

March 11, 1941.

O. N. WISWELL

2,234,422

STAMP AND INKING MEANS THEREFOR

Filed July 28, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

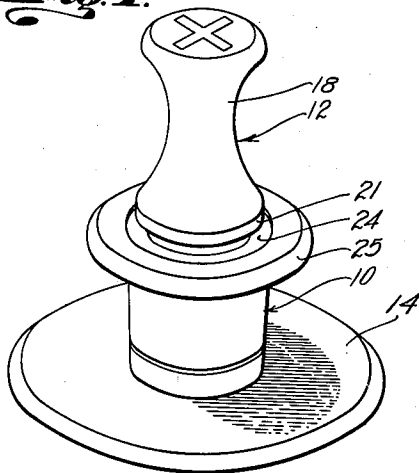


Fig. 2.

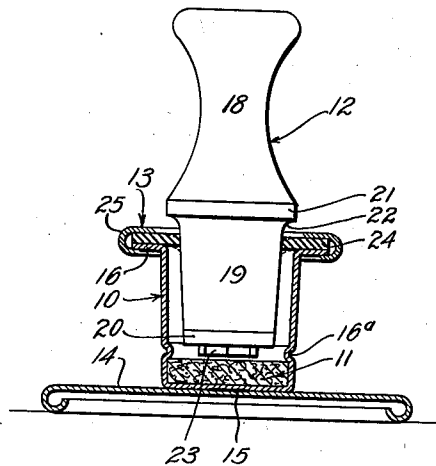


Fig. 3.

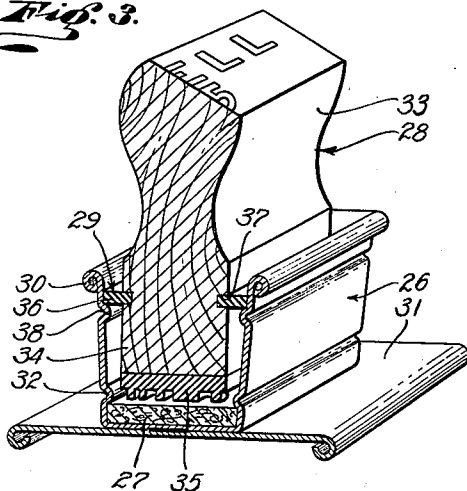


Fig. 5.

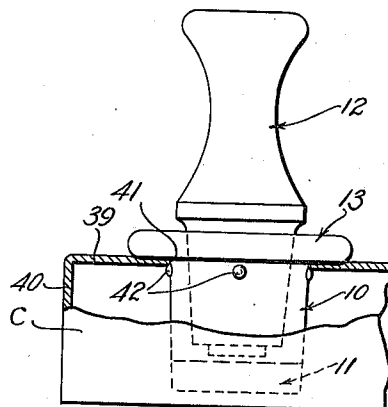
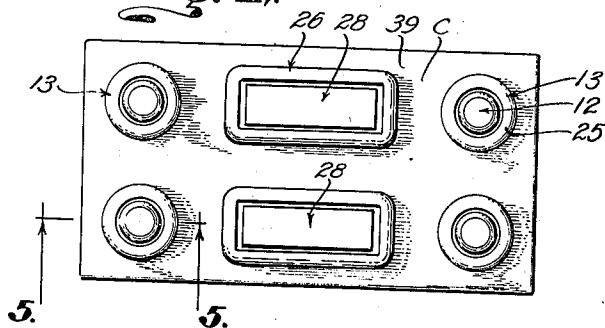


Fig. 4.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6.

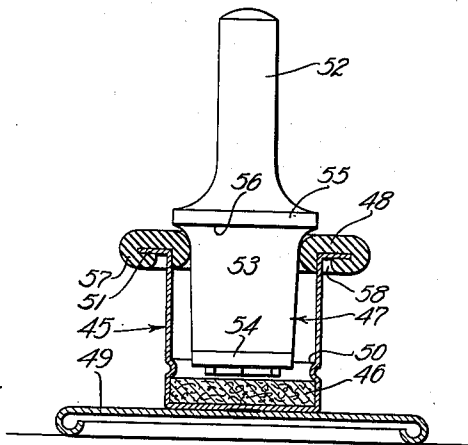


Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

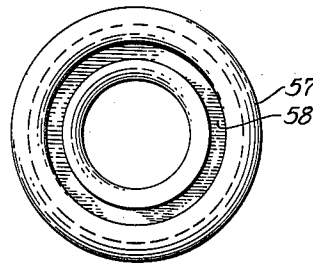


Fig. 9.

