E. N. WINSTON & N. W. BYWATER.

STENCIL INKER.

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965,353. Patented July 26, 1910.

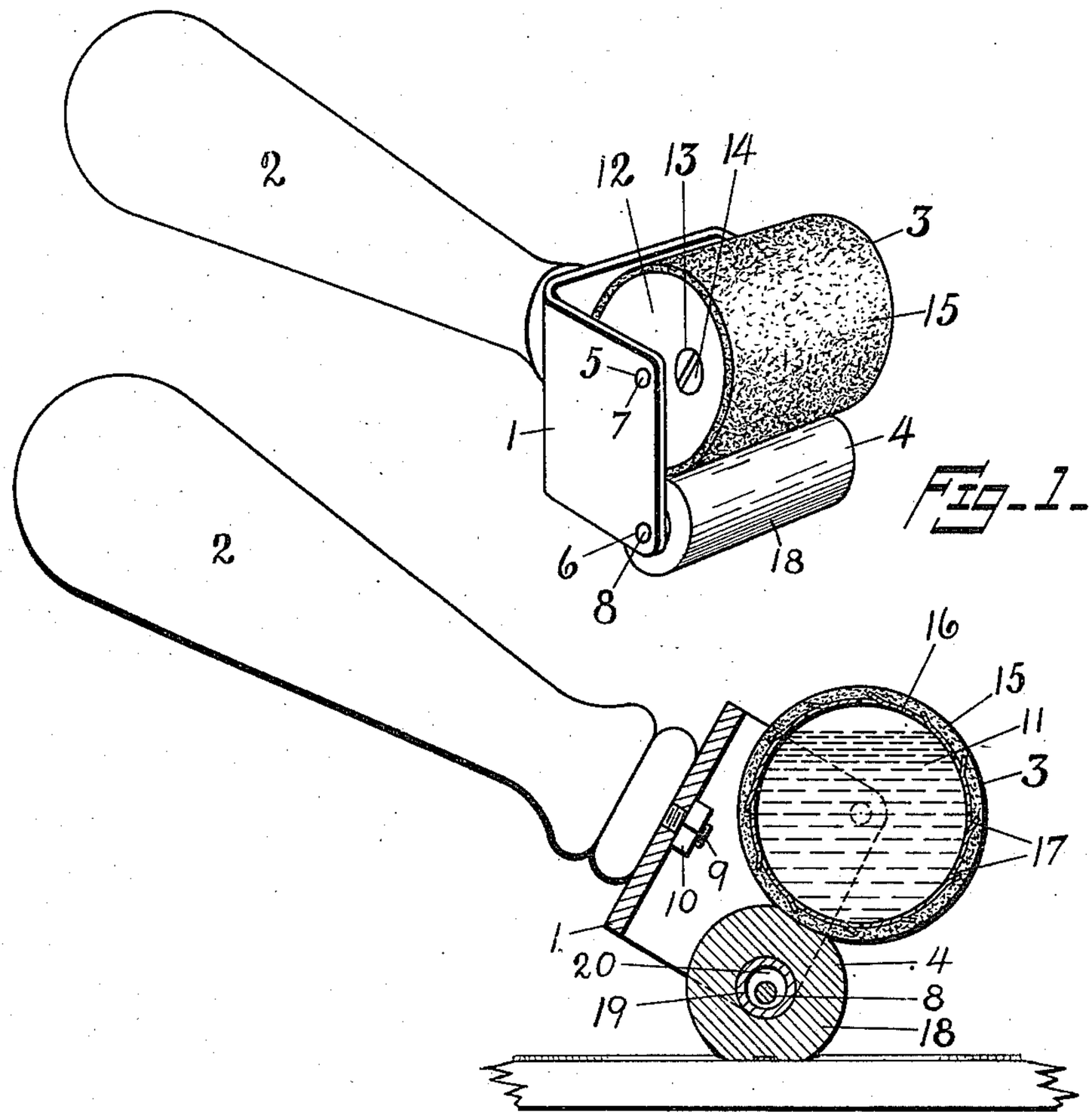

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

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STENCIL-INKER.

965,353. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented July 26, 1910.**

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ERASMUS N. WINSTON and NORBERT W. BYWATER, citizens of the United States, residing at Louisville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stencil-Inkers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to inking stencils in the process of marking, and the objects of our improvement are, to increase the durability of stencils, especially those made of paper; to avoid the necessity of using a brush; facility and rapidity in marking; effectiveness; comparatively low cost of the apparatus; compactness; neatness; and portability of the outfit. These objects we attain by means of the apparatus illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view; and Fig. 2, a sectional view.

Similar reference numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

The body of the device comprises a frame, 1, a handle, 2, and rollers, 3 and 4.

