This invention relates to tabs for index or guide cards such as are used in filing cabinets.

A general object is to provide a simple, inexpensive tab which may readily be applied to an index or guide card at the correct angle to insure easy inspection, which is strong and durable and affords a convenient and comfortable finger grip element for inserting, withdrawing, tilting and otherwise manipulating the card; which is provided with a slot to accommodate an indicia-bearing slip or label, and which includes a transparent or substantially transparent magnifying element overlying the slip or label and serving to magnify the indicia thereon to facilitate reading of the same.

More particularly, an object of the invention is to provide a tab which is composed in part of sheet metal or equivalent sheet material and in part of a transparent plastic or equivalent material combined in a novel manner to adapt the tab for facile and economical manufacture, to be readily and securely applied to an index card and to afford a recess or slot to receive an indicia-bearing slip or label and to hold the same in a position such that the indicia thereon is magnified and is readily visible from different points in front of and above the tab.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will become more fully apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in a tab embodying the novel features of construction, combination and arrangements of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and defined in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts in the different views—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of an index card and of a tab constructed in accordance with the invention and mounted on said card.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the general construction shown in Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8, but illustrating a modified form of rib or key on the lens element for engaging with the edges of the window of the holder.

Referred to the form of the invention shown in Figures 1–3, A designates a portion of an index or guide card and B designates, generally, an indicia-bearing and card-manipulating tab constructed in accordance with one practical embodiment of the invention and operatively mounted upon said card and projecting above the upper edge thereof at an angle thereto, so that it may readily be grasped for manipulating the card and so that the indicia thereon is exposed to view.

The tab B comprises a transparent or substantially transparent magnifying lens element designated generally as 10 and a holder therefor designated generally as 11.

The lens element 10 may be formed from any suitable transparent or substantially transparent material such as a plastic, glass or the like and may be of any suitable length and cross sectional size and shape. In the present instance it is shown as being elongated and as having a substantially flat rear face and a front face which is convexly curved transversely whereby it serves to magnify indicia or the like disposed behind the same when viewed through the same from the front thereof.

The holder 11 is formed from sheet metal or other suitable sheet material of requisite stiffness, resiliency, and strength and is produced in one piece by bending a blank of proper shape upon itself to provide an open-ended top socket portion 12 to accommodate the lens element 10, and front and rear attaching ears 13 and 14, respectively, depending from said socket portion.

The lens element 10 may, in the form shown in Figures 1–3, be slid endwise into the socket portion 12 after the holder 11 is formed or the said socket portion 12 may be formed about said lens element during manufacture of the tab. In any event, the socket portion 12 is approximately equal in width to the length of the lens element 10 so as to extend approximately from end to end of the latter. Moreover, said socket portion is of approximately the same cross sectional size and shape as said lens element so as snugly to accommodate and embrace the latter.

The ears 13 and 14 are disposed substantially parallel to each other and are spaced apart a distance approximately equal to or slightly greater than the thickness of an index or divider card to which the tab is to be applied. Accordingly, the tab B may readily be applied to the top marginal portion of a card, such as the card A, simply by inserting the said top marginal portion of the card between the ears 13.
and 14 by then suitably fastening the said ears to the card or to each other as by riveting as indicated at 15. In this connection, if the ears 13 and 14 are riveted or equivalently fastened together, the riveting or equivalent fastening op-

eration may be employed to draw said ears togeth-

er and thus cause the socket portion 12 to grip

the lens element 10 and retain the same ther-

en.

Formed either in the rear of the lens element 10 or in the rear wall of the socket portion 12 as in Figure 6, a narrow-depth slot 17 of suitable width to accommodate an indicia-bearing slip or label 18. The slot 17 extends preferably from end to

to the end of the lens element 10 and the socket por-

tion 12 and preferably is open at both ends to facili-
tate insertion and removal of a slip or label 18 into and from the same.

The slip or label 18 is, of course, provided with desired indicia on its front face and these indicia are readily visible, magnified by the lens element 10, through a window 19 which is provided in the front wall of the socket portion 12. In this connection it will be observed that the socket portion 12 is inclined upwardly and rearwardly with respect to the ears 13 and 14 and, therefore, with respect to the card A to render the indicia on the slip or label 18 most clearly readable from the normal point of view in front of and above the tab.

