

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS C. HOUGH, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

STENCIL.

No. 931,309.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed May 1, 1909. Serial No. 493,289.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS C. HOUGH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stencils; 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.

My invention has for its object to provide an improved stencil, and is particularly directed to the improvement of stencils that are made in strips pivotally connected at one end, and each provided with a multiplicity of letters, numerals or other characters.

To the above ends, the invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate the invention, like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings: Figure 1 is a plan view showing a stencil constructed in accordance with my invention; and Figs. 2 and 3 are fragmentary views illustrating the manner of alining and spacing the stencil characters in respect to previously printed letters or characters.

The stencil shown, is made up of three thin sheet metal strips 1 provided with numerals or other characters, and pivotally connected by a rivet 2.

The numeral 3 indicates a so-called covering strip, which like the strips 1, is formed from thin sheet metal, but is much narrower. At one end this strip 3 is provided with an offset end portion 4, that is pivotally connected by the rivet 2 to the stencil strips 1. The purpose of this covering strip 3 will hereinafter appear.

Each stencil strip 1 in one edge, is provided with a multiplicity of so-called gage perforations 5. These gage perforations 5 are approximately right triangles, but their hypotenuse or long sides are formed by concave curves. Furthermore, the said perforations are arranged in pairs with their longitudinal straight edges alined with each other, and with their horizontal straight edges alined one with the top and one with the bottom of the stencil character with

which they are associated. Furthermore, the said pairs of gage perforations are so spaced from the associated stencil characters, that when applied to a previously printed letter or character, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the character next to be printed or stenciled will be properly alined with and properly spaced apart from the said previously printed character. For instance, when the stencil strip is properly positioned for the stenciling of a character in respect, to the letter "E," the ends of the upper and lower arms of the said letter will appear through the said gage perforations 5, and the straight sides of said perforations will be alined with straight right angle portions of said letter.

In Fig. 3, the stenciling strip is shown as positioned in respect to a previously printed letter "P," and in this instance, as well as in other instances where the letter or character has a rounded right hand edge portion, at least one of the gage perforations 5 will be positioned with its curved long side or hypotenuse in registration with the curved portion of the said letter.

When the stencil is positioned as shown in Fig. 2, no harm would be done even if the stencil brush should be rubbed over the gage perforations 5, because as is evident, portions of the previously stenciled letter underlie the said perforations. When however, the stencil is positioned as shown in Fig. 3, the stencil brush must not be passed over the perforations 5, and hence, at this time, the covering strip 3 should be turned over the said perforations 5 to protect the same from the stencil brush when the latter is used to stencil the properly positioned stencil character. With the offset portion 4, at the pivoted end of the covering strip 3, it is possible to use the said covering strip in connection with any one of the several pivotally connected stencil strips.

The stencil illustrated, is shown as provided chiefly with numerals, but it is, of course, evident that the strips may be provided with letters or with any other desired characters.

What I claim is:

1. A stencil strip provided with characters cut therein, and provided in one edge of said strip with angular gage perforations horizontally alined with the upper and lower portions of said characters, and adapted for

use in connection with previously stenciled characters to aline and space the character which is to be stenciled.

2. A stencil strip provided with characters cut therein, and provided in one edge with upper and lower gage perforations alined with the upper and lower portions of said characters, and which gage perforations are approximately triangular in form, but with curved or concave long sides or hypotenuse, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination with a stencil strip having characters cut therein, and provided in one edge with gage perforations associated with the said characters, and a covering strip pivotally connected to said stencil strip

and adapted to be moved into a position to cover said gage perforations.

4. A stencil comprising a plurality of pivotally connected stencil strips, each having a multiplicity of characters cut therein and a multiplicity of gage perforations in one edge associated with said characters, and a covering strip having a laterally offset end attached to said stencil strips by the pivot which connects the latter, substantially as described.

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

THOMAS C. HOUGH.

Witnesses:

HARRY D. KILGORE,
F. D. MERCHANT.