



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## STAMP PAD OR TABLET.

No. 903,618.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 10, 1908.

Application filed June 28, 1907. Serial No. 381,290.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALFRED SUTCLIFFE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hummelstown, in the county of Dauphin and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Stamp Pads or Tablets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a stamp pad or tablet intended for use in postoffices, and the principal object of the invention is to provide a device of this character, whereby the stamps can be kept indefinitely in proper condition and prevented from curling up and sticking together, thereby avoiding the great loss incident to the present method of handling stamps and whereby the record of the number of stamps sold and stamps in stock can be ascertained rapidly and accurately, and furthermore, the invention has for one of its objects to provide a useful and convenient stamp pad in such form that stamps can be shipped from the Government or Postal Department to the various postoffices with accuracy and despatch.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a stamp tablet composed of sheets of stamps with interposed sheets of paraffin paper or the like having series of numbers thereon for indicating, at a glance, how many stamps have been sold from the top sheet of the tablet and how many remain, there being a suitable numbering system for the sheets of stamps so as to indicate at any time the number of sheets that have been sold from the tablet and the number of sheets remaining.

With these objects in view and others, as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be more fully described hereinafter and set forth with particularity in the claim appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates one of the embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a stamp tablet composed of a plurality of sections. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view of the sheets of one section of the tablet, the sheets being shown spread apart to illustrate the sheet numbering system.

Similar reference characters are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawing, A designates a

tablet comprising a backing 1 and alternate sheets of stamps and paraffin paper 2 and 3 respectively, glued at their top edges to the backing in the usual manner. In the present instance, the pad is composed of five sections, each section including one thousand stamps. The stamps are arranged in sheets of one hundred each preferably with ten stamps in a row, both vertically and crosswise, the stamps being indicated by the perforations 4. On each sheet of paraffin paper are two sets of numbers 5 and 6 that read in opposite directions, one series or set beginning with 1 at the upper left hand corner and ending at the lower right hand corner with 100, and arranged in cross rows with ten numbers in a row to correspond to the stamps, and the other series or set of numbers reading in reversed order, that is to say, 1 is at the lower right hand corner and 100 at the upper left hand corner, so that when any stamps are removed from the top sheet, the numbers at the last stamp will indicate how many stamps have been removed, this number being in the set 6, while the number under the last stamp of the set 5 indicates how many stamps remain in the sheet. For instance, by reference to Fig. 1, it will be seen that thirty-five stamps have been removed from the top sheet and that sixty-five stamps remain.

In order to keep account of the number of sheets of stamps removed and the number remaining, a suitable marginal index is provided, and for this purpose, each paraffin or oiled sheet 3 has a bottom extension 7 arranged in stepped fashion similar to an index book, and on the exposed portions of these extensions are numbers from 100 to 1000 on the paraffin sheets of each section. After each sheet of stamps is removed, the succeeding paraffin sheet is torn off so that the total number of stamps removed can be quickly ascertained. On the lower left hand corners of the sheets 3 are numbers beginning with 900 on the second sheet and ending with 100 on the tenth sheet of each section for the purpose of showing how many stamps remain in the pad. For instance, when the first sheet of stamps is removed, nine-hundred stamps remain in the top section, as revealed by the number in the lower left hand corner on the extension 7 of the second paraffin sheet. When twenty-five stamps of the second sheet are removed, the total number of stamps will be twenty-five

less than 900, or 875. At the lower right hand corners of the last paraffin sheet of each section are numbers for designating how many sections have been removed from the pad and how many sections remain. On the last sheet of the first section is the number 5 which is the multiple by which the number of stamps in each section is to be multiplied to give the total number of the original pad, namely, five thousand. On the last sheet of the second section are the numbers 4 and 1, which mean that when the first section is removed, four thousand stamps remain and one thousand have been removed, while on the succeeding sheets having the thousand numbers, there are the figures 3 and 2, 2 and 3, and 1 and 4.

With a stamp pad of the character referred to, the stamps can be preserved in the proper condition and a great saving on the part of the Government can be effected, since the stamps are prevented from curling and gumming together, which at present is a great objection and entails a loss of large sums of money annually to the Government. Furthermore, it will greatly reduce the work in post offices in keeping records of daily, weekly and monthly sales of stamps and enable the Government inspectors to take account of stock from time to time with great despatch, and also the stamps are in convenient form for shipping from the Government Postal Department to the various post offices. While the tablet is especially useful for postage stamps, it is, of course, to be understood that it may be used in connection with labels and the like.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the

invention, together with the apparatus which I consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the apparatus shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired, as are within the scope of the claim.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:—

A stamp pad comprising a plurality of groups of gummed sheets of stamps or the like bound together at one side of the pad, paraffined or equivalent leaves bound between each adjacent stamp sheet, a set of numbers on the top face of each leaf arranged in rows and readable from the upper left hand corner to the lower right hand corner of the leaf, a second set of numbers on the top face of each leaf arranged in rows and readable from the lower right hand corner to the upper left hand corner or reversely to the first set of numbers, numbers of both sets being disposed under each stamp to indicate the number of stamps removed from or remaining in the sheet, a marginal index for each group of sheets and formed by extensions of the said leaves, said extensions being of successively increasing length to provide exposed portions, two sets of index numbers on the extensions, one set being arranged on the exposed portions of the extensions and readable from the top to the lower leaf of the group and the second set of index numbers being arranged on the said extensions and arranged to be readable progressively from the bottom to the top leaf for indicating in round numbers the number of stamp sheets in the remaining sheets of the group.

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

ALFRED SUTCLIFFE.

Witnesses:

WM. H. EARNEST,

ALFRED T. SUTCLIFFE.