

R. M. AUSTIN.

Combined Rulers and Blotters.

No. 140,989.

Patented July 22, 1873.

Fig. 1  
O

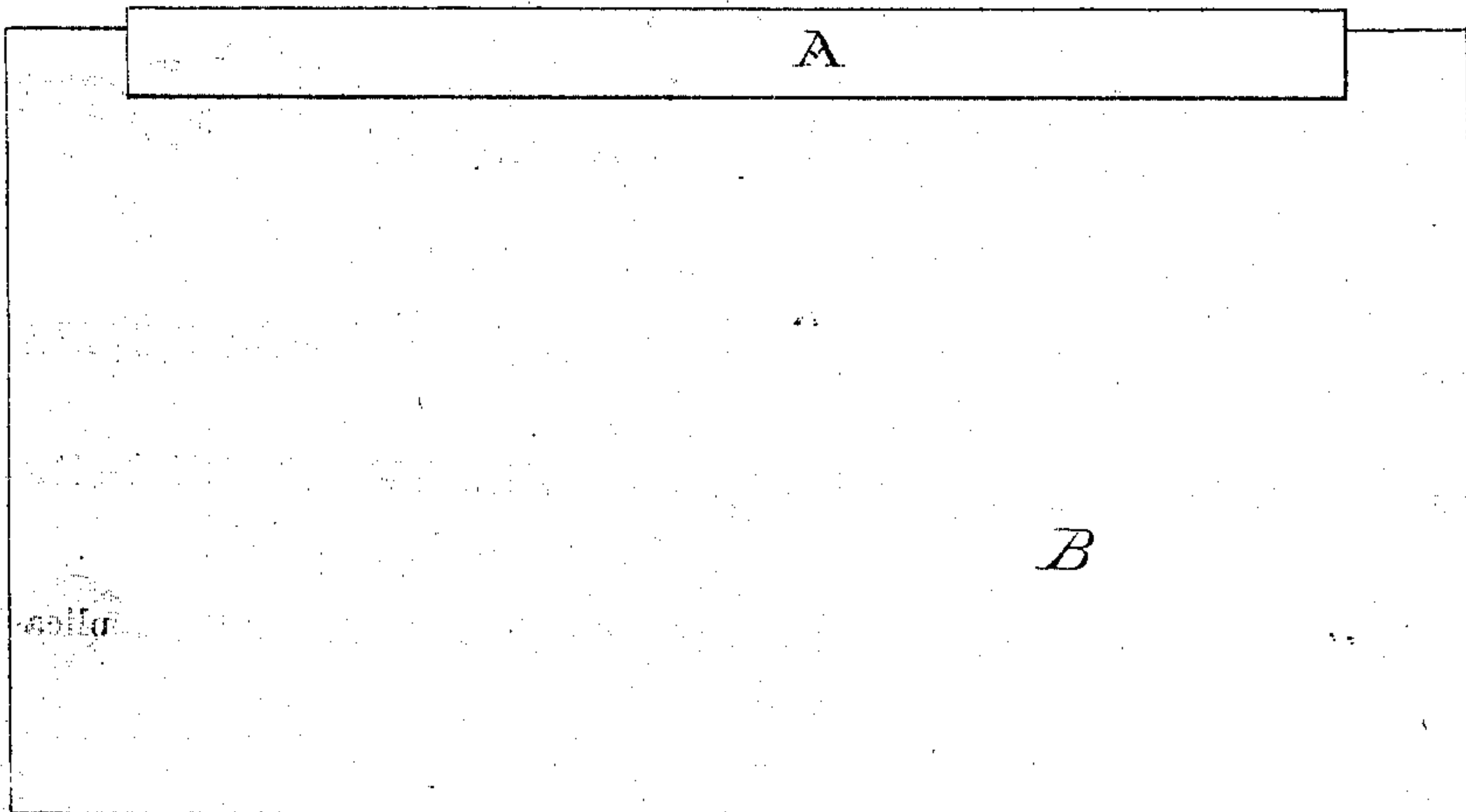


Fig. 2  
O

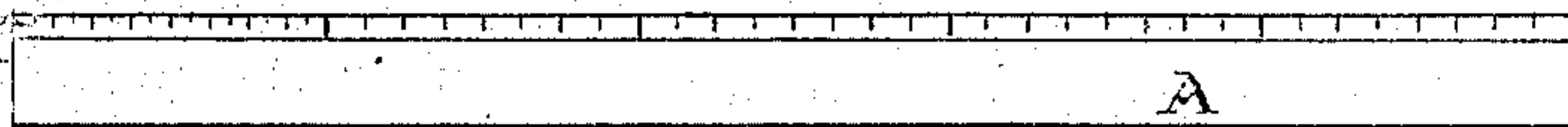


Fig. 3  
O  
 $a/a^3$

Fig. 4  
O



Witnesses { Wm. H. Hale.  
John F. Grant.

Robert M. Austin  
per Edw. Brown  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT M. AUSTIN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED RULERS AND BLOTTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **140,989**, dated July 22, 1873 ; application filed May 29, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROBERT M. AUSTIN, of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a Combined Ruler and Blotter, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists in the construction of a ruler or straight-edge of wood, metal, or any material answering such purpose, and so forming it that it may be secured easily to a sheet of blotting-paper, such as is usually employed for absorbing ink from a written surface.

Figure 1 shows the ruler A secured to the blotting-paper B. Fig. 2 is a plan of the ruler. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through the ruler. Fig. 4 is a cross-section through the ruler and blotting-paper when secured together.

The ruler A is formed of sheet-brass bent into a triangular form, as shown in Fig. 3. There is a short side,  $a'$ , on a bevel, suitable for ruling lines with a pencil or ink, as is common with wooden rulers. If this said edge is made hard and with sharp corners it can also be used as a cutter, against which checks

may be torn from a check-book. The two long sides  $a^2$  and  $a^3$  are bent so as to nearly touch each other, leaving a narrow slit, into which the edge of a sheet of blotting-paper is inserted and drawn through the ruler, which adheres firmly to it by the pressure of the elastic sides  $a^2$  and  $a^3$  upon the soft and yielding blotter. The ruler can be marked to a scale of feet and inches, if desirable, as shown in Fig. 2.

By this invention I combine in one article a blotter, suitable for absorbing ink from writing, and a hard straight-edge, which can be used as a ruler or a cutter, against which checks are torn from check-books.

I claim—

The ruler A, formed with spring-clips  $a^2$   $a^3$ , combined with a sheet of blotting-paper, B, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

ROBT. M. AUSTIN.

Witnesses:

EWD. BROWN,  
JOHN F. GRANT.