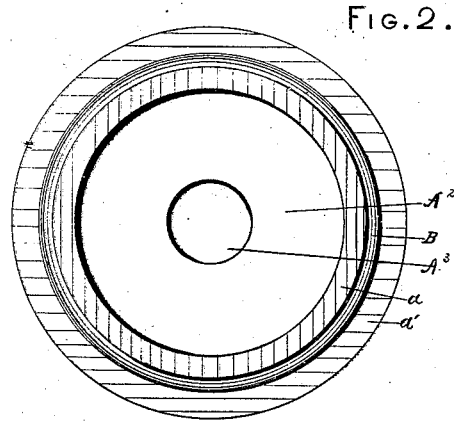
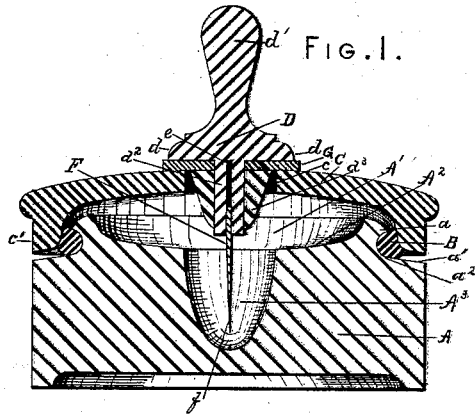


F. STITH.

DRAFTSMAN'S SAUCER.

No. 169,597.

Patented Nov. 2, 1875.



WITNESSES

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IMPROVEMENT IN DRAFTSMEN'S INK-SAUCERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 169,597, dated November 2, 1875; application filed April 7, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FERDINANDO STITH, of the city and county of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Artists' and Draftsmen's India-Ink Saucers, &c., of which the following is a specification:

The objects of my invention are to provide a circuitous track for grinding the "ink-cake," within which track is located an ink-well in which to mass the fluid ink or ground ink and water; to provide a close-fitting cover to protect the ink and track, and to retard evaporation, which cover is so constructed as to furnish, without its being removed, a ready means of access to the ink; and to provide an instrument for expediting the operation of feeding the ink to the "bow-pen," and of insuring the taking, with facility, of each fill of ink from the midst of the mass of fluid, whereby to secure freedom from lees, &c., and to effect the more near uniformity of the quality of each succeeding penful with its next immediate predecessor.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate my invention, Figure 1 is a vertical section through the middle of the whole device, and Fig. 2 is a top view of the saucer alone.

In these two figures similar letters refer to like parts.

A is the body of the saucer, preferably of fine white-glazed potter's ware, or similar suitable material. A¹ is the bowl or dish of the saucer, of a circular concave shape, somewhat flat toward the middle portion A², which constitutes a circular grinding-track ring, upon which water being supplied little by little, either from without or by lightly touching the cake to a supply in the well, hereafter described, the ink-cake is to be circuitously rubbed until the whole quantity of water intended to be used shall become of the desired consistency and intensity of blackness, to expedite which operation with certain extremely hard inks it may be preferable that this portion A² of the dish be free of high polish, or slightly roughened, or left wholly or partially unglazed. Within this track A² there sinks from the dish a well or reservoir, A³, preferably circular and somewhat acorn-shaped as to its vertical section, and preferably of such

size and particular proportion as to freely receive the finger for cleansing, as necessary, or about three-fourths of an inch in depth, and the same or less in diameter, diminished, however, toward the bottom. *a* and *a*¹ are respectively the flange and ledge of the saucer, as is common to similar vessels for such and for other uses, except that in the outer face of the flange *a*, and extending around it, is a channel, groove, or trench, *a*², partly within the embrace of which is placed, tight stretched, a packing-ring, B, either solid or tubular, of rubber or like elastic expansible stuff, of such thickness as to protrude somewhat beyond the general face of the flange *a*, so as to impinge against the rim of the saucer-cover when in place. C is a cover of the usual general form, fit, and character of such covers, except that for more ready access to the ink-well below, for the extraction of its contents, it has centrally through its crown an orifice, *c*, of about the same diameter as the ink-well. This cover C, when in place upon the saucer A, will press its rim *c* continuously upon the intervening packing-ring B, so as to effect there a close joint against dust and air. Upon, and within, and dependent from, the top of the cover C, its feed-hole *e*, and the sides thereof, is shown a combined feed-hole stopple and pen filler or feeder, D, turned of wood or like stuff, or molded of hard or soft rubber, or *papier-maché*, or any such suitable stuff, spreading into the shoulders *d d* of somewhat greater diameter than the feed-hole *e*, rising upward into a handle, *d*¹, of length, form, and size, adapted to the hold of the finger and thumb, and extending downward into a billet, *d*², of about the size of a small pencil or pen-stock, and of such length that when hanging in the feed-hole *e* it will not reach into the well A³. This billet *d*² has through its length a cleft, *e*, in which is placed, F, a slip of quill or thin splint of wood or whalebone, or such stuff, somewhat lancet-shaped, as viewed flatwise, and of such length that when the combined stopple and filler is in place as a stopper, as shown in Fig. 1, its point *f* will reach down into the well A³, somewhat short, however, of the bottom thereof. Encircling the billet *d*², below the shoulders *d d*, is placed a thin packing-plate, G, of soft rubber, or such yielding

stuff, of diameter somewhat greater than that of the feed-hole c , which it is to cover, so to effect there a close joint against dust and air. Upon the billet d^2 is placed supplementarily a close-fitting collar, d^3 , of wood, cork, or rubber, or either such stuff, whose prime office is to hold the plate G close pressed home against the under side of the shoulders d and the sides of the billet d^2 , made, for now obvious reasons, somewhat enlarged toward its lower end, compressed upon the stem of the filler F so as to keep it safe and firm in the cleft e , and true in its direction to the center of the well A^3 , the reach-down thereinto being adjusted at will by sliding the stem up or down in the cleft e . This collar d^3 is tapered considerably for more ready insertion into the hole e , which its upper portion more nearly fills as a stopple, whereby to serve secondarily the no-less-important function of holding the shoul-

ders d more equably placed, and more accurately covering the hole, and of guiding and keeping the therefrom-dependent filler-point f to the center of the well A^3 .

I claim as my invention—

1. The india-ink saucer, having a central well encircled by an ink-grinding track, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the ink-saucer, having a central well, the removable cover having an orifice in its crown above said well, and a stopple fitting said orifice, and provided with a pen-feeder extending down into the well, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

F. STITH.

Witnesses:

H. H. YOUNG,
BALTIMORE, DE LONG.