

FRIEDNLY MARKER PEN HOLDER

(FOR *GENERAL USE*)

DESCRIPTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to an unique invention and novel design of an apparatus so as to

The novel idea of the apparatus lies in having a dedicated marker pen holder on the wall close to the writing board, or on the writing board itself. If two holders are used and placed in line and vertical, the upper pen is able to slide down to the lower holder. The dedicated holder can also be designed to hold not just one pen but more. This invention differs much from the way marker pens are normally kept either on the tray of the writing board or in a separate container.

Because its application is essentially more pragmatic and user-friendly, the invention of this apparatus is called “**Friendly Marker Pen Holder**” or FMPH. As a single modular unit, it is just a pen holder with or without a bottom stopper (see *figure 1*). It can also be a modular unit to hold more than one pen as a single unit (see *figure 1A*). *Figure 2 shows* one 2-tier arrangement with only one bottom stopper while *figure 3* shows the units in a group as 2-tier multiple arrangement. More tier modular arrangements can be envisioned (see *figure 3A*). By putting together modular units, multiple tier arrangement to hold many pens is feasible and made very practical. The mounting position or orientation can be vertical, inclined or horizontal.

The preferred manner is to have the FMPH units mounted in vertical position. Other positions fall within the embodiment of this invention.

Background of the Invention

Marker or whiteboard pens are often used in board, conference, meeting or class rooms by the speaker or demonstrator to illustrate his subject of talk.. These pens come in different colors so that the speaker can differentiate things he speaks about by the colors. The manner the pens are often kept is by putting them on the tray of the writing board or in a container nearby. Several common problems exist due to this arrangement of keeping the pens or loosely keeping them:-

- Because the pens are not kept in an orderly manner, misplacing a pen is likely.
- The color pens are mixed up and picking a color will require searching in the box.
- If several pens of one color are kept, picking one with insufficient ink can happen as not all of them are new due to replenishment and not discarding the used ones.
- If after use of different color pens and by not replacing the caps properly, a color pen fitted with wrong color cap can be the result.
- There is tendency to leave the pens uncapped or not properly capped thus wastefully evaporating and depleting remaining ink in the pen.
- The mixing of old and new pens makes it difficult to create a schedule for replenishing or replacing pens that are about to run out of ink.

All above problems can frustrate the speaker or demonstrator and disturb his focus when the right color pen with sufficient ink cannot be located and selected fast enough.

Friendly Marker Pen Holder” or FMPH is a unique invention that centers on a holder design which, when used together with a pen, is able to eliminate or mitigate the problems aforementioned faced by the speaker or demonstrator.

The background of the Invention lies in making a holder with a bottom stopper which can keep the pen upright and not able to slip through when stowed in position (see **figure 4**). The holder

is designed such that another holder can be placed above it. The upper holder does not have a bottom stopper. By arranging vertically the two holders. (see **figure 5**), the pen above, when applied with a force, can slip down to the holder below when it is empty.

First significant difference and substantial advantage of the present invention is that by using FMPH to hold the pen, a dedicated location enables the pen to be detected easily. Since FMPH is mounted at the side of the writing board, the pen is in a permanent location and misplacing the pen is unlikely.

Second significant difference and substantial advantage of the present invention is that each FMPH is dedicated to one or more pens and color, and at a fixed location. Therefore using one pen will require it to be put back at the same location because other FMPHs will be occupied with other pens. When several pens of different colors are used simultaneously, each FMPH holder is marked with 'color tab' to identify the color pen to which it belongs (see **figure 3**). This eliminates mixing of pens, as would be the case if the pens are kept in a container.

A third significant difference and substantial advantage of the present invention is when FMPH is arranged with two holders placed vertically - one with bottom stopper at the lower end and one without bottom stopper at above (in-line) - , it allows the upper pen to slip down to the lower holder provided it is pushed vertically down. This offers a unique set-up such that when the two pens are of the same color, the bottom pen is meant to be used first (see **figure 5**). On returning to the holder, the pen will be placed on the upper holder by pushing the upper pen downwards. In other words, once a pen is used and returned, the returning pen is placed above.

This makes the two pens to be used alternately and creates a consistent depletion of the ink in both. When any pen becomes weak in the ink, it is time to replace both pens. This eliminates the existence of 'weak and strong ink' situation of pens. Of course, if more FMPHs are arranged in-line, the ink depletion speed will slow down for each pen. The advantage is obvious.

The holders can be arranged in inclined or horizontal positions as desired by the user.

A fourth significant difference and substantial advantage of the present invention is that by duplicating the ‘in-line’ arrangement, pens of different colors as a group can be placed in one location and each group of pens can be used in alternate fashion as described in previous paragraph for each color. This offers a set-up of multiple pens of different colors (see **figure 6**) to be used efficiently and at the same time a consistent ink usage and depletion speed is enabled.

A fifth significant difference and substantial advantage of the present invention is that FMPH holders are not only functionally arranged to provide better efficiency in pen usage, it also creates a neat set-up to hold the pens adding aesthetic value to a function and environment.

Needless to say the FMPH invention optimizes apparatus-pen utilization. As a result, operational efficiency is improved.

The Objective of the Invention

The objective of the invention is to provide an innovative, improved and alternative method for holding marker pens to be used in board, conference, meeting, seminar, class rooms or similar by the speaker or demonstrator. At the same time, this invention creates functional and operational efficiency and other advantages as describe in above.

