

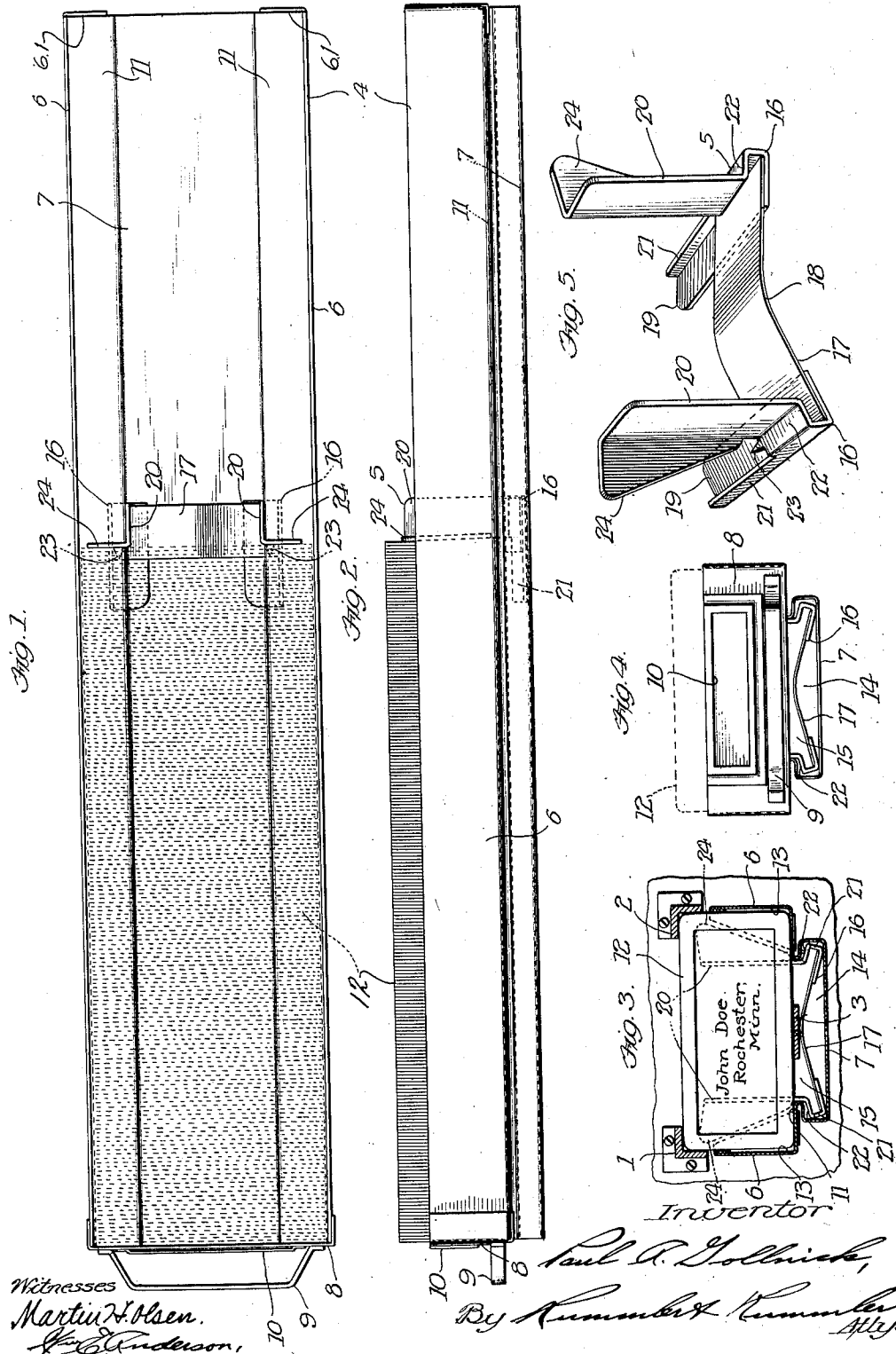
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TRAY

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## TRAY.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PAUL A. GOLLNICK, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Trays, of which the following is a specification.

The main objects of this invention are to provide an improved form of tray for holding cards; stencils and the like which are filed vertically; to provide an improved construction and arrangement of a follower adapted to be shifted into engagement with one end of the stack of cards for holding them in compact form; to provide a follower of this kind having improved means for frictionally engaging certain portions of the tray and which means may be readily released to permit the follower to be manually moved along the tray; and to provide a tray of this kind having an improved form of base portion constructed to give greater stability to the tray so as to secure it against lateral tilting when loaded.

