

MARKING AND ERADICATING INSTRUMENT
AND METHOD OF USE OF SAME

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to marking applicators and dispensers and eradicators and more particularly to liquid applicators and eradicator instruments and a method of use for same.

10 BACKGROUND ART

 Liquid marking applicators and dispensers have been known. Such applicators and dispensers may be marking or highlighting instruments, which allow marking or highlighting of selected surface areas. The applicators may be disposable and allow repetitive use ink applications, and often have
15 felt-type wicks saturated with marking ink or highlighting ink.

 Other disposable, repetitive use applicators and dispensers, using eradicators for eradicating marking ink or
20 highlighting ink and liquids, such as bleaching agents, have been known. These eradicator applicators and dispensers often have felt-type wicks saturated with marking ink or highlighting ink eradicators.

 Marking instruments, which utilize a highlighting ink applicator at an end and an unrelated ball point ink
25 applicator coaxially located at an opposing end, such as for writing or printing ink, have also been known.

 There is a need for a liquid marking and eradicating instrument having therein a liquid marker and an eradicator
30 oppositingly located each to the other. The marking and eradicating instrument should be capable of overwriting and/or highlighting printed and other material and eradicating the overwritten and/or highlighted material from the printed material.

35 The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should contain therein means for eradicating markings made with the marking and eradicating instrument, such as may be made by marking ink and/or highlighting ink on printed and other

surfaces, and enable a user, such as a student, for example, to selectively mark and/or highlight text while studying, and then selectively eradicate portions of the marked and/or highlighted text upon memorization of these selected portions of the text. The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should enable the user to return a textbook, for example, to an unblemished state, after the highlight has been eradicated. The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should provide a convenient marking and/or highlighting ink eradicator in a single marking instrument for portability, should be inexpensive to manufacture, attractive, convenient and easy to use, eliminate the need to carry and use more than one device for marking and/or highlighting and eradicating the markings and/or highlight, facilitate writing and eradicating highlight, provide easy access, and save time in the process of marking and/or highlighting and eradicating the highlight.

There is also a need for a method for a user, such as a student, to use non-borrowable reference materials in a library, temporarily mark and/or highlight portions of the reference materials while studying same, yet also be able to erase any marked and/or highlighted portions upon completion of studying the reference materials in the library.

The method should use, for example, a single marking instrument to apply visually ascertainable transparent highlighting ink and to subsequently apply an ink eradicator solution to selectively remove all or portions of the transparent highlighting ink, thus making it visually unascertainable, while leaving the underlying permanent inked text underneath visually ascertainable.

Different color changing apparatus and methods have been known. However, none of the color changing apparatus adequately satisfies these aforementioned needs.

U. S. Patent no. 4,557,618 of Iwata, discloses a special type of erasable ink in a pen barrel which can be erased by an ink eradicator at the other end of the barrel. The erasable ink is described as being dispensed from either a ball point pen or a felt tip type pen. It states at column

3, lines 26-27 that the "ink passage member may be constructed of a felt or fibrous wick" (as shown in drawing figure 5,) and the eraser portion may be a "porous passage member 24 composed of a felt, fibrous or porous resin" as
5 noted at column 10, lines 54-57.

However, an important structural difference between the Iwata '618 dual ended pen and the present invention is that Iwata '618 does not refer to the use of transparent highlighting ink. Moreover, Iwata '618 uses dark erasable
10 ink from a felt tip point instead of transparent highlighting ink.

French patent no. 982.772 of Borelli is similar to Iwata '618, wherein a single marking instrument includes ink at one end and ink eradicator at the other end.

15 Furthermore, German patent publication no. 2035353 discloses felt tips and French patent no. 825,501 discloses the use of felt tips, including a wider felt tip at one end. German patent no. 2715359 describes highlighting ink dispensers with split tips and U.S. patent no. 5,203,638 of
20 Redmond discloses a writing instrument with two dispensing wicks facing the same axial direction. U.S. patent no. 5,143,463 of Pozil discloses a cushioned handle for a writing instrument.

