

Dec. 13, 1949

R. R. POTTER
TYPEWRITING GUIDE
Filed May 25, 1948

2,491,332

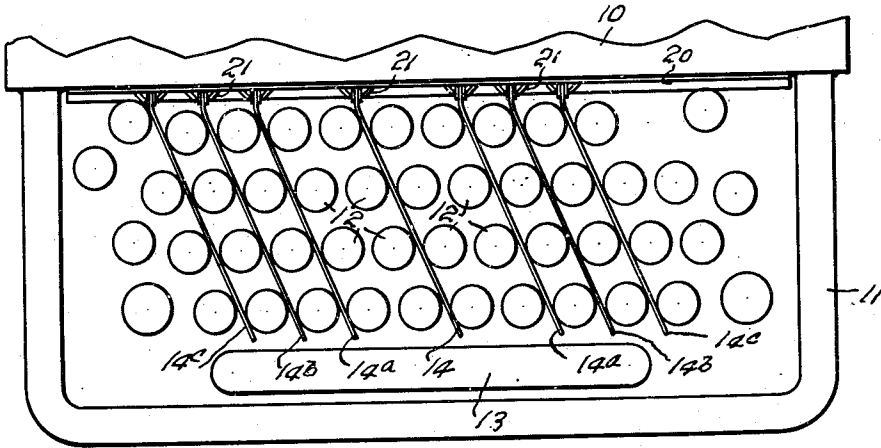


Fig. 1

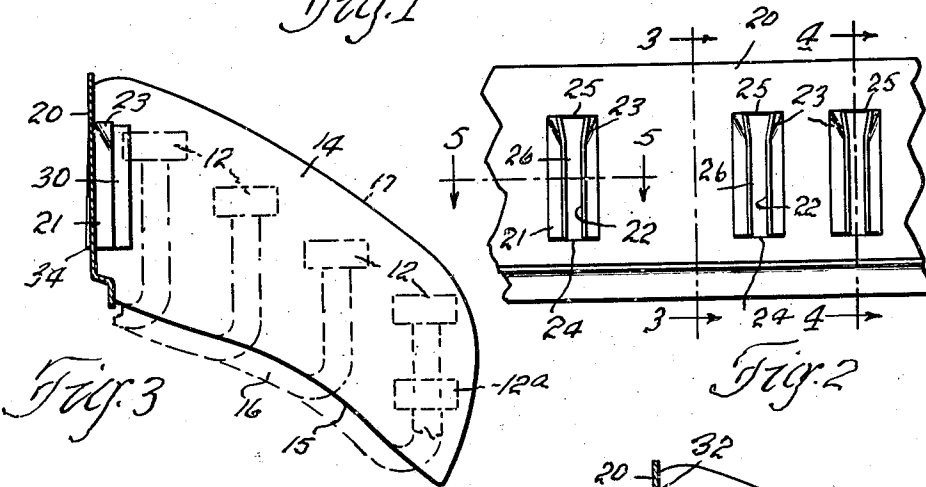


Fig. 3

Fig. 2

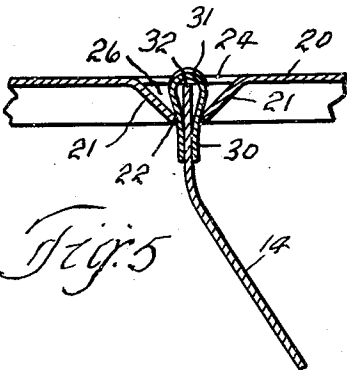


Fig. 5

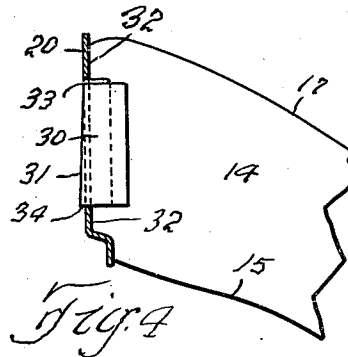


Fig. 4

INVENTOR.
Russell R. Potter
BY *[Signature]*
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,491,332

TYPEWRITING GUIDE

Russell R. Potter, Jackson Heights, N. Y.

Application May 25, 1948, Serial No. 29,048

6 Claims. (Cl. 197-101)

1

This invention relates to a finger guide for typewriters and more particularly to a set of finger guide vanes which are adapted to be placed between certain of the rows of keys of the typewriter for guiding the fingers of the operator, particularly while learning.

An object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved guide of the above type.

Another object is to provide a guide of the above type in which the various vanes may be individually removed as desired in accordance with the progress of the pupil.

Various other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed.

In accordance with the present invention, the guide comprises a plurality of vanes each of which is adapted to be inserted between adjacent rows of typewriter keys and which are removably assembled on a support which is adapted to be inserted in the typewriter in back of the keyboard. A maximum of seven vanes are used, which may be spaced in accordance with the keys to be struck by the various fingers. As the student progresses certain of the vanes may be removed until eventually only the central vane remains to space the fingers of the two hands. For more experienced operators this vane may also be removed without removing the back supporting member.

This invention will be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which a specific embodiment thereof has been set forth for purposes of illustration.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a typewriter keyboard with the guide in place;

Fig. 2 is a partial detail view of the supporting member;

Figs. 3 and 4 are vertical sections taken along the lines 3-3 and 4-4 of Fig. 2 showing the shape and manner of attachment of the vanes; and

Fig. 5 is a horizontal section taken along the line 5-5 of Fig. 2, but on a larger scale.