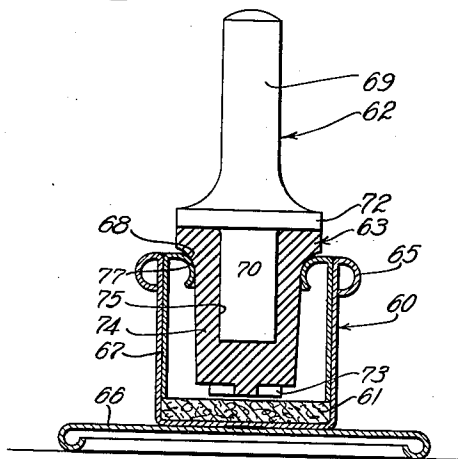
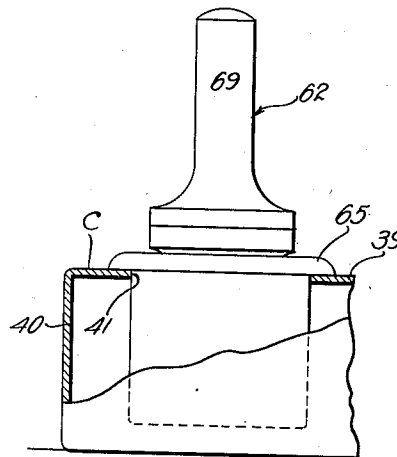


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,234,422

STAMP AND INKING MEANS THEREFOR

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Application July 28, 1939, Serial No. 287,058

13 Claims. (Cl. 101—333)

This invention relates to stamps and inking means and relates more particularly to stamps of the class known as rubber stamps and to inking means for the same. A general object of this invention is to provide rubber stamps and inking means therefor of improved design, construction and operation.

Rubber stamps are usually inked by pressing them on inking pads. This inking operation is usually performed immediately before each use of the stamp and when the stamp has been used it is returned to the inking pad or is placed in a desk drawer, on a table top, or the like. When the stamp is allowed to remain on the inking pad the ink is drawn into the impressions or letters by capillary attraction and the stamp often carries an excessive amount of ink when it is again used. If the stamp is merely placed in a desk drawer, on a table top, or the like, it smears or soils the objects which it contacts and picks up dust, dirt, etc. The inking pads employed to ink rubber stamps are usually contained in metal boxes provided with loose fitting covers. The ink soon evaporates from the pads and in many cases the covers are not properly closed and dust and dirt gathers on the moist surfaces of the pads.

Another object of this invention is to provide rubber stamps and inking means therefor that overcome the undesirable features and disadvantages of the stamps and inking means now in general use.

Another object of this invention is to provide a rubber stamp and inking means therefor in which the stamp acts as a plug or closure for the container of the inking pad preventing evaporation of the ink, preventing soiling of objects by the stamp when the stamp is not in use, and preventing dust, etc., from accumulating on the pad and stamp.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stamp and inking means of the character mentioned in which the letters or characters of the stamp may be quickly and conveniently inked by merely pressing on the knob or handle of the stamp when the stamp is in its normal position in the pad holder.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stamp and inking means of the character mentioned in which the stamp normally occupies a position where its active face or its printing characters are out of contact with the inking pad so that the stamp normally remains dry and an excessive quantity of ink cannot be drawn into the stamp by capillary action and so that

the pad is not dried out or permanently depressed by the printing surface of the stamp.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stamp and inking means of the character mentioned embodying novel and effective sealing means for sealing between the stem or body of the stamp and the pad holder to prevent the evaporation of the ink and to keep the pad and stamp clean or free of dust, etc., and prevents contact of the sides of the stamp with the pad holder and pad so that the sides of the stamp remain free of ink.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stamp and inking means of the character mentioned in which the said sealing means serves to automatically raise the stamp from the pad when the stamp is inserted in the pad holder and thereafter serves to support the stamp in a position raised above the inking surface of the pad.