U.S. Patent no. 5,499,881, of Chang describes an ink
25 filled refill tube which is surrounded by correction fluid in the barrel of the pen outside of the refill to be. When the cap of the pen is twisted, the refill tube is lifted up from the inside opening of the pen, so that the correction fluid can flow out instead.

30 U.S. Patent no. 2,481,803 of Weaver, describes a fountain pen marker which is at one end and a sponge applicator for correction fluid which is at the other end of the pen barrel.

U.S. Patent no. 4,979,840 of Madaus describes a fountain
35 pen with an ink eradicator at the other end. The end with the ink eradicator is transparent, to enable the user to ascertain whether the supply of ink eradicator is running low.

In U.S. Patent no. 4,685,820 of Kremer there is shown a dual fluid applicator. In Figure 12 particularly, one end 18 is a pen type, but end 18c is a felt type applicator.

5 In U.S. Patent no. 4,228,028 of Lin, a ball point pen barrel contains the nib of the ball point pen at one end of the barrel and an ink eradicator bleach applicator at the other end of the barrel.

U.S. Patent no. 3,765,780 of Guu discloses a ball point pen with a pencil point at the other end.

10 U.S. Patent no. 5,427,278 of Gardner discloses a highlighting ink eradicator in a barrel which is separate from the highlighting ink pen. However, Gardner `278 does not disclose the use of a highlighting ink eradicator with a highlighting ink dispenser in the same barrel, so that it can
15 be used with a textbook for selectively highlighting permanent text ink, and then later selectively removing the highlighting ink to restore the permanent text ink as before.

Other relevant prior art patents include U.S. Patent No. 5,492,558 (Miller) which discloses color changing
20 compositions for highlighters; and U.S. Patent No. 5,352,282 (Miller) which discloses color changing compositions;

U.S. Patent No. 5,549,742 (Cancellieri) discloses an assembly or set of different color inks and an assembly of writing instruments; and U.S. Patent No. 5,489,331 (Miller)
25 discloses color changing compositions using acids.

U.S. Patent No. 5,486,228 (Miller) discloses washable color changing compositions; and U.S. Patent No. 5,464,470 (Brachman) discloses a color-changing marking composition system.

30 U.S. Patent No. 5,460,647 (Snedeker) discloses a color-changing marking composition system; and U.S. Patent No. 5,232,494 (Miller) discloses color changing compositions. Furthermore U.S. Patent No. 5,569,637 (Cregg) discloses featuring information on a record using color; and U.S.
35 Patent No. 5,503,665 (Miller) discloses latent image compositions.

Also, U.S. Patent No. 5,498,282 (Miller) discloses color changing pan paint compositions, U.S. Patent No. 5,478,382

(Miller) discloses color changing compositions for use on non-porous surfaces; and U.S. Patent No. 5,326,388 (Miller) discloses color changing compositions.

5 Different color removal apparatus and methods have been disclosed. However, none of the color removal apparatus and methods adequately satisfies these aforementioned needs.

U.S. Patent No. 5,427,278 (Gardner), as noted before, discloses a highlighting-ink remover applicator, and U.S. Patent No. 5,324,131 (Gardner) discloses an ink removing
10 applicator and ink removal method.

U.S. Patent No. 3,941,488 (Maxwell) discloses a marker/anti-marker system, and U.S. Patent nos. 4,277,930 and 4,228,028 both (Lin) disclose a ball point pen, ink and eradicator system.

15 U.S. Patent No. 4,252,845 (Griffiths) discloses a graphic arts ink and eradicator combination, U.S. Patent No. 4,681,471 (Hayduchok) discloses a kit having multicolored fluid dispenser markers together with eradicating fluid dispenser, stamps and stamp pad; and U.S.
20 Patent No. 5,006,171 (Mecke) discloses an ink eradicator for inks containing triaryl methane dyestuffs.

