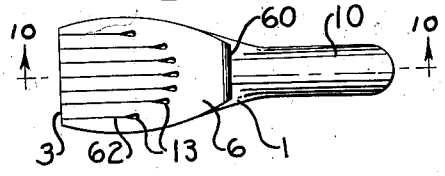


Fig. 17

Fig. 9



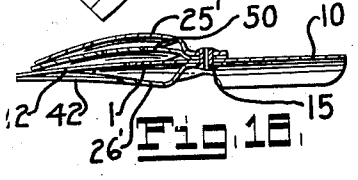


Fig. 18

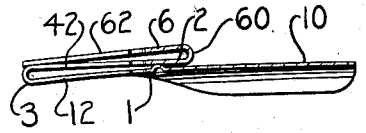


Fig. 10

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,273,702

BROAD-TIPPED PEN AND FEEDER

Ross F. George, Seattle, Wash.

Application August 16, 1940, Serial No. 352,904

22 Claims. (Cl. 120—111)

Pens with reservoir attachments have been used by show-card writers, principally for lettering. Such pens are shown, for example, in my prior Patents Nos. 1,747,701, 1,877,295, and 2,104,479. Whenever required to hand-draw broad or broadly shaded lines, whether in margins, in decorative flourishes, or in large letters, show-card writers will normally use a brush. Pens with sufficiently broad marking tips may be made, by enlarging or broadening known lettering pens, or as shown in the Oelbaum Patent No. 2,071,985, and may thus carry a sufficient quantity of ink, required by such a stroke of normal length and great breadth, but such a pen would be so lacking in the flexibility, particularly the transverse flexibility, which is characteristic of a brush, that it would be difficult to handle it, and to maintain the proper breadth and weight of ink throughout the stroke. Accordingly, no such pens have come into general use.

In the brush, on the contrary, there is not only an ink reservoir of large capacity, such as the broad stroke of appreciable length requires, and the multitude of capillary channels to effect even and controlled distribution of the ink, regardless of the flexed position of the brush's tip, transversely or longitudinally, but likewise there is maximum freedom of flexure, both transversely and longitudinally. Without such flexibility, coupled with controlled yet adequate ink supply to all parts of the brush's tip regardless of flexure, the line would be of uneven width and weight; with such flexibility, coupled with proper control and adequacy of the ink supply, an experienced user is assured of obtaining the effect he desires. He can, if he wishes, shade a line from the thickness of the brush's tip to its width. He can rapidly draw a broad line, straight or curved, of any length within the ink-holding capacity of his brush, assured that the line will be of proper width and weight throughout. He acquires a skill and technique in handling the brush which depends upon the flexibility (particularly the transverse flexibility) of the brush, and which is nullified if such flexibility is lacking. No pen which lacks corresponding flexibility will be acceptable. No pen, however flexible, will be acceptable unless the ink supply to the marking tip is adequate and as well controlled as in the brush. Indeed, a pen which leaves something to be desired as to flexibility may be acceptable for some purposes if its ink supply is controlled by suitably graduated channels of adequate breadth, and of varying thickness, including a capillary space at its end. The necessity of proper control of the ink supply is more acute as the pen becomes more flexible, for the flexing of the pen must not disturb the necessarily small capillary relation of the ink-feeding channels to all parts of the marking tip, notwithstanding flexure of the tip, and of the channel-defining elements leading thereto, to a degree far in excess of the capillary channel's thickness. The ink supply must be adequate in amount at all times, in all positions, and to all parts of the tip, yet never, in any position or part, excessive in amount, for that would produce blotting or excess width, and an uneven, uncontrolled stroke.

