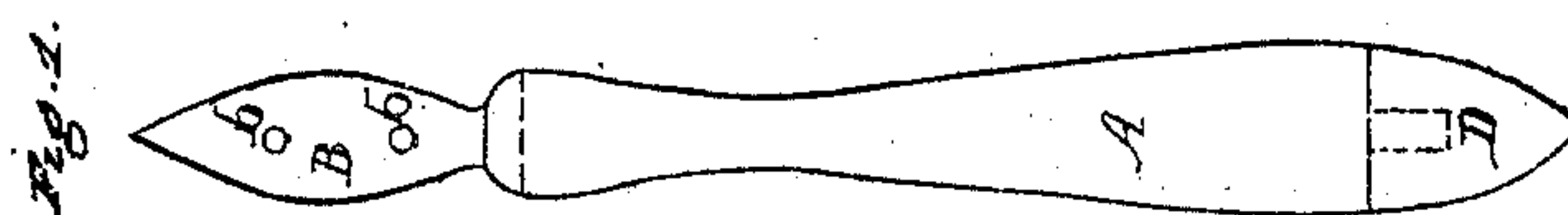
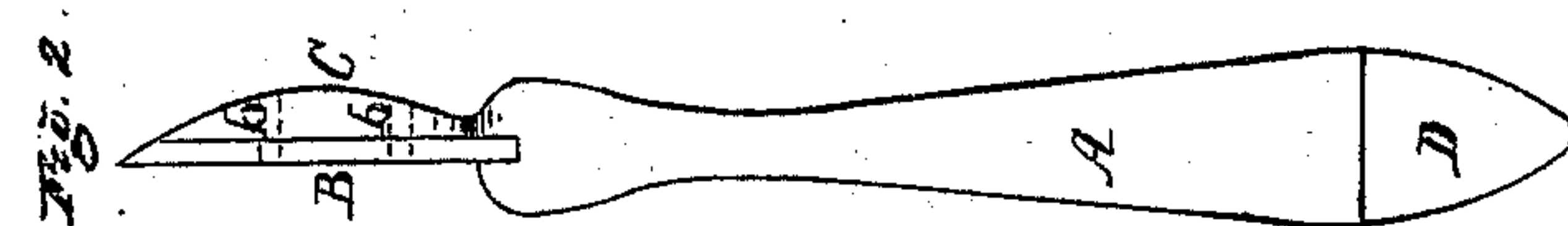
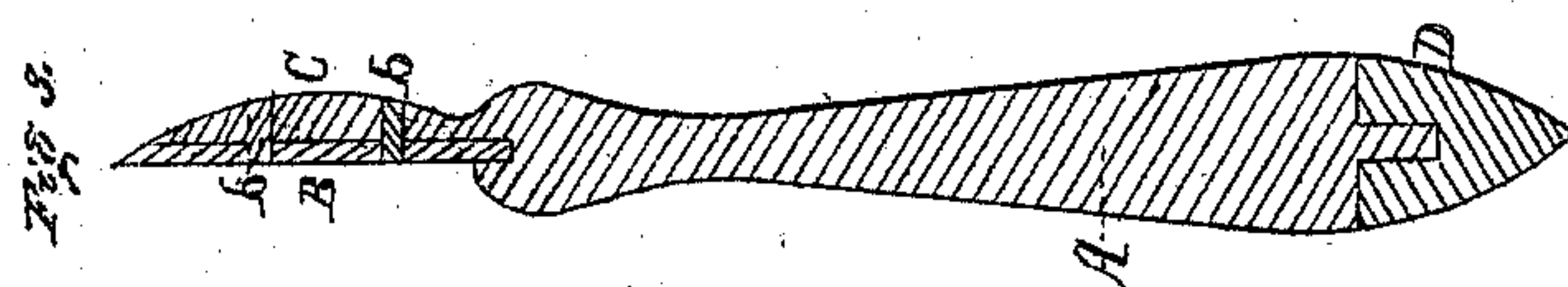
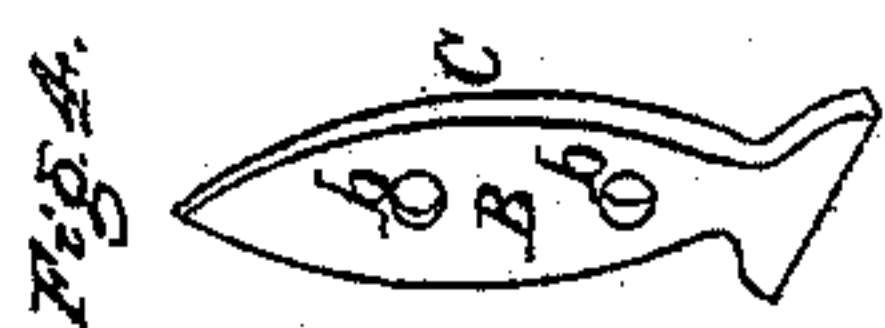
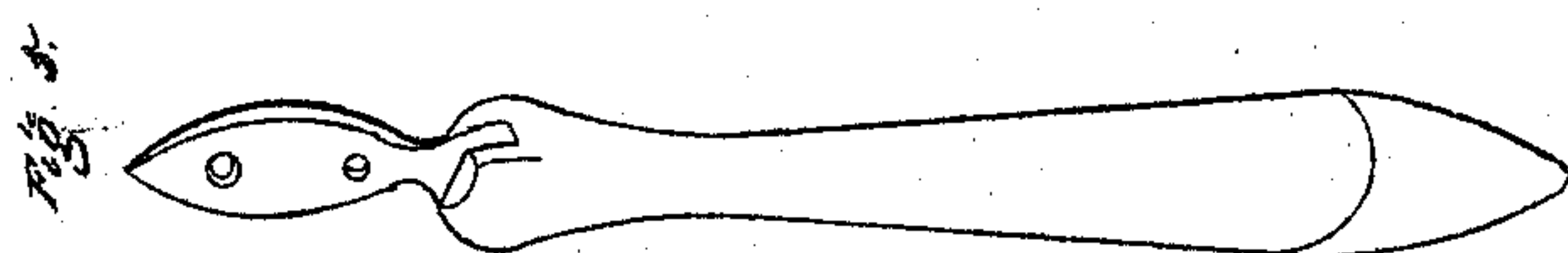


