

No. 799,099.

PATENTED SEPT. 12, 1905.

S. T. SMITH.
TYPE WRITING MACHINE.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 3, 1904.

Fig. 1

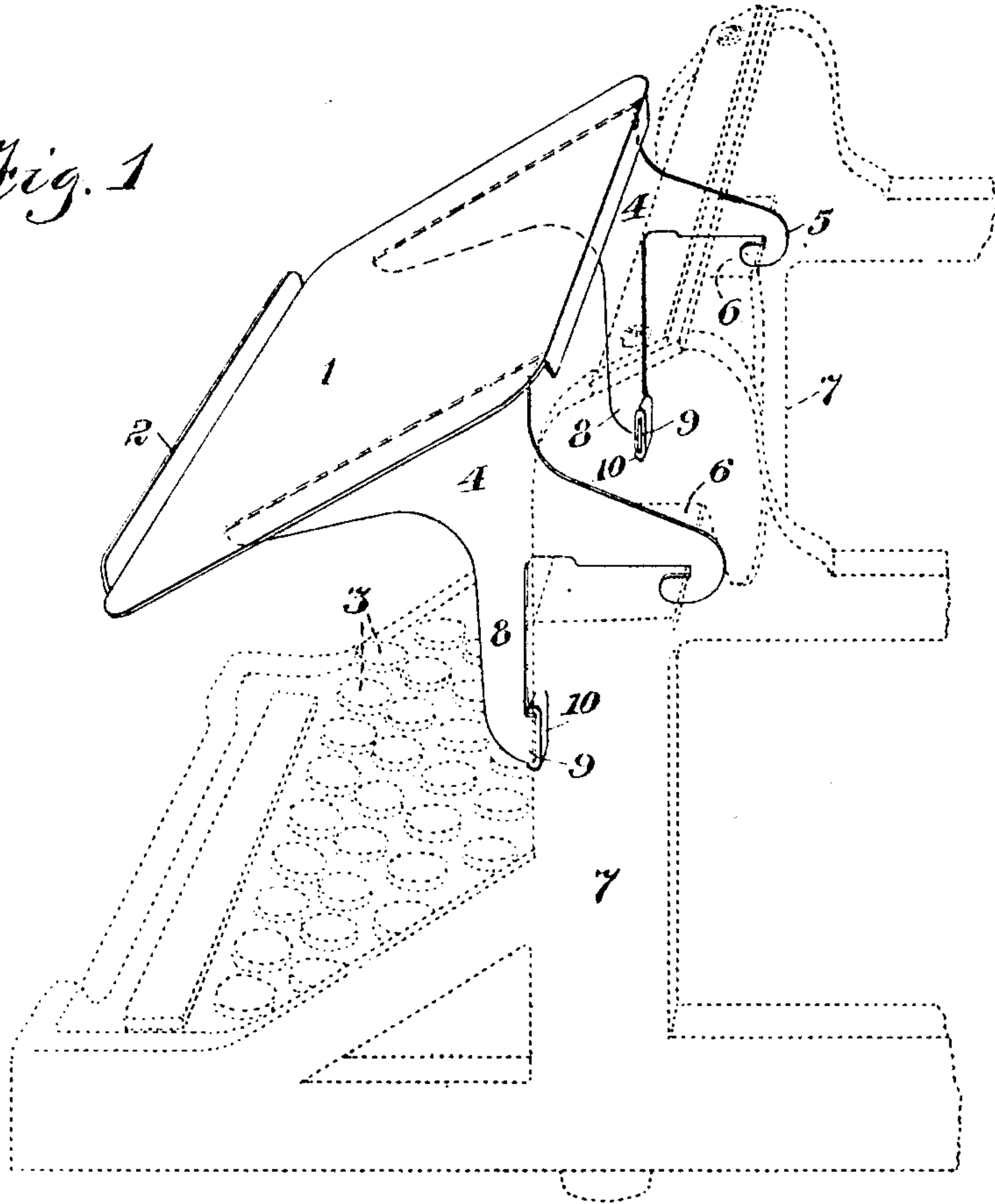
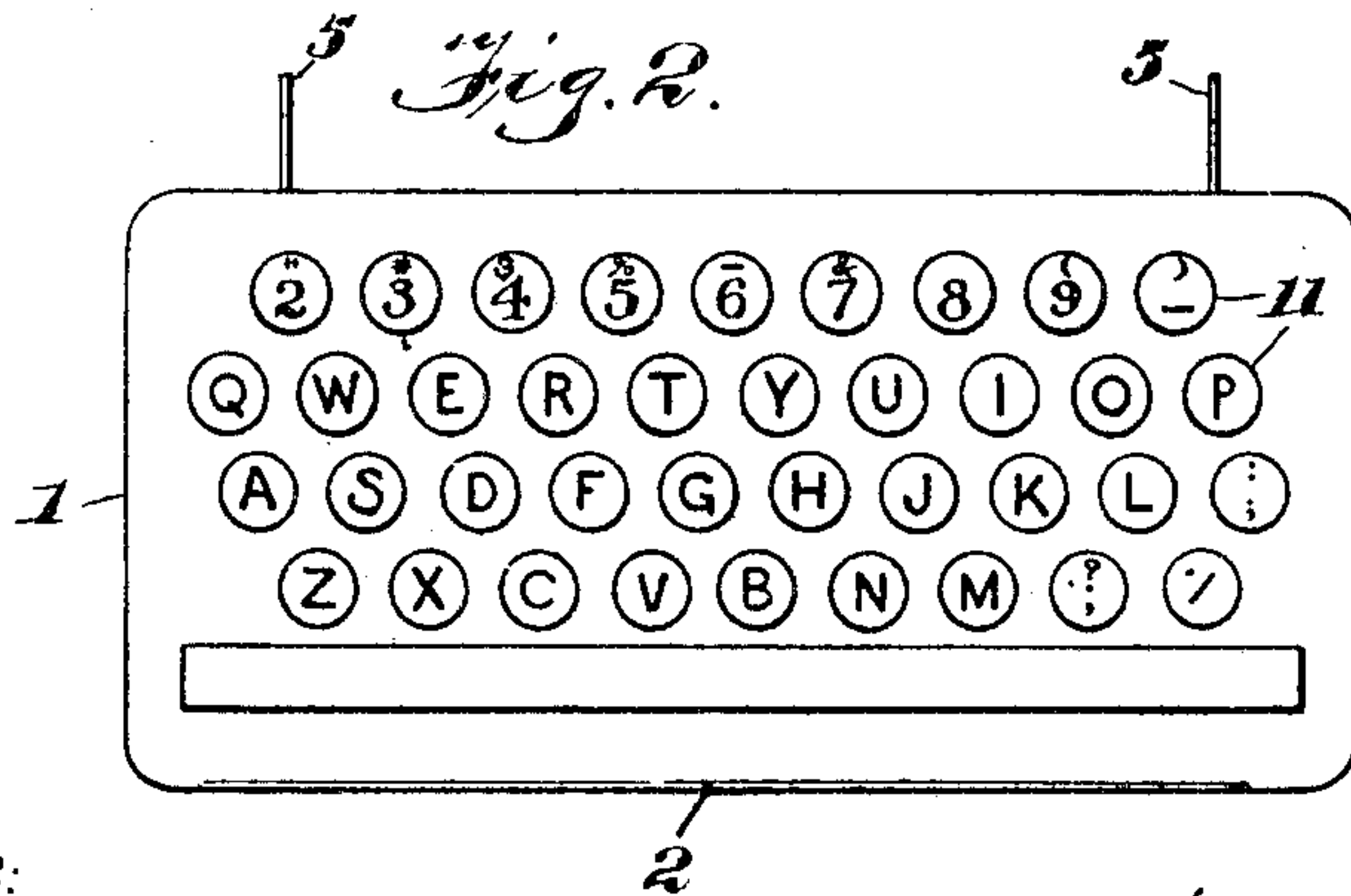


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:
Robert Stead
Wm. M. MacLean.