While it is not essential, in this form of the inven-
tion, to positively lock the lens element 10 in the socket portion 12, means for this purpose may be desirable and may comprise a small recess in said lens element to accommodate a small part of the socket portion 12 which may either be in-
dented into said recess after the lens element is inserted into said socket portion 12 or which may be formed to snap into said recess when said lens is slid into said socket portion.

Referring to Figures 4 to 9 inclusive, illustrating a modification of the invention hereinafter described, it will be observed that the card A' can be slid into the tab B'. This tab essentially includes a holder 11a doubled upon itself to provide a socket 12a and including the ears 13a and 14a for attachment to the card A'. The front wall 11b of the holder is provided with the window 19a for receiving the lens element 10a which has the same characteristics previously pointed out in connection with the lens element 10, so far as material and magnifying qualities are concerned. However, said lens element 10a differs structurally from the lens element 10, in the res-

pect that it is provided with means cooperating with the edges of the window 19a to enable it to be interlocked with the holder by rocking and snapping the same into place in the window of the socket of the holder instead of sliding it into said socket.

As will be observed, especially from Figures 5 and 6, the lens element 10a is provided at one of its long sides or edges with a holding rib 10c and at its opposite edge with an elongated key 10b. The rib 10c and the key 10b extend be-

ond the normally parallel sides of the lens ele-

ment 10a which are exposed to view when the lens element is fitted into the window of the holder. In the example shown, the rib 10c and the key 10b preferably are of greatest width at the medial portion of the lens element and taper in opposite directions toward the ends of said lens element. As will be apparent from Figure 6, the preferable method of manipulating the lens element 10a to fit it into the window opening 19a is to place the rib 10c in the lower portion of the socket 12a with the key 10b poised adjacent the edge of the window opposite that behind which the rib 10c is engaged. When the lens ele-

ment 10a is in the position shown in Figure 6, it may be pressed by thumb or finger pressure to-
ward the socket of the holder, thereby to cause the key 10b to snap behind the upper edge of the window 19a and thus bring the parts to the pos-

ition shown in Figure 7 to lock or secure the lens element in the holder. When the lens element is in the position shown in Figure 7, it will, of

course, be understood that a label 18a may be slid-

ably inserted between the channel at the back of the lens and the rear wall of the socket 12a, be-

hind the lens element 10a to bring the label in the proper viewing position.

Preferably, though not necessarily, the short ends of the window 19a may also be provided with the inwardly projecting lugs 15b which are intended to bear in related notches 10d in the rear face of the lens element 10a. These lugs are preferably bent slightly outwardly on the plane of the front wall 11b of the holder so as to enter the notches 10d and assist in centering the lens element relative to the window during the positioning of said lens element with respect to the window, and, after the lens element has been snapped into place, the said lugs 15b will place the lens element 10a under slight outward pres-

sure to thus press the rib 10c and the key 10b against the inner edges of the window and pre-

vent looseness or play.

Figure 9 of the drawing shows all of the essen-
tial characteristics described in connection with Figures 4 to 9 inclusive, but illustrates a modi-

fied form of rib and key. In this form, the rib 20 and the key 21, while projecting from the opposite edges of the lens element 18a, in the manner here-

tofore described for similar parts, are substan-
tially in the form of arcuate members, as shown.

In other words, they are not of the same length as the rib 10c and the key 10b of Figures 4 to 8. In purpose and function, however, they attain the same object and result.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the present invention contemplates an angular guide tab for index cards including a holder and a magnifying lens element which may be assem-

bled either by sliding the lens element into the holder or by snapping the same into the window thereof, with the result, in both cases, of provid-

ing a simple and practical union between the lens element and the holder which is durable and efficient in use.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to, without depart-

ing from the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a guide tab for index cards or the like of the type including a body of sheet material doubled upon itself to provide a rear wall and a front wall having an opening providing an elongated rectangular window frame overlying the inner face of the rear wall, means for fasten-

ing the lower portions of said walls to the card, an elongated rectangular transversely convex
lens element, and cooperating means on the lens element and frame for detachably interlocking the lens element with said lens holder, the lens element having a channel for supporting a label between said lens and the rear wall of the holder whereby the label is supported in a position to be viewed through the window frame and said lens element.