By this invention there is provided a pen having a broad marking tip, for strokes of a nature heretofore reserved for brushes, and having a feeder or reservoir of capacity equivalent to that of a brush of corresponding width, but so arranged, as to the brush and also as to the brush and feeder as an operative combination, that the marking tip preferably has flexibility comparable to that of a brush, and the ink is fed to the marking tip in a controlled manner, through capillary channels from a reservoir of adequate capacity, regardless of flexure or position of the pen. In so doing there is achieved the final aim, namely, uniformity of width of the stroke, coupled with the uniformity of weight which is accomplished by the proper distribution previously mentioned.

In accomplishing the main purpose above it is also my purpose to provide a pen and a feeder or feeders for use therewith which can be simply and inexpensively constructed, easily cleaned, and which lends itself to quantity production.

It is also an object of the invention to provide such a pen and feeder device which may be embodied in various forms and styles to fit various needs of the users or of the manufacturer.

Likewise it is an object to provide such a pen and feeder, which in certain forms may incorporate certain of the advantages (as quick-opening for cleaning) which distinguish previous patents referred to above.

With these and other objects in mind, as will appear as the specification progresses, my invention comprises the novel pen and feeder combination, as shown in various embodiments in the accompanying drawings, and as will be hereinafter more particularly disclosed and defined.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of such a pen, incorporating the principles of this invention, shown in position of use, the construction shown being a simple and typical one.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the same arrange-

ment, Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2, and Figure 4 is an end view of the same, showing enlargedly the relative positions of parts during transverse flexure of the marking tip.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 2 of a slightly modified form, and Figure 6 is a longitudinal section on the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a plan view, and Figure 8 is a longitudinal section on the line 8—8 of Figure 7, showing a modified arrangement of the tip, but otherwise similar to Figures 5 and 6, respectively.

Figure 9 is a plan view, and Figure 10 is a longitudinal section on the line 10—10 of Figure 9, illustrating a further modified form incorporating the invention.

Figure 11 is a plan view, and Figure 12 is a longitudinal section on line 12—12 of Figure 11, illustrating a further modification, and Figure 13 is a detail section showing a slight modification over the form just described.

Figure 14 is a plan view with the feeders in open position, Figure 15 is a view from the shank end, and Figure 16 is a side elevation of such a pen, incorporating the advantages of the swingable feeders shown, for instance, in my prior Patents Nos. 1,877,295 or 2,104,479.

Figure 17 is a plan view, with parts in open position, and Figure 18 is a longitudinal section on the line 18—18 of Figure 17, with parts in closed position, showing a further modified form of movably mounted feeders.

Figure 19 is a longitudinal section, showing a further modified arrangement incorporating swingably mounted feeders.

The form shown in Figure 1 has been chosen for purposes of illustration because of its simplicity. A pen may be considered as comprising a pen body, with its marking tip, and one or more feeders cooperating with the pen body to form an ink reservoir or reservoirs. The pen, in this instance, may be formed of a single piece of sheet metal bent upon itself to define a marking tip located at the bend, a pen body formed by one end of the sheet metal piece, and a feeder, spaced therefrom, formed from the other end of the sheet metal piece. The arrangement shown in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive is somewhat more complex than that described, but in essence is to formed. For instance, one portion, designated 1, forms the pen body. It may be flat or cupped in any way to a desired shape, and has a shank 10 formed upon it shaped for reception in the end of a pen holder 9. The marking tip 3 is formed by or at the bend, and may be of any desired radius of curvature and breadth. The remaining portion of the sheet metal piece constitutes the feeder 2, which in this instance is arranged as an overfeeder, but which might be disposed beneath the pen body as an underfeeder. The feeder may be provided with a tongue 20 complemental to the pen shank 10, and similarly received in the holder 9.

Except as to the broadest aspects of the invention, I wish to emphasize the flexible nature of the pen. This flexibility may be provided in any one of several ways, or by several such ways combined. The sheet metal of which the pen is formed may be of material which is inherently flexible; it may be so thin that it becomes flexible; it may be divided, by slits or otherwise, into individually flexible parts, constituting a flexible whole. Not only is the pen body 1 flexible, but so, too, is the feeder 2, and the two should be correspondingly flexible, so that the feeder will flex in all its parts to follow the flexibility of the pen's marking tip.