A further object of this invention is to provide a stamp and inking means embodying a multiplicity of inking pads and holders for the same and individual stamps received in the holders, the several sets or assemblies of pad holders, and stamps being arranged in a convenient body or carrier.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of typical preferred forms and applications of the invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of the invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical detailed sectional view of the structure shown in Fig. 1 with the stamp in side elevation. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of another form of the invention showing the several parts in vertical cross section. Fig. 4 is a reduced plan view showing a plurality of stamp and inking units arranged in a carrier. Fig. 5 is a fragmentary vertical detailed sectional view taken substantially as indicated by line 4—4 of Fig. 5, showing the inking and stamp unit in elevation. Fig. 6 is a vertical detailed sectional view of another embodiment of the invention showing the stamp in side elevation. Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view of the sealing ring of the device shown in Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a bottom view of the sealing ring shown in Fig. 7. Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 6 showing still another form of the invention illustrating a portion of the stamp in side elevation, and Fig. 10 is a fragmentary vertical detailed sectional view illustrating the manner in which a

unit of the kind shown in Fig. 9 may be arranged in a carrier.

The form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings may be said to comprise, generally, a holder 10 containing an inking pad 11, a stamp 12 adapted to be received in the holder 10, and sealing means 13 for sealing between the holder 10 and the stamp 12 and operable to support the stamp in the holder.

The holder 10 is provided to contain the inking pad 11 and to receive the lower portion of the stamp 12. The shape and size of the holder 10 of course depend upon the shape and size of the stamp 12. In the case illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 the holder 10 is cup-shaped and is designed to receive a stamp that is round in horizontal cross section. In practice the holder 10 may be supported or mounted in any suitable manner. In the construction illustrated the holder 10 is supported on a suitable base 14. Welding 15 may secure the lower wall of the cup-like holder 10 to the base 14. The upper end of the holder 10 is provided with an outwardly projecting annular flange 16. The inking pad 11 is arranged in the bottom portion of the holder 10. The pad 11 may be formed of fabric and may be of conventional or selected construction. Means is provided for retaining the inking pad 11 in the holder 10. An annular internal flange or bead 16^a is provided on the wall of the holder 10 at the upper side of the pad 11 to hold the pad in place.

The stamp 12 may be of any shape and of course may carry any selected or required marks, numbers, characters, etc. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings the stamp 12 is an elongate member, round in horizontal cross section, and provided with a single mark or character. The stamp 12 comprises a knob or handle 18, a stem 19 for entering the holder 10, and the letter-bearing part or active part 20 on the lower end of the stem 19. The handle 18 is of selected shape and its upper end may be marked to indicate the impression or character on the active part 20. The stem 19 is formed to cooperate with the sealing means 13 as will be subsequently described. The surface of the stem 19 slopes or tapers downwardly and inwardly and the stem is connected with the handle 18 at an annular flange or shoulder 21. The shoulder 21 presents a curved lower face 22 that gradually merges with the tapering surface of the stem 19. The parts are related so that the shoulder 21 and its face 22 are above and adjacent the upper end of the holder 10 when the stamp 12 is in its normal position. The active part 20 of the stamp 12 may be a body or assembly of rubber or the like, molded, cut, or otherwise formed to have a mark or character 23 in relief. The active part 20 may be of usual construction and may be secured to the lower end of the stem 19 in any suitable manner as by cement, or the like.

