

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ACCOUNTANT'S RULER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 656,413, dated August 21, 1900.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES O. MEUX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pensacola, in the county of Escambia and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Accountants' Rulers; 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.

This invention has for one object to lessen the work of accountants in footing columns of figures, laying off dollar and cent columns upon blank sheets, and double ruling generally where required.

A further purpose is to insure neat, uniform, and parallel ruling without requiring the shifting of the ruler from the upper to the lower line or from a vertical line to the adjacent paralleling-line.

Another object is to prevent soiling of the desk, table, papers, fingers, and the like with ink and to guard against misplacement of the pen; also to provide a ruler which will be of valuable assistance in aiding the memory in recalling certain information.

With the foregoing ends in view and such others as may result from the specific formation of the device, and which will suggest themselves as the details of the invention are comprehended, the improvement consists of the novel features and characteristic elemental construction which hereinafter will be more fully set forth, illustrated, and finally embodied in the claims.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof, and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction of the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and the drawings hereto attached.

While the essential and characteristic features of the invention are necessarily susceptible of modification, still the preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a ruler embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a view of the ruler inverted. Fig. 3 is a perspective view. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the ruler looking toward the end having the extension.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 looking toward the opposite end.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The ruler 1 has a longitudinal slot 2 at a point between its opposite edges and parallel therewith, the directing edges of the ruler being elevated to facilitate ink-ruling without blotting. The distance of the directing edges of the ruler bordering upon the slot 2 from the front and rear directing edges will depend upon the character of ruling for which the article is designed and will correspond with the distance between the single and the double lines at the foot of debit and credit columns when closing a ledger or other account in bookkeeping. The sole purpose of the slot 2 is to provide a plurality of longitudinal directing or ruling edges, so that a number of parallel lines may be formed without shifting the ruler. By using the same edges of the ruler to direct the pen and slanting the latter more or less the distance between the parallel lines may be varied, and by holding the pen perpendicular or at a given slant the distance between the different sets of lines drawn by means of the same edges will be equal and uniform. It will thus be seen that dollar and cent columns and double lines at the foot of debit and credit columns may be drawn without shifting the ruler. The longitudinal slot 2 is formed nearer the front edge of the ruler, whereby the portion of the ruler in the rear of the slot is wider than the front portion. A longitudinal depression 3 is formed in the top side of the rear portion of the ruler and constitutes a seat or receptacle for the pen when the latter is not in use, thereby preventing soiling of the desk, papers, fingers, and the like and insuring having the pen accessible and within convenient reach when required for service.

In order to enhance the value of the device, it is provided upon its upper and lower faces with tables, lists of weights, and any matter of general information to the accountant. Upon the lower face or side of the rear portion of the rule appears a table of aliquot parts, a list of commercial weights, and miscellaneous tables. The right-hand end of

the ruler projects about three inches beyond the adjacent end of the slot 2, as shown at 4, and receives upon its lower face avoirdupois weight, long-ton table, a list of grain and cereals, and the number of pounds of each in a bushel. Upon the top side of the right-hand end is a table of double discounts and their equivalents. These tables and lists may be imprinted upon the body of the ruler by being stamped therein, or may be printed upon strips and affixed thereto, or may be provided in any convenient and economical way.

The ruler is transversely curved in opposite directions from an intermediate line, the slot 2 being in one portion and the depression in the other part forming the pen-seat 3. The opposite deflection of the ruler results in stiffening it longitudinally and elevating the directing or ruling edges. Rests 6 are provided at the ends of the slot 2 and are formed by pressing portions of the material downward. These rests hold the ruling edges formed by the slot 2 sufficiently clear of the paper to prevent blotting when ruling with ink. The extension 4 is left flat for convenience and facility in reading the matter imprinted upon the top and bottom sides thereof. The construction is such as to admit of the ruler being constructed of comparatively-thin sheet material, as metal, since it is stiffened longitudinally and has its ruling edges elevated.

When it is required to close a ledger account or foot a column of figures, the ruler is placed with the slot 2 immediately over the space where the single and double lines are to be

ruled. In drawing the single line the pen is to rest against the edge of slot 2 and to rule the lower lines the pen is to rest at the lower edge formed by slot 2. To form dollar and cent columns, rule first line of cent-column by placing the pen against the front edge of ruler, and to form the dollar-column place the pen within the slot against the upper edge of ruler to form single line, and the lower edge, formed by slot, to rule the double line.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A ruler formed of sheet material transversely curved in opposite directions from an intermediate line, one of the curved portions being longitudinally slotted to form a plurality of directing edges, and rests at the ends of the slot formed by pressing portions of the material downward, substantially as described.

2. A sheet-metal ruler transversely curved in opposite directions from an intermediate line and having one of the curved portions longitudinally slotted and the hollow side of the other portion forming a pen-rest, rests at the ends of the longitudinal slot formed by pressing portions of the material downward, one end of the ruler being extended beyond the adjacent extremities of the slot and pen-rest to receive matter upon its top and bottom sides, substantially as described.

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

CHARLES O. MEUX. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

GEO. S. EMERY,
C. L. SHINE.