

April 2, 1929.

L. LOMBARDINI

1,707,917

CARD CARRIER FOR VISIBLE CARD INDEXES

Filed Nov. 26, 1927

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

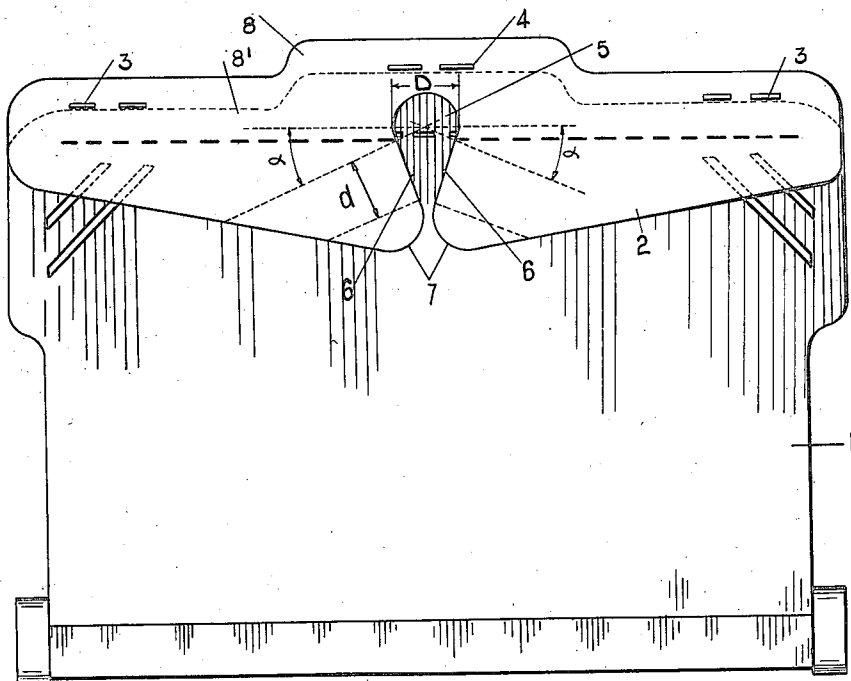


Fig. 1

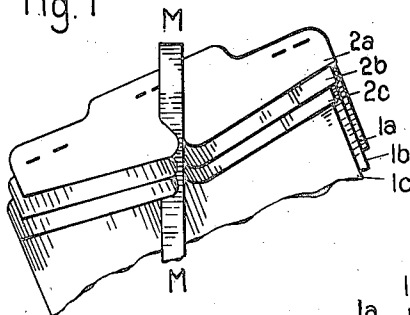


Fig. 2

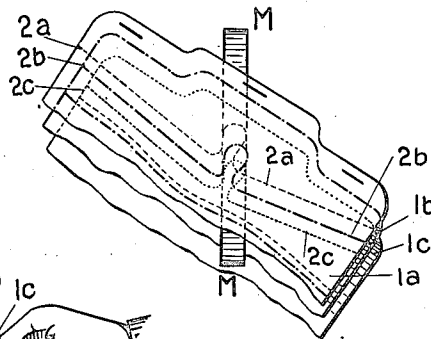


Fig. 3

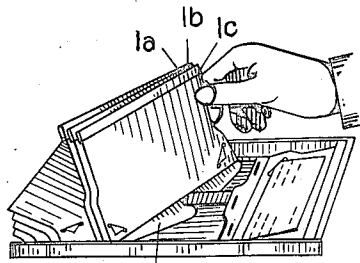


Fig. 4

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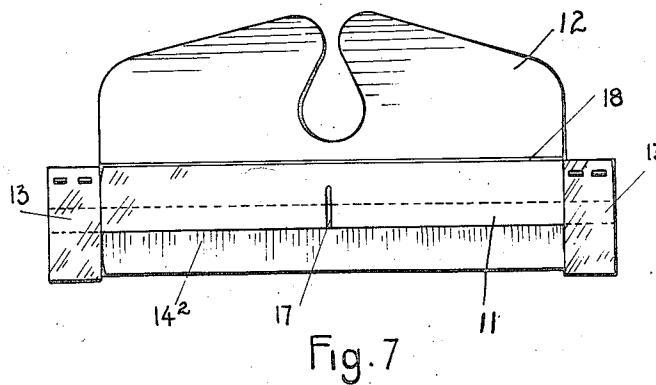
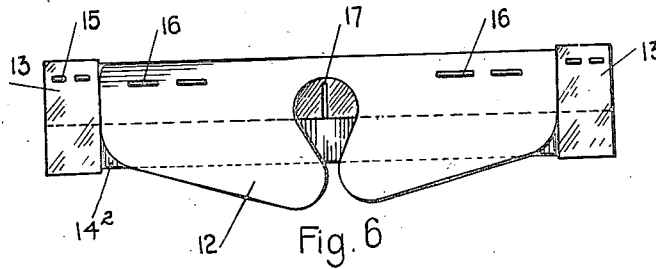
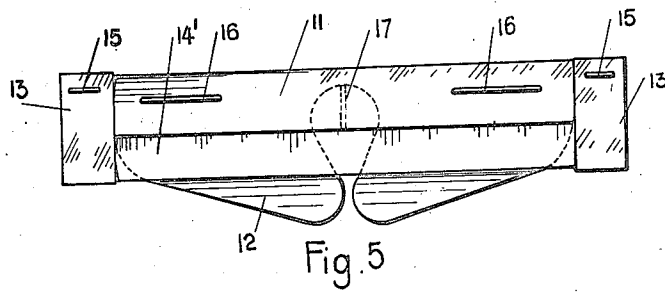
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CARD CARRIER FOR VISIBLE CARD INDEXES.

Application filed November 28, 1927, Serial No. 235,959, and in Italy May 23, 1927.

My invention relates to visible card indexes, of the kind described in my co-pending application Serial No. 178,359 of March 25, 1927, comprising supporting elements each provided with a guide, or guides, unsupported along its length for engaging and guiding the card carriers, and has for its object to provide a card carrier of a generally improved character adapted for use with said guide, and which will be simple in manufacture, and comparatively more compact and easy in operation than card carriers heretofore in use.

In the annexed drawings, forming a part of this specification, Fig. 1 shows the back of an embodiment of card carrier according to my invention, Fig. 2 shows a group of card carriers like that shown in Fig. 1, viewed from the rear, in engagement with a central guide, Fig. 3 being the front view corresponding to Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the manipulation of a group of card carriers within a file. Fig. 5 shows a modified form of card carrier in front view, Fig. 6 being the rear view thereof, while Fig. 7 is the front view of the card carrier of Figs. 5 and 6, developed in a plane.

Referring first to Figs. 1 to 4, 1 is the body of the card carrier, provided with a heel 2 attached at the back thereof by means of three or more wire stitches 3, 4, or the equivalent, placed on different transverse or parallel lines. The heel 2 has exactly the same contour at its upper edge as the body 1, and is provided with a central perforation or slot 5 whose width D (Fig. 1) substantially corresponds to the width of the guide M (Figs. 2 and 3) preferably consisting of a band, tape or the like.

