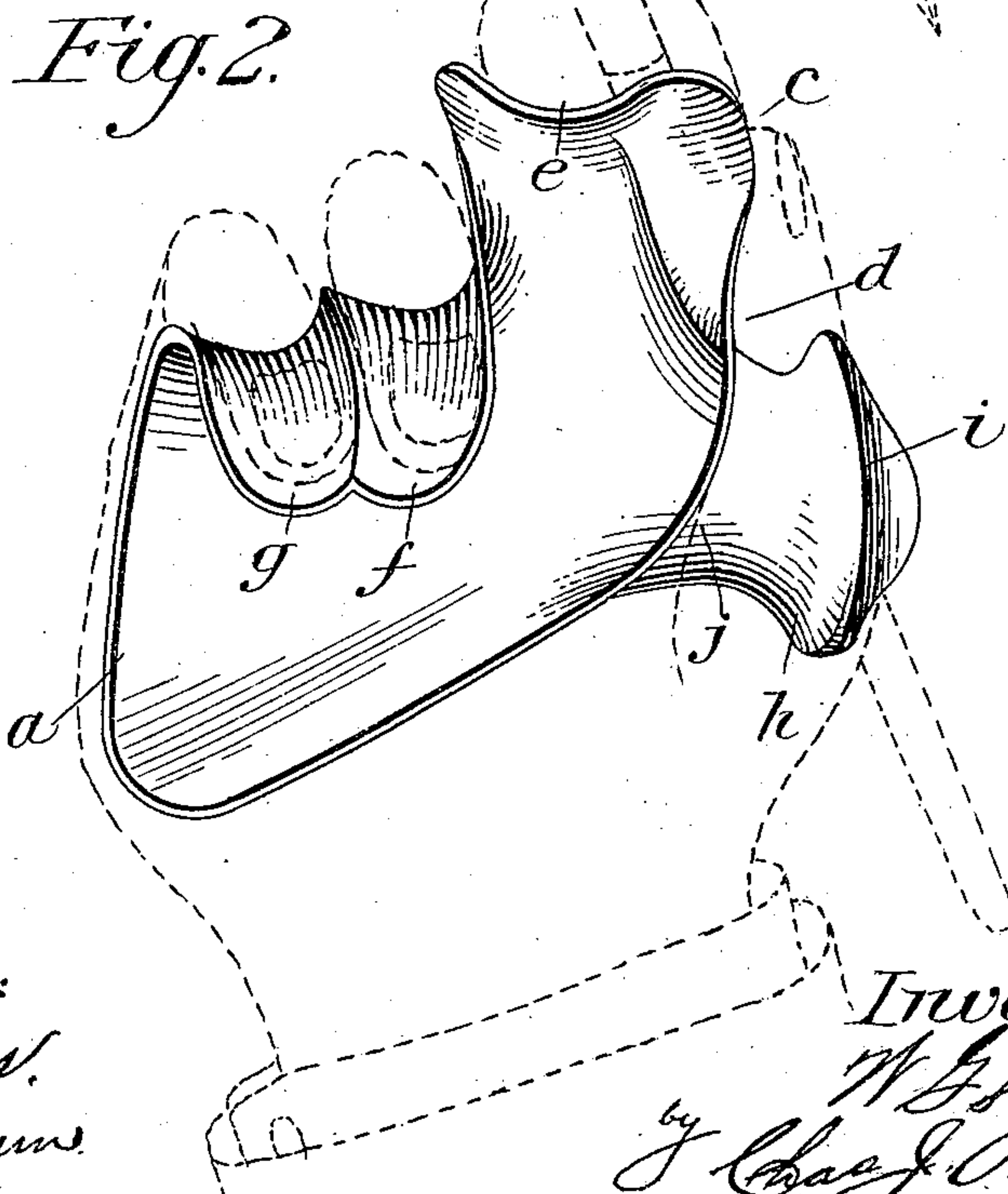