An illustrative embodiment of this invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a plan of a tray embodying this invention.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section showing the tray disposed vertically for transferring the stack of stencils from the tray to the hopper of an addressing machine.

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the tray showing the cards in dotted outline.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective of the improved follower.

A tray embodying this invention is adapted for various uses, but in the specific construction herein shown it is particularly suitable for use in connection with addressing machine stencils, and for this reason the parts of the device are arranged to readily permit the stack of stencils and cards to be bodily transferred from the tray to the hopper of the addressing machine, as is well understood in the art.

Part of a common form of addressing machine hopper is herein illustrated and comprises upright stationary posts 1, 2 and 3, the details of which have been omitted as they are well understood in the art and they do not constitute a part of this invention.

In the specific construction herein shown, the card and stencil holder to which this invention is applied comprises a tray 4, having mounted therein an improved follower 5, frictionally engaging certain parts of the tray and adapted to be contracted so as to permit it to be manually shifted along the tray.

The tray 4 is preferably sheet metal formed to provide substantially parallel side walls 6 and a bottom wall 7 which may be stamped out of a single sheet. Secured to one end of the walls 6 and 7, is a front wall 8, on the outer face of which is mounted a handle 9 and a suitable frame 10 for receiving a name plate (not shown). The rear ends of the side walls 6 are bent inwardly to form triangular end plates 6.1.

The side walls 6 are bent inwardly and doubled upon themselves to form transversely disposed shelves or ledges 11 substantially parallel with the bottom wall 7, for supporting cards or stencils 12. The ledges 11 divide the tray into an upper stencil compartment 13 and a lower compartment 14 having a longitudinally extending passage 15 between them.

The bottom plate 7 extends outwardly beyond the inner opposed edges of the ledges 11 so as to form a wide supporting base giving stability to the tray and securing it against lateral tilting when it is loaded with stencils or cards.

The follower 5 is slidably mounted in the lower compartment 14 and projects through the passage 15 for engagement with one end of the stack of cards. In the construction herein shown, the improved follower 5 is in the form of a substantially U-shaped clip comprising a pair of side members 16 connected together by a resilient strap 17, preferably metal, which is buckled inwardly at its medial part as shown at 18, so as to slightly tilt the members 16 outwardly. The members 16 may be sheet metal stampings, and are of right and left hand construction. With this improved form of follower there is an unobstructed space between the base part 17 and the plane of the shelves 11 which extends centrally along the entire length of the tray and which permits the post 3 of the hopper to be readily inserted through the tray in engagement with the lower edges of the cards. Each of the members 16 com-

prises a shoe 19 and an arm 20 disposed at substantially right angles thereto. The shoes 19 slidably engage the bottom 7 of the tray and are provided with upturned flanges 21 which are adapted to coact with the bottom faces of the ledges 11 for limiting the backward tilting of the follower. The arms 20 are disposed inwardly of the flanges 21, so as to provide ledges 22 which are also adapted to slidably engage the lower faces of the ledges 11. Formed on the ledges 22, are forwardly projecting prongs 23 which form extensions of the ledges 22 and which are adapted to frictionally grip the lower faces of the ledges 11 only when the follower is tilted backward slightly under the pressure of the cards. The arms 20 are normally urged outwardly into frictional contact with the inner edges of the ledges 11 by the resilient action of the strap 17. The forward parts of the arms 20 are formed to provide triangular bearing members 24 extending outwardly at substantially right angles thereto for engagement with the end of the stack of cards.

In operation, to adjust the position of the follower in the tray, the arms 20 are grasped between the thumb and forefinger of the operator and the follower is contracted so as to release it from frictional contact with the ledges 11. It may then be moved along the tray to any desired position.

To transfer the entire stack of cards or stencils bodily from the tray to the hopper, the loaded tray is placed in an upright position directly above the hopper so as to permit the fixed post 3 of the hopper to enter the passage between the base 17 of the follower and the inner edges of the cards, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. While the tray is held in an upright position above the hopper, the weight of the entire stack of cards rests upon the follower 5 which is located below the stack. In this position of the tray, the cards are prevented from accidentally sliding out of the tray by means of a guide post which is hinged to the upper end of the hopper between the two fixed posts 1 and 2. The hinged guide post is adapted to be swung upwardly, so as to form a continuation of one side of the hopper, and is adapted to engage the outer face of the stack of cards. The construction and operation of the hinged guide post is well understood in the art and it has been omitted from the drawing because it is not considered material to the present invention. When the post 3 has been inserted into the passage 15, the entire tray and stack of cards are lowered until all of the cards are located between the three stationary posts 1, 2 and 3. The tray may then be moved outwardly away from the post 3, thereby leaving the stack of cards in the hopper. To transfer a stack of cards from the hopper to the tray, the operation

is reversed. The empty tray is placed around the stack so that the single post 3 lies flush against the bottom 17 of the follower. The tray and the cards supported by the follower are then raised vertically and the hinged guide post, (not shown) is used to retain the cards in the tray until all of the cards have been lifted clear of the hopper. The loaded tray may then be swung to a horizontal position.