As shown, the upper contour of the slot 5 in the form of a circular arc is connected, through straight portions 6 and arcs 7, to the lower edge of the heel 2 at both sides of the slot. While I have shown straight portions 6 intermediate the upper or inner portion of the slot 5 and arcs 7, I may provide a direct connection between said portion and arcs without departing from the scope of my invention. Owing to the symmetry of the slot, the card carrier is adapted to be inserted on a guide M , by merely turning same in its own plane in either direction

through an angle α defined by the inclination of the portions 6 to the central line of the card carrier, said inclination being practically very small and allowing a group of card carriers to be inserted simultaneously on the guide.

I effect this manipulation by interengaging a group consisting of the desired number of card carriers, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so that they will have the bodies $1^a, 1^b, 1^c$, and heels $2^a, 2^b, 2^c$, in an overlapped relation as shown, and I partially turn the group in the plane of the card carriers through the angle α . The card carriers shall be so displaced sidewise with respect to each other that the straight portions 6 on one side of the slots 5 in the heels thereof will come into alignment with each other and register with one side of the guide M . In the example shown, it will be seen that the right-hand straight portions 6 are set into alignment and register with the right-hand edge of the guide. By operating the card carriers with the bodies thereof tilted up out of their normal plane, as shown in Fig. 4, the opposite or left-hand flaps of the interengaged heels will then be engaged with the guide, upon which by turning the heels in their own plane in an inverse direction, the card carriers will be brought to their normal position with respect to the guide, the still aligned or right-hand flaps of the heels coming into engagement with the latter.

The length d of portions 6 and the curvature of arcs 7 may be so chosen with respect to the greatest width D of slot 5 that an angle α will be determined by which, in relation to the width of the card carriers, the insertion of a group of the latter at any desired position of the file will only require the corresponding carriers already filed thereon to be spaced apart through a comparatively very small distance, thus facilitating manipulation and operation of the file generally.

