E. G. MAYS.

INDEX DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 18, 1914.

1,127,481. Patented Feb. 9, 1915.

Fig. 1.

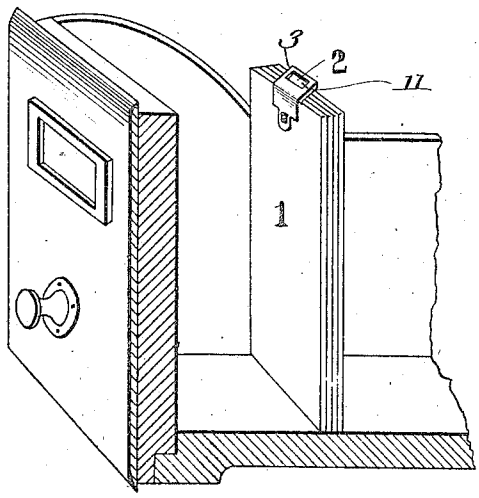



Fig. 3.

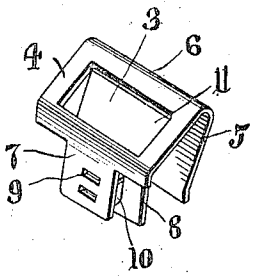



Fig. 2.

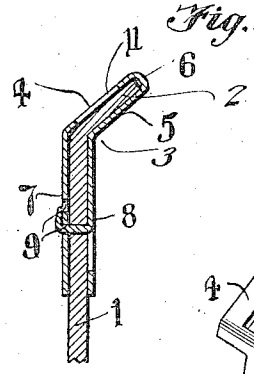



Fig. 4.

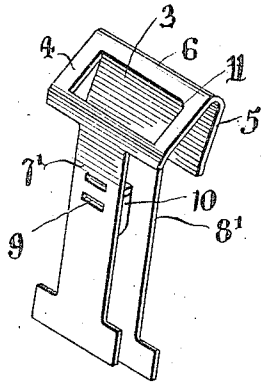
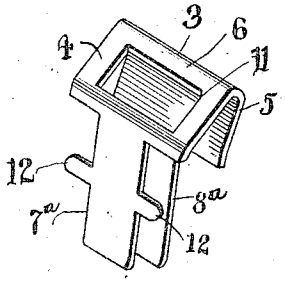



Fig. 5.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## INDEX DEVICE.

1,127,481. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 9, 1915.

Application filed April 15, 1914. Serial No. 832,786

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD G. MAYS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilmington, in the county of New Castle and State of Delaware, have invented new and useful Improvements in Index Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an index device for use in loose-leaf filing or index card or leaf systems, the primary object of the invention being to provide a device for reinforcing and protecting the index tab on partition cards, so as to prevent the same from being bent, frayed or torn from strain in handling, or contact with the other elements of the system.

A further object of the invention is to provide an index card or sheet reinforcing device which may be conveniently applied to any type of partition or index card so as to reinforce the tab and adjacent portion of the card and which may be arranged to hold the tab at an angle so as to maintain the cards or sheets properly spaced and sustained, while at the same time disposing the index character on the card so as to be more conveniently viewed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a reinforcing device of the character described which admits of the insertion and retention of slips to change the index character of the card, and which, when used generally throughout the system, will sustain and brace the cards or sheets of the system in a desirable manner.

The invention consists of the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein fully described and claimed.

Figure 1 is a sectional perspective view of an index or file drawer, showing one of the reinforcing devices applied to a card or sheet therein. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the device and portion of the card engaged thereby. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device detached. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modined form of reinforcing device. Fig. 5 is a similar view of still another modified form of reinforcing device.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates the file or index card or sheet provided with the usual extension tab 2, on which is written or printed the index character. The reinforcing and protecting device 3 is applied to this tab and the adjacent portion of the card or sheet, and consists of a folded or doubled piece of sheet metal made from a suitable blank. This device comprises a pair of members or jaws 4 and 5, united at their outer or upper edges by the bight or folded portion 6, said jaws being preferably of oblong rectangular form and of sufficient dimensions to receive and confine the tab 2 between them.

In practice, the device is slipped down over upon the tab 2 and adjacent marginal portion of the tab or sheet 1, so as to inclose the tab 2, and for the purpose of strengthening and reinforcing the adjacent portion of the card or sheet the jaws are provided with arms or extensions 7 and 8, which may be of any suitable form. These arms or extensions also form fastening means, one of said arms or extensions being provided with one or more openings 9 to receive a corresponding number of tongues 10 struck up from the other arm, which tongue or tongues are passed through the material of the card or sheet and through the opening or openings 9 and then bent or clenched against the outer face of the jaw 7 to firmly fasten the device in position.

The jaw 4 is formed with an observation opening 11 therein to expose the index character on the tab 2, and preferably the jaws 4 and 5 are bent rearwardly at an oblique angle of inclination, so that the index tab will be held in a position for reference, and it will be evident that by bending said jaws at different angles relative to the fastening arms 7 and 8 the angle of inclination of the tab may be correspondingly varied. The jaws not only hold the tab rigid, and protect the same from being torn, frayed or broken, but also permit of the introduction of a slip bearing a different index character between the index tab and jaw 4, so that the index character may be changed when desired. The arms 7 and 8 also reinforce the body of the card or sheet at points adjacent the tab, thus adapting the partition card to withstand the strains from handling and pressure from the index cards or sheets to a greater degree, as will be readily understood. The device also provides a stiffened finger piece by which the partition card or sheet may be more conveniently manipulated.

The invention may be modified in many respects. As shown in Fig. 4, the arms 7 and 8 may be lengthened to provide extensions 7′ and 8′ depending to any desired extent throughout the length of the partition

card or sheet, thus reinforcing the latter to a greater degree. Also, as shown in Fig. 5, the openings 9 and tongues 10 may be dispensed with, and tongues 12 provided along the lateral margins of one of the arms $7^a$ which are adapted to be passed through the partition card and bent over upon the other arm $8^a$ to hold the device fastened to the partition card.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, it will be seen that my invention provides a device for reinforcing, protecting, holding and marking the partition cards or sheets in a ready, convenient and efficient manner, and that the construction described adapts the device to be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low cost.

I claim:—

1. A reinforcing and protecting device for the tabs of index cards, comprising a folded strip of material bent to provide jaws to inclose the tab, and having means for attachment to the body of the card, said jaws being bent at an angle of inclination to said means, one of said jaws having an opening therein to expose the index character on the card.

2. A reinforcing and protecting device for index cards, comprising a piece of sheet material folded to provide a pair of jaws to receive the index tab, and arms adapted to bear upon the opposite sides of the card and having means of attachment thereto, said jaws being bent at an angle of inclination to said arms, one of said jaws being formed with an opening therein to expose the index character on the tab.

3. A reinforcing and protecting device for index cards, comprising a piece of sheet material bent to form a pair of jaws to receive the index tab, and a pair of arms adapted to lie on opposite sides of the card, one at least of said arms being provided with integral means for attaching said arms to the card, the said jaws having their upper portions bent at an angle to the plane of the arms and one of said jaws having an opening therein to expose the index character on the tab.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD G. MAYS.

Witnesses:
JAMES W. ROBERTSON,
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