Although but one specific embodiment of this invention has been herein shown and described, it will be understood that some of the details of the construction shown may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of this invention as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a card-supporting ledge, of a follower comprising a substantially U-shaped member having a pair of spaced arms and a resilient base part, said arms being yieldingly urged by said base part into frictional contact with opposed edges of said tray, said base part being spaced entirely below said ledge and away from the bottom of the cards to provide an unobstructed passage between said ledge and base part for the purpose specified.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a card-supporting ledge, of a follower comprising a resilient base part and a card-engaging part movable longitudinally of said tray, said tray and follower having an unobstructed passage between said supporting ledge and base part for the purpose specified, said resilient base part normally urging said card-engaging part into frictional engagement with said card-supporting ledge.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a guideway extending longitudinally thereof, a card-supporting ledge above said guideway, of a follower comprising a substantially U-shaped clip having a resilient base part and a pair of substantially parallel arms, said base part being located below said guideway, said arms being normally urged outwardly by said base part so as to frictionally engage the opposed edges of said guideway, said tray having an unobstructed passage between said base part and supporting ledge adapted to receive a post.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a card-supporting ledge spaced above the bottom thereof, of a follower comprising a substantially U-shaped clip having a base part slidable along the bottom of said tray and having releasable parts projecting above said supporting ledge in frictional engagement therewith, and flanges on the arms of said clip

disposed at substantially right angles to the sides of the tray to form bearing surfaces for engagement with one end of a stack of cards supported in said tray.

5 5. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a pair of card-supporting ledges spaced above the bottom thereof, of a follower comprising a substantially U-shaped clip, the base part of  
10 said clip being slidable along the bottom of said tray and being buckled inwardly so as to yieldingly urge the arms of said clip outwardly into frictional contact with opposed edges of said card-supporting ledges  
15 said clip being contractible for releasing said arms from said edges to permit it to be manually moved along said tray.

6. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a guideway  
20 extending longitudinally thereof, a card-supporting ledge above said guideway, a follower in said guideway and comprising a substantially U-shaped clip having a metallic base part buckled inwardly so as  
25 to resiliently urge the arms thereof outwardly into frictional contact with said card supporting ledge, said clip being contractible to permit it to be manually moved along said guideway.

30 7. In a device of the class described, the combination with a tray having a pair of card supporting ledges spaced above the bottom thereof, of a follower comprising a metallic base part slidably mounted on the  
35 bottom of said tray below said supporting ledges, said base part having the ends thereof doubled inwardly upon itself and extending at substantially right angles thereto so as to form a pair of spaced arms projecting upwardly beyond said card support-  
40 ing ledges, said base part being buckled

so as to resiliently urge said arms outwardly into frictional contact with said ledges.

8. In a device of the class described, a tray having substantially parallel side walls, 45 ledges projecting inwardly from said walls and arranged to divide the tray into upper and lower compartments, said tray having an unobstructed passage between said compartments adapted to receive a post, and a 50 follower arranged in said tray in frictional contact with said ledges.

9. In a device of the class described, a tray having substantially parallel side walls, 55 ledges projecting inwardly from said walls and arranged to divide the tray into upper and lower compartments, a follower located between said ledges and movable along the tray, and shoes on said follower slidably engaging the bottom of said tray, said tray 60 having an unobstructed passage between the base of said follower and the plane of said ledges for the purpose specified.

10. In a device of the class described, a tray having substantially parallel side walls, 65 ledges projecting inwardly from said walls and arranged to divide the tray into upper and lower compartments, a follower arranged in said tray in frictional contact with said ledges and being releasable therefrom 70 to permit it to be manually moved along the tray, and shoes on said follower arranged in sliding engagement with the bottom of said tray, said shoes and ledges coacting to secure said follower against withdrawal 75 through said upper compartment, said tray having an unobstructed passage between the base of said follower and the plane of said ledges for the purpose specified.

Signed at Chicago this 17th day of Nov. 80 1924.

PAUL A. GOLLNICK.