Other marking and erasing apparatus and methods have been disclosed, such as U.S. Patent No. 5,599,853 (Loftin) which discloses erasable inks; U.S. Patent No. 4,954,174
25 (Imagawa) which discloses an erasable ink composition; U.S. Patent Nos. 5,004,763 (Imagawa) and 5,561,175 (Imagawa) disclose water base erasable ink compositions; and U.S. Patent No. 4,525,216 (Nakanishi) which discloses an ink composition.

30 U.S. Patent No. 5,412,021 also (Nakanishi) discloses a water based erasable ink composition for use in marking pens and U.S. Patent No. 5,362,167 (Loftin) discloses a fiber marker having an erasable ink.

U.S. Patent nos. 5,316,574 (Fujita) and 5,324,764 both
35 (Fujita) disclose an erasable ink composition for writing on an impervious surface, and U.S. Patent nos. 4,940,628, (Lin) 4,988,123 (Lin) and 5,217,255 (Lin) all disclose an erasable system having marking surface and erasable ink composition.

U.S. Patent No. 5,017,034 (Stary) discloses a marker and pen combination having transverse and longitudinally spaced tips, and U.S. Patent No. 5,203,638 (Redmond) discloses a writing instrument for alternately writing in fluorescent
5 transparent and non-transparent ink.

U.S. Patent No. 3,990,156 (Eigen) discloses a constructed response method with invisible answer indicator for preventing cheating, U.S. Patent No. 4,631,203 (Schaefer) discloses a latent imaging and developer system; U.S. Patent
10 No. 5,160,266 (Landis) discloses a mix and match invisible ink game, and U.S. Patent No. 5,131,776 (Mott) discloses an aqueous permanent coloring composition for a marker.

Also, U.S. Patent No. 4,726,845 (Thompson) discloses an hybrid marking instrument and writing ink composition; and
15 U.S. Patent No. 4,864,618 (Wright) discloses an automated transaction system with modular print head having print authentication feature.

U.S. Patent No. 5,286,061 (Behm) discloses a lottery ticket having validation data printed in developable
20 invisible ink, and U.S. Design Patent Nos. D340,947, D329,873 (Tu), D260,272, D300,331 (Horntrich), D295,537 (Davidson), D299,470 (Mock), D307,443, D307,601, D324,543, D325,599, D327,911, (Poisson), D309,913 (Shintani), D316,361 (Kieffer), D332,283 (Voorhees), D332,964, D334,023 (Giugiaro), all
25 disclose various marking instruments.

Moreover, U.S. Design Patent No. D336,425 (Napora) discloses a double ended marking instruments; U.S. Design Patent No. D295,878 (Lovell) discloses a dual applicator marking instrument; U.S. Design Patent No. D306,316
30 (Shintani) discloses a twin-nibbed marking instrument; U.S. Design Patent No. D331,070 (Hu) discloses a casing for a marking instrument; and, U.S. Design Patent No. D279,992 (Gribb) discloses a dual tip marking instrument.

For the foregoing reasons there is a need for a liquid
35 marking and eradicating instrument having therein a marker and/or highlighter and an eradicator opposingly located each to the other. The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should be capable of marking and/or highlighting printed and

other material and eradicating the markings and/or highlight from the printed material.

The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should contain therein means to eradicate markings and/or highlight on printed and other surfaces, and enable a user, such as a student, for example, to selectively mark and/or highlight text while studying, and then selectively eradicate portions of the marked and/or highlighted text upon memorization of these selected portions of the text. The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should enable the user to return a textbook, for example, to an unblemished state, after the highlight has been eradicated. The liquid marking and eradicating instrument should provide a convenient marker and/or highlighting ink eradicator in a single marking instrument for portability, should be inexpensive to manufacture, attractive, easy and convenient to use, eliminate the need to carry and use more than one device for marking and/or highlighting and eradicating the markings and/or highlight, facilitate writing and eradicating markings and/or highlight, provide easy access, and save time in the process of marking and/or highlighting and eradicating the markings and/or highlight.

There is also a need for a method for a user, such as a student, to use non-borrowable reference materials in a library, temporarily mark and/or highlight portions of the reference materials while studying same, yet also be able to erase any marked and/or highlighted portions upon completion of studying the reference materials in the library.