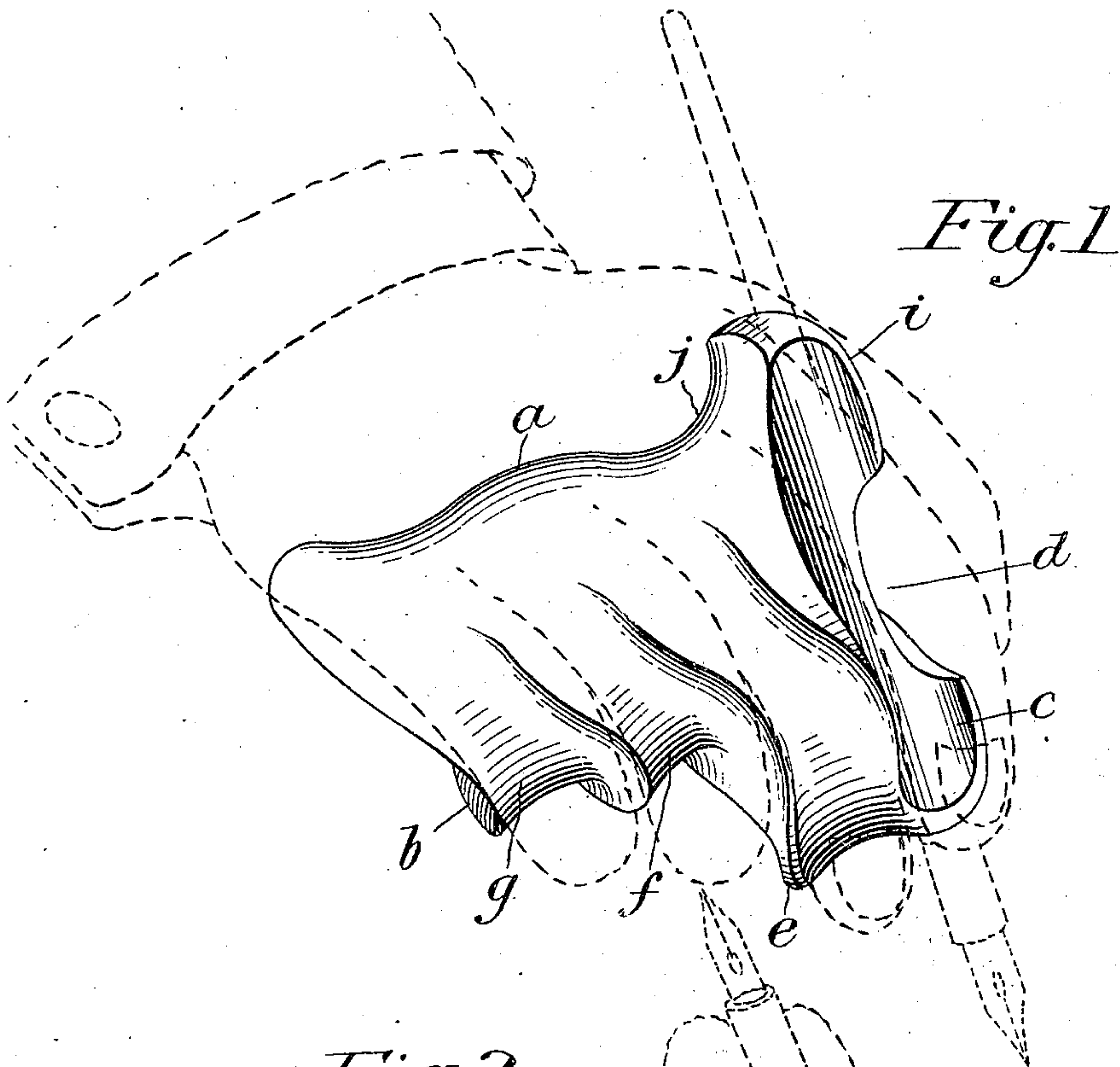


