To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HAROLD C. McPIKE and FRED A. SCHMITZ, citizens of the United States, residing at Youngstown, in the county of Mahoning and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Card-Index Tabs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in index tabs for guide cards of filing systems.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a strong and durable tab construction which will more readily withstand the bending stresses usually placed upon the tab in fingering over the guide cards to locate the desired section or subdivision. As the index tab projects above the upper edge of the card while the card itself is more or less firmly anchored between the contents of the filing drawer, the tab forms a cantilever, and if not substantially constructed and designed, breaks or cracks at the fulcrum point where all of the strain is focused.

Accordingly, the present invention contemplates a novel tab having a compartment for receiving the label, the walls of said compartment being transparent and provided with an opening for inserting and removing the label, the said opening being arranged and disposed in such a way that the structure of the tab is in no way weakened in the zone where the bending or leverage strains are concentrated.

A further and more specific object of the invention is to provide a simple, sanitary, and practical construction that may be easily and economically manufactured.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of a guide card having the improved tab applied thereto.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the guide card and tab construction shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a rear elevation of a guide card showing a modified type of tab construction providing two access openings for the label compartment.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

According to the present invention, it is proposed to provide the guide card 1 with an integral tab projection 2 projecting above the upper edge 3 of the guide card a suitable distance to enable the tab to be readily sighted and distinguished when the guide card is in position in the filing drawer. The tab projection 2 is preferably cut away or punched out, as indicated at 4, thereby providing an opening whose lower edge extends well into the body of the guide card so as to carry the relatively weakest point of the tab to a point below the upper edge thereof and enable the material of the card to better resist the bending strain which is concentrated more or less at this otherwise weak point of the tab.

The recess or opening 4, as well as the opposite faces of the tab, are covered by an enveloping sheet 5 of transparent material, preferably celluloid, the same being folded over the edge of the tab so as to present a continuous and smooth protecting edge 6 for the top of the tab to prevent the same from becoming soiled or curled up by fingering and also prevent the celluloid from being separated from the body of the tab. In other words, the celluloid sheet 5 is folded upon itself and placed astride the tab so that its folded edge is located at the top of the tab while the opposite wings thereof provide transparent walls w and w' for the recess 4 thereby providing a compartment for receiving and holding a label 1 bearing the necessary indicia for identifying the contents of the file drawer.

By reason of the fact that the recess 4 extends above and below the upper edge 3 of the card body 1, a label within the compartment may contain upper and lower lines of indexing matter such as for example as a relatively large general index letter which may be on the upper half of the label and always...
exposed to view while the portion of the
label below the upper edge of the card may
contain further and more explicit data as to
the contents of the particular subdivision.
As previously indicated the novel and dis-
tinctive feature of the present invention is
to provide a tab construction which is re-
forced where the bending pressure is
usually centered and to that end the access
opening for the label compartment is espe-
cially arranged with reference to the focus-
ing point of such strains. That is to say,
the slit opening 7 which permits access to the
label compartment is vertically arranged at
an end of the compartment and parallel with
one of the vertical edges of the recess 4 in-
stead of horizontally, that is parallel with
a horizontal edge of the opening. By thus
locating the access slot or opening 7 at right
angles to the fulcrum line of the canti-
lever a minimum area only of the celluloid
is required to be cut away or removed, while
at the same time the full reinforcing effect
imparted to the material of the tab by the
celluloid wings w and w' of the sheath 5 is
not disturbed. Therefore, the tab remains
fully reinforced by the stiffness of the pro-
tecting sheath or cover, enabling it to suc-
cessfully withstand bending strains which
would otherwise be focused at the hori-
zontal or longer edge of the recess 4 and in
the relatively small web portions 2 of the
tab.
While it will of course be understood that
the distinguishing characteristic of the
present improvement resides in the partic-
ular disposition of the access slot or opening
7, it will of course be understood that the
invention is not limited to the use of a single
opening adjacent one of the vertical edges
of the recess of the tab, but as shown in
Figure 5 the rear wing of the transparent
reinforcing sheath 5 may be provided with
slits 7' and 7" located at opposite ends of
the recess and parallel to the vertical edges
thereof leaving the area of material in the
card and sheath at the point where the hing-
ing action is focused substantially undis-
turbed and thereby materially contributing
to the strength and durability of the entire
construction.
Without further description it is thought
that the features and advantages of the
present improvement will be apparent to
those skilled in the art and it will of course
be understood that changes in the form, pro-
portion and minor details of construction
may be resorted to without departing from
the spirit of the invention or scope of the
appendix claim.

We claim:

A tab for guide cards including a card body
having a tab extension provided with a recess
lying within the extension and also extend-
ing into the card body, a sheath of trans-
parent material folded to embrace the tab
projection so that the wings thereof cover
opposite sides of the recess to provide a label-
receiving compartment, and a vertical slot
in one of the wings of the sheath located ad-
jacent one of the vertical edges of the recess.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix
our signatures in the presence of two wit-
tesses.

HAROLD CURTIS McPIKE.
FRED A. SCHMITZ.

Witnesses:
W. C. CORYELL,
JOHN W. REID.