It is, of course, necessary to arrange for the passage of ink from the interior of the reservoir, formed between the pen body 1 and the feeder 2, to the outer surface of the marking tip 3. This is conveniently accomplished by providing slits 4 which extend from the marking tip longitudinally of the pen. Preferably these would normally extend lengthwise of the pen body 1, as indicated at 12, forming a plurality of fingers, all lying in a common surface when at rest. Preferably these fingers are of considerable longitudinal extent, thereby being made appreciably flexible, each in the direction of its length, and by their relative flexing permitting transverse flexure of the marking tip 3. However, I prefer that the slits also extend, as indicated at 42, lengthwise of the feeder 2, and while not essentially so arranged, I prefer that these slits 42 be arranged in registry with the slits of the pen body, so that the fingers thus defined in the feeder 2 correspond to and register (at the tip) with the fingers of the pen body; thus the two corresponding fingers may flex together, yet in flexing the fingers which cooperate as a pair for controlled supply of ink retain their proper operative relationship, regardless of their own flexure or of the relative flexure of adjacent pairs of fingers.

Nor does this result flow merely from the integral or connected relationship of the fingers of the pen body and of the feeder. The result follows whether such fingers of the individual pairs are connected, as in Figures 1 to 4, or are entirely separate, as in Figures 14 to 19, inclusive. The essential thing, when flexibility is achieved by slitting the breadth of the marking tip, is that the feeder be likewise sufficiently flexible, whether inherently or by reason of slits. Flexibility is affected by the gauge of the metal, its inherent nature or composition, its treatment, the number, breadth, and length of slits, and like factors. The pen body will normally be of such metal that rather narrow and long slits are required. The simplest way of insuring correspondingly adequate flexibility of the feeder is to slit the feeder lengthwise from its tip, so that the slits in the pen body and in the feeder are in registry. If they register at the marking tip, registry inwardly therefrom is not so important, so long as divergence from registry does not provoke interference and lessen flexibility. If the feeder is inherently sufficiently flexible, it may not be necessary to secure registry of the slits even at the marking tip, and indeed, the slits may be omitted altogether from the feeder (as in some cases they may be omitted from the pen body) if its tip is sufficiently flexible to follow the flexure of the pen's marking tip, without interference therewith.

In Figure 4 is shown the action which takes place when the marking tip 3 is pressed against the surface S with greater force applied at the edge which is represented at the left in Figure 4 than at the opposite edge. If the pen body, either inherently or by reason of interference with its flexure by a rigid feeder, could not flex, such pressure at the left in Figure 4 would merely raise the edge of the marking tip which is at the right in that figure, and at some intermediate point the ink would fail to flow by capillary attraction, and the line would thin out. Alternatively, consider that the pen's marking tip is sufficiently flexible that the marking tip would flex in sections, in the manner shown in Figure

4, but that the feeder is not sufficiently flexible, and would tend to remain in proper capillary feeding position only relative to the left-hand edge of Figure 4—that edge where pressure is the greatest. As a result the feeder's right-hand end would depart so far from the transversely flexed right-hand end of the pen that the capillary channel would be unduly broadened, and either the ink would retreat from this edge to the left, starving the stroke at the right-hand edge, or if the separation was sufficiently great the mass of the ink in the reservoir above the right-hand edge of the marking tip might overflow and cause a blot at this right-hand end. It becomes evident, then, that it is essential that, if the marking tip flexes, the reservoir must likewise flex in all its parts correspondingly, so that there will be maintained, all the way across the marking tip, the proper capillary feeding relationship between the separately flexible parts of the marking tip and of the feeder. Only in this manner, as is shown in Figure 4, can uniformity of feed be insured to all parts of the marking tip regardless of the flexure of the marking tip and of the separately flexible fingers of the pen in use.