The method may use a single marking instrument to apply visually ascertainable transparent highlighting ink and to subsequently apply an ink eradicator solution to selectively remove all or portions of the transparent highlighting ink, thus making it visually unascertainable, while leaving the underlying permanent inked text underneath visually ascertainable.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a liquid marking and eradicating instrument having therein a marker and/or highlighter and an eradicator opposingly located each to the other. The liquid marking and
5 eradicating instrument should be capable of marking and/or highlighting printed and other material and eradicating the markings and/or highlight from the printed material.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a marking and/or highlighting instrument, which contains
10 therein means to eradicate markings and/or highlighting ink on printed surfaces.

It is also an object of the present invention to enable a user, such as a student, to selectively mark and/or highlight text while studying, but also be able to
15 selectively eradicate portions of the marked and/or highlighted text upon memorization of these selected portions of the text.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a convenient marker and/or highlighter and marker
20 and/or highlighter eradicator in a single marking instrument for easy access and saving time.

It is also an object of the present invention to enable a user, such as a reader, to use a printed publication, such as a book or specialized textbook, with marking and/or
25 highlighting ink to selectively underscore selected topics of the textbook, yet further enable the reader to remove the markings and/or highlighted ink to return the textbook to an unblemished state after use of the textbook has been accomplished.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a kit for a user, such as a student, so that the user can study course material by selectively marking and/or
30 highlighting text and then narrowing the portion of the text to be studied in the future by eradicating the already
35 learned material.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a method for a user, such as a student, to use non-borrowable reference materials in a library and to

temporarily mark and/or highlight portions of the reference materials while studying same, yet also be able to erase any marked and/or highlighted portions upon completion of studying the reference materials in the library.

5 It is yet another object of the present invention to enable a user, such as a student, to restore a used textbook to an unblemished state upon completion of use of the textbook and to increase and augment the value of the textbook when the textbook is re-sold by the student.

10 It is also an object of the present invention to enable a user, such as a student, to temporarily remove marked and/or highlighted portions of a textbook or other published material so that the material can be photocopied, or sent by electronic facsimile transmission (i.e. "faxed") without
15 marking and/or highlighting ink thereon, and yet enable the student to restore the markings and/or highlighting with marking and/or highlighting ink after completion of photocopying or faxing of the selected portion of the textbook or other published material.

20 It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a marking and/or highlighting ink applicator marking instrument, more particularly, to a marking and/or highlighting ink barrel dispenser having an erasable ink applicator, coaxially positioned at an opposite end of the
25 barrel, which erasable ink applicator removes the marking and/or highlighting ink previously dispensed upon a permanently printed surface.

 It is yet another object of the present invention for the barrel of the aforementioned marking and/or highlighting
30 ink applicator to be designed for manual gripping, and have at one end the highlighting ink dispenser, such as felt, which wick is soaked with marking and/or transparent highlighting ink and the opposite end to have the erasable marking and/or ink applicator, which may also be dispensed
35 from a wick or other appropriate dispensers, such as a roller ball applicator or a squeeze tube. Both the oppositely positioned applicator portions should be closed by a removable air tight cap. Each cap should engage a reciprocal

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collar end of the sleeve barrel within which barrel the respective wicks are placed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In keeping with these objects and others which may become apparent, the present invention provides a marking and/or highlighting and eradicating instrument having a marking and/or highlighting ink dispenser and an ink eradicator dispenser, which are coaxially and opposingly
10 located each to the other. Liquid dispensed from the eradicator dispenser removes the marking and/or highlighting previously dispensed upon a permanently printed surface.

The marking and/or highlighting and eradicating instrument may be used with marking ink, highlighting ink, or
15 other suitable liquid.

The marking and/or highlighting and eradicating has a barrel, designed for manual gripping, when used for example with highlighting ink, includes at one end the marking and/or highlighting ink dispenser, such as a felt wick, which wick
20 is soaked with transparent highlighting ink. At the opposite end is provided the ink eradicator applicator, wherein the eradicating ink may also be dispensed from a wick or other appropriate dispensers, such as a roller ball applicator or squeeze tube. Each of the oppositely positioned applicator
25 portions are closed by a removable air tight cap. Each cap engages a reciprocal collar end of the sleeve barrel within which barrel the respective wicks are placed.

