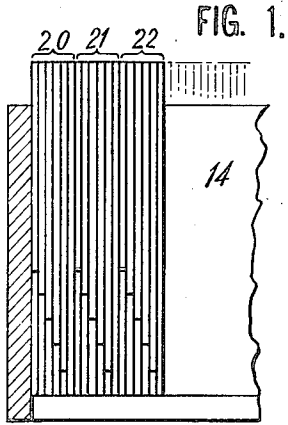
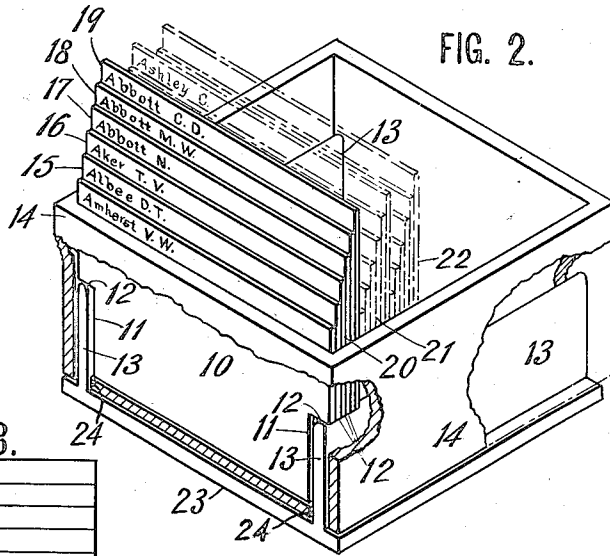
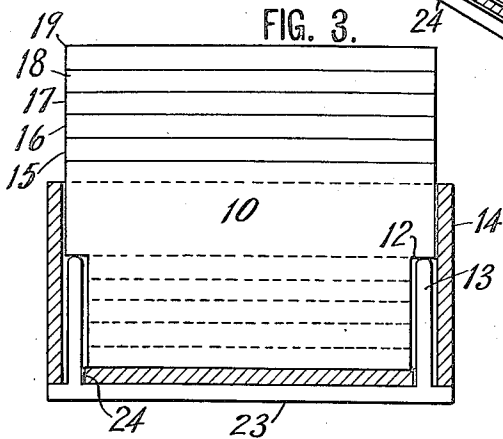
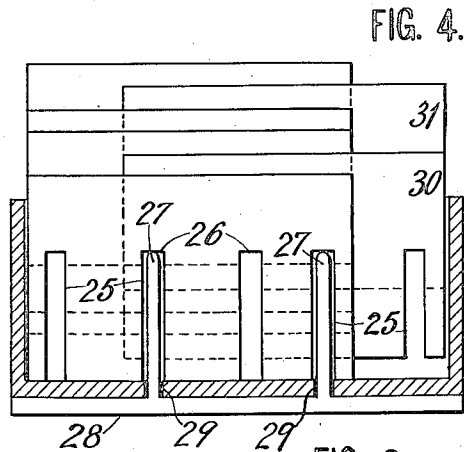
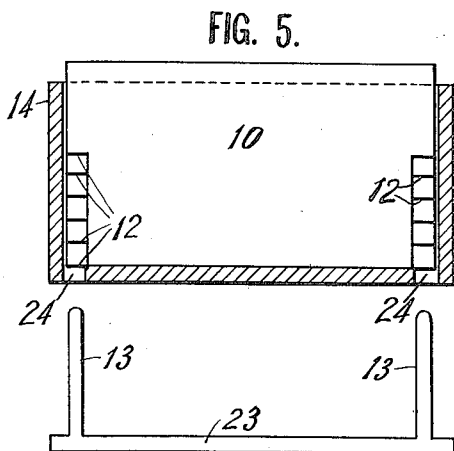
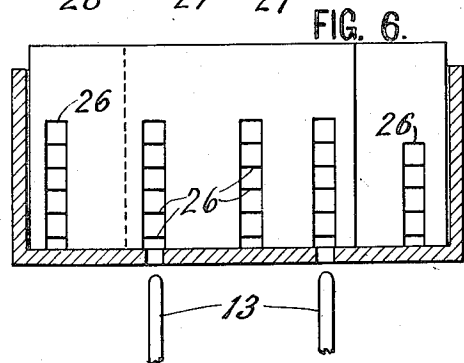


L. A. WERNERY.
INDEXED CARD SYSTEM.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 17, 1917.

1,383,684.

Patented July 5, 1921.



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INDEXED CARD SYSTEM.

1,383,684.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 5, 1921.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LESTER A. WERNERY, a citizen of the United States, residing in Brooklyn borough, in the county of Kings, city and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indexed Card Systems, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the construction and assemblage of stacking of small and large cards or sheets used for card-indexing, bookkeeping and other purposes.