The sealing means 13 operates to seal about the stem 19 of the stamp 12 to afford a tight closure for the holder 10 and to support the stamp 12 where its active part 20 is clear of the inking pad 11. In the form of the invention being described the sealing means 13 comprises a gasket, washer, or sealing element 24 on the upper end of the holder 10. The sealing element 24 is an annular or ring-like part of rubber, rubber composition, or the like. The sealing element 24 is preferably of substantial thickness and has considerable resiliency. In accordance with the invention the sealing element 24 is secured to the upper end of the holder 10 to protrude into the

mouth of the holder. In the construction illustrated the sealing element 24 rests on the lip flange 16 of the holder 10 and an annular ferule 25 engages under the flange 16 and over the sealing element 24 to retain the sealing element on the flange. The sealing element 24 is normally substantially horizontal, that is, its upper and lower faces are normally in places at right angles to the vertical axis of the holder 10. The wall of the opening in the annular sealing element 24 is engaged by the tapered surface of the stem 19 when the stamp 12 is inserted in the holder 10. With the stamp 12 in its normal position the element 24 seals with the stem 19 just below the face 22. The resiliency of the sealing element 24 holds the element substantially horizontal and in sealing and supporting cooperation with the stem 19. As illustrated in Fig. 2 the sealing element 24 engaging about the stem 19 serves to normally support the stamp 12 in a position where the active part 20 and its character 23 are clear of the inking pad 11 and serves to effectively seal about the stem 19.

In the use of the improved stamp and inking means illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings the stamp 12 is normally in the position illustrated, where it is supported by the sealing element 24. As above described, the sealing element 24 seals about the stem 19 and serves to support the stamp 12. The upper end of the holder 10 is closed and sealed by the stamp 12 and the sealing element 24 so that the ink of the pad 11 cannot evaporate. Dust and dirt are prevented from entering the holder 10 and pad 11 and the active part 20 of the stamp 12 remain clean. When it is desired to use the stamp 12 the holder 10 is engaged and pushed downwardly. This brings the printing surface of the character 23 in engagement with the surface of the pad 11 and ink is transferred to the character. When the stamp 12 is pushed downwardly the sealing element 24 merely flexes. The holder 10 is then engaged and the stamp 12 is removed from the holder 10 and used in the usual manner. After use the stamp 12 is returned to the holder 10. The stem 19 is entered in the mouth of the holder 10 and the stamp 12 is pressed downwardly and then released. The sealing element 24 is engaged by the entering stem 19 and when the stamp 12 is pushed inwardly the inner portion of the sealing element 24 is flexed downwardly and inwardly. The portion of the stem 19 immediately below the face 22 may engage in the sealing element 24 as illustrated. However, in some cases it may be preferred to relate and proportion the parts so that the face 22 engages downwardly against the sealing element 24 when the stamp 12 is pushed into the holder 10. In practice the inner part of the sealing element 24 is flexed as indicated by the broken lines in Fig. 2. When the inward pressure is removed from the handle 18 of the stamp 12 the resiliency of the element 24 returns the element to its normal, generally horizontal position, and the element lifts or raises the stamp 12 to the position illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings. This moves the printing character 23 clear of the pad 11. Thus the stamp 12 is supported by the sealing element 24 in a position where its active printing part or parts are out of engagement with the inking pad 11 and the active parts cannot receive an excessive quantity of ink by capillary action and cannot cause permanent depression or drying of the pad. The holder 10 is fully sealed by the stamp 12 engaging the sealing element 24

and the stamp is supported in a position where its handle 18 is upright and conveniently accessible. The sides of the stamp 12 need never engage the pad 11 or the walls of the holder 10 and remain clean and free of ink.

The form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawings may be said to comprise, generally, a holder 26 containing an inking pad 27, a stamp 28 entering the holder 26 and sealing means 29 for sealing between the holder 26 and the stamp 28.

The holder 26 is provided to carry the inking pad 27 and to receive the lower portion of the stamp 28. In the case illustrated the stamp 28 is horizontally elongated and the holder 26 is an elongated open-topped member proportioned to receive the stamp 28 with substantial clearance. The bottom or lower end of the holder 26 is closed and the walls or sides of the holder slope upwardly and outwardly. The upper end of the holder 26 may be finished with a suitable bead or rolled edge 30. The holder 26 may be mounted on and secured to a suitable base 31. The pad 27 is arranged in the inner or lower portion of the holder 26 and is constructed to carry or hold a suitable supply of ink. An inwardly projecting rib or bead 32 may be provided on the walls of the holder 26 to hold the pad 27 against upward displacement.