The FMPH invention and design will obviate or mitigate the aforementioned situations of less tidy keeping of pens, likelihood of picking the wrong pen, a pen with insufficient ink, a mixture of new and used pens and others. It offers an alternative method, which will at least provide

the public with a useful, operationally more effective and cost saving choice in handling and using the marker pens.

Statement of the Invention.

The FMPH invention works on a unique design of a pen-holder thus dedicating itself to one or more pens and keeping the stowage in a vertical position. Horizontal or inclined stowage position is feasible as well if the user finds it more useful and practical..

When arranged modularly to have multiple units and organized for different color pens, the set-up offers several advantages when handling and using the pens.

The end-result of this invention manifests the following advantages:

1. When FMPH unit is dedicated to hold one or more pens. Retrieving and returning each pen to the same unit and location helps create a stowage order for efficient usage of pens.
2. If arranged 'in-line', one group of color pens can then be used in alternate or 'next-in-line' fashion such that ink usage is evenly effected to each pen thus making usage of each color ink gradual and avoiding a situation of picking a pen with insufficient ink.
3. The 'in-line' (can be vertical, inclined or horizontal position) arrangement, when used for different groups of color pens, creates a set-up that enables consistent and efficient usage of all the color pens. At the same time, the set-up adds aesthetic value to the environment.

Results and Discussion

The following table highlights and compares the FMPH invention advantages over current typical marker pen-keeping methods. The table is in no way meant to be an exhaustive exploration of all of the features of the invention, and many of those not discussed will become readily apparent to a skilled reader once the full scope of the invention is understood.

No.	Features	Invention	Conventional (writing board tray)	Conventional (container)
1.	FMPH unit to hold one or more pens (<i>figure 1,1A & 4</i>)	Each pen has a fixed and permanent location to return to and fully identifiable.	The open tray of the writing board cannot be arranged to keep the pens in a fixed locations	All other pens (same or different colors) are mixed together in one container and each pen cannot be easily identified
2.	When FMPH units are arranged ‘in-line’ for one color set of pens (<i>figure 5</i>)	Immediately, the color pens are stacked above each other. The usage can start from the lowest one and returning it to the top. This creates consistent and even usage of pens. Inclined or horizontal positions can behave similarly.	Consistent and even usage of pens is not feasible as the pens are on the tray in random positions.	Consistent and even usage of pens is not feasible because the pens are mixed together in the container.

3.	FMPH when used as multiples of 'in-line' arrangement (figure 6)	All different color pens can be consistently used and ink usage spread over the pens. When ink is weak, time to change out all pens for each color.	Ink usage of the same color pens can never be consistent as the pens are placed randomly on the tray.	Ink usage of the same color pens can never be consistent as the pens are mixed randomly in the container.
4.	FMPH helps improve overall efficiency in pen usage and contribute in cost savings.	- Invention helps improve discipline to put back caps thus saving costs against depleting ink carelessly - Ink availability in pen is more assured for each color especially with the 'in-line' arrangement - When located appropriately next to writing board, FMPH holders and pens as a group provides better operational efficiency and a systematic and aesthetic stowage arrangement. Yet the	- Random placing of color pens on tray is difficult to create a discipline to keep pens in any form of stowage order or usage. - Not possible to assure sufficient ink availability in pens because of random usage.. - Difficult to have positive contributions in operation efficiency and aesthetic aspect here with the pens placed at random in trays and possibility of uncapped pens or pens without caps.	- Random placing of color pens in container is difficult to create a discipline to keep pens in any form of stowage order or usage. - Not possible to assure sufficient ink availability in pens because of random usage.. - Difficult to have positive contributions in operation efficiency and aesthetic aspect here with the pens mixed at random in container and possibility of uncapped pens or pens without caps.

		pens function consistently in ink usage providing a proper schedule for replenishment.		
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Modifications of the Preferred Embodiments

While the invention has been described with particular reference to certain embodiments thereof, it will be understood that various modifications can be made to the above-mentioned embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The examples and the particular proportions set forth are intended to be illustrative only.

Information Disclosure References

Information relating to inventions that may have been previously filed in by others and that is of similar invention can only be determined after a search by the authority.

THE INVENTOR'S CLAIM

During meetings, seminars, classes, speeches and others, the speaker or demonstrator often requires marker pens of different colors (or otherwise called whiteboard pens) to further illustrate his points apart from the visual display that is put up. These pens are normally kept on the tray attached to a writing board or separately in a container, and the usage of these pens from this conventional manner of storage gives rise to operational and functional deficiencies such as (a) picking up the wrong pen, (b) pen with insufficient ink, (c) Pen with wrong color cap, (d) new pens mixed with old, (e) in ability to create a schedule to indentify which pens need replenishment or replacement:-

Characterized in that the novel invention of 'Friendly Marker Pen Holder' (FMPH) herein presented uniquely provides the following.

1. When FMPH unit is dedicated to hold one or more pens, retrieving and returning each pen to the same unit and location helps create a stowage order for efficient usage of pens.
2. When FMPH units are arranged 'in-line', one group of color pens can then be used in alternate or 'next-in-line' fashion such that ink usage is evenly effected to each pen thus making usage of each color ink gradual and avoiding a situation of picking a pen with insufficient ink while others are full.
3. The 'in-line' (can be vertical, inclined or horizontal position) arrangement, when used for different groups of color pens, creates a set-up that enables consistent and efficient usage of all the color pens. At the same time, the set-up adds aesthetic value to the environment.

4. This novel invention allows the user a systematic usage of the marker pens and creates a schedule whereby the pens can be timely replenished or replaced to ensure readiness of the pens, as required by the user.

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