2. A tab comprising an elongated magnifying lens element having a substantially flat rear face and a front face which is convexly curved transversely, a holder for said lens element of sheet material including a socket portion substantially equal in length to and of substantially the same cross sectional size and shape as said lens element, said lens element being disposed in said socket portion, means depending from said socket portion for fastening the tab upon an object, said socket portion including a rear wall and a front wall having a window therein, and the rear face of said lens element having a channel therein providing a slot between said rear wall of the socket and said lens element, said slot adapted to accommodate a label to be viewed through said window and lens element.

3. A tab for guide cards comprising an elongated magnifying lens element having a substantially flat rear face and a front face which is convexly curved transversely, a holder for said lens element comprising a single piece of sheet material bent upon itself to provide a socket portion and a pair of depending ears, said socket portion being of substantially the same length and the same cross sectional size and shape as said lens element and the latter being disposed therein, means for fastening said ears respectively against the front and the back of an index or divider card to mount the tab thereon, said socket including a rear wall and a front wall having a window therein, and said lens element having in the rear thereof a channel providing between the rear of the lens element and the rear wall of said socket portion a slot to accommodate a label to be viewed through said window and lens element.

4. A guide tab for index cards or the like, comprising, a holder of resilient material, doubled upon itself to provide front and rear walls, said front wall provided with a window and having a yielding tongue projecting into said window, a lens element adapted to fit in said window and having a notch in its inner face to receive said tongue, the body of said lens element being approximately the size of the window and having rib and key portions projecting beyond opposite edges thereof one for insertion behind said front wall at one edge of the window and the other to be forced behind said front wall at the opposite edge of said window to lock the lens in the holder.

5. A tab comprising a holder for a card, a lens element to be mounted upon said holder in overlying relationship to a card held thereby, and cooperating means carried by said lens element and said holder for snap action inter-engagement by an act of inserting said lens element with said holder to detachably mount said lens element upon said holder.

6. A tab comprising a holder for a card, said holder including a front wall having therein a window opening through which the card is visible, a lens element to be inserted into said window in overlying relationship to said card, and formations at opposite edges of said lens element for snap-action interlocking engagement with the portions of said front wall at opposite edges of said window opening by the act of inserting said lens element into said window opening to retain said lens element in assembly with said holder.

7. A tab comprising a holder for a card, said holder including a front wall having a window opening through which the card is visible, a lens element to be inserted into said window, and tongues at opposite sides of said lens element to be engaged behind said front wall at opposite sides of said window opening, respectively, to retain said lens element in assembly with said holder.

8. A tab comprising a holder for a card, said holder including a front wall having therein a window opening through which the card is visible, a lens element to be inserted into said window in overlying relationship to said card, formations at opposite edges of said lens element for snap-action interlocking engagement with the portions of said front wall at opposite edges of said window opening by the act of inserting said lens element into said window opening to retain said lens element in assembly with said holder, and spring tongues projecting from said front wall into said window opening to be engaged and depressed by said lens and to exert force upon said lens to hold the same against any looseness relative to said holder.

9. A tab for index or divider cards comprising a holder for an indicia-bearing card, said holder being formed from resilient material and having therein a window, a lens element to fit in said window in overlying relationship to an indicia-bearing card held by the holder, and means on opposite edges of said lens element and on said holder at opposite edges of said window for snap-action interlocking engagement by the act of inserting said lens element in said window to secure said lens element in said window.

10. A tab for index or divider cards comprising a holder for an indicia-bearing card, said holder being formed from resilient material and including a front wall having therein a window, a lens element to fit in said window in overlying relationship to an indicia-bearing card held by said holder, means at one edge of said lens element for insertion behind said front wall at one edge of said window, and means at the opposite edge of said lens element to be snapped behind said front wall at the opposite edge of said window.

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