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2,584,352

CARD HOLDER

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Fig. 1

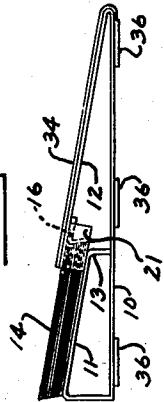


Fig. 2

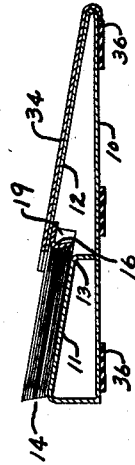
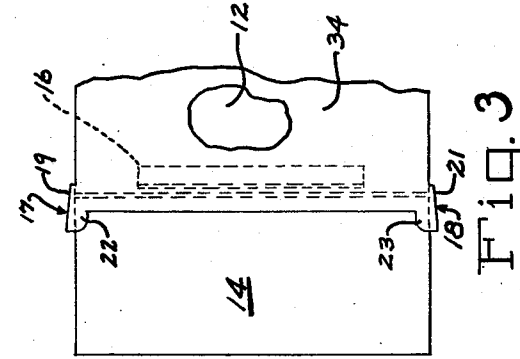


Fig. 3

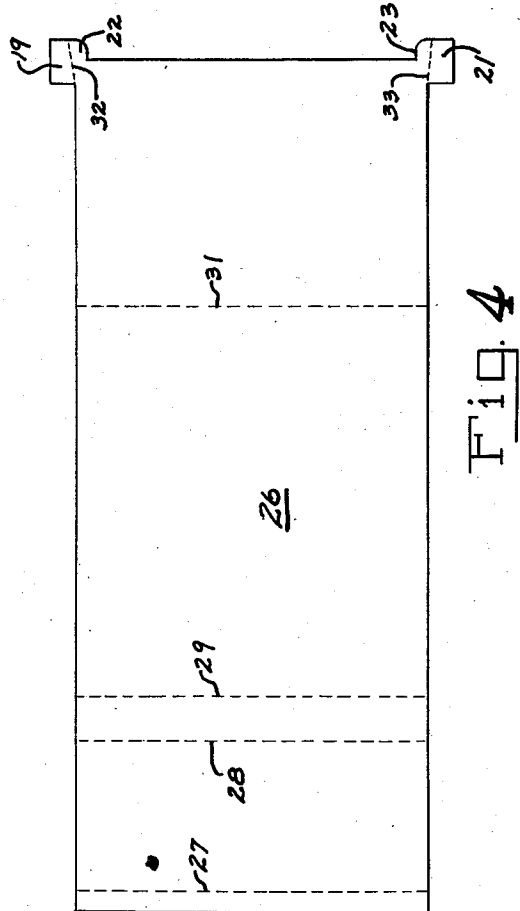


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CARD HOLDER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 281-44)

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This invention relates to a device for holding an unbound stack of cards or the like for the entry or transfer of information thereto or therefrom, as in accounting, and has for an object the provision of a device of the character designated in which the cards are firmly held when reference is being made thereto, but are readily removed when the entries are completed.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device for holding a stack of cards or the like for the entry or transfer of information thereto or therefrom which shall embody means whereby the cards are held in position and the entries or transfers made by one hand of the person using the device.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a device for holding an unbound stack of cards which shall include a base member, having an upper surface for supporting the cards, and a hand rest including a card retaining portion adapted to bear against the lower edge of the stack of cards resting on the card supporting portion of the base member.

As is well known in the art to which my invention relates, the use of cards in accounting systems is almost a universal practice and it often becomes necessary for accountants to handle stacks of unbound cards for the purpose of entering information thereon or transferring information therefrom. Heretofore, under such circumstances, it has been necessary for the accountant to hold the stack of cards down with one hand while the other hand was being used for making the entries. As is also well known, it is often necessary to refer to or compare the information on the cards with a master sheet or record and in order not to lose the place on such record, some sort of aligning device must be employed. My invention has for its principal object the overcoming of this last mentioned difficulty. In accordance with my invention I have provided a device for holding a stack of cards, under the circumstances hereinabove mentioned, in which the cards are positioned with their lower edges inserted beneath the upper edge of a hand rest whereby they are firmly held in position by the pressure of the hand of the person using the device on the hand rest thus leaving the other hand free to follow the master sheet or record. Otherwise stated, by means of my invention, one hand of the user performs the duties of two hands, leaving the other hand free for other duties.

A device embodying features of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the device show-

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ing a stack of unbound cards mounted thereon in position for use;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the upper end of the device; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the blank from which the device is made.

