

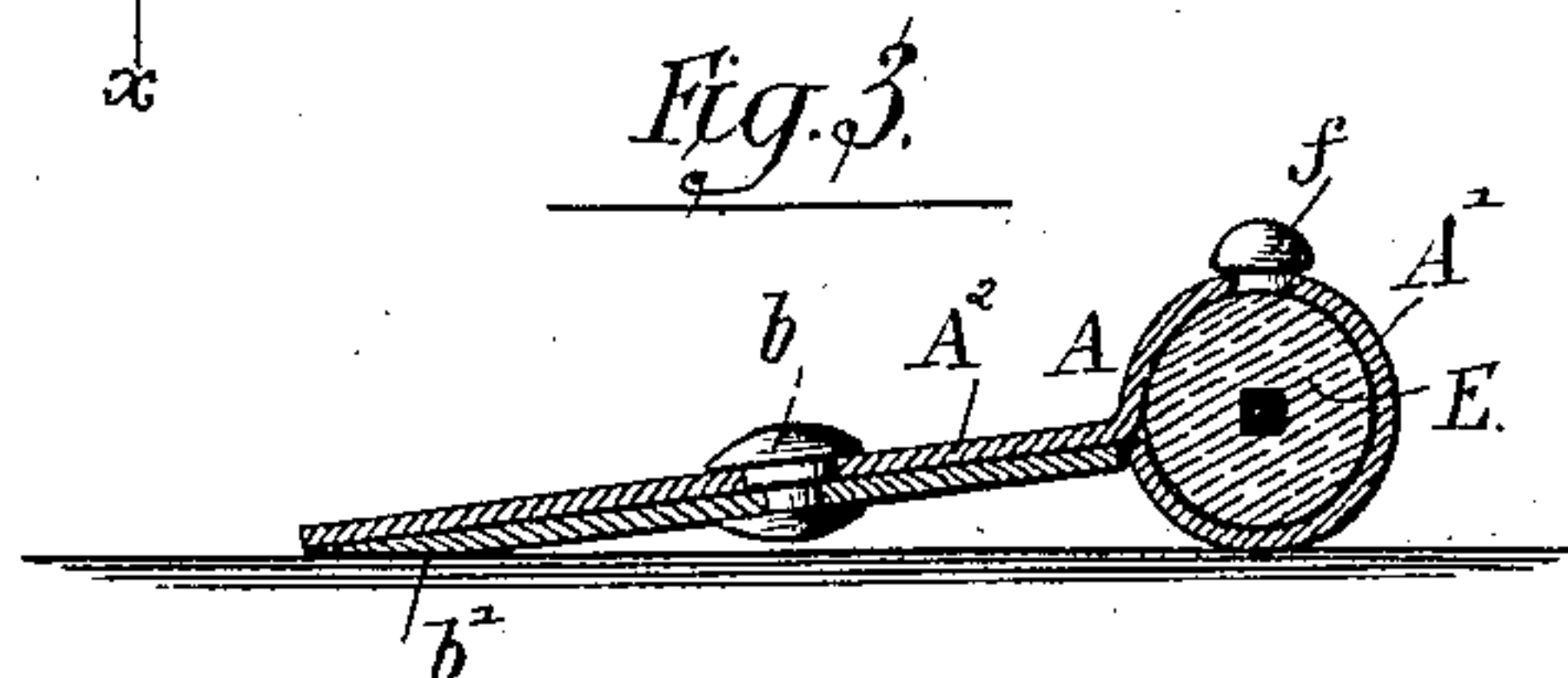
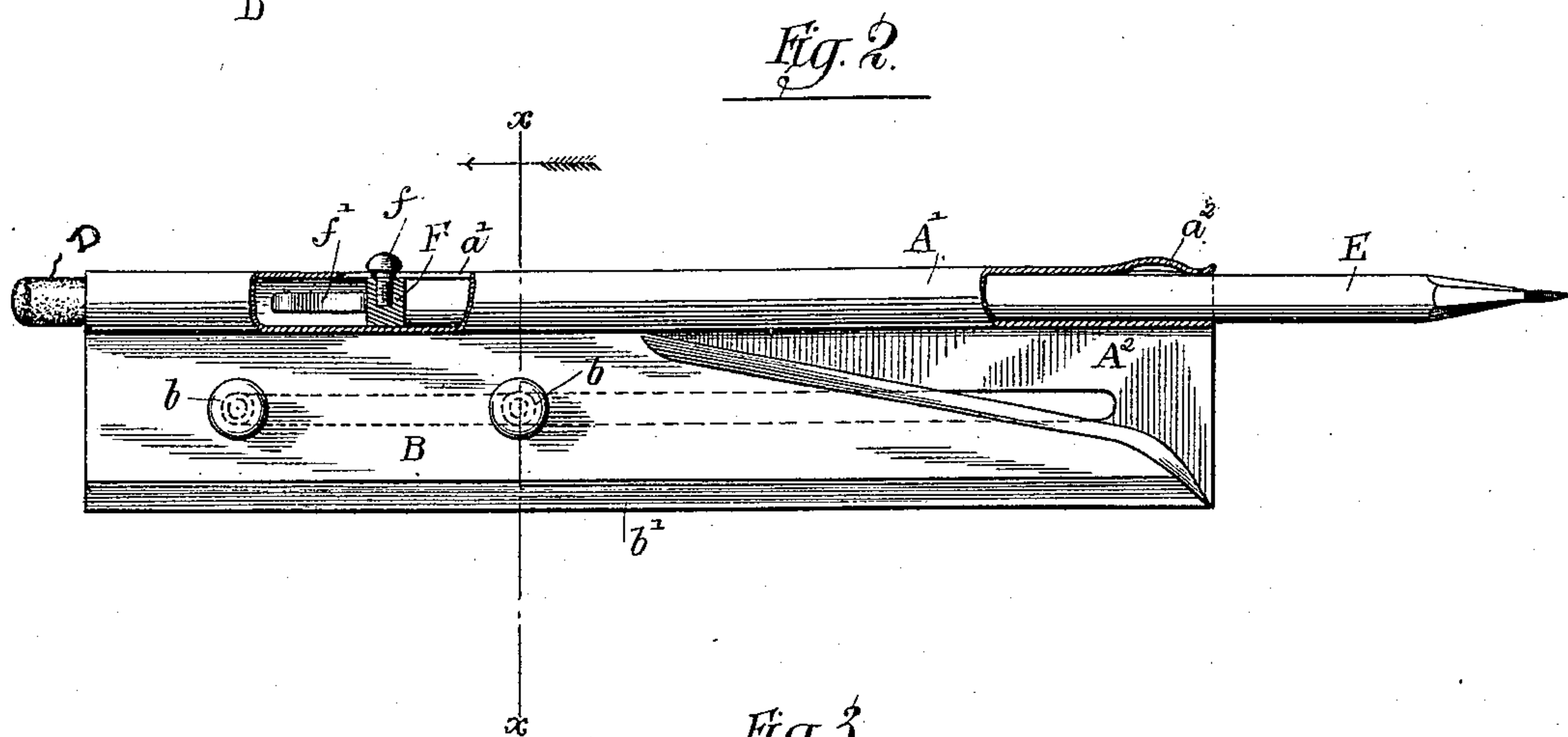
