May 8, 1951 D. E. EVANS, SR 2,552,270

VISIBLE INDEX

Filed July 13, 1948

Fig. 1.

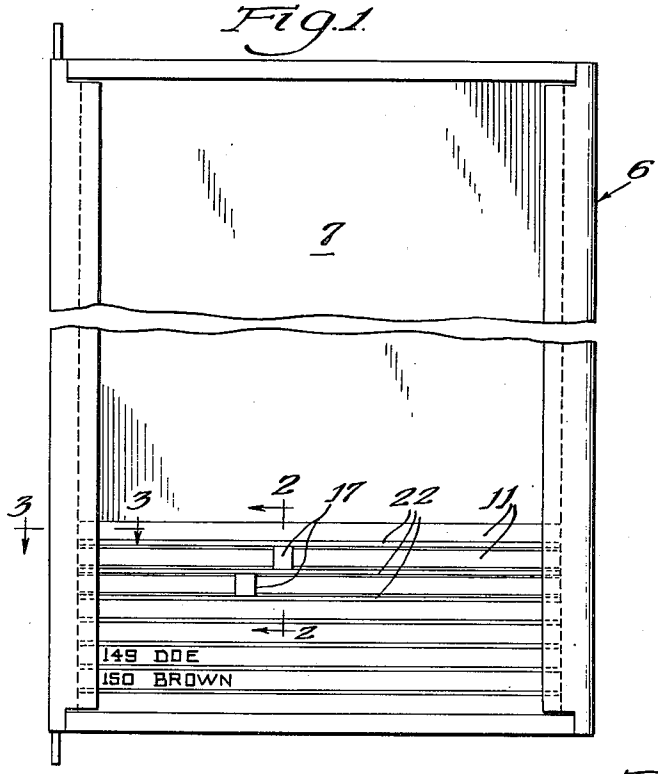


Fig. 2.

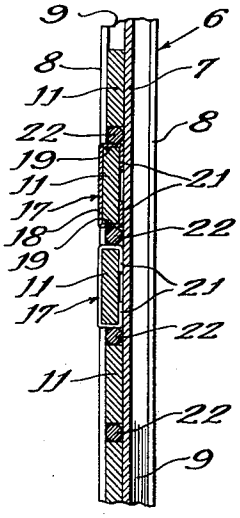


Fig. 3.

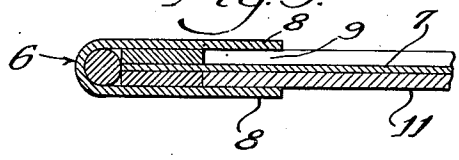


Fig. 4.

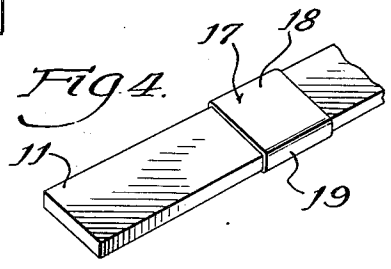


Fig. 5.

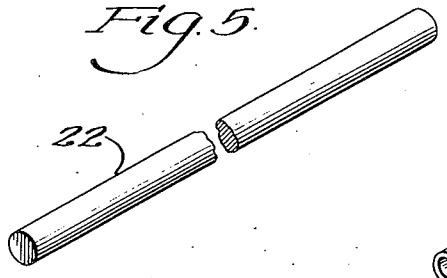


Fig. 6.

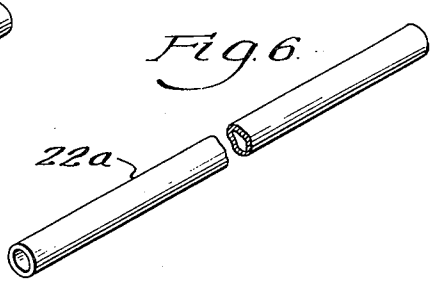
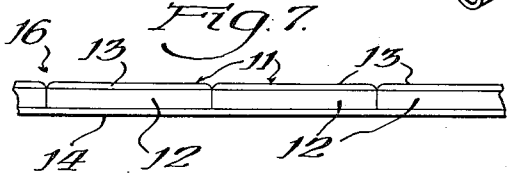


Fig. 7.



Inventor:
David E. Evans, Sr.
By: Lee J. Gary
Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,552,270

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David E. Evans, Sr., Columbus, Ohio, assignor to Acme Visible Records, Inc., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Delaware

Application July 13, 1948, Serial No. 38,536

4 Claims. (Cl. 40—64)

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This invention relates to visible index and record equipment of the type embodying a frame having side flanges defining channels to receive the ends of individual index strips arranged in side-by-side engagement and bearing written or printed matter, as set forth in United States Patent No. 1,594,112 granted July 27, 1926 to Frank D. Powell.

For graphically indicating progress in production or sales, stock on hand, etc., it is common practice to employ the use of transparent signals in the form of clips or sleeves for slidable movement along the individual strips. During movement of a signal along a strip, signals on adjacent strips are often accidentally displaced from their correct positions. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide spacing elements between adjacent index strips to prevent displacement of a signal on one strip during movement of a signal along an adjacent strip. As the side edges of the index strips are often left with a rough contour after their separation from a roll or sheet of index strips, the provision of smooth-surfaced spacing elements between adjacent strips permits free sliding movement of the signals with minimum frictional resistance.

