March 1, 1927. 1,619,760

J. H. RAND

INDEX ELEMENT

Filed Dec. 26, 1923

Fig. 2.

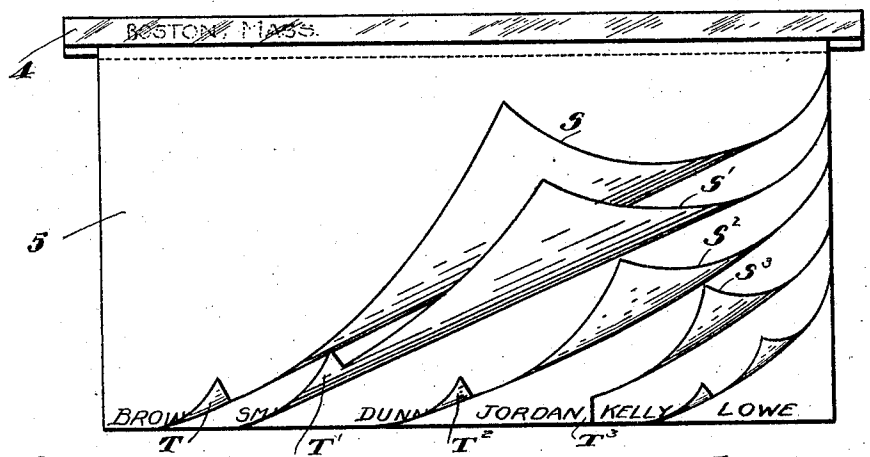


Fig. 1.

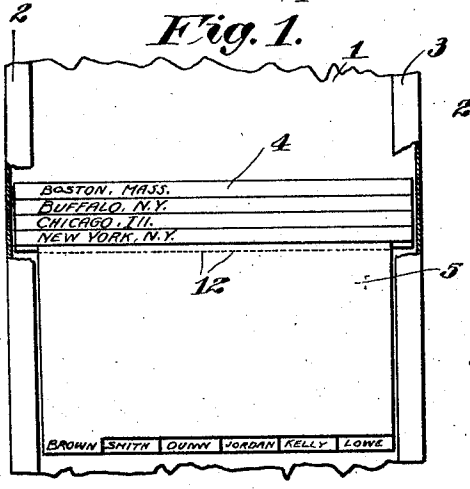


Fig. 5.

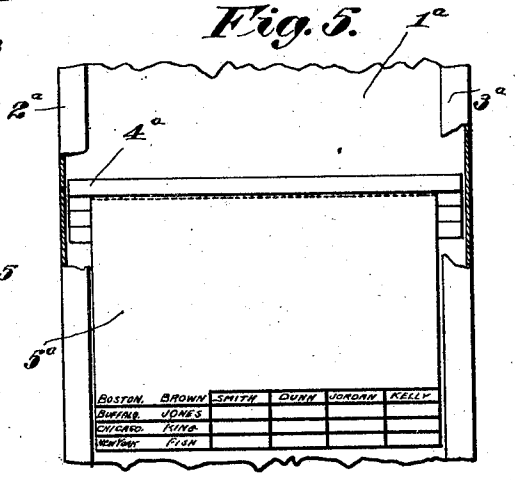


Fig. 3.

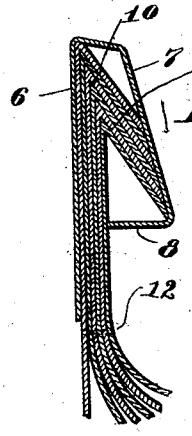
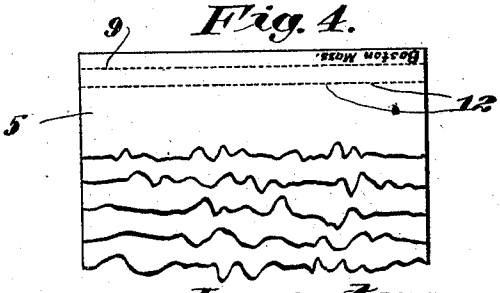


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX ELEMENT.

Application filed December 26, 1923. Serial No. 682,642.

This invention relates to index devices of the so called "visible" type and consists in the novel features hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Desirable embodiments of the invention are illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of an index constructed in accordance with the present invention, showing one desirable arrangement of parts;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation to enlarged scale illustrating one of the index elements removed from the index frame;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical section to greatly enlarge scale through the upper part of the index element illustrated in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary elevation showing the upper part of a pad forming a portion of the index element before its association with the other member of the index element; and

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but illustrating a different arrangement of the index elements in the frame.