In such card index systems, it has been the practice to make the cards uniform, and to stack a great number of them in a tray, and then to thumb over the cards in searching for a desired one; the index line upon all of the cards except the front one being of course hidden.

One of the main objects of my invention is to overcome this difficulty, and to this end I make the cards of a form such that when they are placed or fitted in the receptacle, or tray, their index lines are all visible, at least to an extent to render it unnecessary to thumb them over. According to my invention, the cards are so placed that the index lines or legends thereon are all visible, because of a stepped arrangement of the index portions of the cards, whereby each rear card surmounts the card in front of it, or is in echelon arrangement with respect thereto.

It is not essential to arrange all of the cards of a large system in a single stepped bank, but the stack may be divided into a series of stepped banks placed one behind another, the upper cards in each bank having their indexes always in sight, and the bottom cards in each rear bank being readily brought into view by canting the entire bank back.

The preferred manner of securing the stepped arrangement of the cards is to form the cards with shoulders upon their opposite sides, and to rest these shoulders upon ledges with which the receptacle or tray is provided. In each bank, the top of the next card from the front is at a greater elevation above its shoulders than is the front card; the top of the next rear card is at a still greater elevation, and so on throughout the bank, so that, when the shoulders rest upon the ledge, the cards will surmount one another, thereby rendering the indexes all visible,

Preferably, for compactness, when the cards are out of use, the ledges are rendered detachable, so that the cards may be dropped compactly within the tray. Upon re-inserting the ledges, the cards may be restored to their echelon or stepped arrangement.

It will be understood that whenever any card is removed, a gap is left in the bank, thus enabling the user to re-locate the card when restoring it to the bank, without the necessity of thumbing the cards over as heretofore, to find the proper place for returning the card.

In one form of the invention, the cards are provided in their bottom portions with vertical slots, whereby the cards are set upon ledges which are spaced from the sides of the tray, these slots being of varying heights to secure visibility of the indexes thereon, and the cards being, moreover, provided with extra slots, for use when it is desired to restore to the stack, but in dislocated position, a card that has been just written upon; so that all the cards that have been used during the day may be readily ascertained, as they will all stand in offset relation to the stack.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a sectional side elevation showing, that if desired, the cards may be thrown down from their stepwise or visible arrangement, and packed closely into a receptacle, for the purpose of storage.

Fig. 2 is a perspective to illustrate one manner in which the cards may rest upon ledges, the cards surmounting one another to make the legends thereon visible.

Fig. 3 is a front sectional view of the preferred form of receptacle or tray, showing a bank or ascent of cards in stepped arrangement therein.

Fig. 4 is a view of another form of the invention, illustrating how some cards may be displaced laterally relatively to the stack.

Fig. 5 is a sectional front elevation, showing the parts packed for storage as at Fig. 1, and showing the detachable form of ledges for supporting the cards.

Fig. 6 shows the cards dropped for compactness in storing; these cards being of the form seen in Fig. 4, and the supporting ledges having been withdrawn to permit the cards to drop preparatory to restoring the

laterally displaced cards to their proper positions in the pack or stack.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 5, each card 10 has upon its opposite side edges a cut-away 11, thereby forming shoulders 12, to support the card upon opposite ledges 13. The ledges are preferably of solid form, to guard against disarrangement of the cards, and the cards preferably fit very closely between or in contact with said ledges for the same purpose. At Fig. 2, it will be seen that the upper edge of the first card 10 rises sufficiently above the card receptacle 14 to render visible an index or other legend written or printed along the top of the card; and that the top of the second card 15 extends higher above its shoulders 12 than does the top of the first card 10, so that the second card may surmount or stand in stepped relation to the first, so as to render visible the legend that runs along the top of said card 15; and that the tops of the succeeding cards 16, 17, 18, and 19 stand progressively higher above their shoulders, making a general stepped or echelon arrangement, each rear card surmounting the one in front of it, so that all the legends on all the cards are in sight and therefore easily read.

These cards 10-19 form a bank or ascent 20, which combines with similar banks 21-22 to form a complete set or stack of cards, which may fill the receptacle, although if desired they may be divided among a number of receptacles, if there are very many cards in the set. The receptacle need not be entirely filled, as it is preferable to permit the rear banks to be canted backwardly for convenience in reading the same.

It will be seen that a very large quantity 40 of index cards can be contained in a comparatively small receptacle and with all of the indexes or legends constantly visible, thus saving trouble and delay heretofore experienced in thumbing over the cards in order to find a desired one, because all of the writing on each card was hidden by the card in front of it.