The stamp 28 comprises a suitable handle 33, a shank or stem 34, and a printing part or active part 35 on the lower end of the stem 34. The handle 33 is shaped for convenient engagement by the user and its upper end may be marked or printed to correspond to the type or print of the part 35. The stem 34 is a flat-sided part proportioned to enter the holder 26 with substantial clearance. The lower end of the stem 34 is flat to receive the active stamp part 35. The active part 35 may be formed of rubber, or the like, cut or molded to carry the required numerals, characters, etc. The active part 35 may be cemented or otherwise fixed to the lower end of the stem 34.

The sealing means 29 serves to seal between the stamp 28 and the holder 26 and to support the stamp 28. The means 29 comprises a gasket or sealing element 36 on the stem of the stamp 34 cooperable with the holder 26. The sealing element 36 is continuous or annular and completely surrounds the stem 34. The sealing element 36 is generally horizontal and projects laterally or horizontally from the side faces and end faces of the stem 34. In accordance with the invention the sealing element 36 is formed of rubber, or the like, and has substantial resiliency. The sealing element 36 may be secured to the stamp stem 34 in any suitable manner. In the case illustrated the sealing element 36 is set in a groove 37 in the stem 34 and may be cemented or otherwise fixed in the groove. The marginal or outer edges of the sealing element 36 are adapted to engage in and seal with the walls of the holder 26. As illustrated the sealing element 36 is shaped and proportioned to engage in the upper portion of the holder 26. It is preferred to provide a face or shoulder in the holder 26 for engagement by the element 36. In the case illustrated an internal rim or bead 38 is formed in the holder 26 and the sealing element 36 is adapted to seat on and seal with the bead. The parts are formed and related so that the engagement of the sealing element 36 with the bead 38 supports the stamp 28 in a position where the active part 35 is clear of and spaced above the pad 27. The sealing ele-

ment 36 may seal with both the internal surface of the holder 26 and with the bead 38 to assure a tight seal between the stamp and the holder.

The operation of the structure shown in Fig. 3 is substantially the same as in the previously described form of the invention. With the stamp 28 in its normal position the sealing element 36 engages in the sloping walls of the holder 26 and engages the bead 38 to support the stamp in a position where the part 35 is above the pad 27 and to seal with the holder 26. The holder 26 is normally tightly sealed so that the ink cannot evaporate from the pad 27 and dust, etc. cannot enter the holder. Excess ink is not drawn into the part 35 by capillary action, the part 35 being clear of the pad. When it is desired to use the stamp 28 the stamp is pressed inwardly to engage the part 35 with the pad 27 so that ink is transferred to the part. The sealing element 36 yields when the stamp is pressed inwardly. When the part 35 has been inked the stamp 28 is withdrawn from the holder 26 and used in the usual manner. Following use the stamp 28 is returned to the holder 26. The sealing element 36 engaging in the holder 26 and contacting the bead 38 limits the inward movement of the stamp 28 and following the insertion of the stamp the resiliency of the sealing element 36 lifts the stamp 28 to the position illustrated where the part 35 is clear of the pad 27.

Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings illustrate one manner in which the stamp and inking units of the invention may be arranged in a suitable carrier C. The carrier C may be formed to have a horizontal top 39 and substantially vertical side walls 40. Openings 41 are provided in the top 39 to receive holders 10 of the type shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and a pair of openings is provided in the top 39 to receive holders 26 of the type shown in Fig. 3. Where the holders 10 and 26 are arranged in the carrier C the bases 14 and 31 are omitted. The holders 10 may be lowered into the openings 41 until the flanges 16 or the ferrules 25 cooperate with the top 39. Detent projections 42 may be provided on the side walls of the holders 10 to snap under the top 39 and releasably lock the holders 10 in the carrier C. The holders 26 may be set in their openings in the top 39 so that the beads 30 rest on the top surface and may be secured in the carrier C in the same manner as the holders 10. It will be noted that the carrier C may be provided with a number of stamp and inking units of different sizes, etc., and that the stamps of the several units are all conveniently accessible for immediate use.

