

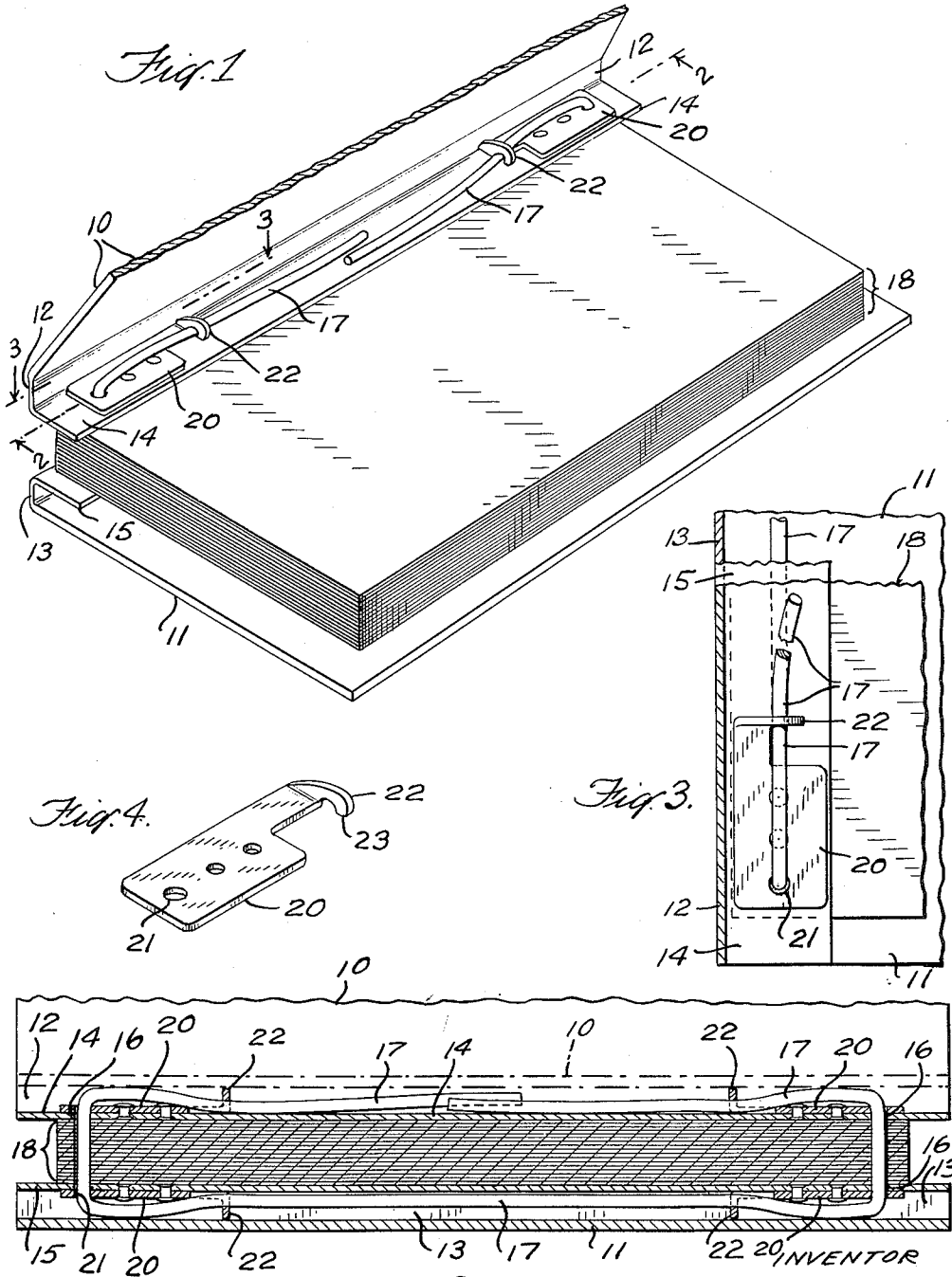
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EXPANDIBLE LOOSE LEAF BINDER

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1

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EXPANDIBLE LOOSE LEAF BINDER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 129—41)

This invention relates to expandible loose-leaf binders and has for an object to provide a binder of the above type having novel and improved features of operation and details of construction.

