D. M. SOMERS.

POCKET-PENCIL.

No. 188,721. Patented March 20, 1877.

Fig. 1.

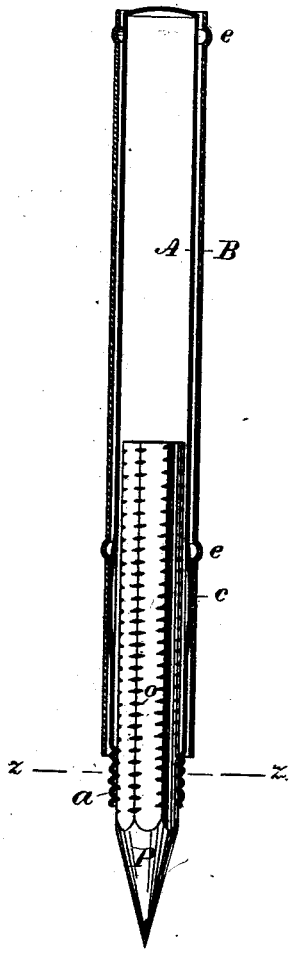

Fig. 2.

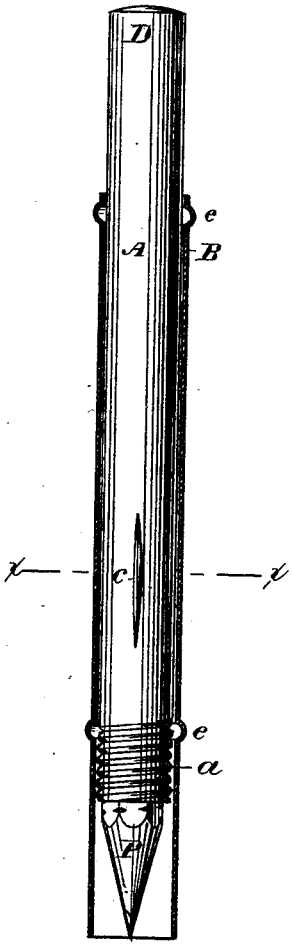

Fig. 3.

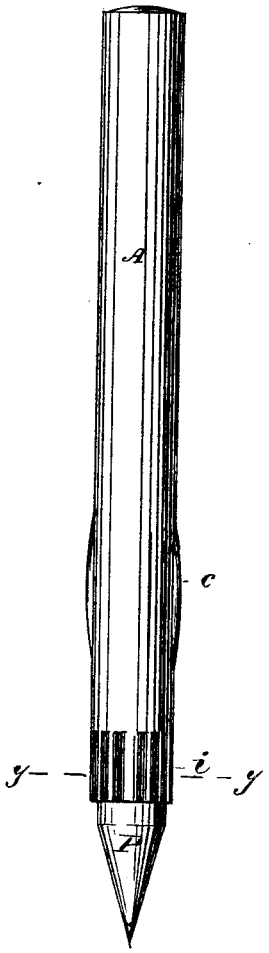

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

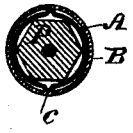

Fig. 6.

WITNESSES:

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DANIEL M. SOMERS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN POCKET-PENCILS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **188,721**, dated March 20, 1877; application filed September 5, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL M. SOMERS, of New York city, county and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Pocket-Pencils, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawings is illustrated in Figure 1 a longitudinal section, showing the pencil in elevation; Fig. 2, a similar view, showing the inner tube or holder in elevation; Fig. 3, an elevation of the inner tube detached from the case; Fig. 4, a cross-section on line *x*, Fig. 1; Fig. 5, a similar view on line *x*, Fig. 2; and Fig. 6, a similar view on line *y*, Fig. 3.

This invention relates to that class of lead-pencils which are provided with holders or cases which cover or protect their points when carried in the pocket.

The invention consists in a tubular holder, within which the pencil may be adjusted to protrude more or less of its point, which holder is provided with an exterior sliding case, which may be adjusted to cover the pencil-point as a protector, or expose the same when the pencil is to be used for writing or marking.

Artists' points and naked leads have been heretofore provided with protecting-cases, within which they are adapted to slide for protection, and from which they may be protruded for use; but such cases have been of complicated and expensive construction. It has also been common to provide the ordinary wooden pencil with short metallic tubular protectors, which are adjusted upon either the pointed or unpointed end of the pencil, according as it is desired to expose or protect said pointed or writing end. Both wooden and metallic holders provided with a means for adjusting a wooden pencil in them have also been constructed.

All of these devices are more or less defective, either in their complicated construction or by reason of the complex manipulation necessary in their operation.

The device I have devised is adapted to adjust the pencil in its holder, and to expose or protect its pointed end by the simplest manipulation, the construction being simple, cheap, and effective.

The holder consists of a tube, A, closed at one end, and provided at its open end with a rolled screw-thread, *a*, which is adapted to receive the ordinary wood-incased lead-pencil. The said pencil is introduced therein by simple rotation while a gentle endwise pressure is applied to it, the result being that the screw-thread *a* will so compress the wooden pencil-holder as to impress a thread upon it. Once introduced into the tube A, until its sharpened point P protrudes a proper extent therefrom, the pencil may be used in writing; and when its point is worn away, so as to need resharpening, it may be protruded for that purpose by rotating it in a contrary direction to that by which it was entered into the tube A, when its thread will readily follow that in the tube end. It is preferable, however, to prepare the pencil for use in this holder by forming a screw-thread upon its exterior surface, as in Fig. 1, which shows a polygonal pencil, provided with nicks *o* cut spirally through its corners; and this form of pencil is especially adapted to my holder. A continuous thread upon the surface of a round pencil will, however, serve the purpose equally well, though for such pencils I prefer to provide the case A with longitudinal flutings, as at *i*, Fig. 3, whose inward projections press upon the surface of the pencil with frictional contact sufficient to hold it in any position of adjustment.

This holder is provided with an exterior case, B, adapted to slide thereon, and be projected over the pencil end P, as in Fig. 2, or drawn back, as in Fig. 1, so as to expose said pencil end. In order to hold this case B in any position of its adjustment upon the tube A, the latter is provided with longitudinal projections or ribs *c*, one, two, three, or more of which are raised upon its surface to a slight degree, so as to bear upon and press the inner walls of the tubular case B to such an extent as will slightly distort the said case from a true circle, or at least bear thereon with a force sufficient to cause a frictional detent which will hold the tubes in whatever position they are placed relative to each other, and yet readily yield so as to slide one upon the other when moved in opposite longitudinal directions.

The case B is provided with knurls *e e* to

assist in sliding it upon the holder A. When the case B is projected over the pencil-point to protect it, as in Fig. 2, the device is adapted to be carried in the pocket, and the case B may be slid upon the holder A, so as to expose the pencil-point for use, as shown in Fig. 1, by holding the case B firmly in the hand and simply pressing the end D of the holder upon a table or other fixed surface, when the said holder will be forced into the case A far enough to protrude the pencil-point. Pressure in the same manner upon the pencil-point will force the holder into the position shown in Fig. 2.

It is obvious that the projections *c* may protrude from either tube against the other.

What I claim is—

1. A pocket-pencil, consisting of an inner tube, provided with interior pencil-holding projections, and with exterior projecting frictional detents, in combination with an outer protecting-tube adapted to slide longitudinally thereon, substantially as described.

2. The combination of two tubes sliding upon each other, one of which tubes is provided with a projection swaged from its body, and bearing upon the other tube to form a frictional detent, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

DANIEL M. SOMERS.

Witnesses:

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