USE AND OPERATION OF THE INVENTION

30 While reading assigned material for an academic school's course, pertinent new material is marked or highlighted for future review and memorization. This can be accomplished, for example, with the highlighting ink end portion of the marking instrument of the present invention. But, as
35 material is reviewed and committed to memory, the highlighted areas can be narrowed down. The material already learned by a student can be erased to make the material less cumbersome and more efficient for learning, and to increase memory

efficiency. This can be established by erasing the learned material with the eradicator end of the marking instrument of the present invention.

It is not necessary to search, find and retrieve a
5 separate marking instrument to have this erasing activity occur, since the marking instrument of the present invention is all inclusive and has both functions in one, single convenient marking instrument.

In the absence of the present invention, notes are taken
10 with a pen or pencil while simultaneously highlighting the material, many times, while studying. Time is lost searching for use of the pen or pencil while the prior art conventional highlighter marker is in the user's hand and vice versa, time is lost searching for a conventional highlighter marking
15 instrument while the pen or pencil is in the user's hand. There is a discrepancy in the efficiency of the user's time, even if what the user is searching for is right next to the user.

Therefore, to improve the management of the user's time
20 and time efficiency during studying, the double-ended marking instrument of the present invention has a highlighter on one end and a highlighting ink eradicator component on the other end.

With the present invention, while studying, after
25 highlighting any material, it is not necessary for the user to find a separate utensil for eradicating the material already studied. The highlighter portion of the marking instrument of the present invention is simply flipped around to erase the material initially highlighted which, at a later
30 time is reviewed, learned and committed to memory.

In addition, many college and graduate level courses have a reference list referring to material requiring research in the Reference Section of the library. These textbooks cannot leave the library and they also cannot be
35 marked or highlighted in. Pages can only be photocopied and then a problem of photocopy machine lines and purchasing copy cards exists. With the marking instrument of the present invention, learning material required for a course can be

read and highlighted at a relaxed pace. The relevant material from the textbooks in the Reference Section can actually be written in with highlighting ink, initially. After the pertinent information is highlighted and gathered, 5 the marking instrument of the present invention can be turned around to erase any of the material in the Reference textbook which was initially highlighted.

Moreover, college and graduate school textbooks are always being bought and sold at academic institutions 10 throughout the country today. When a textbook is sold back to the bookstore, at the end of a semester, a higher initial purchase price is refunded to the student, if less marks are made in the book. Therefore, the selling price of a book correlates to the shape it's in at the time it's being sold 15 back to the bookstore. With the marking instrument of the present invention, the textbook can be utilized for learning purposes and highlighted in throughout the semester without any worries of how much it will be worth at the end of the semester. When the course is over and the time comes to sell 20 the textbook back to the bookstore, the marking instrument of the present invention can be flipped around and all the blemishes of the highlighted areas can be simply eradicated before getting evaluated for a refund.

Furthermore, while studying, it is difficult to keep 25 track of what words or phrases were previously highlighted. The same material can frequently be highlighted repetitively. When this occurs and as soon as it is realized, the marking instrument of the present invention can be flipped around to erase the repeated words, phrases and/or thoughts already 30 highlighted. Again, this allows for a more efficient way of learning by decreasing the quantity of the material and increasing the quality of what is being learned.

Also with respect to use of the marking instrument of the present invention, computer printed and/or photocopied 35 hand-outs are sometimes written and highlighted on for ease of locating and identifying words or phrases. Photocopying and/or faxing these dittos does not allow words or phrases highlighted with darker markers to show up. If highlighted

sheets require photocopying or faxing, the marking instrument of the present invention can again be flipped around to erase the highlighted areas prior to photocopying or faxing them.