It will be noted that the ink reservoir is of great breadth but rather thin, at least, at its end. By keeping the surfaces of the pen body 1 and feeder 2 close together for an appreciable distance, there is formed a thin, capillary channel which will prevent overflow or unduly rapid flow of ink, but will feed the ink to the marking tip as rapidly as it can be used up. Preferably the reservoir is wedge-shaped, as viewed from the side, thus gaining in capacity without loss of control. Even if it appears enlarged at the marking tip, it is of capillary dimensions thereabove, thereby affording the necessary capillary control of the feed.

The thickness of the metal, the length of the slits, and similar characteristics of the pen and feeder may be so chosen, and the breadth of the marking tip may be so great, that there might be a tendency for the fingers to flex each relative to its adjacent finger to too great a degree, and the slits between them might thereby be opened too greatly, and blots could result by reason of excess ink feed. To avoid this possibility there may be provided the plate 5, best shown in Figure 2, which is intended for insertion between the feeder and the pen body, and which serves in effect as a stiffener. This plate may be mounted upon a pin or embossed nob 50 to swing aside. being provided with a finger 51 for engagement to enable it to be swung into and out of position. This intermediate plate 5 serves a further purpose in that it may cooperate with each of the pen body 1 and the feeder 2 to form a separate reservoir connected adjacent the marking tip. The spacing between the feeder 2 and the pen body 1 may be so great, in order to secure adequate ink capacity, that there is danger of the ink running out and blotting, but if such a large reservoir is divided up into separate smaller communicating wedge-shaped reservoirs the danger of thus running out is considerably lessened.

For purposes of filling and venting the reservoir, and for the purpose of relieving the stresses during treatment and manufacture of the device, the slits 42 preferably terminate in pierces 43.

The arrangement shown in Figures 5 and 6 is very similar to that described, except that the auxiliary plate 5 is omitted, and also the tongue 20 is omitted. This makes a very simple form, and one which is easily cleaned without removing the pen from the pen holder, merely by the insertion of a blotter between the upturned end 29 of the feeder 2 and the pen body 1. The feeder and the pen body are held sufficiently and properly spaced by a dimple 44.

The arrangement of Figures 7 and 8 is quite similar to that of Figures 5 and 6, respectively, with the exception that the marking tip, instead of being rounded as in the previous forms, is angularly bent relatively to the pen body. This would have a tendency to make the pen body or the feeder, if unslit, even more unyielding in transverse flexure than if it were straight, yet by the provision of the longitudinal slits in each, registering with the slits of the other, the pen body 1 and the feeder 2 are made wholly adequately flexible, notwithstanding the broad tip and the angularity which would otherwise make it stiff and inflexible.

In the form shown in Figures 9 and 10 an auxiliary feeder 6 has been provided by bending the same piece of metal that forms the pen body 1 and the main feeder 2 back upon itself at 60, distant from the marking tip 3, extending its end to a point adjacent the marking tip 3, and spaced therefrom to afford capillary attraction through the slits 42. The auxiliary feeder 6 is similarly slit, as indicated at 62, in registry with the slits 42 and the corresponding slits 12 of the pen body. This form is easy to clean by insertion of a paper, blotter, or rag between the feeder 2 and the pen body 1, and between the feeders 2 and 6.

It is not essential that the bend by which the feeder is joined to the pen body constitute the marking tip, but instead this bend may be opposite the marking tip, and the marking tip may be formed by a cut end of the pen body. Such an arrangement is shown in Figures 11 and 12. The bend 13 between the pen body 1 and the feeder 2 is distant from the marking tip 3. The slits 12 are provided as before, and similar slits may be provided in the feeder 2, if desired, but the feeder 2 in this or in other forms may have sufficient inherent flexibility, and the breadth of the fingers defined by the slits 12 in the pen body, may be so narrow that feeder will follow transverse flexure of the marking tip 3 without actually slitting the feeder, and that is the intended arrangement in Figures 11 and 12.

