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L. E. SMITH.  
STAMP AFFIXING DEVICE.  
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Fig. 1.

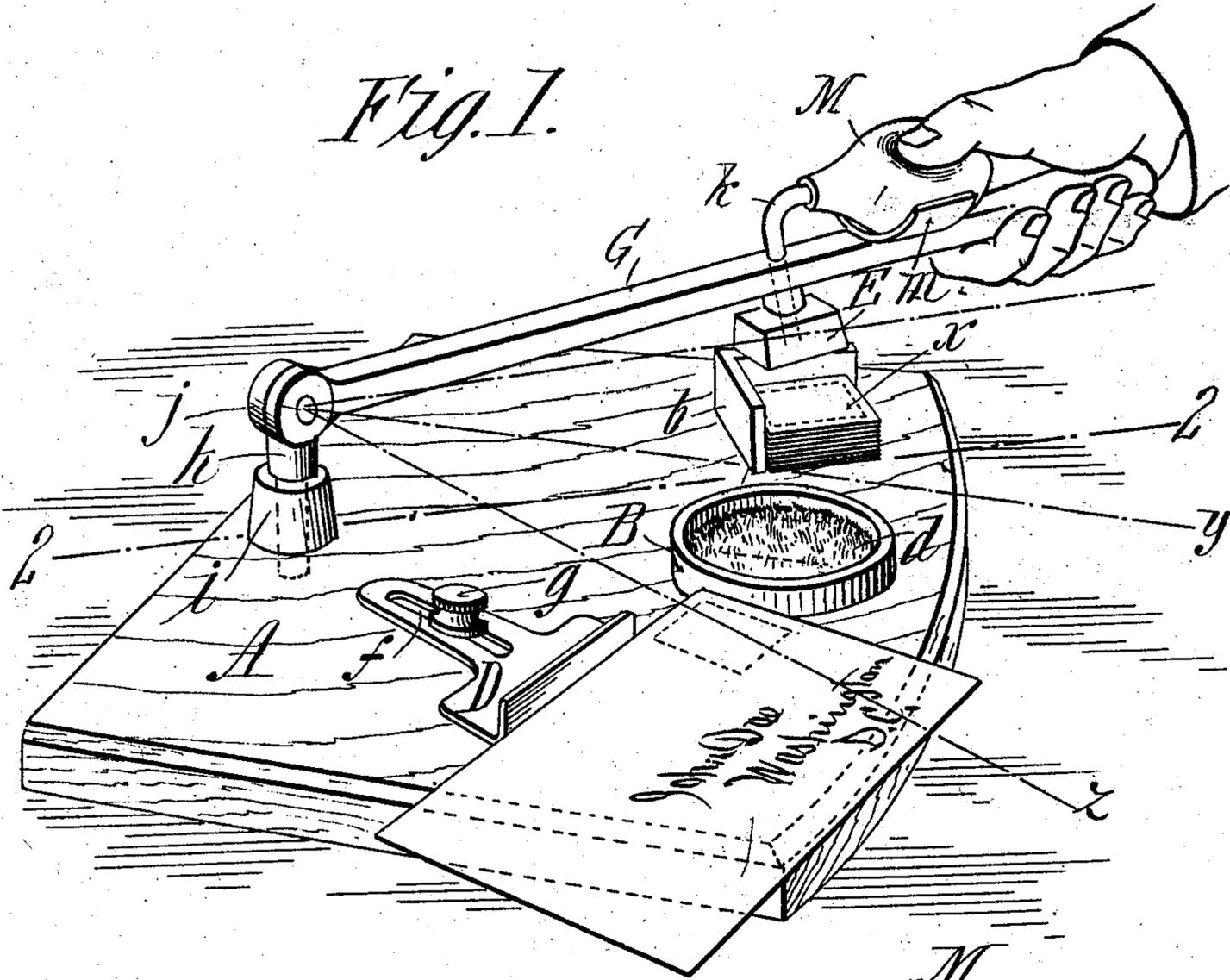
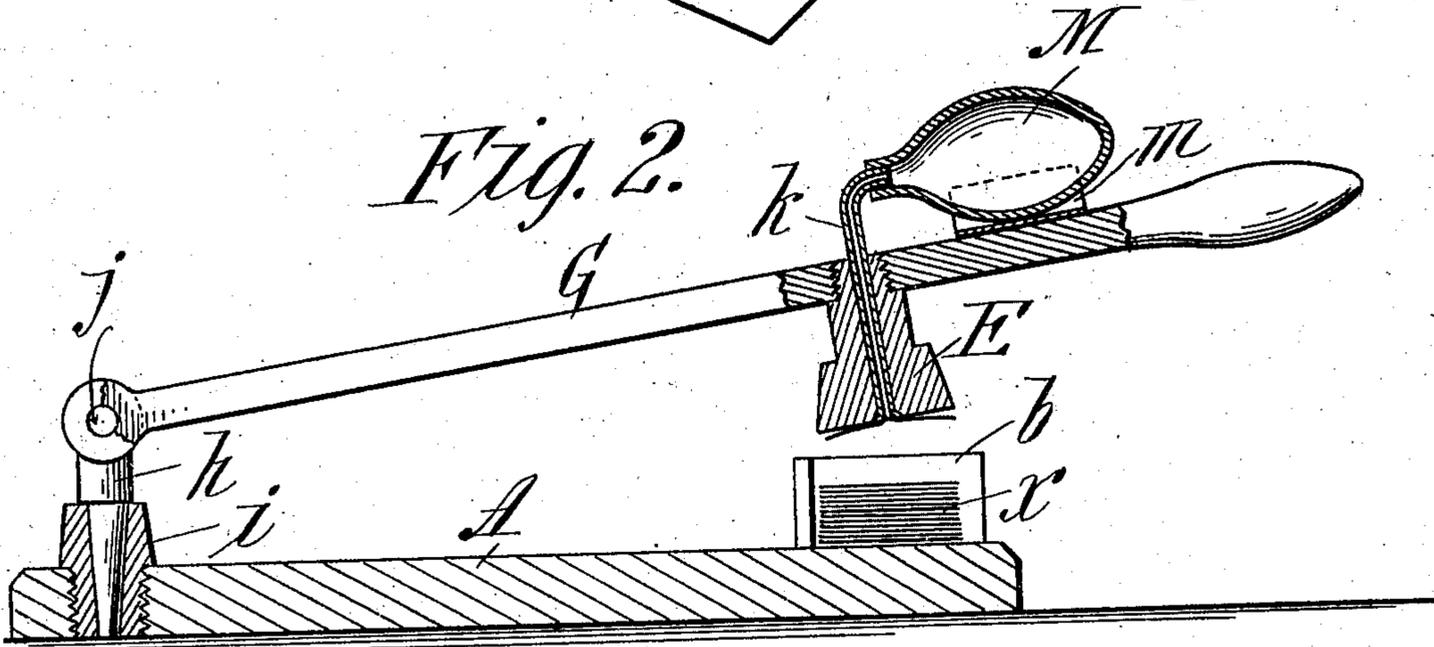