This invention embodies other novel features, details of construction and arrangement of parts which are hereinafter set forth in the specification and claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view showing a visible index frame with index strips, spacers and progressive signals mounted thereon.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a enlarged fragmentary transverse sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view illustrating an index strip with a progressive signal mounted thereon.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a spacing element of circular cross-section.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing a modified form of spacing element of tubular construction.

Fig. 7 is an end elevational view illustrating the manner in which the strips are hingedly connected together in sheet form prior to separation into individual strips for mounting in the index frame.

Referring now to the drawing for a better understanding of this invention, the visible

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index and record equipment is shown as comprising a frame 6 embodying a plate 7 provided with side flanges 8—8, the side flanges being disposed in spaced relation along the side edges of the plate 7 to define passing channels or recesses 9—9. The side flanges 8—8 may be provided along both faces of the plate 7, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawing, or on one face only, depending upon the style and type of record equipment desired.

Individual index strips 11, of the type illustrated in Fig. 4, are usually formed of resilient thin wood veneer 12 faced on one side with paper 13 of writing paper quality capable of receiving typewriting or other imprinting, and faced on the other side with a backing of thin sheet material such as fabric or paper 14. The index strips 11 are manufactured and sold in sheet form, as illustrated at 16 in Fig. 7 and more particularly described in United States Patent No. 1,594,112 in which the several strips are hingedly connected together by means of the backing sheet 14.

The sheet 16 embodying the several strips 11 is adapted for insertion around the platen of a typewriter in typing data upon the paper facings 13; after which, the strips 11 are severed from the sheet for mounting upon the index frame 6. In mounting the strips 11 upon the frame, they are flexed or bowed intermediate their ends and then inserted beneath the side flanges 8—8. In assuming their normal straight shape, the ends of the strips 11 are thus engaged within the recesses 9—9 of the frame.

To graphically indicate progress of production, etc., progressive signals 17 are slidably mounted for progressive step-by-step movement along the strips 11, as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 in the drawings. The signals 17 are preferably formed of transparent, resilient sheet material, such as plastic, to provide a front wall 18, rearwardly projecting side walls 19—19 and inturned flanges 21—21. When the side edge of one strip 11 is disposed in contacting engagement against the side edge of an adjacent strip, it is apparent that movement of a signal 17 along one strip will sometimes cause accidental displacement of a signal positioned on the adjacent strip.

To prevent accidental displacement of signals due to movement of signals on adjacent strips and to reduce frictional resistance during movement of signals, the present invention contemplates the provision of spacing elements 22 for insertion between adjacent strips. As illustrated

in Fig. 5 in the drawing, the spacing elements 22 are preferably formed of circular cross-section and cut to length from rod stock, the length and diameter of the spacing elements being preferably substantially equal to the length and thickness of the index strips 11. Spacing elements are also preferably formed of a resilient material, such as plastic or metal, which permits flexing or bowing of the elements. In mounting the spacing elements in the frame 6, they are first bowed and then released to return to their normal straight shape to engage their ends within the channels or recesses 9—9 defined by the flanges 8—8.

Fig. 6 in the drawing illustrates a modified form of spacing element 22*a* of tubular construction and preferably formed of resilient material, such as metal or plastic. It is contemplated that the element 22*a* may be cut from tubular stock and having a length and thickness substantially equal to the length and thickness of the index strips 11.

In the use of visible index and record equipment embodying the features of this invention, it will be apparent that the signals 17 may be progressively moved along their respective index strips 11 without engaging or causing accidental displacement of the signals mounted upon adjacent strips, due to the provision of spacing elements 22 between adjacent strips. It will further be noted that the cylindrical-shaped spacing elements 22 are in line contact engagement with the side walls 19—19 of the signals 17, whereby the signals may be slidably positioned along their respective index strips 11 with minimum frictional resistance.

While this invention has been shown in but two forms, it is 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 and scope of the claimed invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In visible index and record equipment, a panel, a pair of flanges provided on said panel to define opposing trough-shape recesses, index strips mounted on said panel and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, signals mounted for slidable movement along some of said index strips, and resilient spacing elements formed of rod stock disposed between some of said index strips and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses to provide line contact engagement with said signals.

2. In visible index and record equipment, a panel, a pair of flanges provided on said panel to define opposing trough-shape recesses, index strips mounted on said panel and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, signals mounted for slidable movement along some of said index strips, spacing elements disposed between some of said index strips and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, said spacing elements being of circular cross-section to provide line contact engagement with said signals.

3. In visible index and record equipment, a panel, a pair of flanges provided on said panel to define opposing trough-shape recesses, index strips mounted on said panel and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, signals mounted for slidable movement along some of said index strips, resilient spacing elements disposed between some of said index strips and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, said spacing elements being of circular cross-section to provide line contact engagement with said signals.

4. In visible index and record equipment, a panel, a pair of flanges provided on said panel to define opposing trough-shape recesses, index strips mounted on said panel and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses, signals mounted for slidable movement along some of said index strips, and spacing elements formed of tubular stock disposed between some of said index strips and having their ends engaged within said trough-shape recesses to provide line contact engagement with said signals.

DAVID E. EVANS, SR.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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