Jan. 18, 1949. W. P. HODGES 2,459,646

GUIDE CUTTER AND STUB HOLDER

Filed July 21, 1947 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig 1

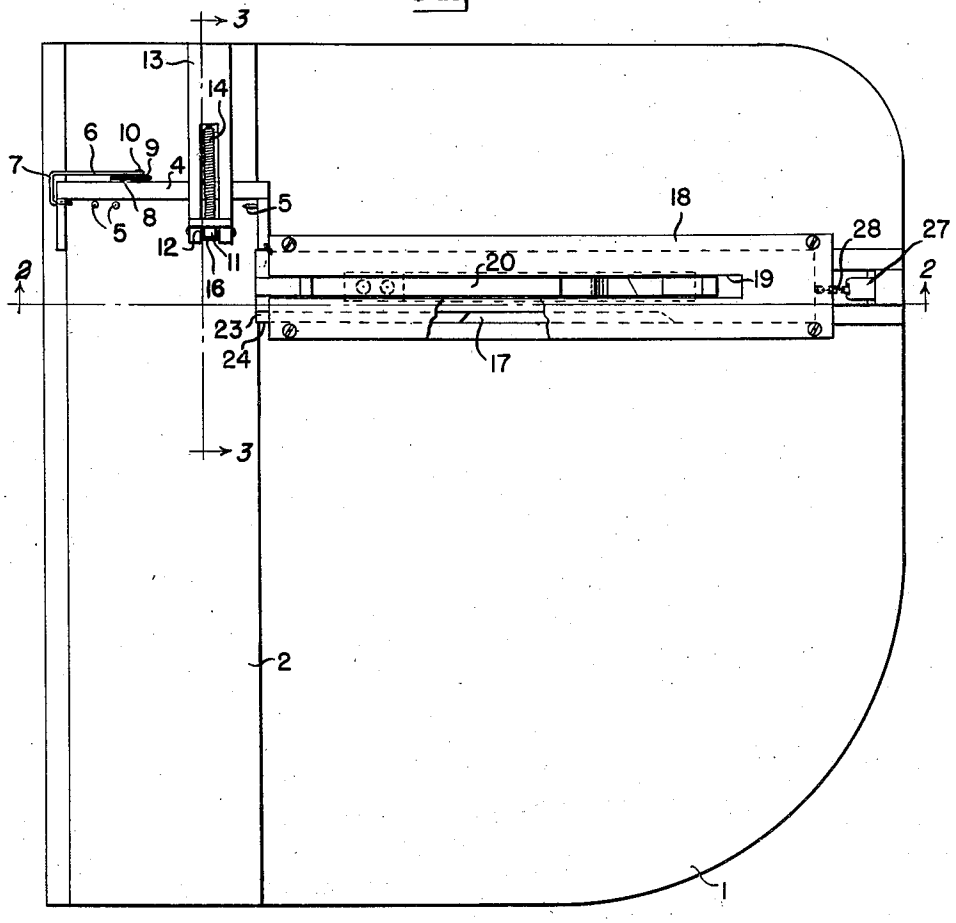
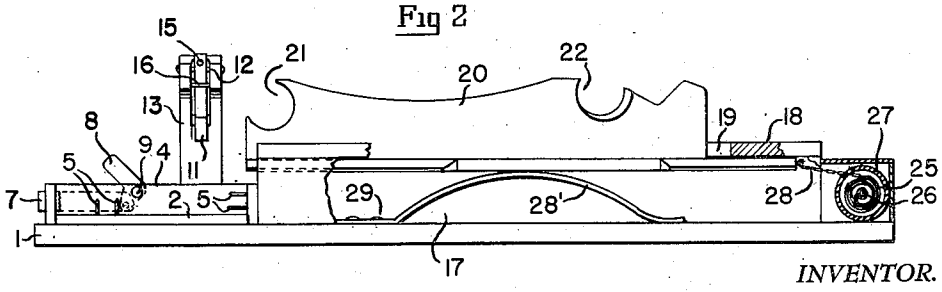


Fig 2



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GUIDE CUTTER AND STUB HOLDER