No. 880,510.

PATENTED MAR. 3, 1908.

W. G. DELASHAW.
HAND POSITIONING DEVICE FOR PENMEN.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 21, 1907.



Witnesses:
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att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM G. DELASHAW, OF MOULTON, ALABAMA.

HAND-POSITIONING DEVICE FOR PENMEN.

No. 880,510.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 3, 1908.

Application filed November 21, 1907. Serial No. 403,110.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. DELASHAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Moulton, county of Lawrence, State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Positioning Devices for Penmen; 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.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and efficient device held in the pen-hand of the writer and presenting a series of surfaces to be engaged by the palm of the hand, the several fingers and the thumb, a recess below the index finger to receive and support the pen or other writing instrument, to insure a proper position of the various members of the hand and the pen, in writing, and to prevent the objectionable finger movements which are conducive to writer's cramp, and to require the writing to be effected with the free fore-arm movement found necessary by most penmen for easy, flowing and graceful writing.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device, the position of the hand and pen being shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Referring to the drawing, it will be noted that the device considered as a whole, comprises a shell-like structure or body which fits snugly within the hand when the latter is in correct writing position, and is provided with a support for the pen or pencil which is removably and adjustably held in said support in position to be engaged by the thumb and the first and second fingers.

More particularly described, the device consists of the body having a surface *a* adapted to fit the palm of the hand, and a forward extension *b* which is provided with surface grooves *c*, *e*, *f* and *g*, the first two of which are adapted to receive the first and second fingers and the latter two to receive the third and fourth fingers and maintain all of the said fingers in proper position for writing. To effect this object the grooves *c* and *e* are curved forwardly and downwardly from the top surface, and grooves *f* and *g* are first curved forwardly and downwardly and then sharply toward the rear, so as to cause the ends of the third and fourth fingers to under-

lie the palm of the hand, but at some distance from the palm to support the hand.

The thumb side of the body is provided with a groove or recess *j*, which extends in an easy curve from the palm section *a* to the groove *c* with which it connects by a lateral opening *d*. From the center of the curved section *j*, and therefore from the thumb side of the shell-like body, there projects a boss *i* which is adapted to lie snugly within the opening formed between the forefinger, the thumb and the portion of the palm adjacent the fore-finger and the thumb, so that the thumb engages the groove *j* and the grooved portion *h* below said boss, and the end of the thumb extends through the opening *d* and projects laterally toward the groove *c*. The said groove *c* is adapted to receive, and, through the coöperation of the thumb, forefinger and middle finger, retain the pen or pencil in writing position. To permit the removable and adjustable retention of the pen and pencil, the groove *c* is made considerably deeper than the other grooves, so that the pen or pencil may lie in and be supported by the bottom of the groove below the forefinger. In order to permit pens or pencils of different sizes and shapes to be employed, the middle portion of the groove *c* is hollowed out so that a straight pen or pencil rests merely on the upper and lower portions of the bottom of said groove, while a pen holder or the like with a swell in the middle portion of its length will be readily accommodated by the middle deeper portion of said groove.

The hand positioning device as described may be formed of wood, metal, papier-mâché or any othersuitable material. When formed of plastic material or metal, it may be made as a relatively thin, shell-like body, as indicated in the figures of the drawing, and when made of wood, the under portion may be hollowed out as much as may be feasible in order to render the whole device light in weight and easily supported by the hand, without requiring undue pressure of the fingers.

The mode of using the device, as described, will be apparent from inspection of the drawing. The pen or pencil is first placed within the groove *c* and the portion *a* of the body placed within the palm of the hand, after which the fingers are dropped into position to snugly engage the several grooves *c*, *e*, *f* and

g, the thumb is then passed under the boss i so that the end engages the side of the pen or pencil, which latter is also engaged by the under surface at the end of the first finger and the lateral surface at the end of the second 5 finger. The pen or pencil is then adjusted up or down in the groove to permit the proper length of the pen or pencil end to project beyond the fingers to insure the easiest writ- 10 ing movements. The hand is then laid squarely on the paper with the knuckles of the first two fingers substantially horizontal, and the pen pointed over the right shoulder, and the hand supported by and gliding freely 15 upon the nails of the third and fourth fingers. With the device adjusted and held as described, it will be found that the pen or pencil is held in position so that any tendency of the writer to form his strokes by movement 20 of the fingers instead of the free fore-arm movement will be prevented. In fact, the whole tendency and effect of the device is to retain the hand in what is recognized by most authorities as the proper position for writing, 25 and to prevent the hand assuming any other position.

What I claim is:—

1. A hand positioning device for penmen, comprising a body portion to fit the palm

of the hand, a forward extension having 30 grooves to receive the fingers, and a lateral portion extending from the body portion having a groove to receive the thumb, the groove for the fore-finger being deepened to receive and loosely support the pen or pencil. 35

2. A hand positioning device for penmen, comprising a shell-like body having a superior surface to fit the palm of the hand and fingers, a lateral surface to fit the thumb, and a groove in the portion of the superior sur- 40 face underlying the fore-finger to receive and loosely support the pen or pencil.

3. A hand positioning device for penmen, comprising a body portion to fit the palm of the hand, a forward extension having grooves 45 therein to receive the fingers, a lateral portion extending from the body portion having a groove to receive the thumb, and a boss or projection on said lateral portion to lie between the thumb and fore-finger, the groove 50 for the fore-finger being deepened to receive and loosely support the pen or pencil.

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

W. G. DELASHAW.

Witnesses:

J. C. KUMPE,

B. S. NEELY.