Fig. 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LUTHER E. SMITH, OF SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS.

## STAMP-AFFIXING DEVICE.

No. 805,887.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 28, 1905.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LUTHER E. SMITH, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Shelburne Falls, in the county of Franklin and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Affixing Devices, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention consists in a device for moistening and affixing stamps or gummed labels to letters or other articles, which includes a base or support for a pile of stamps, a moistening-pad on said base, a lever having a swivel engagement with the base for a horizontal swinging movement relatively thereto and also jointed for vertical swinging motions, a depending head carried by said lever and having a downwardly-opening aperture therein, and a collapsible bulb or other form of pneumatic carried by said lever and having a chamber therein in communication with said downwardly-opening aperture in said head, whereby by placing a letter in proper position on said base, swinging the lever over the pile of stamps after having collapsed the pneumatic, and allowing the pneumatic to exert a suction action on the uppermost one of the pile of stamps, such stamp may be carried from the pile while held against the under side of said depending head by the suction action exerted therethrough by the bulb and forced against the moistening-pad to be moistened thereby and then further carried and forced against the letter to be stamped, a slight pressure on the bulb at this final stage of the operation terminating the suction action exerted between the bulb and stamp, leaving the latter in its affixed position on the letter.

The invention, furthermore, includes as preferable provisions an angular gage for retaining the pile of stamps in proper position on the base, a gage against which the letters may be successively brought, so that the stamp-receiving portion thereof will always be in the same place, and a guard carried on the lever for keeping the bulb or other form of pneumatic in its proper position on the lever.

The stamp moistening and affixing device is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, and Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view as taken on the line 2 2, Fig. 1.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both of the views.

In the drawings, A represents a base or support, *b* representing an angular gage for a pile of postage-stamps, (indicated by *x*,) and adjacent this gage and stamp pile is a shallow upwardly-opening receptacle B, in which is provided a moistening-pad of any suitable character—such, for instance, as sponge, felt, or other absorbent material—and suitably near the said receptacle B for the moistening-pad is a letter-positioning gage D, which has the slotted extension *f*, whereby it may be adjustably confined in its letter-gaging position by the head of the binding-screw *g*, the threaded shank of which passes through said slot and with a screw-thread engagement downwardly into said base.

