

Jan. 11, 1927.

1,614,021

J. A. SPRENGER

INDEX DEVICE

Filed Nov. 14, 1924

Fig. 1

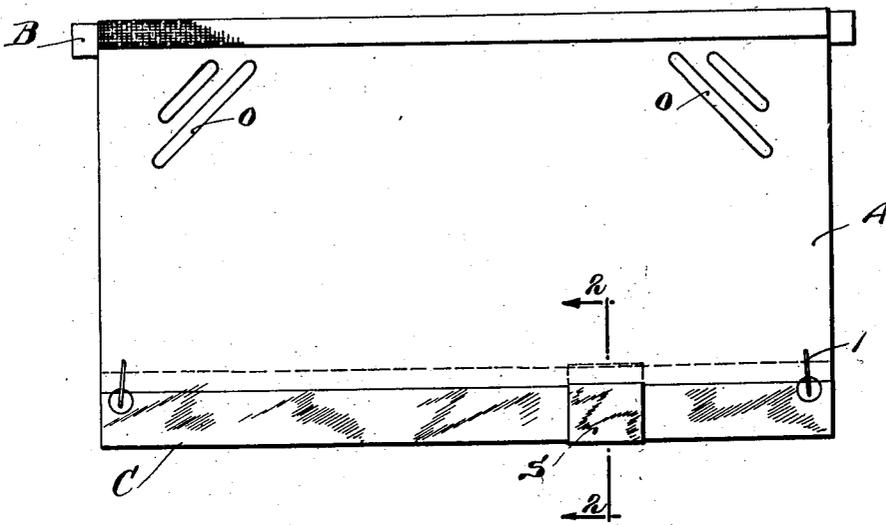


Fig. 2

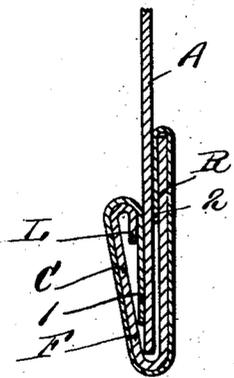
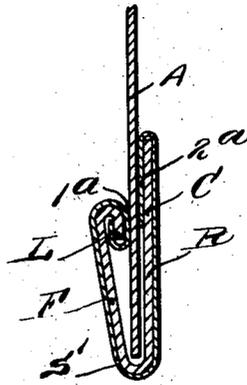


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX DEVICE.

Application filed November 14, 1924. Serial No. 749,877.

This invention relates to card indexes and particularly to card indexes of the overlapping card, visible index type, and consists in improvements hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of an index unit embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a section similar to Fig. 2 showing a modified form.

The invention is particularly intended for use in indexes having a series of cards or index units mounted in an upright frame in overlapped spaced relation with their free margins exposed to display indexing or identifying inscriptions; and is adapted either to indexes wherein the overlapped spaced units are holders for removable insert-cards on which the entries are made, or to indexes wherein the overlapped spaced units themselves constitute the leaves on which the entries are made.

In the drawings the card or sheet A of paper or cardboard is attached to the rail B in any usual or preferred manner. The ends of the rail B project beyond the sides of the card A and engage the flanges at the sides of an index frame in the usual manner. It will be understood that a series of similar elements are mounted on the frame one above another in overlapped relation, and are held in spaced relation by the rails B with their free margins exposed.

Enclosing the lower margin of the card A and secured thereto by staples 1 is a sheath C forming a pocket with the card A to receive the usual insert-card (not shown) on which the entries are made. The sheath C is preferably made from a strip of transparent sheet celluloid which is folded to form a front wall F and a rear wall R, the free margin of the front wall F being folded inwardly to provide a lip L for facilitating the insertion of an insert-card. When inserted into the pocket formed by the sheath C and card A, the upper corners of the insert-card may be inserted into the slits O, two pairs being shown to accommodate different sized cards.

In order that particular cards may be conspicuously marked so that they may be

quickly and easily referred to or that attention may be drawn to them, I provide a removable and adjustable signal S which is preferably made of a resilient sheet material, such as celluloid and may be of any desired color or other differentiating visual appearance so as to be clearly distinguished from the background of the index itself, and from other signals should different signals for different purposes be used in the same index. The purposes and uses of the signals are of almost unlimited variety depending upon the nature of the entries made on the index and the uses to which the index is put; and the information conveyed by the signals may depend upon their color, shape, position or other differentiating features. For example, they may be used according to some arbitrarily adopted systems of color, position, shape or other differentiation to indicate overdue or bad accounts, dates on which some action is required in respect to the recorded subject-matter, different classes or sub-divisions of the contents of the index, etc. If these conditions are constantly changing in an index it is important not only that the signals be made readily attachable, removable and adjustable but also that they should be secured against accidental dislodgement if they are to be relied upon to give the desired information.

