

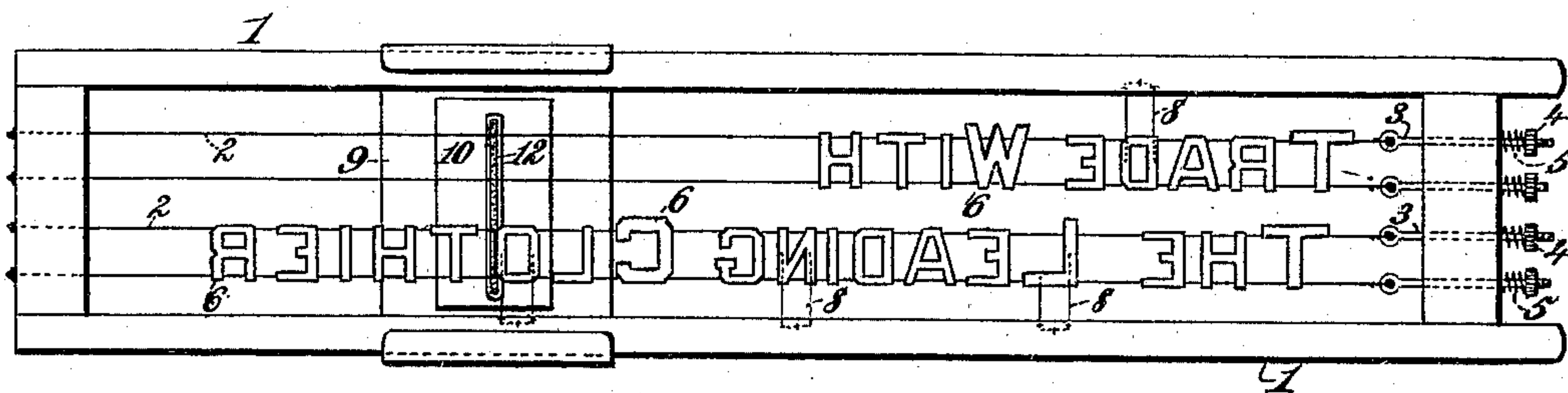
(Model.)

W. Q. PREWITT.  
APPARATUS FOR STENCILING.

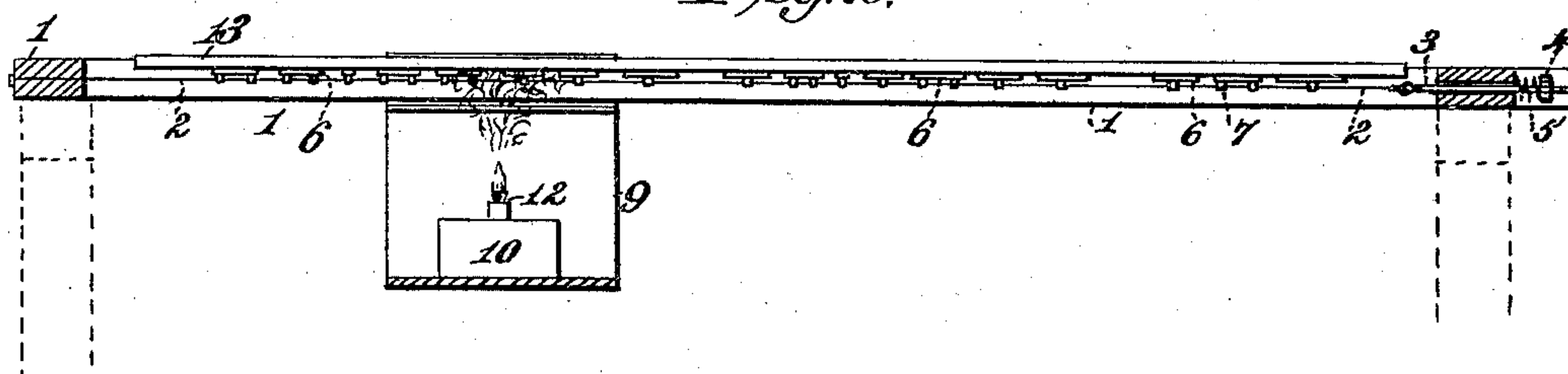
No. 371,969.

Patented Oct. 25, 1887.

