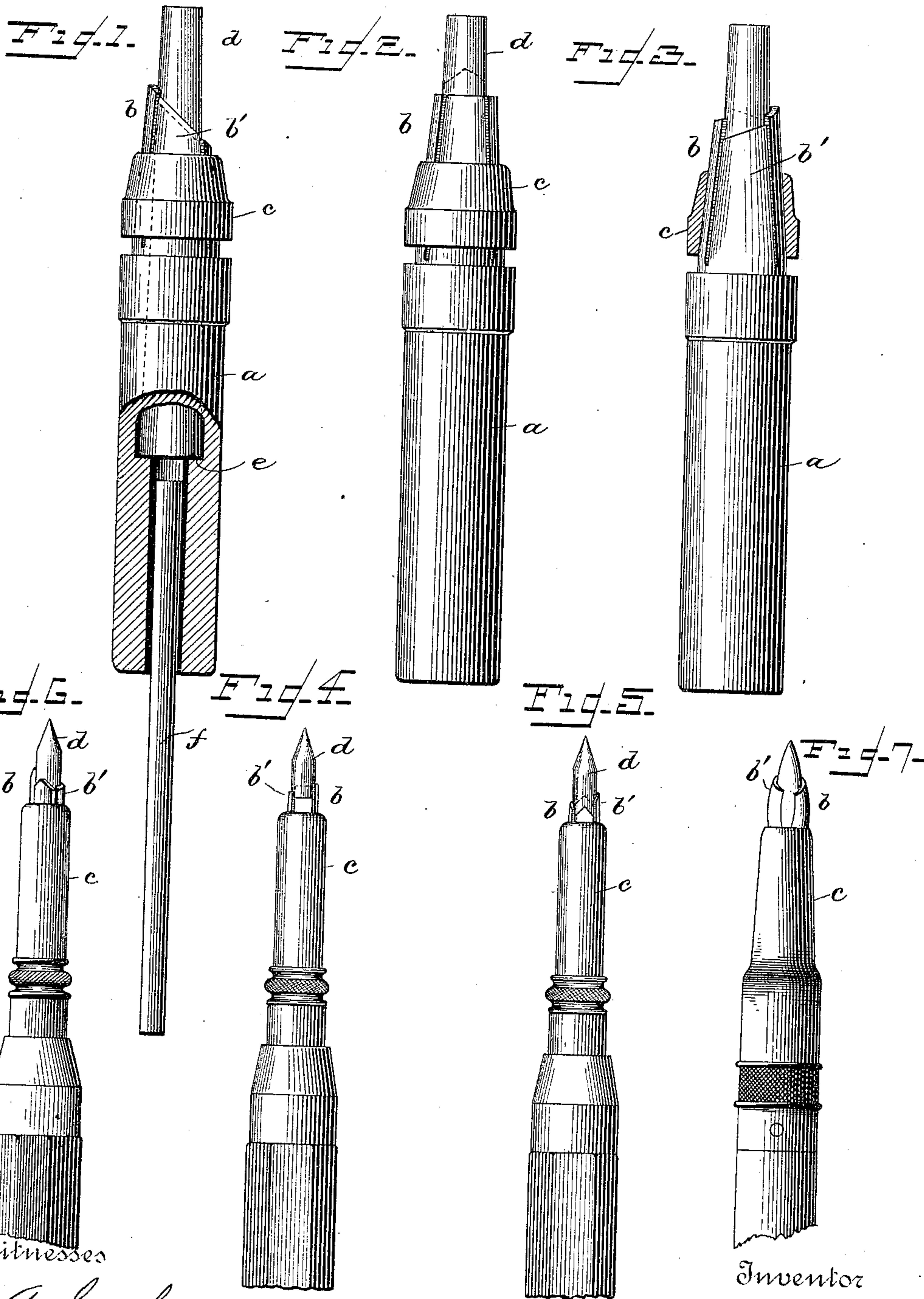


(No Model.)

M. C. MEIGS.
CRAYON OR PENCIL HOLDER.

No. 336,250.

Patented Feb. 16, 1886.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CRAYON OR PENCIL HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 336,250, dated February 16, 1886.

Application filed December 30, 1885. Serial No. 187,107. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Crayon and Pencil Holders; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to that class of pencil and crayon holders commonly known as "machine" or "propeller" or "automatic" pencils, in which a tube to contain a movable crayon or marking-piece is split at its end to form clamping-jaws, which, when compressed upon the crayon or marking-piece within a movable sheath or ring, hold the marking-piece in place for writing or marking. In all such pencils to me known the clamping-jaws (of which there are two, three, or four) terminate in a plane at right angles to the axis of the marking-piece, which causes them, when compressed, to cut or crack the marking-piece, so that when pressure is applied upon the point thereof it is liable to break off, as it frequently does, resulting in great inconvenience and annoyance to the user, and in great waste of the marking material. In my own experience such a pencil as the red or blue Faber machine pencil has been laid aside as useless on this account.