To this end the signal S consists of a strip of sheet material folded over the outside of the sheath, the free end portions being folded to form tongues or lips 1 and 2 which enclose the front and rear walls of the sheath respectively as indicated in Fig. 2. The tongue 1 extends well into the pocket formed by the front wall F of the sheath and the card A so as not to interfere with the removal of an insert-card. By virtue of attachment described the signal is held securely to the sheath C and cannot become accidentally detached, or dislodged when the index is being manipulated, but at the same time is permitted to be adjusted lengthwise of the sheath or to be detached by unfolding the tongues 1 and 2 away from the walls of the sheath. Another outstanding advantage of the above described signal is that it may be manipulated along the sheath without lifting the preceding index unit, and furthermore the face of the insert-card is not covered while adjust-

ing the signal as has been the case with many signals heretofore in use.

In the modification shown in Fig. 2, a signal S' is provided with tongues 1^a and 2^a enclosing the front wall F and rear wall R respectively, the tongue 1^a however being folded inwardly to provide a lip 3 which extends substantially parallel with the front wall F and engages the lip L of the sheath, thus securely holding the signal in place but not interfering with the insertion or removal of the insert-card. It is to be understood that the term card as used throughout the specification denotes a sheet of any suitable material as well as ordinary cardboard or paper.

It will be seen that I have provided a construction which satisfies the objects enumerated above and one which constitutes a valuable advance in the art. While I have shown the invention in certain physical embodiments it is to be understood that modifications of the structure shown may be made by those skilled in this art without departing from my invention as expressed in the following claims.

I claim:

1. An index device comprising a sheath, a card extending into the sheath, and a signal folded over the outside of said sheath.

2. An index device comprising a sheath having front and rear walls, a card extending into the sheath, and a signal folded over the outside of the sheath having lips enclosing the free margins of said walls.

3. An index device comprising a sheath having front and rear walls, a card extending into the sheath, and a removable and adjustable signal folded over the outside of the sheath having lips enclosing the free margins of said walls.

4. An index device comprising a sheath having front and rear walls, a card extending into the sheath, and a removable and adjustable signal of transparent sheet material folded over the outside of the sheath having lips enclosing the free margins of said walls.

5. An index device comprising a card, a sheath of transparent sheet material enclosing a margin of said card, and a signal slidable on said card consisting of a strip of sheet material enclosing said sheath, the end portions of said strip being folded over the free margins of said sheath.

6. An index device comprising a card, a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid enclosing

a margin of said card, and a signal slidable on said sheath, said signal being in interlocking engagement with said sheath to prevent accidental disengagement of said signal transversely from said sheath.

7. An index device comprising a card, a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid enclosing a margin of said card, and a signal enclosing said sheath, the end portions of the signal being folded over the free margins of said sheath and a portion of said signal interlocking with the sheath.

8. An index device comprising a card, a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid enclosing a margin of said card, said sheath having an integral, inturned lip on a free margin thereof, and a signal of sheet material enclosing said sheath and in interlocking engagement with said lip.

9. An index device comprising a card, a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid enclosing a margin of said card, said sheath having an integral, inturned lip on a free margin thereof, and a signal of sheet material enclosing said sheath and in interlocking engagement with said lip, the opposite end portion of said signal being folded over the opposite free margin of said sheath.

10. An index device comprising signal consisting of a strip of transparent sheet celluloid folded upon itself to enclose a margin of a sheath, the end portions of said strip being folded inwardly to enclose the opposite margin of the sheath.

11. An index device comprising a signal for engaging a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid having an integral inturned lip on a free margin thereof, said signal consisting of a strip of sheet celluloid folded upon itself to enclose the folded margin of the sheath, and a lip on one end of said strip to interengage with the lip on the sheath.

12. An index device comprising a signal for engaging a sheath of transparent sheet celluloid having an integral inturned lip on a free margin thereof, said signal consisting of a strip of sheet celluloid folded upon itself to enclose the folded margin of the sheath, and a lip on one end of said strip to interengage with the lip on the sheath, the opposite end of said strip being folded to engage the opposite free margin of the sheath.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this 12th day of November, 1924.

JAMES A. SPRENGER.