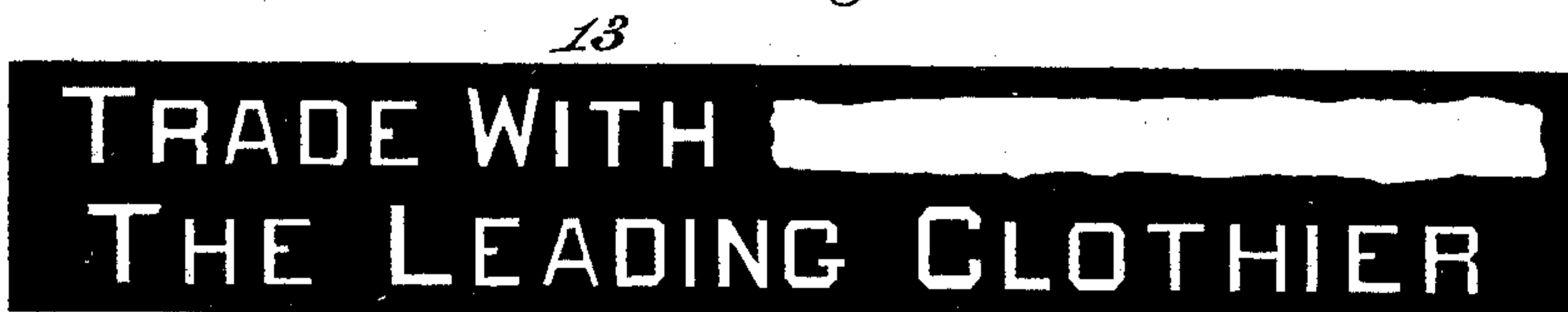
*Fig. 1.*



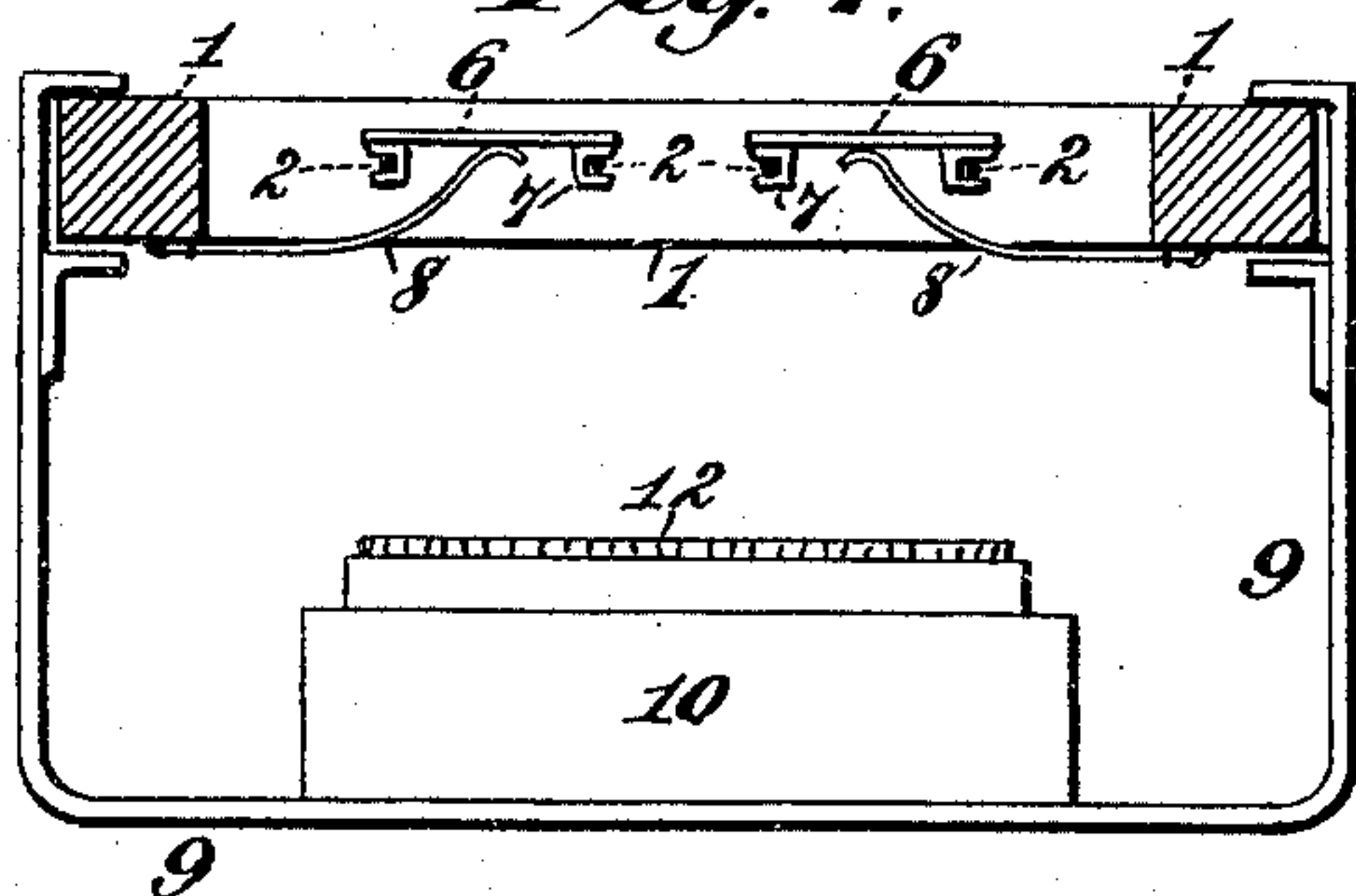
*Fig. 2.*



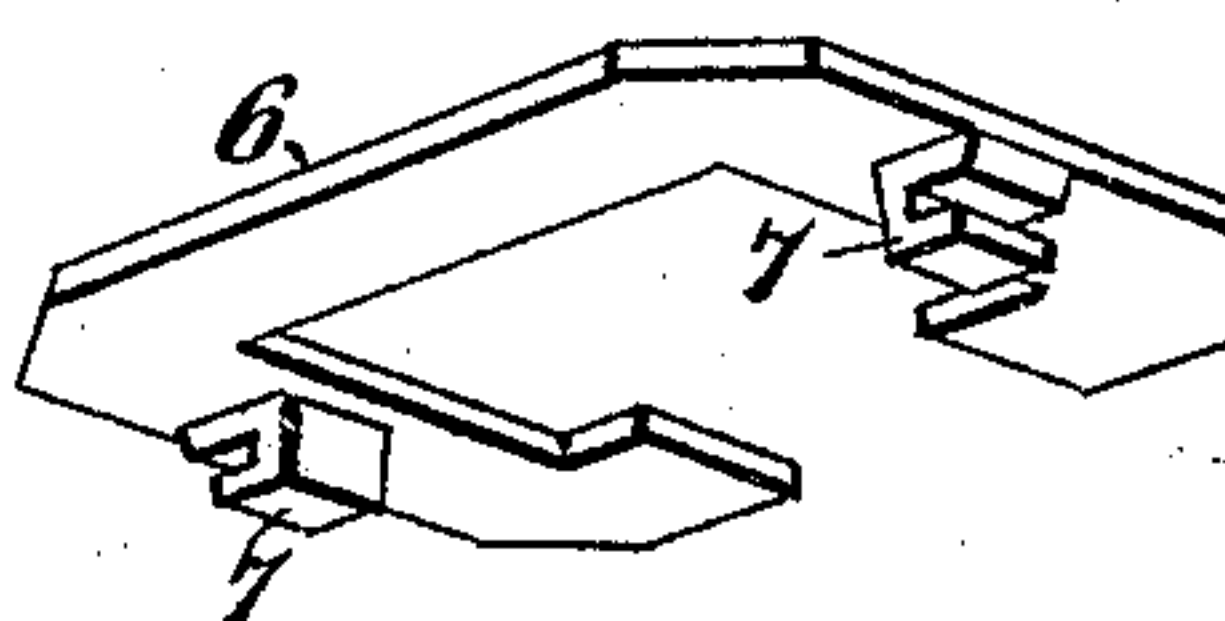
*Fig. 3.*



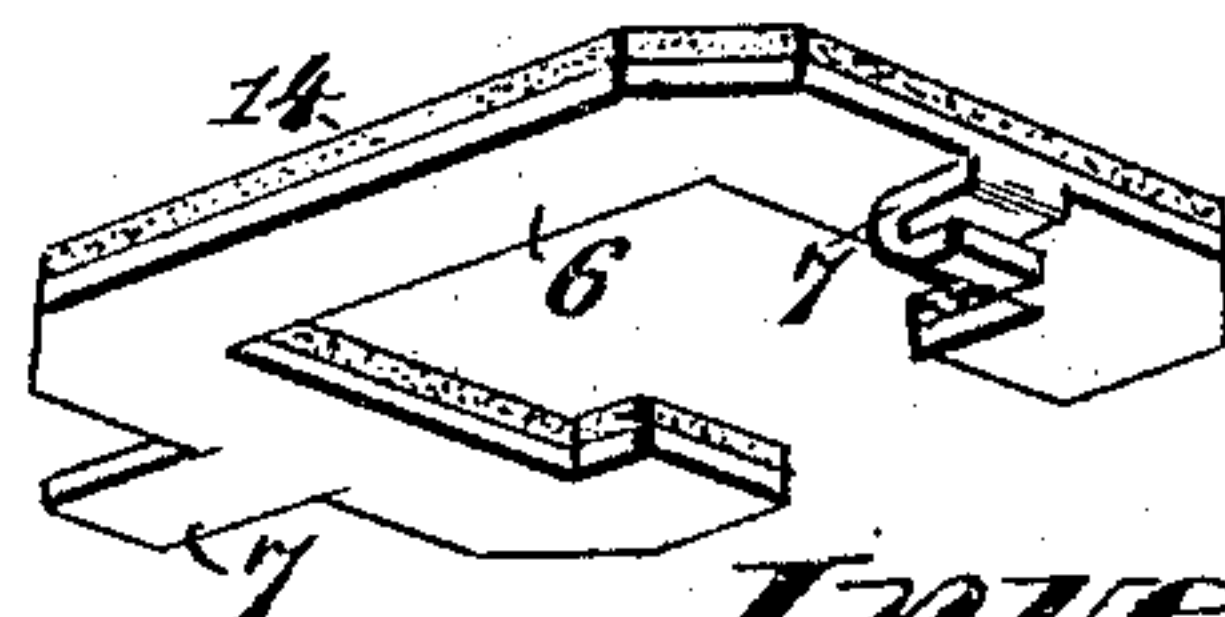
*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 6.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM Q. PREWITT, OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

## APPARATUS FOR STENCILING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 371,969, dated October 25, 1887.

Application filed January 30, 1886. Renewed September 3, 1887. Serial No. 248,728. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM Q. PREWITT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lexington, in the county of Fayette and State of Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Methods and Apparatus for Stenciling, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved method of stenciling and to a novel construction and combination of stencil devices, as hereinafter set forth.

The object of the invention is to provide at small expense a ready and effective means of rapidly producing various stenciled designs especially adapted for advertising purposes.

To this end my invention comprises the method of stenciling, which consists in first painting a board or other surface with the color or colors in which the lettering or other design is to appear, then applying solid pattern letters or designs to said painted surface and smoking the surface around said letters or designs before the paint becomes quite hard, whereby when the pattern letters or designs are removed the unsmoked portions of the painted surface will reveal the desired characters.