The uses of the marking instrument of the present invention are endless, and the present invention helps increase the efficiency, ease and excitement of acquiring knowledge, as the user learns.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of Figure 1, shown in an open position;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3A is a side elevational view of an alternate cushioned embodiment of a liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention;

Figure 4 is an exploded side elevational view of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4A is an exploded side elevational view of the alternate cushioned embodiment shown in Figure 3A;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view in partial cross section of the of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention shown in Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a close-up view of a wick dispensing portion for the highlighting material in Figure 3;

Figure 6A is a close up view of another wick dispensing portion for the highlighting material shown in Figure 3;

Figure 7 is a side elevational view in partial cross section of an alternate embodiment of a liquid instrument;

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Figure 7A is a side elevational view of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of Figure 7, shown with transparent liquid ink portion in use;

5 Figure 7B is a side elevational view of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument as in Figure 7, shown with the ink eradicator portion in use;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of use of the liquid portion of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention shown in Figure 1, wherein a user's
10 hand and book are environmental in nature; and,

Figure 9 is a another perspective view of the use of the liquid portion of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument of the present invention shown in Figure 1, wherein the user's hand and the book are environmental in
15 nature.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 1-9 of the drawings.
20 Identical elements in the various figures are identified with the same reference numbers.

As shown in Figures 1-6, 8, and 9, a liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 has hollow barrel sleeve 10 having liquid dispenser 12, which dispenses liquid therefrom upon a
25 permanently printed surface, and liquid eradicator dispenser 14, coaxially and opposingly located each to the other. The eradicator dispenser 14 dispenses eradicator liquid therefrom and removes dried liquid previously dispensed therefrom the liquid dispenser 12 upon the permanently printed surface.

30 The marking and/or highlighting marking instrument 1 may be used with marking ink, highlighting ink, paint, or other suitable liquid, the preferred embodiment being further described herein having highlighting ink, and in particular transparent highlighting ink, and highlighting ink eradicator
35 solution therein.

The hollow barrel sleeve 10 is designed for manual gripping. A transparent liquid ink solution contained therein the liquid ink dispenser 12 is dispensed from and

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therethrough wick 12a, which may be of felt or other suitable material, the wick 12a being soaked with the transparent liquid ink. The opposingly located liquid ink eradicator dispenser 14, has an eradicating ink solution which is
5 dispensed from and therethrough wick 14a or other suitable dispenser, such as a roller ball applicator or squeeze tube (not shown). The liquid ink dispenser wick 12a and the liquid eradicator dispenser wick 14a are opposingly located at ends 13a and 13b of the hollow barrel sleeve 10.

10 The hollow barrel sleeve 10 has wall 16, which separates the liquid ink dispenser 12 of the hollow barrel sleeve 10 from the liquid ink eradicator dispenser 14. The wall 16 extends internally to and transversely across the hollow barrel sleeve 10 and segregates the transparent liquid ink
15 from the eradicating ink solution therein highlighting ink reservoir 15a and eradicating ink solution reservoir 15b.

The liquid ink dispenser 12 and the opposingly located liquid ink eradicator dispenser 14, respectively have respective removable air tight caps 12b, 14b. The hollow
20 sleeve barrel 10 has opposing reciprocal collar ends 12c and 14c, respectively located adjacent the liquid ink dispenser wick 12a and the liquid eradicator dispenser wick 14a, respectively. Each of the caps 12b and 14b engage the respective reciprocal collar ends 12c and 14c of the hollow
25 sleeve barrel 10 and provides substantially air tight closure of the liquid ink dispenser wick 12a and the liquid eradicator wick 14a from external environments, when the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 is not in use. The respective end caps 12b and 14b are removed from the
30 respective reciprocal collar ends 12c and 14c of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 when the respective liquid ink dispenser 12 and the liquid eradicating dispenser 14 are in use, either individually or both. The reciprocal collar ends 12c and 14c each have cross sectional diameters
35 smaller than cross sectional diameter of the sleeve barrel 10.