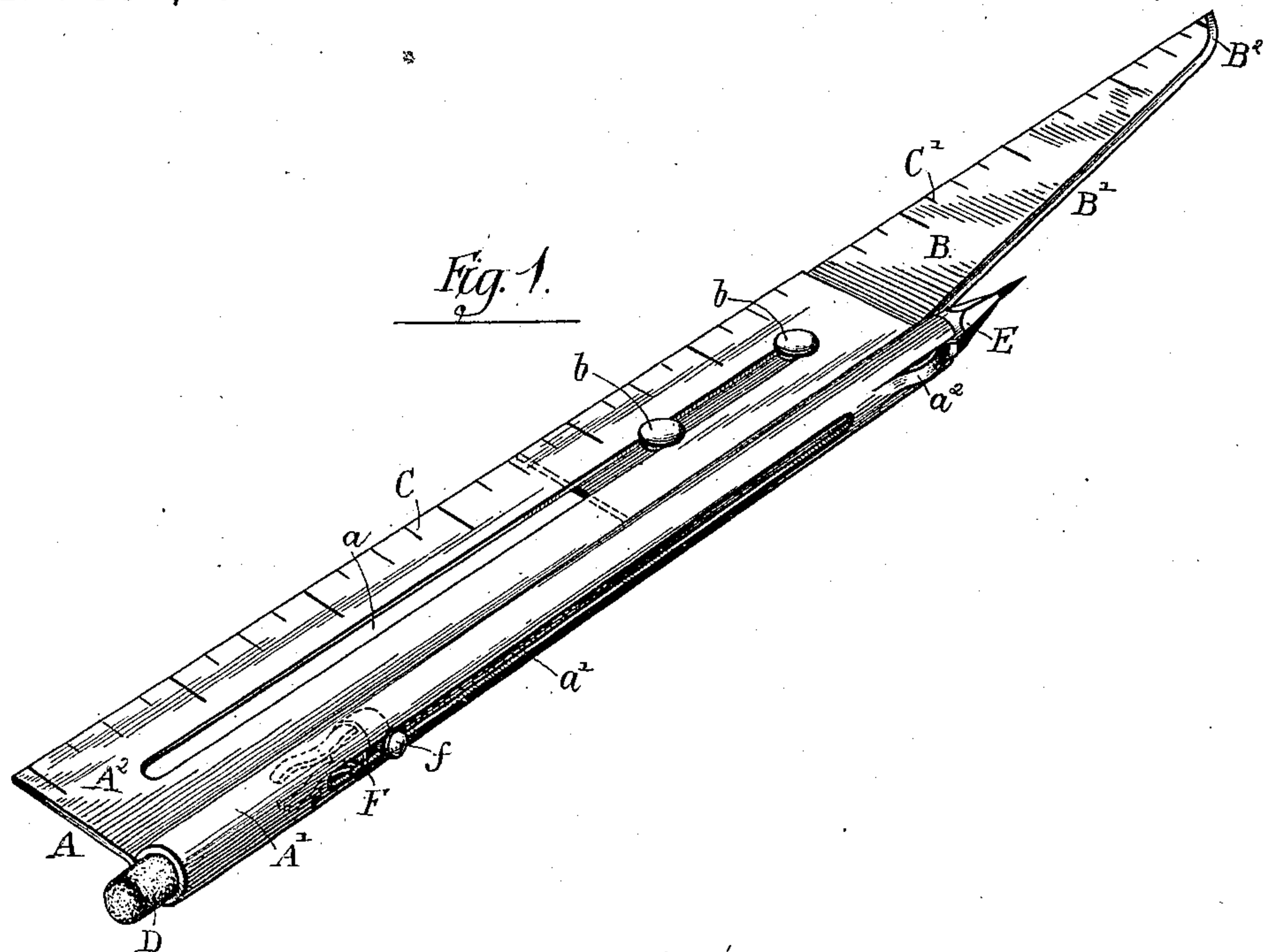
(No Model.)