The form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings may be said to comprise, generally, a holder 45 containing an inking pad 46, a stamp 47 and a sealing means 48 for sealing between the holder 45 and the stamp 47. The holder 45 may be similar, generally, to the above described holder 10. As illustrated the holder 45 is a cup-like element closed at its bottom and open at its upper end. The lower wall of the holder 45 may be secured to a suitable base 49 or if desired the holder 45 may be set in the above described carrier C. The pad 46 is arranged in the lower portion of the holder 45 and is held in place by an inwardly projecting bead 50 on the wall of the holder. An outwardly projecting annular flange 51 is provided on the upper end of the holder 45.

The stamp 47 may be of substantially the same construction as the above described stamp 12. The stamp 47 comprises a handle 52, a stem 53

and an active part 54 secured to the lower end of the stem 53. An annular flange 55 occurs between the handle 52 and the stem 53. The surface of the stem 53 slopes or tapers downwardly and inwardly from adjacent the flange 55. The lower side of the flange 55 forms a downwardly facing surface 56 that curves to merge with the sloping surface of the stem 53.

The sealing means 48 serves to seal between the holder 45 and the stem 53 and supports the stamp 47 in a position where its active part 54 is clear of the inking pad 46. In this form of the invention the sealing means 48 comprises a sealing element 57 of rubber or other yielding resilient material arranged on the carrier 45 and cooperable with the face 56 and the adjacent surface portion of the stem 53. The sealing element 57 is annular or ring-like and is preferably of substantial width and thickness. The under side of the sealing element 57 is provided with an annular groove 58 for receiving the flange 51 and the upper edge portion of the holder 45. The groove 58 is formed to receive the flange 51 having an outwardly projecting or lateral branch that closely receives the flange. The sealing element 57 is adapted to be sprung onto the upper portion of the holder 45 and when in place securely grips the flange 51 and the upper part of the holder. The sealing element 57 protrudes into the mouth of the holder 45. The protruding inner portion of the sealing element 57 and the peripheral edge of the element are suitably rounded. The protruding inner part of the sealing element 57 is engaged by the face 56 and the adjacent part of the stem 53 to provide a seal about the stem and to support the stamp 47.

The face 56 and the stem 53 engaging in the sealing element 57 normally support the stamp 47 in a position where its part 54 is clear of the pad 46 and assure an effective seal so that the mouth or upper end of the holder 45 is fully closed. Thus the active part 54 remains dry and the ink cannot evaporate from the pad 46. When it is desired to use the stamp 47 the stamp is depressed or pushed downwardly to engage the part 54 with the pad 46. The sealing element 57 yields to allow this depression of the stamp 47. The stamp 47 is then withdrawn from the holder 45 and used in the usual manner. When the stamp is returned to the holder 45 the stem 53 and the face 56 cooperate with the sealing element 57 to again support the stamp and to provide a seal about the stamp.

The form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 9 of the drawings comprises, generally, a holder 60 containing an inking pad 61, a stamp 62, and sealing means 63 for sealing between the holder 60 and the stamp 62.

The holder 60 is similar to the holder 10 being a cup-shaped part with a closed bottom and substantially vertical side walls. An outwardly curled finishing bead 65 may be provided on the upper edge of the holder 60. The lower end of the holder 60 may be suitably secured to a base 66. The inking pad 61 is arranged in the lower part of the holder 60. Means is provided for retaining the pad 60 in place. This means includes a sleeve 67 arranged in the holder 60. The sleeve 67 may be force-fitted or welded in the holder. The lower end of the sleeve 67 occurs at the upper face of the pad 61 to hold the pad in place. An inwardly turned annular flange 68 is provided on the upper end of the sleeve 67. The

flange 68 preferably curls or curves downwardly and inwardly.

The stamp 62 comprises a handle 69 and a stem 70 on the handle. The handle 69 is shaped for convenient manipulation and is provided in its lower end with an enlargement or flange 72. The stem 70 is of reduced diameter and projects downwardly from the center of the enlargement or flange 72. The printing part or active part 73 of the stamp 62 is carried by the sealing means 63.