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Fig 3

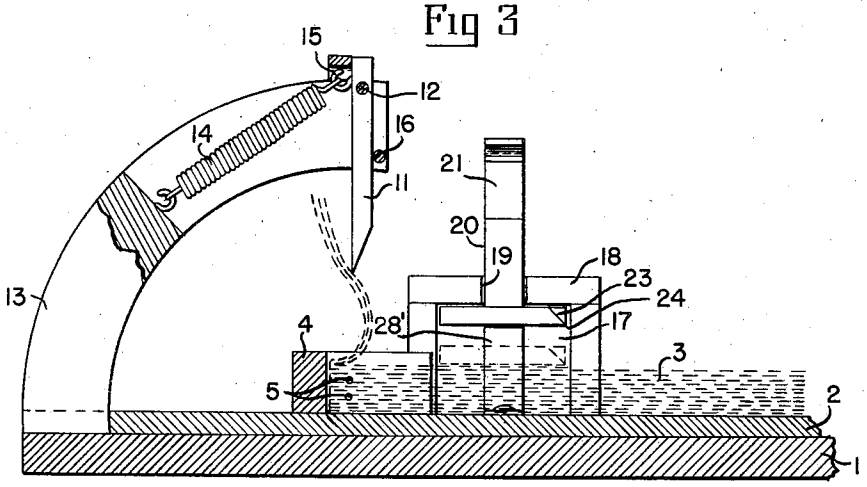
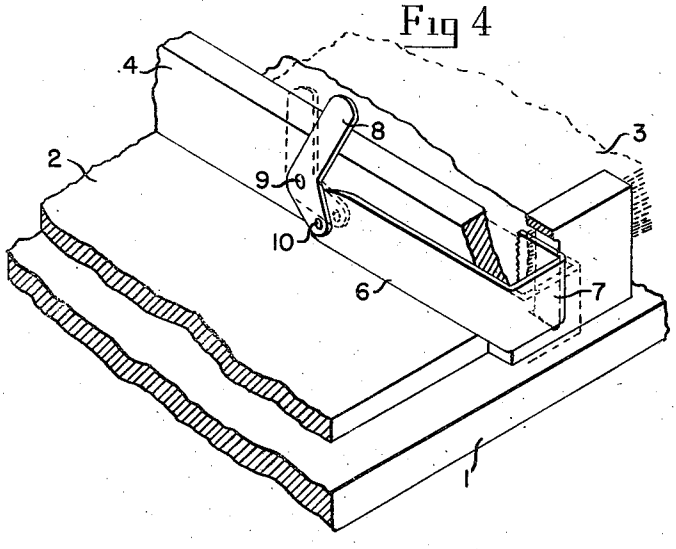


Fig 4



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Fig 5

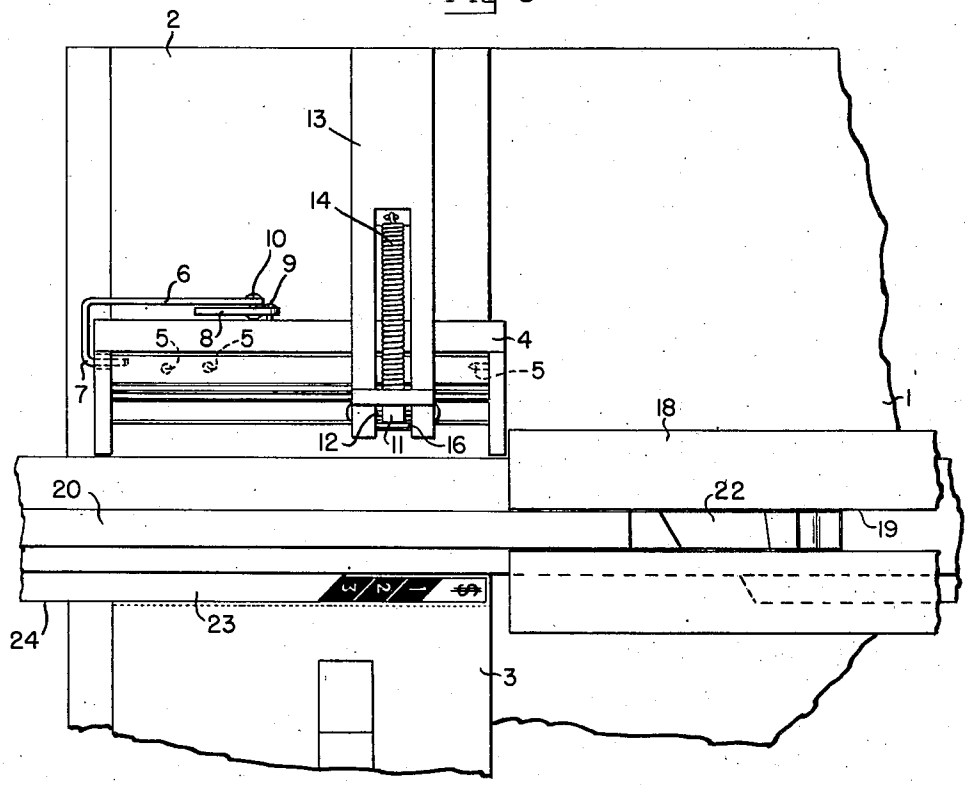
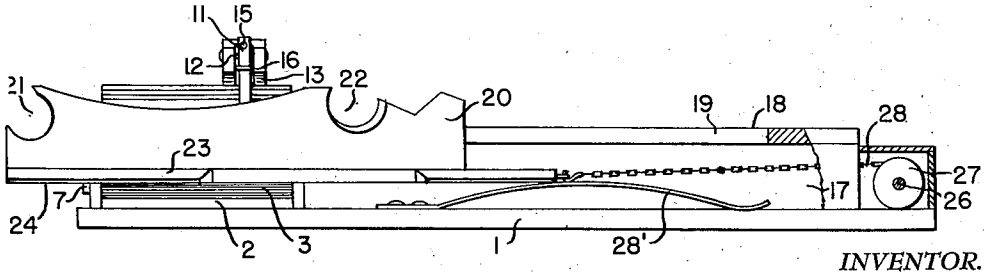