A. R. McDONALD.

COMBINED RULER AND PAPER CUTTER.

No. 354,800.

Patented Dec. 21, 1886.



Witnesses:-

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER R. McDONALD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED RULER AND PAPER-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,800, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed February 26, 1886. Serial No. 193,361. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER R. McDONALD, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Combination Implements for Desk Use; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the let-
10 ters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to an improved combination implement in the nature of a ruler and paper-tearer for use in offices or about a
15 desk; and it consists in the matters hereinafter described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view
20 of a combination implement containing the several features of construction embraced in my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view, from beneath, of the same, with parts in section. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken upon
25 line *xx* of Fig. 2.

As illustrated in the accompanying drawings, the main portion or body A of the implement comprises a cylindric part, A', and a flat plate or wing, A², connected therewith
30 in such manner as to extend laterally therefrom, the said parts A' A², as herein shown, being formed of a single piece of sheet metal bent to the required shape.

B is a thin plate or blade placed beneath
35 and overlapping the plate A², and having sliding connection with the said plate in such manner that it may be extended longitudinally at one end of the part A, or moved into a position to lie at one side of and against the
40 plate. The plate or wing A is preferably, but not necessarily, arranged radially with reference to the longitudinal axis of the cylindric part A', and is attached to the latter in such manner that when the implement is resting
45 upon a plain surface the said plate A² will stand in an inclined position.