The invention also consists in a frame provided with adjustable wires for attachment of adjustable pattern letters or designs and in the combination, with said frame and attached patterns, of springs for holding the pattern letters or designs in a horizontal line, and a lamp suspended from the pattern-frame and adapted to be moved back and forth beneath the same for the purpose of smoking a painted board or other surface laid upon the pattern letters or designs.

In the annexed drawings, illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a plan of my improved stenciling apparatus. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 3 is a view of a partly-completed advertising-sign produced in accordance with my invention. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the pattern-frame with lamp suspended therefrom. Fig. 5 is a perspective of a pattern-letter with attaching-lugs secured thereto. Fig. 6 is a perspective of a pattern-letter with integral attaching-lugs and an elastic upper surface.

The numeral 1 designates a frame, preferably rectangular in form and composed of wood or metal. This frame is provided with a series of longitudinal pattern-supporting wires, 2, that are secured in any suitable manner to one end of the frame 1, and at the other end of the frame are attached to adjustable eyebolts 3, as shown in Fig. 1. The eyebolts 3 are supported in the end of the frame 1, and are provided at their outer ends with adjusting-nuts 4 and with springs 5, that are placed on the bolts between said nuts and frame. By this means the tension of the wires 2 can be regulated, and any increase in their length, due to expansion from heat, can readily be taken up.

The pattern letters or designs 6 are each provided with attaching lugs or hooks 7, so arranged as to permit the several letters or designs to be engaged with the supporting-wires 2, and moved or adjusted thereon to any desired position to effect an appropriate spacing. In order to prevent sagging of the wires 2 and attached patterns 6 under the weight of the board to be lettered, the sides of the frame 1 may be provided with springs 8, adapted to bear against the under side of several patterns, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, and thus hold the line of patterns in close contact with the surface to be lettered.

The pattern-frame 1 is supported horizontally on trestles or otherwise, as shown in Fig. 2, and has suspended from its side rails a movable lamp-support, 9, which carries a lamp, 10, having a broad flat wick, 12, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. This wick 12 should be nearly or quite as broad as the surface to be smoked, and the lamp should be suspended at such a distance beneath the pattern-frame 1 as to avoid blistering or burning the painted surface on which the smoke and soot is to be deposited.