The sealing means 63 comprises a sealing element 74 of rubber, or the like, arranged on the stem 70 and adapted to cooperate with the flange 68. The sealing element 74 constitutes the lower portion of the stamp 62 being a plug-like part adapted to enter the holder 60 and wedge in the flange 68. A socket 75 is provided in the element 74 to receive the stem 70 and the element 74 may be cemented or otherwise secured to the stem. The numerals, characters, or the like, constituting the active stamp part 73, occur on the lower end of the sealing element 74 and may be formed integral with the element 74 or may be suitably secured to the element. The sealing element 74 is proportioned to protrude above the holder 60 when the stamp 62 is in its normal position. An annular downwardly facing shoulder 77 is provided on the element 74 to cooperate with the flange 68. The shoulder 77 slopes or curves upwardly and outwardly from the tapering surface of the plug-like element 74 and is designed to effectively wedge and seal in the flange 68. The engagement of the shoulder 77 with the flange 68 holds the stamp 62 in a position where the active part 73 is spaced above the pad 61.

In use the stamp 62 is normally in the position illustrated where the shoulder 77 bears on the flange 68 to seal off the upper end of the holder 60 and to support the stamp in the position where the part 73 is above the pad 61. To use the stamp 62 the stamp is pushed downwardly to engage the active part 73 with the pad 61. The sealing element 74 yields to allow this depression of the stamp. The stamp is withdrawn from the holder 60 and is used in the usual manner. When the stamp is returned to the holder 60 the element 74 and the shoulder 77 engage and wedge in the flange 68 to support the stamp in the holder and to provide a seal between the stamp and holder.

Fig. 10 of the drawings illustrates one manner in which the holder 60 of Fig. 9 may be arranged in the carrier C, described above. The holder 60 may be arranged in one of the openings 41 and the flange 65 on the upper end of the holder may rest on the top 39 of the carrier to support the unit. As illustrated, the flange 65 may be cut off to present a downwardly facing edge for bearing on the top 39 of the carrier C.

Having described only typical preferred forms and applications of my invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may appear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In combination, two elements, one a stamp, the other a holder for receiving the stamp, an inking pad in the holder, and packing material on one element cooperable with the other element to seal between the internal surface of the holder and the side surface of the stamp and to remov-

ably support the stamp in the holder in a position where it is clear of the pad, the packing material being yieldable to allow depression of the stamp into engagement with the pad.

2. In combination, two parts, one a stamp, the other a holder adapted to receive the stamp, an inking pad in the holder, and a conformable resilient sealing element of packing material on one part for sealing between the holder and stamp and normally supporting the stamp on the holder in a position where the stamp is clear of the pad, the resiliency of the packing material raising the stamp clear of the pad following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

3. A device of the character described comprising a holder open at its upper end, an inking pad in the holder, a stamp insertable in the upper end of the holder, a part on the lower end of the stamp engageable with the pad to receive ink therefrom, and a sealing element of resilient conformable sealing material sealing between the holder and stamp and normally supporting the stamp where said part is above the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element bringing the stamp to said position following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

4. A device of the character described comprising a holder open at its upper end, an inking pad in the holder, a stamp insertable in the upper end of the holder, a part on the lower end of the stamp engageable with the pad to receive ink therefrom, and a resilient sealing element on the holder engaging around the stamp and sealing with the side surface of the stamp to provide a seal between the stamp and holder and normally supporting the stamp where said part is clear of the pad, the sealing element being formed of packing material yieldable to allow depression of the stamp to bring said part into contact with the pad, the resiliency of the element lifting the stamp to move said part clear of the pad following said depression of the stamp and following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

5. A device of the character described comprising a holder open at its upper end, an inking pad in the holder, a stamp insertable in the upper end of the holder, a part on the lower end of the stamp engageable with the pad to receive ink therefrom, and a sealing part of conformable resilient material on the stamp engageable with the holder to provide a seal between the stamp and holder and normally supporting the stamp where said part is clear of the pad, the sealing part being yieldable to allow depression of the stamp to bring said part into contact with the pad, the resiliency of the sealing part lifting the stamp to move said part clear of the pad following said depression of the stamp and following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