These figures illustrate a further modification in that the feeder 2 is apertured, as indicated at 22, distant from the marking tip, and the material is left attached adjacent the bend 13, but is extended away from the marking tip in general prolongation of the pen body 1. This piece is shaped to constitute the shank 10. This does not materially reduce the capacity of the ink reservoir, but affords an opening for venting the reservoir and for access of ink to the same in filling.

Figure 13 is a modification of Figure 12 wherein the feeder tip does not extend quite to the marking tip 3 of the pen, and the feeder tip is downturned, as indicated at 24, to increase somewhat the capacity of the ink reservoir.

In the forms shown and described heretofore the pen body and the feeder have been part of the same sheet metal piece. This is not essential, in accordance with the broad principles of this invention, and in Figures 14 to 19, inclusive, the pen and the feeder or feeders have been shown as separately constructed. In so doing, if desired, the feeders may be of material more flexible than the pen body.

In Figures 14, 15, and 16 the pen body 1 is

complete with its shank 10, and is provided with the slits 12, and intermediate the broad marking tip 3 and the shank 10 it is provided with upstanding ears 14 whereon may pivot an overfeeder 25. An underfeeder 26 may be employed with, or as a substitute for, the overfeeder. If used, the underfeeder would normally be pivoted between the concave edges of the shank 10, as is best seen in Figure 15. The overfeeder 25 is provided with a toe 27, and the underfeeder is provided with a similar toe 28, these cooperating in the manner described in my Patents Nos. 1,877,295 or 2,104,479, previously mentioned. In this manner opening of the one feeder effects opening of the other, and vice versa, and in this manner the ready opening for cleaning, which is a feature of the previous patents mentioned, may be incorporated in feeders and in a pen arrangement which incorporates the novel features of this invention.

In the arrangement shown the underfeeder 26 is provided with slits 42', which enables its transverse flexibility to follow the transverse flexibility afforded by the slits 12 in the pen body 1, but the overfeeder 25 is not similarly slit, reliance being placed on its inherent flexibility, although it may be so slit if preferred.

The arrangement shown in Figure 17 is somewhat similar, save that the feeders are arranged to be swung aside, swinging about an axis normal to the pen shank rather than on a transverse axis. Thus the overfeeder 25', the underfeeder 26', and an auxiliary feeder 50, similar in function to the plate 5 previously described, are mounted to swing about a common pivot 15.

In Figure 19 the arrangement is similar to that shown in Figures 14, 15, and 16, except that an auxiliary feeder 51 is employed, which in this form may or may not be slit as indicated at 52, corresponding to the slits 12 in the pen body 1, but the auxiliary feeder 51 is merely pivoted to swing freely in the ear 14, forwardly of the pivot thereon of the overfeeder 25, and whereas the toes 27 and 28 of the overfeeder and underfeeder, respectively, cooperate to accomplish conjoint opening and closing of these two feeders, the auxiliary feeder 51 is free to swing independently of the other two, except that in the closed position of the parts the overfeeder 25 closes down upon the auxiliary feeder 51 and holds the latter in its operative position.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A pen body having a broad marking tip, longitudinally slit, to define a plurality of fingers, for transverse flexibility; a feeder disposed at one side of the pen, and extending across a material part of the width of the pen's tip, in position to constitute an ink reservoir and a capillary channel to feed ink to the tip; said feeder being characterized in that it has sufficient transverse flexibiity to permit substantially unrestricted transverse flexing of the pen's tip, in marking, notwithstanding pressure of the pen's fingers thereagainst.

2. A pen body having a broad marking tip, longitudinally and deeply slit for transverse flexibility, a feeder disposed at one side of the pen, substantially from edge to edge of the tip thereof, in position to constitute, with the pen body, an ink reservoir and a capillary ink-feeding channel to the tip, said feeder being similarly slit for corresponding transverse flexibility, as the pen's tip flexes, in marking.

