(No Model.)

J. M. WHITSON.

PENCIL CLASP.

No. 265,476. Patented Oct. 3, 1882.

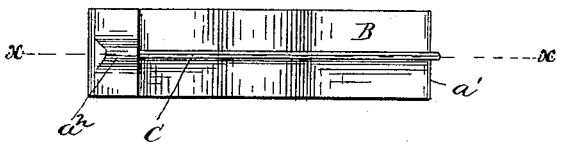

Fig. 1

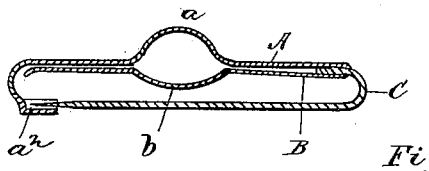

Fig 2

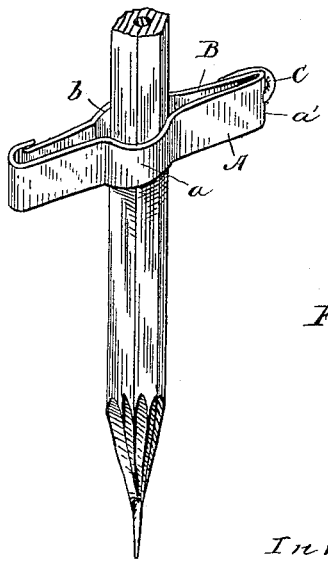

Fig 3

Witnesses
W. C. Corlies
G. E. Faulkner.

Inventor
John M. Whitson
By Coburn & Whitehead
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. WHITSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN R. WALSH, OF SAME PLACE.

PENCIL-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 265,476, dated October 3, 1882.

Application filed May 29, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. WHITSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Pencil-Clasps, which is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved pencil-holder. Fig. 2 is a section on the line *x x* in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view, showing a pencil inserted in the holder.

The same letters denote the same parts in all the figures.

My invention relates to devices to facilitate the carrying of a pencil or pen about the person, so as to have it ready for use wherever the owner may be; and it consists in the several devices and combinations of devices which will be fully set forth hereinafter, and definitely pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, the letters A and B denote a plate or strip of firm and elastic material, preferably sheet metal, the dimensions of which are determined by convenience, but will ordinarily not vary much from three inches and a half in length and half an inch in breadth. This plate is bent on itself lengthwise at a line, *a'*, crossing it at right angles and dividing it so that one part, A, shall be a little—ordinarily about one-fourth—longer than the other part, B. The two parts are soldered together for a short distance from the line *a'*, so as to hold them nearer to each other. The free end of the part A is bent so as to overlap the free end of B, but without touching it. For a short distance near its middle part each part is bent in an arch, *a* or *b*, away from the other, so that the two together virtually form a tube. The chord of each arch is about equal to the ordinary diameter of a pencil-stock, the altitude of each being somewhat less than half that diameter. The two parts A and B thus form a tube, into which a pencil may be pushed, being forced apart by it and closing on it again as soon as it is left in position with a grip which effectually prevents it from slipping out of the holder. At the middle of the line *a'* a hole is made in the plate, through which a pin, C, projects from between the two wings A and B, the wing B being for a short distance formed up into a groove or half-tube, which serves as a socket for the pin. The hole is made so large as to allow of a slight lateral motion of the pin, whose blunt end is flattened a little, so as to prevent it from passing through. This pin, which is a little longer than the wing B, is bent over so as to be parallel with and on the outer side of it. The pin is of elastic metal, and the bend near its head takes a sweep sufficient to bring the point, when unconfined, a little without the overlapping portion of the free end A. By pushing it a little to one side and pressing it downward it may be slipped under this overlapping portion, and will be held there by its own elasticity. It may be further secured against slipping out of place by means of a groove or arch, a^2, formed in the overlapping part of A.

The holder can thus be securely pinned to the coat or vest in any convenient position, so that more or less of the length of the pencil shall be within one of the pockets, if desired.

The pencil can readily be withdrawn from it whenever wanted for use, and as readily returned when there is no further occasion for it.

The separation of the parts A and B by the interposition of a pencil-stock presses the part B against the overlapping end of A, so that when the point of the pin is in the groove a^2 it is locked there and cannot slip out until after the pencil has been withdrawn. This is important in guarding against the tendency of the pencil, in being drawn out of the holder when the latter is pinned in place, to draw the holder away from the pin, any such operation being impossible until the friction of the pencil on the holder has ceased, when of course the tendency to displace the holder will have ceased also.

Being stamped out of a single piece of sheet metal, the holder can be made very cheaply, and the arrangement of the pin in the plate without hinge or joint is not only inexpensive, but specially adapted to hold it firmly in its position when fastening the holder to the coat or vest.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The plate A B, bent on itself, shaped substantially as described, and perforated on the

bend, in combination with the elastic pin C, inserted in the perforation without hinge or joint and bent parallel to the plate, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The pencil-holder consisting of the nearly parallel wings A and B, joined at one end and arched into a tube in the middle, the wing A overlapping the other at its free end, in combination with the pin C, arranged as described, for the purpose of locking the pin in place by means of the pressure of the wing B thereon, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The pencil-holder consisting of the nearly parallel wings A and B, joined at one end and arched into a tube in the middle, the wing A overlapping the other at its free end, and provided with the groove a^2 in the overlapping portion, in combination with the pin C, arranged as described, substantially as and for the purpose described.

JOHN M. WHITSON.

Witnesses:
W. C. WILSON,
JNO. C. MACGREGOR.