

T. MERRILL.

Combined Rulers and Blotters.

No. 145,068.

Patented Dec. 2, 1873.

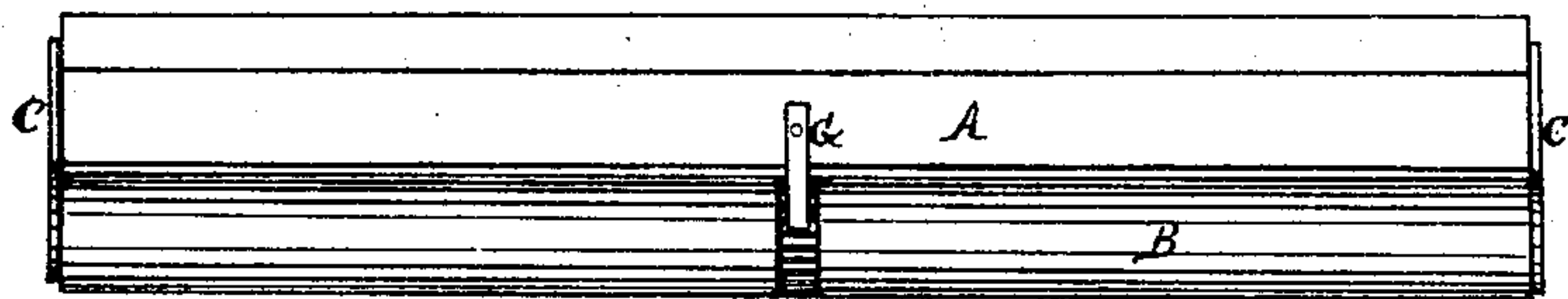


Fig. 1.

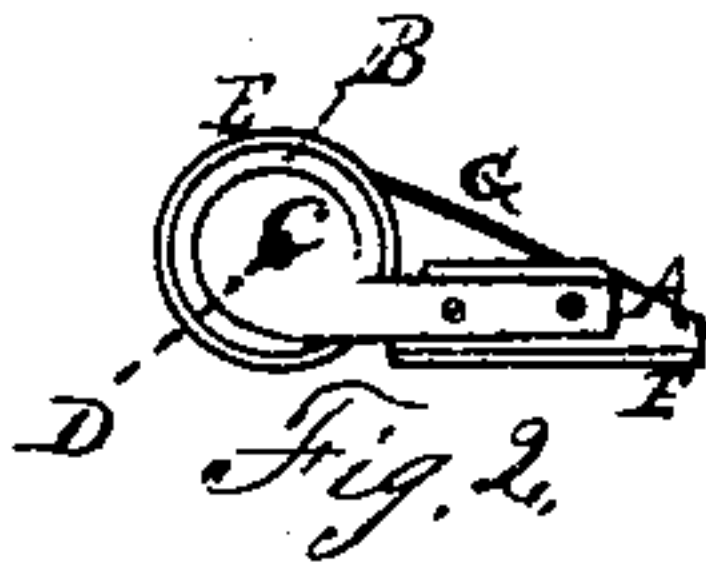


Fig. 2.

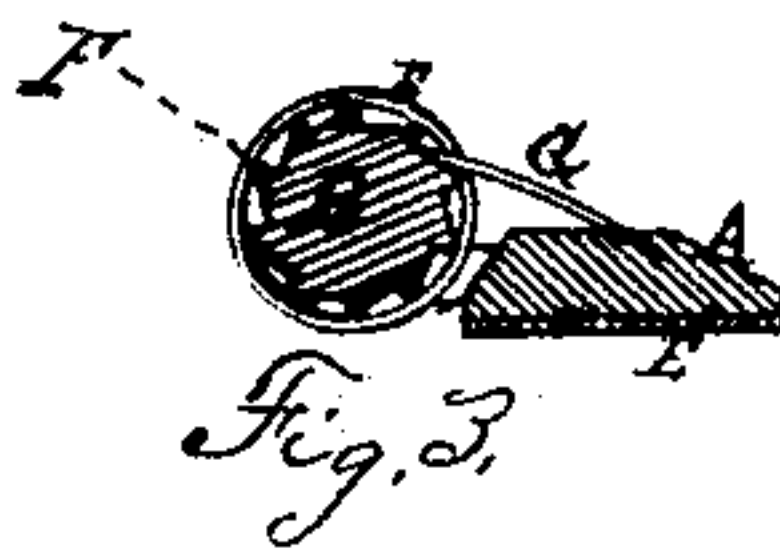


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:

Frank H. Jordan.
Edwin H. Haskell

Inventor:

Thomas Merrill
per atty.
Wm. Henry Clifford

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS MERRILL, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED RULERS AND BLOTTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **145,068**, dated December 2, 1873; application filed September 1, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS MERRILL, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Ruler and Blotter; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, that will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a top plan. Fig. 2 is an end elevation. Fig. 3 is a transverse section.

Same letters show like parts.

The object of my invention is to provide a device for blotting, ruling, and spacing pages of manuscript, &c. My device also contemplates graduated ruling, or the making of a number of lines at small but equal distances from each other.

I do not claim a rule operating on or with a roller or rollers.

My invention consists in the combination, hereinafter described, of a rule with a roller, in the manner set forth, and also of the combination of the rule, roller, and a device to effect graduated ruling; also, of the ruler, roller, and blotter, in combination.

A shows the rule. B shows the roller. These are united at their ends by the connecting-pieces C. These pieces C are rigidly fastened to the rule A by screws, or any convenient means.

The roller B revolves, as the device is passed over any surface, on the short shafts or pins D, extending through the connecting-pieces C, and penetrating into the ends of the roller a proper distance. As the device is drawn over any surface, the roller revolves, and draws, of course, the rule with it, resting flat on the surface.

On the bottom face of the rule and around the periphery of the roller is a blotting substance, E. F show notches or teeth on the roller. Into these fits the spring-tongue G, riveted, also, to the top surface of the rule A.

When a number of parallel lines are to be made, this can be done by moving the roll sufficiently far to let the tongue slip over each

tooth at a moment, and making the line after each of such single motions of the roll. This will secure the equality or uniformity of space between the lines.

Several sets of teeth can be made on one roll, and these teeth of such size or depth as to produce any desired variety of spaces between the parallel lines desired to be made. In such case the tongue G can be made to slide along the top surface of the rule, to fit any single one of the sets of teeth on the roll.

Advantage can sometimes be obtained by having the roll grooved, so that when it rests on a surface it shall so rest on two of the longitudinal projections between the grooves.

A roughened surface can be made on the roll, to prevent its moving too readily when used for certain purposes.

The roll may be scooped or recessed, so that only its ends shall come in contact with the surface over which it is passed, in order to avoid the roll being turned or deflected by such inequalities.

The blotting substance on the bottom surface of the roll can be so located as to absorb any of the ink from the pen used to make the lines, and so prevent it from extending to the paper, or destroying the sharpness of the lines.

I do not claim the combination of a blotter, roll, and ruler as shown in the patent of U. S. Ball, No. 112,406, nor a removable blotter-roll connected with a case partially surrounding the roll, shown in the same patent; neither do I claim the combination of a lateral gage with a roller, in order to make the distances between the lines uniform, as described in J. C. Nevins' forfeited case, received and filed January 28, 1867; neither do I claim arranging one or more ratchet-wheels and pawls on a cylindrical ruler, the ruler being carried in two side arms projecting from a bar, to which a handle is attached for moving the roller, as shown in W. H. Mayo's forfeited case, received and filed November 2, 1867.

My invention differs from the ones above referred to in several particulars—viz., in having a blotter upon the roller, one on the ruler, and in having the spring-pawl fastened to the ruler and playing into the teeth of the pawl upon the roller; also, in having the

spring so arranged as to slide along the top of the rule, to fit differently-spaced teeth upon the roll.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the blotting-rule A, blotting-roller B, side pieces C, tongue G, and teeth F, for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of August, 1873.

THOMAS MERRILL.

Witnesses:

WM. HENRY CLIFFORD,
FRANK H. JORDAN.