A further advantage is gained in that whenever any card is withdrawn for the purpose of entering an item thereon, it leaves a gap in the bank of cards, said gap being very noticeable, so that when desiring to return the card to the stack, the user simply places it in said gap, and is not first obliged, as heretofore, to thumb over the cards to find the proper place for its reinsertion.

The ledges 13 may be fixed portions of the receptacle, if desired, but preferably they are removable, to permit the cards, when out of use, to drop to the positions at Figs. 1 and 5, whereby compactness is secured, for convenience in storage. In order to remove said ledges, they are preferably erected upon a single base 23, upon which 65 the receptacle or tray 14 may rest. These

ledges may be thrust up within the box or receptacle, as at Figs. 2 and 3, thus bringing the cards to their echelon or stepped condition. When the cards are no longer to be used, the base 23 may be withdrawn, together with the ledges 13, whereupon the cards may be dropped to the compact condition at Figs. 1 and 5. The ledges 13 preferably extend the entire length from front to rear of the tray, and may enter the same through suitable apertures 24 in its bottom.

In some instances, the feature of withdrawing the ledges may be omitted, and they may remain fixed permanently in the tray, without sacrificing the feature of visibility secured by the echelon arrangement of the cards; and is not essential in all cases that the ledges, when used, shall have the form shown, nor a horizontal arrangement. In this and other features, variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention. While I have described the cards as shouldered on their opposite side edges, and as having legends upon their top edges, still the invention includes cards otherwise shouldered and otherwise provided with ledges, so long as the echelon feature is provided.

In the form shown at Figs. 4 and 6, the cards may be provided at their lower portions each with four notches or vertical slots 25, open at their lower ends; their upper ends 26 serving as shoulders to rest upon ledges 27, arranged within the receptacle and spaced from the sides thereof. The slots 25 are of varying heights, or in other words, the tops of the cards are at various distances from the upper edges 26 of said slots, so as to produce a stepped or echelon effect. The ledges 27 may be fixed upon a base 28 and inserted in slots 29 in the bottom of the tray, although said ledges 27 may be fixed, if desired, without provision for withdrawal.

It will be seen that the cards may have either the side shoulders 12 or the intermediate shoulders 26; the side shoulders 12 being preferable in many cases, because the body of the lower portion of the card is left uncut, and hence may be used for bookkeeping or other entries. The slots 25 occupy room at the lower portion of the card, but this would not prove an objection in many instances, especially where the cards are very large, as is often the case where bookkeeping systems involve the use of large cards or sheets, on which the bookkeeping entries are directly written from time to time.

A further advantage may be gained from the use of the form of the invention seen at Fig. 4, since any card may be offset from the stack, as seen at 30 and 31. This proves a great convenience, especially where the number of cards in the stack is very great, since the bookkeeper or user, after withdrawing a card for writing an entry thereon, may re- 130

store it to the stack in its offset or displaced relation, as at 30 or 31, so that at any time during the day he may refer to any card upon which he has made an entry on that day, without the necessity of consulting any memorandum for that purpose since all of the used cards will stand out from the stack. There being more than two (preferably four) of the slots 25, it will be seen that a card may be set upon ledges 27 in either the left-hand or the right-hand position at Fig. 4, whereby the desired offset relation may be readily secured. If it is not desired to offset any cards, there need be only as many slots 25 as there are ledges 27.

As will be understood from Figs. 1 and 3, the highest card has no cutaway, its shoulders being coincident with the bottom edge of the card.

Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention, and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In combination, a bank of self-finding cards, each having a heading along one edge, the cards provided with supporting or locating means in the form of shoulders at a variety of distances from said heading, each card having its locating means at only a single distance from said heading, to render the card self-locating relatively to the remaining cards, and the single locating means upon each card being at a different position from the locating means upon the remaining cards, to enable the cards to locate themselves to show said headings in stepped or echelon arrangement as they are banked, and a common support upon which said cards are so banked normally.

2. A set of index cards of graduated forms, each being provided with a single pair of opposite supporting shoulders, the top of each card being located at a different height above the shoulders, as compared with the remaining cards, to render the cards self-locating and thereby produce overlapping relation of the assembled cards.

3. A bank of index cards of graduated forms, to combine with like banks to form a set or stack, said bank comprising cards each having a single pair of shoulders upon its opposite edges to render the card self-locating, and the tops of the cards being formed progressively higher above the shoulders, from front to rear of the bank, so that when the shoulders are alined, matter written or printed on the tops of all the cards are visible.