Furthermore, as shown in Figures 3A and 4A, the hollow barrel sleeve 10 of the liquid marking and eradicating

instrument 1 may alternately have annular gripping cushions 10a and 10b, of rubber, foam or other suitable material, such as a malleable cushion of a flexible polymer, which conforms to the contours of the fingers of the user, such as writing pens sold under the trademark Dr. Grip®.

It is further noted that the wick 14a of ink eradicator dispenser 14 is preferably wider than the wick 12a of liquid ink dispenser 12, so that when the user applies the ink eradicator solution from the wick 14a, the solution will leave a wider swath of ink eradicator solution over the previously applied swath of transparent liquid ink.

The liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 may be of metal, thermoplastic, thermosetting polymer, rubber, or other suitable material or combination thereof.

The liquid ink dispensed from the liquid ink dispenser 12 may be conventional transparent liquid ink, such as described, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,498,280 (Fistner, et al) or other suitable transparent liquid ink.

Furthermore, the liquid ink eradicator solution dispensed from the liquid ink eradicator dispenser 14 is a solution which dissolves the transparent liquid ink, leaving the transparent liquid ink visually unascertainable, but which leaves underlying textural permanent indicia, such as printed ink, untouched and visually ascertainable.

The liquid ink eradicator solution may be bleach, such as hypochlorites, among others, as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,427,278 (Gardner) or other suitable transparent liquid ink eradicator solution.

As shown in Figures 7, 7A and 7B, in another embodiment of a liquid marking and eradicating instrument 101, hollow barrel sleeve 110 has coaxially aligned liquid ink dispenser 112 having wick 112a and liquid ink eradicator dispenser 114 having wick 114a. However, both the liquid ink dispensers 112 and the liquid ink eradicator dispensers 114 face the same direction, so that in a storage portion of non-use, the distal ends of the respective wicks 112a and 114a are adjacent each other within the hollow barrel sleeve 110, but are separated from each other by axially extending and

longitudinally extending wall 16 internally to the hollow barrel sleeve 110.

The liquid ink dispensing wick 112a is advanced from and out of open mouth end 110c of the hollow barrel sleeve 110 by slide member 118a, and the ink eradicator wick 114a is advanced from and out of open mouth end 110c of the hollow barrel sleeve 110 by slide member 118b. Moreover, the open mouth end 110c of the hollow barrel sleeve 110 is closed by cap 110b, sealing the liquid ink dispensing wick 112a and the ink eradicator wick 114a from external environments when the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 101 is not in use.

As shown in Figure 8, a method of use of the present invention is described. For example, while reading assigned material for an academic school's course, a user highlights pertinent text material by liquid area swaths 22 with a transparent liquid ink solution for future review and memorization. This can be accomplished with liquid ink dispenser 12 of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 of the present invention. As text material is reviewed and committed to memory, the user can visually decrease the highlighted area swaths 22 and eradicate unwanted portions of area swaths 22 with the eradicator solution dispensed from the ink eradicator dispenser 14.

Therefore, as shown in Figure 9, highlighted area swaths 22 of the text material already learned by a student can be eradicated, leaving unblemished text 24, to make the reading material less cumbersome and more efficient for learning, and to increase memory efficiency. This is established by eradicating the swaths 22 previously imprinted over the already learned material with the eradicator ink solution from the ink eradicator dispenser of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 of the present invention.

It is therefore not necessary to search, find and retrieve a separate marking instrument for eradicating a portion or portions of the highlighted text, since the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 of the present invention is all inclusive and has both functions in one, single convenient marking instrument.



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With the present invention, while studying, after liquid any printed material, it is not necessary for the user to find a separate utensil for eradicating the highlighted swaths 22 of the material already studied. Highlighter ink dispenser 12 of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1 of the present invention is simply flipped around to use the ink eradicator dispenser 14 of the liquid marking and eradicating instrument 1, to eradicate the material initially highlighted, thus revealing unblemished text 23, which, at a later time may be reviewed, learned and committed to memory.