The frame 1 is preferably a piece of sheet metal bent into channel form and provided with corresponding holes, 5 and 6, in the outer edges of the legs of the channel, adapted to receive rods, 7 and 8, respectively, upon which the rollers 3 and 4 respectively are mounted. The frame 1 is provided with the handle 2, by means of which the inker is operated. The handle 2 may be screwed on the channel-shaped frame 1 by means of a threaded stem, 9, and a nut, 10, screwed thereon.

The ink-distributing roller 3 is mounted in the upper part of frame 1. This roller is made hollow, to adapt it to receive a supply of ink, 11, within it; and its ends are closed by means of heads, 12. One of the heads is provided with an opening, 13, which is closed by a suitable plug, 14, which may be screwed in the opening, may be removed for the purpose of renewing the supply of ink, and may be securely fastened to prevent leakage of the ink at this place.

The roller 3 is provided with a covering, 15, of felt or other suitable material which is absorbent of ink, and which is secured over a cylindrical shell, 16, of the roller. The shell 16 is preferably made of metal and provided with holes, 17, to permit the ink 11 to reach the absorbent covering 15. By this means it will be understood, the covering 15 is kept continuously saturated with ink, until the supply within the roller is exhausted. The covering 15 is of such material that the ink within the roller will not flow through it and out of the covering but will be absorbed thereby and merely keep it saturated.

The ends of rod 7 form pintles, which are journaled in the apertures 5 formed in frame 1, and the roller 3 is journaled in the frame with a snug fit.

The roller 4 is the stencil-inking roller, which is adapted to deposit ink immediately upon the stencil. This is made of thoroughly pliable and soft resilient material, 18, such as sponge-rubber, for example, so that when pressed down firmly upon the stencil, the surface of the roller readily conforms to the inequalities of the surface of the stencil and the object being stenciled and enters the openings of the stencil through which the letters are imprinted. The resilient material 18 is placed over a tube, 19, which extends over the axis of the roller, and by means of this tube the roller is mounted upon rod 8. Rod 8 is preferably rigidly secured in the holes 6, provided therefor in frame 1. The bore, 20, of the tube 19 is larger than rod 8, so that the bearing of the tube upon the rod is loose and permits considerable play of the roller upon the rod.

It will now be understood that when the inker is held suspended free from any object, roller 4 is suspended upon rod 8 and its surface is free or barely touches the surface of roller 3, but when roller 4 is placed upon the stencil, and the stencil is pressed down, rod 8 sinks toward the bottom of bore 20 and presses the resilient material 18 of roller 4 into the openings in the stencil and at the same time, while roller 4 is being rolled upon the stencil, roller 3 is depositing a film of ink from its saturated covering 15 upon the surface of the inking-roller, which, in turn, deposits the ink through the stencil openings upon the article that is being marked.

It is obvious that when roller 4 is not in use it is not liable to become permanently creased or otherwise disfigured by roller 3 continually pressing upon it. The pressure of the two rollers in contact is automatically released as soon as the work is discontinued.

It will be seen (Fig. 2) that on account

of the thoroughly pliable nature of the material 18 the surface of roller 4 conforms completely to the inequalities of the stencil, carrying the ink over the perpendicular walls of the stencil openings and depositing it in every corner and crevice; and yet the inking-roller does not lift the stencil and deposit the ink underneath as is commonly done by the conventional stencil-inking brush. It will readily be understood that by thus rolling down the stencil with the resilient cushion of material 18, there is no tendency to tear the delicate divisions of the stencil as is commonly done with the brush, and especially is this the case with the paper stencils now in common use.

A single, rapid stroke of this inker will satisfactorily stencil a smooth wooden box, but if the surface of the box is rough several strokes may be made very quickly, and the surface will be thoroughly marked.

The sizes and position of the rollers may be varied and other slight modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of our invention, and we wish to reserve the right to do this.

Having thus described our invention so that any one skilled in the art pertaining thereto may construct it, and any operative of ordinary intelligence may understand its use, we claim:—

A stencil inker, comprising a frame, a handle on said frame, a roller journaled in the upper part of said frame and provided with a peripheral wall which is penetrable to ink and a chamber within the wall which serves as a reservoir for ink, and a stencil-inking roller movably journaled in the lower part of said frame in proximity to said roller journaled in the upper part of the frame in such a manner that when it is pressed upon a stencil it approaches and contacts with said roller and when lifted from the stencil by means of said handle it recedes from said roller, said stencil-inking roller being provided with a peripheral covering of soft rubber so that its surface will take a coat of ink from said roller journaled in the upper part of said frame and deposit it on the surface to be marked through and close to the walls of the openings of the stencil.

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