Another object is to provide an expandible binder having improved means for securing the posts in various positions as required for accommodating fillers of different thicknesses.

A further object is to provide a binder of the above type which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and presents a neat and pleasing appearance.

Another object is to provide, in a binder of the above type, post securing means which are disposed to be concealed by the covers so that the outer surfaces of the covers remain flat and unobstructed for stacking.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed.

The nature of the invention will be better understood from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which a specific embodiment has been set forth for purposes of illustration.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a binder embodying the present invention with a part of the front cover broken away;

FIG. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1 but on a larger scale;

FIG. 3 is a broken section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the latching plate for the flexible post.

Referring to the drawings more in detail the binder is shown as having a front cover 10 and a back cover 11 hinged by suitable means shown as fabric hinges 12 and 13 to front and back panels 14 and 15, respectively. The panels 14 and 15 are provided with spaced holes 16 for the passage of a flexible strip 17 which constitutes posts for receiving a stack 18 of perforated loose leaves.

The strip 17 is composed of a strong resilient material which is capable of bending sharply as required while retaining sufficient springiness to return to a straight form when released. Monofilament nylon strip material is preferred as this material retains its resilience or ability to spring back into its straight form even after long periods of use. Also it is sufficiently flexible to permit the strip to be bent as required to conform to the thickness of the filler 18.

A single strip or strand of such nylon is used. This strip extends across the panel 15 of the back cover 11, thence upwardly through the two holes 16 in the back panel 15, through the perforated sheets 18 and the holes 16 of the front panel 14 with its projecting ends bent along the top of the front panel 14.

The nylon strip 17 is secured by latching plates 20 secured to each panel 14 and 15. The plates 20 have holes 21 registering with the holes 16 of the respective panels

2

and have upstanding latching ears 22 spaced from the plates to receive the strip 17 thereunder. Each ear 22 is formed with a downturned lip 23 for holding the strip 17 in place. The plate 20 is recessed as at 24 below the ears 22 to provide clearance for the strip 17.

The strip 17 is placed under the latching ears 22 on the back panel 15 for securing the back loop of the strip in place. After the front panel 14 has been pressed into place over the filler 18 the projecting ends of the strip 17 are bent downwardly and sprung under the ears 22 on the front panel 14. The resilience of the strip 17 serves to hold the ends in place under the ears 22 while the flexibility permits the strip to be pressed downwardly to pass under the lips 23 when the strip is to be released as for the insertion of additional sheets over the posts so formed.

When the covers 10 and 11 are closed they cover the plates 20 and ears 22 and present an unobstructed flat outer surface.

Since the strip 17 extends along the back panel 15 it is securely held in place and cannot be pulled out unintentionally. Also an extremely wide range of post lengths is available due to the lengths of the strip ends folded over the front panel 14.

The invention may be embodied in various forms and changes and modifications may be made therein as will be apparent to a person skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. An expandible loose-leaf binder having front and back panels, front and back covers hinged thereto, said panels having aligned holes therein, a strip of resilient, flexible, monofilament nylon extending along said back panel, the ends of said nylon strip being bent upwardly and projecting through said aligned holes in said panels to constitute binder posts and further bent at the free ends thereof to extend along and in substantial parallel relation to said front panel, and means for latching and securing said nylon strip, said latching and securing means comprising a plurality of plates on each of said front and back panels, said plates having holes for the passage therethrough of the nylon strip registering with the holes in the front and back panels, each of said plates having at one end thereof a transverse latching ear spaced above and normal to the plane of the plate to provide clearance for the passage of the free end of the nylon strip thereunder, each of said ears having at its free end and in the plane thereof a downturned lip under which the nylon strip is received, said lip having a groove therein to maintain said nylon strip for securing said nylon strip in position.

2. An expandible loose leaf binder, as set forth in claim 1, in which said plates are recessed beneath said ears to provide clearance for said strip.

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