J. M. Hicks, Eraser.

No 1284.
No 32288.

Patented May 14, 1861



J. M. Hicks, by
S. P. Clark
Attorney

Wm. H. Hughes, Wm. H. Hughes
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. HICKS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

ERASER.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 32,288, dated May 14, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. HICKS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain
5 new and useful Improvement in Erasers; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, that forms part of this specification, is such a full and clear description as
10 to enable others skilled in such matters to make and use the same.

Though the term "eraser" might be held to apply to any instrument or implement including pocket knives and so forth, which
15 serve the purpose of excising blots or writing made with ink, it is now commonly understood, as pertaining to or particularizing a desk implement which has become almost indispensable to the penman and
20 draftsman and which is distinguishable from a knife as consisting of a moderately long handle with a prismatic or other similarly shaped or solid and non elastic blade at its one end and rigidly attached thereto,
25 also presenting one or two erasing edges, flat or curved surface and sometimes a burnishing face or back, which description will suffice to explain the modern eraser, upon which my invention is an improvement.

30 In the accompanying drawing Figures 1, 2 and 3, represent a longitudinal face, side view and section of an eraser constructed according to my improvement, and Figs. 4 and 5 views in perspective of parts of my
35 eraser.

In these figures, (A) designates the handle preferably made of wood, bone, ivory, horn, hard-rubber, or other suitable animal or vegetable material or compound.

40 (B) is the blade presenting one flat surface and bounded by shelving sides, the edges to which and to the flat surface form the cutting or erasing edges. This blade may be of uniform thickness and sufficiently
45 stout to avoid springing. It is or may be inserted in the handle by fitting it crosswise into a notch or slot (*a*) cut in the end of the handle, without the addition of a shank projecting from it into the handle. Said
50 blade is also further secured to the handle and kept straight and central therein or to, and prevented from turning or getting loose, as it is apt to do when held by a shank projecting into the handle, by extending the
55 handle to form a back (C) to the blade, which back also serves to support the blade

that may accordingly be made thinner without establishing objectionable elasticity. Pins, rivets or dowels (*b b*) may be used to connect said back (C) with the blade. By
60 such a construction the eraser being lighter, it may be made large without being cumbersome, manufacture is facilitated and a cheaper and better article produced. But
65 this is not all. The back (C) to the blade, whether formed by an extension of the handle or made of a separate piece from it, distinct and of different material from the blade but secured to it, forms a pattern or
70 guide whereby to sharpen or polish the blade true to its original shape and position in the handle, which it is difficult to do where a solid blade of steel having no such back piece, is used. Likewise said back (C) when
75 made of wood, bone, ivory, rubber, or other suitable animal or vegetable material, product or compound, forms a better burnishing surface than is attainable from one of steel, laying down the fibers raised by the erasing
80 blade smoother and closer, and giving a more natural or normal gloss or finish to the paper, as is well understood by those using ordinary erasers which are frequently
85 turned end over end, in order to burnish with the upper end or portion of the handle, but which end turning is here avoided and the same or better effect produced by only slightly turning the eraser axially. Whether
90 this different effect in burnishing is due to the relative harshness of steel and softness of wood, bone, ivory, horn or rubber and so forth, or to certain resinous, gummy or oleaginous qualities of the latter, causing the fibers burnished down to stick as laid
95 and giving a smoothness to without greasing the surface of the paper, it is immaterial here to discuss.

I further provide the eraser, or it may be further provided, with an india rubber eraser for pencil marks and so forth, which
100 may also serve as a burnisher to lay down the fibers raised by the erasing blade or to give a finishing touch thereto and to remove any soiled marks produced by the erasing blade, or its back, or otherwise. This I do
105 by furnishing the handle at its upper end with an india rubber cap or projection (D), thus materially adding to the uses of the implement and combining two devices in one.

Having now described my improvement
110 or improvements on erasers, I claim:

1. Providing the eraser blade with an in-

dependent back made of bone, rubber, ivory, wood, or other suitable animal or vegetable substance or substances separate or combined, essentially as and for the purpose or
5 purposes herein set forth.

2. Forming an independent supporting and burnishing back to the blade by extending the handle which carries the latter, substantially as shown and described.

10 3. Uniting the blade with the handle by inserting it in a cross cut or slot in the end of the handle, in combination with riveting or holding it by pins to the independent back

formed by extension of the handle, essentially as specified. 15

4. The combination with an erasing blade of metal or its equivalent and handle thereto of an india-rubber eraser or burnisher, as herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 20 name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES M. HICKS.

Witnesses:

WM. CLEVELAND HICKS,
HOWARD M. WILLIAMS.