G represents a handle-lever which is both swivel-connected and pivotally-jointed relatively to a rearward portion of the base, so as to have horizontal swinging movements about a vertical axis and also up-and-down swinging movements from a horizontal axis, and, as shown, this joint for the stated movements is constituted by a post or stud *h*, having its shank or lower portion fitted into a socket therefor in a bushing *i*, which screw engages into the base A, and to the upper extremity of said stud or post *h* a lever *g* is connected by a horizontal pivot *j*. The said lever *g* carries properly forwardly distant from its swiveling and pivotal connection a depending head or block E, which is apertured from the bottom upwardly therethrough, and in communication with this aperture, which may be by the bushing-tube *k*, is the chamber of a collapsible bulb or other form of pneumatic M, which is carried by the handle-lever G, *m* representing a sheet-metal bulb-guard affixed on the upper edge of the handle-lever and curving upwardly at opposite sides of the bulb for preventing the displacement of the latter from its proper position on the lever.

A pile of gummed stamps being provided, as shown, and a letter positioned also as shown, one has merely to grasp the lever and with the thumb of the same hand more or less collapse the pneumatic M and bring the lever and dependent head over and against the stamp pile, and so soon as the head E contacts against the uppermost stamp the pressure on the bulb is released and the uppermost stamp will be drawn and retained against the under side of the head. The lever is now swung to the intermediate position (represented by the dotted line *y*) and depressed to carry the under

gummed side of the stamp onto the moistened pad, and the lever is further swung sidewise to the dotted-line position  $z$  and depressed to carry the moistened stamp against the letter.

5 After the downward pressure has been exerted through the lever to affix the stamp to the letter and in order that there may be no tendency to strip the yet moistened stamp from the letter a slight pressure is given on the bulb to  
10 terminate the suction action, so that the return motion of the lever for a repetition of the described operation is permissible with no tendency to loosen the stamp from the letter.

The side of the receptacle B for the moistening-pad constitutes in some measure a gage for the letter to be stamped, and in some cases the gage D might be considered unnecessary.

15 It is of course manifest that the described device, while primarily designed for stamping letters, is susceptible of use for the rapid affixing of labels or any kind of stickers on various articles.

20 Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

25 1. In a device for moistening and affixing stamps or the like, a base or support for a pile of stamps, and a moistening-pad on said base, a lever having a swivel engagement with the  
30 base, for a horizontal swinging movement relatively thereto, and also jointed for vertically-swinging motions, a dependent head carried by said lever and having a downwardly-opening aperture therein, and a collapsible  
35 pneumatic carried by said lever and having the chamber therein in communication with said downwardly-opening aperture.

40 2. In a device for moistening and affixing stamps or the like, a base or support for a pile of stamps, an angular stamp-positioning gage, and a moistening-pad on said base, a lever, having a swivel engagement with the base for horizontal swinging movements relatively

thereto; and also jointed for vertically-swinging motions; a dependent head carried by said  
45 lever having a downwardly-opening aperture therein, and a collapsible pneumatic carried by said lever and having the chamber therein in communication with said downwardly-opening aperture.  
50

3. In a device for moistening and affixing stamps or the like, a base or support for a pile of stamps, a moistening-pad, and a letter-positioning gage on said base, a lever having a swivel engagement with the base, for horizontal  
55 swinging movements relatively thereto, and also jointed for vertically-swinging motions, a dependent head carried by said lever having a downwardly-opening aperture therein, and a collapsible pneumatic carried by said  
60 lever and having the chamber therein in communication with said downwardly-opening aperture.

4. In a device for moistening and affixing stamps or the like, a base or support for a pile  
65 of stamps, a moistening-pad, a stamp-positioning angular gage, and a letter-positioning gage on said base, a lever having a swivel engagement with the base, for horizontal swinging movements relatively thereto, and also jointed  
70 for vertically-swinging motions, a dependent head carried by said lever having a downwardly-opening aperture therein, and a collapsible pneumatic bulb carried by said lever and having the chamber therein in communi-  
75 cation with said downwardly-opening aperture, and the bulb-guard provided on said lever and extending adjacent the opposite sides of said bulb.

Signed by me in presence of two subscribing witnesses. 80

LUTHER E. SMITH.

Witnesses:

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RODERICK J. RUSSELL.