Referring now to the drawing for a better understanding of my invention, my improved card holding device is preferably made from a sheet of resilient metal bent as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 to provide a base 10, a card supporting portion 11, and a hand rest 12, the card supporting portion 11 and the hand rest being spaced from the base as shown. The lower end of the card supporting portion 11 is bent downwardly at 13 to engage the base 10. The upper end of the hand rest 12 extends upwardly to overhang a stack of cards 14 mounted on the card supporting portion 11. Secured or otherwise provided on the underside of the hand rest 12 adjacent the turned down portion 13, of the card supporting portion, is a card stop 16 against which the lower edges of the cards 14 rest to hold them in alignment and in position for entries to be made thereon. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the card stop 16 is inclined toward the lower end of the hand rest so that as the stack of cards is brought to rest against the stop each card in the stack overhangs the next lower card in the stack at the top. This feature insures that, as the cards are removed, one at a time, by engaging them at the top with the fingers, only one card at a time will be thus engaged.

Extending upwardly from the hand rest 12 are auxiliary card holding members 17 and 18, which are provided with downturned sides or tabs 19 and 21 to engage the ends of the cards and hold them in alignment. The tabs 19 and 21 are bent downwardly at an angle as shown in Fig. 3 so that they are wider apart at the top than at the bottom. This is important in providing ease of insertion of a stack of cards with the tabs 19 and 21 drawing them into alignment. The auxiliary members 17 and 18 have another important function in that it often becomes necessary in making entries to make an entry from a card not included in the stack 14. Under such conditions, such card may be placed on the stack 14, between the tabs 19 and 21, with its lower edge inserted under the lips 22 and 23 of the members 17 and 18 and thus be held in place while the necessary entry is being made.

Referring now to Fig. 4 of the drawing, I show the blank from which my improved card holder is made. This blank is preferably comprised of

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a resilient metal sheet 26 which is bent along the dotted lines 27, 28, 29 and 31. The blank is folded over itself along the lines 28 and 29 to form the card supporting portion 11 with the lower edge turned downwardly along the line 27 to form the support 13. The other end of the blank is folded over upon itself along the line 31, to form the hand rest 12, while the tabs or auxiliary retaining members 17 and 18 are bent downwardly along the lines 32 and 33 to the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing. The card stop 16 is then formed or secured to the underside of the hand rest in any suitable manner.

In order to give the device a more pleasing appearance and make it more comfortable in use, I preferably provide a cover 34, made of any suitable material, over the hand rest 12 and preferably provide a plurality of supporting pads 36 of rubber or other suitable material on the underside of the base 10.

From the foregoing description, the method of using my improved device will be apparent. A stack of cards on which entries are to be made or from which information is to be transferred is placed on the card supporting portion 11 of the device with their lower edges bearing against the stop 16. The right hand of the user rests on the hand rest 12 while making the entries, whereby the weight of his hand, plus the resiliency of the connection between the hand rest and the base, holds the cards 14 firmly in place. At the same time, the other hand of the user can be used to refer to or hold the place on a master sheet or record. Extra cards upon which entries may be made are inserted under the tabs 22 and 23 of the auxiliary supporting members 17 and 18.

While I have described my improved card holding device as being made of resilient sheet metal, it will be apparent that it may be constructed of any suitable material, or materials, without departing from the spirit of my invention and the use of metal for that purpose is given herein as the material from which it may be the most economically produced.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that I have devised an improved card holder which is simple of design and economical of manufacture and one which is adapted to greatly increase the efficiency of the user.

While I have shown my invention in but one form, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited but is susceptible of various changes and modifications, without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are specifically set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A card holder comprised of sheet metal and

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including a base portion bent upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly adjacent one end thereof to form a downwardly inclined card support, said card support being bent downwardly at the lower end thereof to engage the base, a hand rest joined to the opposite end of the base and spring biased therefrom and extending inwardly and upwardly to overhang the lower edge of the card support, upwardly extending side tabs at each side on the upper end of the hand rest flaring outwardly away from each other, and a card stop joined to the under side of the hand rest and spaced from the upper edge thereof and from the lower edge of the card support and inclined toward the lower end of the holder.

2. A device for holding a stack of cards comprising a resilient metal sheet folded upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly at one end thereof to provide a base and card supporting portion overlying and spaced from the base, said card supporting portion being turned downwardly at its inner end to engage the base, said sheet being folded over itself at the end opposite said card supporting portion to provide an inwardly and upwardly extending hand rest portion spring biased from the base with its upper edge overlying the lower end of the card supporting portion, a card stop member extending downwardly from the upper portion of the hand rest portion adjacent the lower end of the card supporting portion and inclined away from the lower end thereof, and lips at the upper corners of said hand rest portion extending over the card supporting portion and having downturned card aligning tabs extending alongside said card supporting portion, said tabs flaring outwardly away from each other at the ends thereof adjacent said card supporting portion.

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