The object of my invention therefore is to overcome these difficulties and otherwise to improve this kind of pencil; and to these ends it consists, broadly stated, in forming the clamping-jaws of different lengths, so that the nipping or holding ends thereof shall bear upon the marking-piece at points in different planes and not opposite each other. By this arrangement the jaws will not nip or cut the marking-piece.

A minor feature of my improvement is the provision, within the crayon or pencil container, of a shoulder or rest for the end of the crayon or pencil, and a hole through which a rod or a pencil may be inserted to push or feed the crayon or pencil forward in the event of its sticking fast.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating my improvements, in which like letters of reference designate corresponding parts, Figure

1 illustrates in elevation and partial section a crayon-holder embodying my improvements, the said figure showing but one mode of constructing the clamping-jaws. Fig. 2 illustrates substantially the ordinary construction of clamping-jaws—that is, with their ends terminating in a single plane at right angles to the axis of the marking-piece. Fig. 3 illustrates a modification of the construction of the clamping-jaws; and Figs. 4, 5, and 6 illustrate on an enlarged scale other modifications of my improvement as it may be applied in the ordinary machine pencil now in common use for lead or colored crayons; and Fig. 7 illustrates my improvement as embodied in a holder having two clamping-jaws.

The letter *a* designates the tubular portion or body of the holder, or that portion which contains the pencil or crayon; and *b* is the split clamping end thereof. This clamping end is composed of elastic jaws *b'*—for example, two three, or four in number—made of different lengths.

c designates a sheath or ring, which may be fixed or screw-threaded upon the pencil-container, or it may be smooth and held thereon by friction alone. This sheath is constructed so that when it is properly moved upon the clamping-jaws or split tube, or conversely when the clamping-jaws or split tube are moved longitudinally through it, the said jaws are pressed toward each other against the crayon or pencil *d*, and secure the same firmly in the end thereof.

It will readily be understood that when the jaws made of different lengths are thus pressed against the pencil or crayon, the different fingers or jaws will bear upon the crayon or pencil at points lying in different planes and not opposite to each other, thus preventing the tendency of said clamping-jaws from cutting the marking-piece in the circumferential line hereinbefore referred to, as by the ordinary construction.

In Fig. 1 I have illustrated the clamping end finished in two planes oblique to the axis of the marking material, and preferably in planes which will be parallel with the surface to be written upon when the pencil is held in writing or marking.

In Fig. 2, which, as before stated, illustrates,

substantially, the usual manner of finishing the clamping-jaws, I have indicated by broken lines the extent to which a crayon or pencil may be worn down by use before it becomes necessary to farther advance the marking material for a fresh supply. It is obvious that with an equal extension beyond the end of a clamping-jaw the crayon illustrated in Fig. 1 may be used for a longer time without renewed feeding than that of the ordinary construction illustrated in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 3, illustrating another modification of my invention, each individual clamping-jaw is beveled at its end like a saw-tooth, but all of said jaws being of different lengths.

Fig. 4 illustrates each finger finished square, but all of different lengths.

In Fig. 5 each end is finished with an angular or V-shaped point, the sides of which points are at an angle to the sides of the clamping-jaw and all of different lengths.

In Fig. 6 I have illustrated more than one form of jaw in the same pencil.

In Fig. 7 but two jaws are illustrated, each of which has its end cut off in lines in different planes.

In Fig. 1 I have illustrated in section that end of the holder which is provided with an internal shoulder or abutment, as indicated at *e*. This shoulder will prevent the crayon or pencil from accidentally falling out at that end. A hole or opening, *f*, of smaller diameter than the crayon or pencil is also provided at that end through which a rod, a pencil, or other similar tool may be passed to force or feed the crayon forward should it become fixed within the holder.

It will be gathered from the foregoing description that the essential feature of my invention is the provision of clamping-jaws of different lengths, so that no two of them will bear upon the marking-piece in a single plane at right angles to the axis thereof, nor at points opposite to each other, whereby they will not

act to cut or break the material. It will be understood, therefore, that I do not limit myself to any peculiar construction of the individual clamping-jaw.

An important advantage resulting from my improvement over the old construction is that the longer or longest jaw will afford a better support for the marking-piece when writing, and the said marking-piece may be worn down to a greater extent than heretofore possible without renewed feeding.

It is immaterial whether the jaws made in accordance with my invention do or do not extend beyond the compression sheath or ring, as their efficiency in preventing the cutting or cracking of the marking material will be the same in both cases.

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

1. The herein-described improved crayon or pencil holder, consisting of a tubular crayon or pencil receiving portion having one end provided with elastic clamping-jaws of different lengths, a compressing sheath or ring for said jaws, and the other end of the holder provided with an interior shoulder and opening, substantially as described.

2. In a pencil-holder, the tubular crayon or pencil container provided at one end with elastic clamping-jaws of different lengths, and a sheath for compressing said clamping-jaws, substantially as described.

3. In a pencil-holder, the tubular pencil or crayon container provided with clamping-jaws at one end, and an internal shoulder and an opening at its other end, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS.

Witnesses:

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