Fig 6



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2,459,646

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,459,646

GUIDE CUTTER AND STUB HOLDER

Walter P. Hodges, Knoxville, Tenn.

Application July 21, 1947, Serial No. 762,447

6 Claims. (Cl. 206—40.6)

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My present invention relates to the general class of geometrical instruments or implements of the straight edge type and utilized as a gage in connection with the tearing of paper sheets, and more specifically to an improved Guide cutter and stub holder which while adapted for varions purposes and uses, is especially designed for use by postal employees and others in the preparation of money orders that are to be cut off or torn off to indicate different money values. The primary object of the invention is the provision of a portable implement or instrument of this character that is simple in construction and operation, composed of a minimum number of parts that may with facility be manufactured at low cost of production and assembled with convenience to insure a reliable, accurate, and durable implement that may be skillfully operated without difficulty, and which is efficient and proficient in the performance of its required functions.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of manually operated parts including a work holder and the paper-tearing gage and mechanism as will hereinafter be described in detail, and more particularly set forth in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated a complete disclosure of the invention in which the parts are combined and arranged in accord with one mode I have devised for the practical application of the principles of my invention. It will, however be understood that changes and alterations are contemplated and may be made in these exemplifying drawings and mechanical structures, within the scope of my claims, without departing from the principles of the invention.

Figure 1 is a plan view of an appliance in which my invention is physically embodied, partly broken away for convenience of illustration.

Figure 2 is a front edge view of the appliance, partly in vertical section as at line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional detail view as at line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detail perspective view showing the holder and clamping means for the book of sheets to be successively torn.

Figure 5 is a partial plan view showing the tearing gage in operative relation to the book; and

Figure 6 is a vertical sectional view of the parts in Fig. 5.

In carrying out my invention I utilize a flat base board or plate 1 of convenient size and shape, along one edge of which the book plate 2 is rigidly

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mounted, and the book or pad of sheets 3, as a book of blank money orders, is detachably mounted, and adapted for ready removal when the sheets are exhausted. The book is mounted in a somewhat U-shaped or rectangular open-end holder 4 mounted on the book plate, and the holder is provided with a number of retaining pins 5, for engaging the book as it is pressed into position in the holder.

A clamp device 6 for the stub end of the book is provided with a retaining hooked-end 7 that engages the book and projects through a slot of the holder for this purpose, and this clamp device is actuated by an angular hand lever or bell crank lever 8 pivoted on the holder at 9, and pivotally connected with the clamp arm 6 at 10.

As usual, the successive top sheets of the book are torn leaving the stubs intact, and means are provided for retaining these stubs in position to insure clearance and freedom of action in tearing the remaining sheets of the book. For this purpose a resiliently mounted stub holder or finger 11 is hinged or pivotally mounted by pin 12 in a bifurcated or slotted and quadrant shaped frame 13 rigidly affixed on the upper face of the base board. A spring 14 located in the slotted frame is anchored at one end to the frame, and its other end is anchored to a bracket 15 of the pin or finger 11, above the pivot 12. As indicated in Fig. 3 by dotted lines, the stubs may be turned or curled upwardly behind the resilient holder-pin or finger and the spring holds the finger in upright position against a stop pin 16 of the slotted frame. By pressure of the thumb or finger against the spring-held detent or finger 11 the detent may be moved or swung to the left in Fig. 3 to release these stub sheets.