In carrying my improved method of stenciling into effect I arrange the proper pattern-letters or designs upon the wires 2 in appropriate relative position. A painted board, as 13, or other surface upon which the paint has been allowed to become nearly but not quite dry and hard, is then laid upon the patterns 6, with its painted side in contact therewith, as shown in Fig. 2, and the lighted lamp 10 is



moved forward and back beneath said pat-  
 terns and superimposed board. It is obvious  
 that the smoke and soot from the lighted lamp  
 will thus be deposited on the entire adjacent  
 5 surface of the board, except those portions pro-  
 tected by the pattern letters or designs, and  
 when the board 13 is removed from the frame  
 1 the desired characters will appear in painted  
 relief, surrounded by the otherwise blackened  
 10 surface of the board, as shown in Fig. 3. By  
 this method of operation the heat of the lamp  
 causes a sufficient softening of the nearly-dried  
 paint to enable the smoke and soot to enter  
 and combine therewith, and thus produce a  
 15 durable thoroughly-blackened surface that is  
 capable of resisting the effects of wear and  
 weather. It is obvious that the board or other  
 surface, before being smoked, may be painted  
 any suitable color or colors—white or other  
 20 light colors being preferable, as affording a  
 greater and more conspicuous contrast with  
 the blackened portions of the surface.

By this method of stenciling, various designs  
 or characters can be rapidly and neatly pro-  
 25 duced at but little cost, thus affording a cheap  
 and effective means of advertising, though the  
 invention is applicable to other purposes. The  
 pattern-letters or other characters, being both  
 removable and adjustable, may be readily  
 30 changed, either wholly or in part, to produce  
 a varied arrangement of design or lettering,  
 according to the requirements of advertising  
 of different persons, trades, or goods.

Although I have described and illustrated  
 35 an appropriate form of apparatus to be used  
 in practicing my invention, it will be under-  
 stood that I do not confine myself to any pre-  
 cise details of construction. The pattern let-  
 ters or characters may be adjustably and de-  
 40 tachably fastened to their supports, either by  
 means of lugs or hooks 7, that are soldered,  
 riveted, or otherwise secured to said charac-  
 ters, as shown in Fig. 5; or said lugs may be  
 formed integral with the pattern characters  
 45 and bent into any desired form, as shown in  
 Fig. 6. If desired, the upper side of the pat-  
 tern letter or character may be provided, as  
 shown in Fig. 6, with an elastic surface, 14,  
 composed of rubber, felt, or other suitable ma-  
 50 terial adapted to effect a close contact between

said pattern and any inequalities in the sur-  
face of the board 13 resting thereon.

It will be observed that the patterns 6 are  
 so attached to their supporting-wires 2, by  
 means of the lugs 7, as to prevent the said wires 55  
 from obstructing the deposition of smoke or  
 soot on the surface to be stenciled; and it will  
 also be seen that these wires can be readily ad-  
 justed to take up any expansion in length due  
 to the heat of the lamp. 60

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The method of stenciling, which consists  
 in first painting a board or other surface in the  
 color or colors in which the lettering or other  
 design is to appear, then applying pattern let- 65  
 ters or designs to said painted surface, and  
 finally smoking the surface around said letters  
 or designs before the paint becomes entirely  
 hardened, substantially as described.

2. In a stencil apparatus, the combination, 70  
 with a pattern-supporting frame adapted to  
 hold the material to be stenciled, of a movable  
 lamp-support suspended from said pattern-  
 frame and carrying a lamp, substantially as  
 described. 75

3. In a stencil apparatus, the combination,  
 with a frame having adjustable pattern-sup-  
 porting wires, of pattern letters, designs, or  
 characters detachably and adjustably fastened  
 to said wires and a lamp for smoking the sur- 80  
 face of a fabric laid on said patterns, substan-  
 tially as described.

4. In a stencil apparatus, the combination,  
 with a frame having pattern-supporting wires  
 and pattern letters, characters, or designs at- 85  
 tached to said wires, of springs adapted to  
 bear against the under side of the patterns,  
 substantially as described.

5. In a stencil apparatus, the combination,  
 with a frame having pattern-supporting wires, 90  
 of pattern letters, characters, or designs at-  
 tached to said wires and provided with upper  
 elastic surfaces, substantially as described.

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

W. Q. PREWITT.

Witnesses:

J. A. RUTHERFORD,  
 JOS. L. COOMBS.