4. The combination with a receptacle or tray, of a stack of index cards removably fitted thereto and having headings, said cards and said receptacle having parts co-operating to give said headings on the various cards, a stepped arrangement, to render

all of the headings visible, said coöperating parts including a rest upon the receptacle, and locating means in the form of shoulders upon the cards, each card having a single locating means to render it self-locating, and said rest being constructed to permit the free insertion of said card in the receptacle until said locating means comes to a stop upon said rest.

5. In combination, a bank of cards of equal height and each having a heading along one edge, the cards provided with supporting or locating shoulders at a variety of distances from said heading, and means movable to coöperate with said shoulders to bring the banked cards into stepped or echelon arrangement at will.

6. In combination, a tray, set of index cards fitted therein and each provided with a single pair of opposite supporting shoulders to render the card self-locating, the tops of the cards being located at a variety of heights above the shoulders, to produce overlapping relation of the assembled cards, and said tray having ledges upon which the shoulders rest and between which may freely pass the portions of the cards below said shoulders.

7. The combination of banks of index cards forming a set or stack, each bank comprising cards having shoulders on their opposite edges, the tops of the cards being progressively higher above the shoulders, from front to rear of the bank, and supports to engage said shoulders, said supports movable out of effective positions.

8. The combination with a stack of index cards comprising banks of cards having shoulders or supports, the tops of the cards being progressively higher above the supports from front to rear of each bank, of a tray provided with means to divide said stack at will into banks one behind another, with the cards in each bank arranged in echelon, each card higher than the one in front of it.

9. In combination, a stack of index cards to stand one behind another, the cards provided with shoulders at their opposite sides, the shoulders on successive cards being progressively lower proceeding from front to rear, and a common support for the shoulders at each side of the stack, movable to bring the cards into an echelon arrangement.

10. The combination with a set of cards of graduated forms and provided with index portions, of a receptacle to contain said cards, said receptacle having a support movable to coöperate with said cards, because of their graduated forms, to raise the cards into a stepped arrangement and thereby render all of the index portions visible.

11. The combination with a receptacle or tray, of a stack of index cards removably

fitted thereto and having headings, said cards and said receptacle having parts co-operating to give said headings on the various cards a stepped arrangement, to render all of the headings visible, said coöperating parts including means movable out of working position to permit a compacting movement of the cards.

12. The combination with a receptacle provided with opposite interior ledges, of a stack of index cards to stand one behind another, the cards provided with shoulders at their opposite sides to rest upon said ledges, the shoulders and the ledges being so related as to bring the cards into echelon arrangement, to permit the reading of matter appearing upon the upper edges of the cards; said ledges being movable out of effective positions.

13. The combination with a receptacle provided with opposite interior ledges, of a stack of index cards to stand one behind another, the cards provided with shoulders at their opposite sides to rest upon said ledges, the shoulders on successive cards formed at progressively differing elevations, to bring the cards into echelon arrangement when supported by said shoulders upon said ledges, and a base upon which said ledges are fixed; said receptacle having bottom openings through which the ledges may be withdrawn.

14. A card tray having card-supporting ledges upon opposite sides, said ledges being fixed upon a removable base upon which the tray rests.

15. In combination, a bank of self-finding cards, each having a heading along one edge, the cards provided with supporting or locating means in the form of shoulders at a variety of distances from said heading, each card having its locating means at only a single distance from said heading, to render the card self-locating relatively to the remaining cards, and the single locating means upon each card being at a different position from the locating means upon the remaining cards, to enable the cards to locate them-

selves to show said headings in stepped or echelon arrangement as they are banked, and a common support upon which said cards are so banked normally, each of said cards being removable independently of said common support and of the remaining cards.

16. A set of index cards of graduated forms, each being provided with a single pair of opposite supporting shoulders; the top of each card being located at a different height above the shoulders, as compared with the remaining cards, to render the cards self-locating and thereby produce overlapping relation of the assembled cards, and a common supporting means for all of said cards, each of said cards being removable independently of said common supporting means and of the remaining cards.

17. A bank of index cards of graduated forms, to combine with like banks to form a set or stack, said bank comprising cards each having a single pair of shoulders upon its opposite edges, to render the card self-locating, and the tops of the cards being formed progressively higher above the shoulders, from front to rear of the bank, so that when the shoulders are alined, matter written or printed on the tops of all the cards is visible, and common supporting means for the shoulders upon the opposite sides of said cards, each card being removable independently of said supporting means and of the remaining cards.

18. The combination with a set of cards having graduated forms, of a receptacle to contain said cards, said receptacle having supporting means movable to coöperate with said cards, because of their graduated forms, to raise the cards into a stepped arrangement and thereby render all of the index portions visible, each card being removable from said receptacle independently of said supporting means and of the remaining cards.

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