Referring to the drawings more in detail, Fig. 1 shows a standard typewriter keyboard including a typewriter front plate 10 and a keyboard frame 11. This keyboard includes the usual number of keys 12 and a space bar 13.

In accordance with the present invention, a plurality of vanes 14 are disposed between the various rows of keys 12. As shown more clearly in Fig. 3, the vane 14 is provided with a suitably

2

curved bottom edge 15, which is shaped to rest across the key bars 16, and is provided with a top edge 17 which extends sufficiently above the level of the keys 12 to form a guiding vane for the fingers. The bottom edge 15 of the vane 14 is located below the lower position of the keys indicated at 12a so that there is no possibility of the keys engaging the bottom edge 15 of the vane and lifting the same during the operation of the typewriter.

As shown in Fig. 1, the center vane 14 separates the keys which are to be struck by the right hand from those which are to be struck with the left hand.

The second vanes 14a are spaced two keys on either side of the center vane 14. The two rows of keys between the vanes 14 and 14a are struck by the first fingers of the two hands. The third vanes 14b are spaced from the vanes 14a to include a single row of keys which are the keys to be struck by the second fingers. The fourth vanes 14c are spaced from the vanes 14b to include a single row of keys which are to be struck by the third fingers. The remaining keys which are on the outside of the vanes 14c are the keys to be struck by the little finger of each hand.

The supporting member for the various vanes 14 comprises a plate 20 which is adapted to be inserted in front of the front plate 10 of the typewriter and in back of the keyboard and may be provided with securing means if desired, such as screw holes, not shown, arranged to coincide with the screws or other means present in the particular type of machine for which the shield is designed.

The plate 20 is provided with securing means comprising flanges 21 which are struck out from the plate 20 and form a channel 22 therebetween in which the vanes are secured. The flanges 21 are provided with tapered top edges 23 and are so formed as to leave bottom edges 24 and top edges 25 defining the opening 26 in the plate 20. The end of the vane 14 to be secured in the channel 22 is provided with a U-shaped clip 30 which is permanently secured to the vane by suitable means, as by adhesive, and is rounded at its central portion as indicated at 31 (Fig. 5) to provide a substantial amount of resilience. The clip 30 may be formed integral with the vane 14 if desired. The vane 14 and clip 30 are made of resilient, flexible or pliable material, such as a suitable plastic. The clip 30 projects beyond the end 32 of the vane to form a top shoulder 33 and a bottom shoulder 34. The bottom shoulder is substantially wider than the top shoulder, as in-

3

licated in Fig. 4. The shoulders 33 and 34 are adapted to engage the edges 25 and 24 respectively for securing the vane when the latter is snapped into position. The clip 30 is sufficiently resilient to slide between the flanges 21 and to grip the same for preventing the vane from being removed. The rear edge 32 of the vane engages the plate 20 above and below the opening 26 to position the vane.

In assembling the vanes it is only necessary to insert the lower edge of the clip 30 into the channel between the tapered portions 23 of the flanges 21 and slide the clip downwardly to the position indicated in Fig. 5. When the clip has reached its proper position, the lower shoulder 34 engages the edge 24 of the plate 20 to limit further movement of the vane and the upper shoulder 33 snaps into position below the edge 25 of the plate 20. For removing the vane from the plate 20 it is only necessary to pull the top portion of the vane forwardly against the resilience of the clip 30 so as to bring the shoulder 33 out of engagement with the edge 25 of plate 20, and then to slide the vane and clip 30 upwardly in the channel 22.

The vanes 14 are sufficiently flexible to be properly positioned between the keys as indicated and may be attached to the plate 20 before positioning the latter in the typewriter or may be separately attached after the plate 20 has been positioned. In either event it is possible to remove any selected vane or vanes while leaving the remainder of the vanes in place, or if desired to remove all of the vanes while leaving the supporting plate 20 in place so that the vanes may be again positioned as desired.

Although a specific embodiment has been shown for purposes of illustration, it is to be understood that various changes may be incorporated therein as will be readily apparent to a person skilled in the art and that the invention may be applied to various uses.

What is claimed is:

1. A guide for typewriter keyboards having a plurality of rows of keys, comprising a supporting plate adapted to be positioned along the back of the keyboard, a plurality of vanes re-

4

movably carried by said supporting plate and positioned thereby to extend between selected rows of keys in accordance with the fingering of the keys, each of said vanes extending above the normal position of the keys to provide finger guides and extending downwardly beyond the lower position of the keys when depressed to prevent the keys from lifting the same, and removable means attaching each of said vanes to said supporting plate comprising flanges on said supporting plate forming a guiding channel therebetween, and a resilient U-shaped portion on each vane adapted to slide vertically in said channel.

2. A guide, as set forth in claim 1, in which said flanges are struck out from said plate.

3. A guide, as set forth in claim 1, in which said U-shaped portion comprises a clip projecting beyond the rear edge of said vane to form top and bottom positioning shoulders.

4. A guide, as set forth in claim 3, in which the bottom positioning shoulder is wider than the top positioning shoulder to limit the downward movement of the vane and the top positioning shoulder is adapted to be released by pulling the vane forwardly against the resilience of the U-shaped clip.

5. A guide, as set forth in claim 4, in which the flanges are struck out of said plate to form an opening between said flanges having upper and lower edges to engage said shoulders.

6. A guide, as set forth in claim 5, in which the vane is formed with a rear edge to engage the plate above and below said opening for positioning the vane.

RUSSELL R. POTTER.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
502,685	Terry	Aug. 1, 1893
1,377,070	Helguera	May 3, 1921
1,389,419	Briggs	Aug. 30, 1921