On the other hand, a card carrier or a group thereof may be very easily removed from the guide, by merely pulling away the desired bodies from their support, similarly as in generally known types of files of this character.

A further feature of the described embodiment of card carriers according to my

invention consists in the method of connecting together the body and heel thereof, by situating the wire stitches 3, 4, above referred to, on two parallel lines as stated.

Between the side stitches 3, 3 in each carrier, a comparatively extended abutment or rest line is provided for the upper edge 8' of the next card carrier, to be inserted between the body and heel of the preceding carrier, while in the central portion the stitch 4 displaced toward the upper edge thereof determines a sort of pocket to receive the central projecting flap 8 of the next card carrier. A more positive and effective interlocking between the adjacent card carriers is thus provided, than if the wire stitches were on a single line. Of course, a greater number of stitches 3, 4 may be provided on two parallel lines.

The alternative embodiment shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, more particularly relates to that class of files in which each of the card carriers is overlapped by the next card carrier and projects a short distance beyond the overlapping member so as to disclose to the eye of the operator a comparatively considerable part of each card carrier, on which are exposed the necessary memoranda for cursory enquiries, controls, and the like, while a comparatively small covered portion of each card carrier is adapted to receive additional items which are not essential for the cursory enquiries through the file, the files of this class generally comprising a very large number of card carriers of comparatively limited sizes.

In vertical files of the class just referred to, and more particularly in files provided with guides unsupported along their length, according to my co-pending patent application No. 178,359 above referred to, and having card carriers of small sizes, it is comparatively less difficult to provide for the mutual interlocking of the card carriers, inasmuch as these slide down by their own weight along the common guide and tend to keep themselves automatically in an overlapped and interengaged relation.

One feature of my invention is thereby to considerably simplify the manufacture of the card carriers, which may each consist as shown in Figs. 5 to 7 of a body and a heel made in one piece, the heel being cut as an extension of the body, and then folded and suitably fixed thereto at the back thereof.

As shown, 11 is the body of the card carrier, made in one piece with the flaps 12 of the attachment heel. 13, 13 are side collars adapted to keep a transparent pocket against the free edge of body 11, said collars being open for the endwise insertion of a card, not shown for the sake of simplicity. 14¹ and 14² are the front and rear folds respectively of the transparent pocket,

15, 15 are wire stitches connecting the side collars 13 to the card carrier. The heel is folded along the line 18 (Fig. 7) onto the back of body 11, and 16, 16 are wire stitches fixing the heel to the latter. I prefer to provide a further or central wire stitch 17 to keep the rear fold 14² of the pocket adherent to the body 11, and to prevent said pocket against endwise displacements while a card is inserted therein.

While I have referred in the foregoing description to card carriers of comparatively small sizes, the feature of a card carrier of the class referred to, comprising a body in one piece with the heel, may of course be embodied by elements of any desired sizes.

I make no claim herein broadly to the provision of the side collars, which are claimed in my co-pending U. S. patent application Serial No. 235,957 of even date herewith, I desire, however, to point out that the main feature of the last-described embodiment, namely the general shape of the heel and slot therein in relation with the card carrier with a guide of the kind referred to, is an essential of my present invention, as particularly described in the foregoing specification.

What I claim is:

1. In visible card indexes, of the kind comprising a supporting element provided with a guide unsupported along its length, a card carrier comprising a body and a heel member adapted to engage the guide, said heel member being provided with a central perforation comprising a substantially circular inner portion, symmetrical oblique straight edges adjoining said circular portion and curved connections between said oblique straight edges and the free edge of said heel.

2. In card carriers for visible card indexes of the kind referred to, a heel provided with a central slot, said slot comprising a substantially circular symmetrically disposed inner portion and curved edges between said inner portion and the free edge of the heel.

3. In visible card indexes of the kind referred to, a card carrier comprising a body and a heel member, the latter being connected to the body of the card carrier by at least three wire stitches, placed on two parallel lines.

4. In visible card indexes comprising elements each provided with a guide, a card carrier comprising a body and a heel member made in one piece, said heel member comprising symmetrically arranged flaps, said flaps defining a central slot formed with a substantially circular inner portion, straight edges and adjoining said circular inner portion and curved edges between said straight edges and the free edge of said heel member.

5. In card carriers for visible card indexes of the kind referred to, in combination, a carrier body, a heel member made in one piece therewith, a central slot defined by symmetrical flaps in said heel member, wire stitches fixing the said heel in a folded relation onto the said body, and open side collars at both ends of the card carrier for the endwise insertion of a transparent pocket and a card therethrough. 10

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

LUIGI LOMBARDINI.