The index is herein disclosed as comprising a frame having a back 1 of sheet metal or other suitable material provided with the lateral inturned flanges 2 and 3 which provide opposed guide channels for the reception of the index elements. Each index element comprises a supporting rail 4 and a pad 5 consisting of a plurality of superposed sheets or leaves.

The rail is preferably made in the form of a sheath of thin resilient sheet material, preferably transparent celluloid. This sheath may be formed by bending a strip of celluloid to provide a rear wall 6 and front wall 7 spaced therefrom. The free edge of the front wall is furnished with an integral rearwardly directed lip or projection 8.

The pad 5 consists of a plurality of sheets of paper or other suitable material indicated at S, S′, S^2, S^3, etc., the several sheets of the pad being provided near their upper edges with weakened fold lines produced by creasing or preferably by perforating, as indicated at 9. These fold lines facilitate the folding of the pad at 10 (Fig. 3) to provide the downturned portions 11 to prevent accidental withdrawal of the sheets from the sheath.

The several sheets of the pads are also preferably provided with a weakened fold line 12, as by perforations or creasing, so disposed that when the pad is secured in the sheath this second fold line lies outside the sheath and below the lip 8. The portion of the slip above the fold line 12 constitutes a stub which remains connected to the sheath during the life of the pad, while the portion of each sheet below the fold line 12 may be torn off for filing in permanent form or for transfer of entries to other records.

The lower edges of the several sheets of the pad are preferably provided with overlapping index tabs T, T^1, T^2, T^3, etc., upon which any desired indicia may be placed. Such indicia may be provided, as by printing, upon the pad prior to its assemblage with the rail or the tabs may be left blank for the reception of entries as occasion may make necessary.

As the sheaths or rails 4 are transparent, the upper portion of the rear leaf of each pad may be provided with suitable distinguishing characteristics or indicia which after the leaves are folded along line 9 will be visible through the front wall of the sheath, or if desired a separate index slip may be inserted between such front wall and the upper part of the pad.

As arranged in Fig. 1, the wall 6 of the sheath is disposed against the back 1 of the frame and the indicia appearing at the top of each pad is visible at all times so that any of the pads may be selected instantly and such selected pad may be moved upwardly along the frame relatively to the others to make its several sheets available for entries or other purposes.

In Fig. 5 the frame comprising the back 1^a and the marginal flanges 2^a and 3^a, respectively, is furnished with a series of index elements 5^a having rails 4^a similar to those above described. In this instance, the several index elements are so arranged so that the wall 7 of the sheath is disposed against the back 1^a and the lower margins of the pads of the series are always visible, so that the indicia appearing upon the tabs at the lower margins of the several sheets may be read without disturbing the position of the individual index elements.

While of very general utility, the device herein disclosed is particularly well adapted for the keeping of stock records, inventories, ledger entries, etc. which may necessitate a

memorandum of considerable length or involving several items and which it is desired temporarily to keep in available form but readily capable of transfer to more permanent records. The individual index elements (each comprising a rail and pad) may be removed from the frame without disturbing the other index elements while any leaf may be torn off along the weakened line 12 leaving its stub portion in the sheath; and when all the leaves of the pad have been consumed a new pad may readily be substituted therefor, using the same rail as a support.

With this arrangement a large number of sheets or leaves may be employed in a frame of given dimensions as the sheets or leaves may be of relatively thin material while the fold line produced by perforating such sheets furnishes a hinge allowing the sheets to be turned readily to expose the sheets lying to the rear without adding to the thickness of the index elements as would be the case were cloth or other hinge structures to be employed.

I claim:

1. An index element comprising a transparent supporting sheath and a pad of superposed leaves having its upper margin enclosed within the sheath, a lower marginal portion of each leaf of the pad being provided with identifying indicia and indicia upon that portion of the pad disposed within the sheath.

2. An index element comprising a transparent supporting rail having spaced front and rear walls and a pad of superposed leaves, one margin of the pad being clamped between the walls of the sheath, the several leaves being constructed and arranged to be separated one by one by tearing along a predetermined line, that portion of the pad within the sheath being provided with identifying indicia.

3. An index element comprising a pad of independent leaves having bent margins, the bent margins of the several leaves nesting one within another, the individual leaves of the pad having index tabs at their free margins, and a sheath enclosing the bent marginal portions of the leaves.

4. An index element comprising an elongate sheath of transparent material having spaced side walls, a pad of leaves having indicia adjacent its margin, said margin being disposed between the walls of the sheath, the edge of such marginal portion of the pad being bent out of the plane of the body of the pad, and a lip projecting inwardly from one wall of the sheath to prevent withdrawal of the pad from the sheath.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this 18th day of December, 1923.

JAMES H. RAND.