For the general purposes of my invention sliding connection between the plate or blade B and the main part A of the implement may
50 be made in any desired or preferred manner. In the particular construction herein shown as one practical way of carrying my invention

into effect said sliding connection is formed by means of a longitudinal slot, *a*, in the plate or wing A², which slot is engaged with headed
55 studs *b b* upon the plate or blade B. The side edge of the blade B and the outer or free edge of the plate A² are made flush, or are arranged in alignment with each other, so as to form a straight continuous edge for the purpose of a
60 ruler when the parts are extended; and in order to enable the edge of the said plate A², as well as the edge of the overlapping blade or plate B, to rest in contact with the paper, both for convenience in ruling and measuring,
65 and to enable the edge of the ruler to firmly hold the paper beneath it when said edge is used as a guide in tearing the paper in a well-known manner, the lower marginal part of the said plate or blade B is beveled, as indi-
70 cated at *b'*, Figs. 2 and 3, the beveled surface preferably being made to form nearly a sharp edge upon the said plate or blade at such an inclination as to permit the extreme edge of the blade to come in contact with the surface
75 upon which the ruler rests, as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

The wing or plate A² will preferably be provided at its edge with a suitable scale, (indicated at C,) which scale will preferably be con-
80 tinued upon the plate or blade B, as indicated at C', the division-lines of the two parts of the scale being made to properly register with each other when the plate or blade B is extended its full length from the main part A of the imple-
85 ment. The scale marked upon the device may be any one suitable for the purpose—as, for instance, an inch-scale, or one adapted to indicate type-measurements, such as is used in printing and advertising offices.

An implement comprising the features of construction above described is of obvious advantage, as giving a ruler, scale, and paper-tearer of a convenient length, which may be extended to a greater length when it is desired
95 for any purpose. To make an implement thus constructed of greater utility, however, I preferably sharpen the rear edge of the blade or plate B in its portion which is extended beyond the main part of the implement, so as to
100 form a cutting-edge, as indicated at B', this cutting-edge being adapted for use as a cutter for paper of the kind used in severing the uncut leaves of a book, or for sharpening pen-

cils, or similar purposes; and to still further add to the utility of the said plate or blade B, I preferably taper the latter toward its point, or, in other words, incline the cutting-edge toward the front edge of the blade, which latter is terminated in a point, and is thereby made of a form convenient for use as a letter-opener. The sharpened or knife edge B', furthermore, may be continued in the form of a curved edge, B², at the extreme end of the plate B, adapted for erasing ink-lines, and for similar purposes, the curved edge being arranged to intersect the front or ruler edge of the blade at an acute angle, so as not to interfere with the utility of the tapered blade as a letter-opener. When constructed to form cutting-edges B' B², as above set forth, the plate or blade B will usually be made of steel, but may be made of other material suitable for the purpose. By forming the said knife-edges upon the sliding plate, as above set forth and shown, the important advantage is gained that when the blade B is in a retracted or folded position the cutting-edges are overlapped by the plate A², and are thereby entirely protected from injury, as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

When the main part or body A of the ruler is made of sheet metal, as herein shown, the part A' thereof will be tubular, and as a further improvement in a ruler of the general class shown, when the latter is provided with a tubular part, A', of any material, I construct the said tubular part of proper size to receive a lead-pencil of the usual diameter, and provide within the said tubular part a sliding block, F, having a knob, f, extending through a suitable longitudinal slot, a', in the said part A', whereby the said block may be moved to bring it in position for holding the pencil with its point protruding to a desired extent from the tube, said block being provided with spring-arms f', engaging the inner walls of the tube, or other suitable friction device for holding it in the position in which it is placed. In order to hold the pencil from falling out of the tube when said pencil does not exactly fit therein, a spring-tongue, a², may be formed from the metal of the tube in such manner as to press upon the pencil at or near the point at which it emerges from the tube, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

In connection with the device shown for holding a lead-pencil, it is entirely obvious that the spring-tongue a² may be made to act with sufficient pressure upon the pencil to hold the latter without the use of the sliding block or follower F; and it will be noted, furthermore, that the said tubular part may be used merely as a receptacle or protector for a point of a pencil which is usually used separately from the implement, and in such case the slot a' and follower F are not necessary, and a spring, a², or similar device, alone will be used to temporarily retain the pencil in place or prevent its falling out when inserted in the tube.