6. A device of the character described comprising an open topped holder, an inking pad in the holder, a yieldable resilient sealing element projecting into the holder above the pad, a stamp insertable in the holder and having an active part for receiving ink from the pad, and a sloping surface on the stamp engageable with the sealing element to provide a seal about the stamp and to support the stamp in the holder where said part of the stamp is above the pad, the sealing element being yieldable to allow the stamp to be pressed downwardly to engage said part with the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element serving to lift the stamp to the position where said part

is above the pad following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

7. A device of the character described comprising an open topped holder, an inking pad in the holder, a yieldable resilient sealing element projecting into the holder above the pad, a stamp insertable in the holder and having an active part for receiving ink from the pad, and a downwardly facing shoulder on the stamp engageable with the sealing element to support the stamp in a position where said part is above the pad and to provide a seal about the stamp whereby the upper end of the holder is sealed off, the sealing element being yieldable to allow the stamp to be pressed down to bring said part against the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element returning the stamp to said position following a downward movement of the stamp in the holder.

8. A device of the character described comprising an open topped holder, an inking pad in the holder, an upwardly facing internal shoulder on the wall of the holder above the pad, a stamp adapted to be inserted in the upper end of the holder and having a part on its lower end for receiving ink from the pad, and a flexible resilient sealing element on the stamp engageable with the shoulder to support the stamp in a position where said part is above the pad and to provide a seal between the holder and the stamp, the sealing element being yieldable to allow the stamp to be pressed inward to engage said part with the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element returning the stamp to said position following insertion of the stamp.

9. A device of the character described comprising a holder having a bottom and side walls, a flange on the side walls, a flexible resilient sealing element secured to the flange and projecting inwardly at the mouth of the holder, an inking pad in the holder, and a stamp including a part for receiving ink from the pad and a tapering stem carrying said part and engageable with the sealing element to support the stamp in a position where said part is above the pad and to seal the mouth of the holder, the sealing element being yieldable so that the stamp may be pressed inwardly to engage said part with the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element returning the stamp to said position following the insertion of the stamp in the holder.

10. A device of the character described comprising a holder having a bottom and side walls, a flange on the side walls projecting inwardly at the mouth of the holder, an inking pad in the holder, and a stamp including a handle, a stem of flexible resilient material on the handle engageable in the flange to close the mouth of the holder and to support the stamp, and a part on the stem engageable with the pad to receive the ink therefrom, said stem yielding to allow the part to be pressed against the pad, the resiliency of the stem serving to return the stamp to the position where the part is above the pad.

11. A device of the character described comprising a holder having a bottom and side walls, a flange on the side walls projecting inwardly at the mouth of the holder, an inking pad in the holder, and a stamp including a handle, a longitudinally tapered stem of flexible resilient material on the handle engageable in the flange to close the mouth of the holder and to support the stamp, and a part on the stem engageable with the pad to receive the ink therefrom, said stem yielding to allow the part to be pressed against the pad, the resiliency of the stem serving to re-

turn the stamp to the position where the part is above the pad.

12. A device of the character described comprising a holder open at its upper end, an inking
5 pad in the holder, a stamp insertable in the upper end of the holder, a part on the lower end of the stamp engageable with the pad to receive ink therefrom, means for retaining the pad in the
10 holder, and a sealing element of resilient sealing material for sealing between the holder and stamp and normally supporting the stamp where said part is above the pad, the resiliency of the sealing element bringing the stamp to said position following insertion of the stamp in the holder.

13. A device of the character described comprising a carrier having an opening, a holder set in the opening, an inking pad in the holder, a rubber stamp received in the holder and comprising a handle to project upwardly from the carrier, a stem to enter the holder and a part on the stem adapted to receive ink from the pad, and conformable sealing material for sealing between the holder and the stem to provide a complete air
5 tight seal around the stem and normally supporting the stamp where the said part is clear of the
10 pad.

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