3. A pen as in claim 2, characterized in that the feeder's tip portion is of breadth generally corresponding to the breadth of the marking tip, and in that the slits in the feeder and in the pen body are in substantial registry, at the tip, whereby the tip portions of the corresponding fingers maintain their relative operative positions during marking.

4. A pen body having a broad marking tip extending in a direction at an angle to the length of the pen body, said tip and the adjacent body portion having a plurality of longitudinal slits defining a plurality of flexible fingers which normally define continuations of a common surface, a feeder disposed at one side of the pen, in position to define an ink reservoir and an ink-feeding channel to the tip, and similarly slit to define a similar number of registering fingers, each feeder finger contacting and flexing in operative relationship to its corresponding pen finger, to afford proper ink supply thereto notwithstanding transverse flexing of the pen's tip and departure of the individual fingers from the common surface, and to restrict, in minimum degree, such transverse flexing of the pen's tip.

5. A pen comprising a single piece of metal bent back upon itself to define a pen body having a marking tip, and an ink reservoir terminating at the tip, said piece of metal being longitudinally slit through the tip portion of both the pen body and the reservoir a plurality of times, in registry, to define a plurality of flexible fingers which afford transverse flexibility to the pen as a whole, without interruption of ink supply to all portions of the tip, during flexing.

6. A pen comprising a single piece of metal bent back upon itself to define a pen body, a cooperating feeder spaced therefrom to constitute an ink reservoir, and, at the bend, a marking tip, said pen having a plurality of slits, in the pen body and in the feeder, running out at the bend, to afford transverse flexibility to the pen as a whole.

7. A pen comprising a single piece of metal bent back upon itself to define a pen body, a marking tip at the bend, and a cooperating feeder spaced from the pen body to constitute an ink reservoir communicating with the marking tip, said pen body and feeder having a plurality of longitudinal slits extending through the marking tip to define a plurality of separately flexible fingers, and a plate insertible between the pen body and feeder, at the marking tip, to limit the extent of relative flexing of said fingers.

8. The combination of claim 7, wherein the plate is mounted to swing, about an axis normal to the general plane of the metal piece, into and from its operative position, wherein it is interposed between the pen body and the feeder.

9. A pen comprising a single piece of sheet metal formed at one end only to define a supporting shank, and bent to lie in three adjacent planes to define, respectively, a pen body having a marking tip, an ink reservoir closely adjacent the pen body and communicating with the marking tip, and an auxiliary feeder likewise communicating with the marking tip.

10. A pen comprising a single piece of sheet metal formed at one end only to define a supporting shank, and bent to lie in three adjacent planes to define, respectively, a pen body having a marking tip, an ink reservoir closely adjacent the pen body and communicating with the marking tip, and an auxiliary feeder likewise communicating with the marking tip, said pen body being longitudinally slit, through the marking tip, for transverse flexibility.

11. A pen comprising a single piece of metal bent back upon itself to define a pen body, a marking tip at the bend, and a cooperating feeder spaced from the pen body to constitute an ink reservoir communicating with the marking tip, said metal piece being further bent back upon itself, distant from the marking tip, to define an auxiliary feeder, terminating adjacent the tip.

12. A pen comprising a single piece of metal bent back upon itself to define a pen body, a marking tip at the bend, and a cooperating feeder spaced from the pen body to constitute an ink reservoir communicating with the marking tip, said metal piece being further bent back upon itself, distant from the marking tip, to define an auxiliary feeder, terminating adjacent the tip, said elements being longitudinally slit, from their tip ends inwardly, to form a plurality of flexible fingers.