The ruler herein shown is further provided with a pencil-erasing rubber block, D, secured

in the end of the tube A' opposite that at which the pencil is inserted, thus affording a convenient means for erasing pencil-marks in connection with the other parts of the device.

It is to be understood that as far as the operation of the plate or blade B is concerned, when said blade is provided with a cutting-edge, or is shaped to form an envelope-opener, the main part or body A of the ruler may be without a cylindric or tubular part, A', and said cylindric part, when present, instead of being open and tubular, may be closed at its ends, or solid, and made of any construction or material found desirable or preferable. Particular advantages are, however, gained by the employment of the cylindric part A', or an equivalent rib or projection adapted to sustain the rear edge of the ruler above the surface upon which it rests, in connection with a blade, B, having sliding engagement with the ruler, and beveled, as shown, for the reason that an extensible ruler capable of efficient use as a paper-tearer, and possessing improved features as a ruler and scale, is thereby obtained.

It will be observed, furthermore, that, inasmuch as the beveled surface b' upon the plate or blade B may form a cutting-edge sufficiently sharp for cutting or tearing folded paper, an implement capable of use as a ruler, scale, paper-tearer, and paper-cutter may be made without the knife-edge B' upon the back of the said blade B. An implement possessing said knife-blade has, however, the advantage of affording a means for sharpening pencils and a more desirable cutting-edge for paper, while the formation of the end portion, B², of the said cutting-edge in a manner suitable to form an ink-eraser makes the entire device of greater utility.

I claim as my invention—

1. A combination implement comprising a main part having a cylindric portion or rib at its back edge, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with the said main part, said blade being beveled upon its edge adjacent to the edge of the said main part, substantially as described.

2. A combination implement comprising a main part, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with said main part, and provided with a straight edge in alignment with the edge of said main part, said movable part or blade being formed with a cutting-edge upon its back part in its portion projecting beyond the said main part when the blade is extended, substantially as described.

3. A combination implement comprising a main part or section having a cylindric portion or rib at its back edge, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with the said main part and provided with a straight edge in alignment with the edge of the said main part, said blade being beveled at its straight edge, and the said main part and blade being marked with a continuous scale, substantially as described.

4. A combination implement comprising a

main part, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with the said main part, and provided with a straight edge in alignment with the edge of said main part, said blade being provided with a cutting-edge at its rear margin and tapered toward its free extremity, to form an envelope-opener, substantially as described.

5 5. A combination implement comprising a
10 main part, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with the said main part, and provided with a straight edge in alignment with the edge of said main part, said blade being provided at its rear margin with an inclined cutting-edge, curved near the end of the
15 said plate or blade to form an erasing-edge, substantially as described.

6. A combination implement comprising a main part having a cylindric portion or rib at
20 its rear edge, and a movable part or blade having sliding connection with said main part, said blade being provided with a cutting-edge at its margin adjacent to the said cylindric portion or rib, substantially as described.

25 7. A combination implement comprising a main part having a cylindric portion or rib at its rear edge, and a movable part or blade hav-

ing sliding connection with the said main part, said blade being provided with a straight edge in alignment with the edge of the main part, 30 and beveled upon its lower surface adjacent to said edge, and being also provided with a cutting-edge at its rear margin, or that adjacent to the rear edge of the said main part, substantially as described. 35

8. A combination implement comprising a ruler provided with a tubular part, A', adapted to receive and hold a pencil, and having a spring friction device for holding a pencil in a desired position therein, substantially as de- 40 scribed.

9. A combination implement comprising a ruler provided with a tubular part, A', adapted to receive and hold a pencil, and provided with a slot, a', and a sliding-block or follower, 45 F, within said tubular part, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALEXANDER R. McDONALD

Witnesses:

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V. F. MAYER.