The tearing gage or cutter for the sheets is disposed at right angles to the long axis of the book plate 2 and the book 3, and this mechanism is reciprocable and hand-operated to and from position over the book, with automatic or spring actuated retracting means, and with automatic or spring actuated vertically adjusting means that adapt the cutter to varying thicknesses of the book.

The tearing unit is mounted in a housing 17 of rectangular shape, and provided with a top plate 18 that is longitudinally slotted at 19 to guide and retain the resiliently mounted cutter which is of inverted T-shape in cross section, and includes an upright flange 20 having spaced upper edge notches 21 and 22 or seats for two fingers employed in adjusting and retaining the unit in proper position.

The flange 20 is fashioned with a horizontally

disposed presser plate **23** having right angle edges equipped with bevels or tearing edges **24** for alinement with the blocks of the book, and by means of which the sheets are manipulated and torn off at the proper designations.

The cutter unit is slid to adjusted position over the book against the tension of a rotary spring **25** mounted on a rotary pin **26** in the spring housing **27** located at one end of the housing for the reciprocating cutter, and a chain or cord **28** connects the cutter with this automatic and spring actuated retracting device. By placing two fingers or a finger and a thumb in the notches **21**, **22** the cutting unit may be drawn over into position above the book, and then by a downward pressure of the hand the presser plate **23** solidly impinges against the top sheet of the book. When pressure is released, the cutter is automatically lifted from the book and also automatically withdrawn, by spring **25**, into its housing.

For automatically lifting the cutter a bowed leaf spring **28'** is mounted in the housing parallel with and beneath the uplifted cutter, and one end of the spring is anchored as at **29** to the base board that forms the bottom of the housing.

By this combination and arrangement of parts the cutting unit may be manipulated skillfully and with accuracy without necessity for expert labor, but with rapidity and efficiency in the performance of its functions.

From this description taken in connection with my drawings it will be apparent that the manually operated paper tearing unit with its automatically operating retracting spring, together with the bowed spring as a resilient support for the depressible presser plate and tearing gage, provides a device of simple construction that may be utilized in the performance of its functions for quickly gaging and tearing off a money order or sheet from the book. The spring detent for retaining the book stubs may be manipulated with facility in holding the stubs out of the way for freedom in holding and tearing a money order or sheet from the book or pad, and the efficiency and proficiency of the operator is enhanced together with a saving in time and labor.

Having thus fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a manually operated paper-tearing appliance, the combination with a base and a book-holder, of a slotted housing mounted laterally of the holder, a spring-retracted presser unit reciprocable in the housing including an upright hand-piece projecting through the housing, a resilient support in the housing for the unit, and a horizontally disposed presser plate rigid with the hand-piece.

2. In a manually operated paper tearing appliance, the combination with a base and a book-holder, of a guide-housing mounted laterally of the holder, a spring-retracted presser unit reciprocable in the housing, a bowed leaf-spring mounted within the housing for supporting the unit, said unit including a notched hand-piece projecting through the housing, and a horizontally disposed presser plate rigid with the hand piece and forming a tearing gage.

3. In a manually operated appliance, the combination with a base and a slotted guide housing, and a presser unit reciprocable in the housing, of a rotary retracting spring mounted on the base and attached to said unit, resilient means mounted in the housing for supporting the unit, and said unit including a hand piece and a rigid horizontally disposed presser plate forming a tearing guide.

4. In a manually operated paper tearing appliance, the combination with a base and a work-holder, and a slotted housing, of an inverted T-shaped presser unit reciprocable in the housing, said unit including an upright blade having spaced finger notches and projecting through the slotted housing and a horizontally disposed presser plate rigid with the blade and forming a tearing gage, a retracting spring connected to the unit, and a bowed leaf spring mounted within the housing for supporting the unit.

5. In a manually operated paper tearing appliance, the combination with a book-holder, a stub-retainer frame mounted over the book-holder, and a spring actuated retaining detent mounted over the book-holder, of a guide-housing, a presser unit reciprocable in the housing, a retracting spring connected to the unit, and resilient means mounted in the housing for supporting the unit.

6. In a manually operated tearing instrument, the combination with a book-holder having end and side walls, retaining pins mounted in said walls, a pivoted clamp mounted in the holder for a book, and a spring detent mounted over the holder for retaining stubs, of a guide housing and a reciprocable presser unit mounted therein, a retracting spring connected to the unit, and resilient means mounted in the housing for supporting the unit.

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No references cited.