13. A pen comprising a pen body terminating in a broad marking tip having a plurality of longitudinal slits defining a plurality of separately flexible fingers, and a feeder mounted upon the pen body for movement between an operative position, wherein it lies close to the pen body and downward to the tip to define an ink reservoir, and an inoperative position, said feeder likewise having a plurality of longitudinal slits extending from its tip upwardly to define a plurality of separately flexible fingers.

14. A pen comprising a pen body of flexible material terminating in a broad marking tip having a plurality of longitudinal slits defining a plurality of separately flexible fingers, an underfeeder and an overfeeder each mounted upon the pen body for movement between an operative position, wherein it lies close to the pen body and extends downward towards the marking tip to define ink reservoirs which communicate with the marking tip by way of such slits, and an inoperative position wherein the feeders are each accessible for cleaning, each of said feeders being formed with a broad tip having sufficient transverse flexibility, to permit material transverse flexing of the marking tip.

15. A pen comprising a pen body of flexible material terminating in a broad marking tip having a plurality of longitudinal slits defining a plurality of separately flexible fingers, an underfeeder and an overfeeder each mounted upon the pen body for movement between an operaative position, wherein it lies close to the pen body and extends downward towards the marking tip to define ink reservoirs which communicate with the marking tip by way of such slits, and an inoperative position wherein the feeders are each accessible for cleaning, each of said feeders being formed with a broad tip having sufficient transverse flexibility to permit material transverse flexing of the marking tip, and an auxiliary feeder interposed between the pen body and one of said other feeders, and movable with its adjacent feeder between similar operative and inoperative positions, the auxiliary feeder likewise being transversely flexible in its tip portion, to permit flexing of the marking tip.

16. A pen comprising a sheet of metal bent upon itself to define a pen body terminating in a broad marking tip, and an adjacent feeder the tip whereof terminates adjacent the marking tip, to define an ink reservoir, the feeder being apertured from the bend towards its tip to define a pen shank attached at the bend to the pen body, said shank extending generally in prolongation of the pen body, beyond the bend, for the support of the pen.

17. A pen comprising, in combination, a supporting pen body terminating in a marking tip having a plurality of longitudinal slits defining a plurality of separately flexible fingers, a separate feeder movably mounted upon the pen body to move between an inoperative position, separated from the marking tip, and an operative position, adjacent the marking tip, and an auxiliary feeder likewise movably mounted upon the pen body for similar movement between operative and inoperative positions, at least one of said feeders being longitudinally slit to define a plurality of separately flexible fingers which, in operative position, register with and restrain to a minimum degree the flexibility of the fingers of the marking tip.

18. A marking pen comprising a longitudinally and transversely flexible pen body formed with a broad marking tip, and a feeder operatively disposed, relatively to the pen body, to define an ink reservoir of a breadth substantially corresponding to the breadth of the marking tip, and of capillary thickness adjacent the marking tip, the feeder having sufficient transverse and longitudinal flexibility to flex with the pen body, and to maintain its operative relationship to the pen body during flexing of the latter.

19. A marking pen comprising a pen body terminating in a broad marking tip, and feeder means of corresponding breadth, at the tip, operatively disposed, relatively to the pen body, to define one or more wedge-shaped ink reservoirs of appreciable breadth, terminating at the marking tip.

20. A marking pen comprising a pen body of appreciable breadth throughout, and terminating in a broad marking tip, and feeder means of like breadth, operatively disposed, relatively to the pen body, to define a broad ink reservoir of breadth corresponding to the pen body's breadth, and of gradually increasing thickness from the marking tip upwardly.

21. A pen comprising a piece of flexible material formed to lie in three adjacent planes to define between them two ink reservoirs, and terminating in a broad marking tip having material transverse and longitudinal flexibility, the material being perforated to conduct ink from the reservoirs to the marking tip.

22. A pen comprising a piece of flexible material formed to lie in adjacent planes to define between them an ink reservoir, and terminating in a broad marking tip having material transverse and longitudinal flexibility, the material being perforated or slit to conduct ink from the reservoir to the marking tip.

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