INVENTOR
Stephen T. Smith
BY
B. C. Stickney
his ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STEPHEN T. SMITH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO UNDERWOOD
TYPEWRITER COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF
NEW JERSEY.

TYPE-WRITING MACHINE.

No. 799,099.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 12, 1905.

Application filed June 3, 1904. Serial No. 210,963.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STEPHEN T. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing in the borough of Manhattan, city of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Type-Writing Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for facilitating the mastery of "touch-writing" or "writing by touch" upon a type-writing machine—that is, the art of operating a type-writer keyboard without looking at the keys. While this art is of decided advantage to the operator, it is difficult to acquire, owing largely to the uncontrollable habit of the eyes of glancing at the keys during their operation by the fingers. It has been proposed to use "blank" keys in place of the usual character-bearing keys; but this is found not to overcome the difficulty, since the eyes still occupy themselves by looking at the keyboard and continue to aid the fingers to a great extent in locating the keys, whereas the desideratum in touch-writing is to educate the fingers to locate the keys unaided by the eyes, thus permitting the operator to study his notes without interruption while manipulating the keyboard.

The object of my invention is to provide means for preventing the eyes from studying the keyboard; and to this end I have contrived to interpose an opaque or other screen between the keyboard and the eyes of the operator in such a manner as not to interfere with the necessary movements of the hands over the keyboard. This screen may be readily removed from the keyboard when not wanted, being preferably constructed so as to permit of its ready detachment from the machine and attachment thereto, as required.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a screen made in accordance with my invention and attached to the framework (shown in dotted lines) of an Underwood type-writing machine. Fig. 2 shows a type-writer keyboard marked upon the face of the screen.

The screen comprises a forwardly and downwardly sloping plate 1, preferably having along its lower edge a ledge 2 and supported above the keyboard 3 of the machine by means of a pair of brackets 4, of plate or sheet metal, each bracket comprising a rearwardly-extending hook 5 to catch upon the rear edge of a horizontal cap-plate 6, usually provided in the Underwood machine between the front corner posts or standards 7 and a downwardly-extending arm 8, bent laterally at its lower end, as at 9, to receive a rubber band 10, the latter forming a cushion which rests against the front vertical plate or wall of the machine, which usually extends across from one standard 7 to the other. The screen rests sufficiently high above the keyboard to permit an ample range of movement of the hands and is sufficiently forward to screen the keys from the eyes of the operator. By means of the hooks 5 the screen may be instantly attached and of course may be readily detached.

By means of this invention any type-writing machine without changing the keys may be used for practicing touch-writing by simply attaching the screen thereto, and whenever desired the screen may be removed, so as to enable the machine to be used by another operator in the ordinary way. The screen is not only simple and effective, but may be produced at merely nominal cost.

As seen at Fig. 2, I prefer to mark upon the upper surface of the screen a representation 11 of a type-writer keyboard, the keys having their natural sizes and positions, thus furnishing an aid to the operator, who is studying out the keyboard with his fingers beneath the screen.

Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A type-writer-keyboard screen comprising a plate having at each end a rearwardly-extending hook and a rest extending downwardly from said plate.

2. A type-writer-keyboard screen comprising a screen-plate and a pair of supporting-

plates secured to the ends thereof, each supporting-plate having a rearwardly-extending hook and a downwardly-extending rest-arm whose lower end is bent laterally and is adapted
5 to receive a cushioning-band.

3. A forwardly and downwardly sloping keyboard screen-plate having an upturned copy-holding ledge along its lower edge and provided upon its under side with a pair of

supports whereby it may be attached to the 10 framework of a type-writing machine.

4. A type-writer-keyboard screen having thereon a representation of the keyboard of a type-writing machine.

STEPHEN T. SMITH.

Witnesses:

M. S. EYLAR,

B. C. STICKNEY.