Although the present invention has been described in considerable detail with reference to certain preferred versions thereof, other versions are possible. Therefore, the spirit and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the preferred versions contained herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of selectively visually altering printed information comprising the steps of:

- 5 applying a transparent highlighting ink solution from a marking instrument over a section of permanently inscribed indicia upon a printed page of a publication;
- selectively applying a highlighting ink eradicator solution from said marking instrument over a portion of said
- 10 section of permanently inscribed indicia having said highlighting ink solution thereon and eradicating said transparently highlight ink having dried thereon from said indicia upon said printed page of said publication, making said transparent highlighting ink solution no longer visually
- 15 ascertainable and said permanently inscribed indicia visually ascertainable.

2. A method of studying an educational publication comprising the steps of temporarily highlighting selected printed material on pages of printed material from a one
- 20 piece barrel in a marking instrument using a first felt wick to apply a transparent highlighting ink solution from said barrel over said selected printed material and;

- subsequently removing in stages highlighting from said selected printed material by using a second felt wick of said
- 25 one piece barrel, said second felt wick being wider than said first wick to apply a highlighting ink eradicator solution which will not damage said selected printed material from said barrel in order to narrow the portion of the text to be studied in the future.

- 30 3. The method of selectively visually altering printed information as in Claim 1, wherein said step of selectively applying said eradicator solution further comprises the steps of inverting said marking instrument after applying said liquid solution from an end of said marking instrument and
- 35 selectively applying said eradicator solution from an opposing end of said marking instrument on said dried solution.



4. The method of claim 2 in which said highlighting ink solution is delivered from an end of said barrel and said eradicator solution is delivered from an opposite end of said barrel.

5 5. The method of claim 2 in which said highlighting ink and eradicator solutions are delivered from side by side dispensers in said barrel from the same end of said barrel.

6. A liquid marking and eradicating instrument comprising a barrel having a marking liquid dispenser and a
10 liquid eradicator dispenser, which said eradicator dispenser dispenses a transparent highlighting marking liquid and said eradicator dispenser dispenses an eradicating liquid, said eradicating liquid removing dried transparent highlighting marking liquid of said liquid marking dispenser dispensed
15 thereon a surface.

7. A dual function highlighting pen comprising:
a one piece barrel;
a first reservoir of highlighting fluid in said barrel;
first means comprising a first felt wick in said barrel
20 in communication with said first reservoir to deliver highlighting fluid from said first reservoir to mark with highlighting fluid selected printed material on a page of printed material;

a second reservoir of fluid capable of eradicating the
25 highlighting from said selected printed material without damaging said selected printed material in said barrel;

second means comprising a second felt wick wider than said first felt wick in said barrel in communication with said second reservoir for delivering said eradicating fluid
30 to said highlighting on said selected printed material for erasing said highlighting without damaging said selected printed material;

said first and second reservoirs and means are located at the same end of said pen, in side by side relationship
35 with said wicks within an open mouth of said barrel,

slide members to advance or retract each of said wicks as selected out of said barrels; and



said first and second means are enclosed by removable air tight caps.

8. The highlighting pen of claim 7 in which said barrel has an annular gripping cushion thereon.

5 9. The highlighting pen of claim 7 in which said annular gripping cushion is made of a flexible polymer which conforms to the contours of the fingers of the user.

10 10. A dual function highlighting pen comprising:
one piece barrel;
a first reservoir of highlighting fluid in said barrel;
first means comprising a first felt wick in said barrel
in communication with said first reservoir to deliver
highlighting fluid selected printed material on a page of
printed material;

15 a second reservoir of fluid capable of eradicating the highlighting from said selected printed material without damaging said selected printed material in said barrel;

second means comprising a second felt wick wider than
said second reservoir for delivering said eradicating fluid
20 to said highlighting on said selected printed material for erasing said highlighting without damaging said selected printed material;

said first and second reservoirs and means are located at opposite ends of said pen and

25 said first and second means are enclosed by removable air tight caps.

11. The highlighting pen of claim 10 in which said barrel has an annular gripping cushion thereon.

30 12. The highlighting pen of claim 11 in which said annular gripping cushion is made of a flexible polymer which conforms to the contours of the fingers of the user.

