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E. J. TOMPKINS

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INDEX TAB

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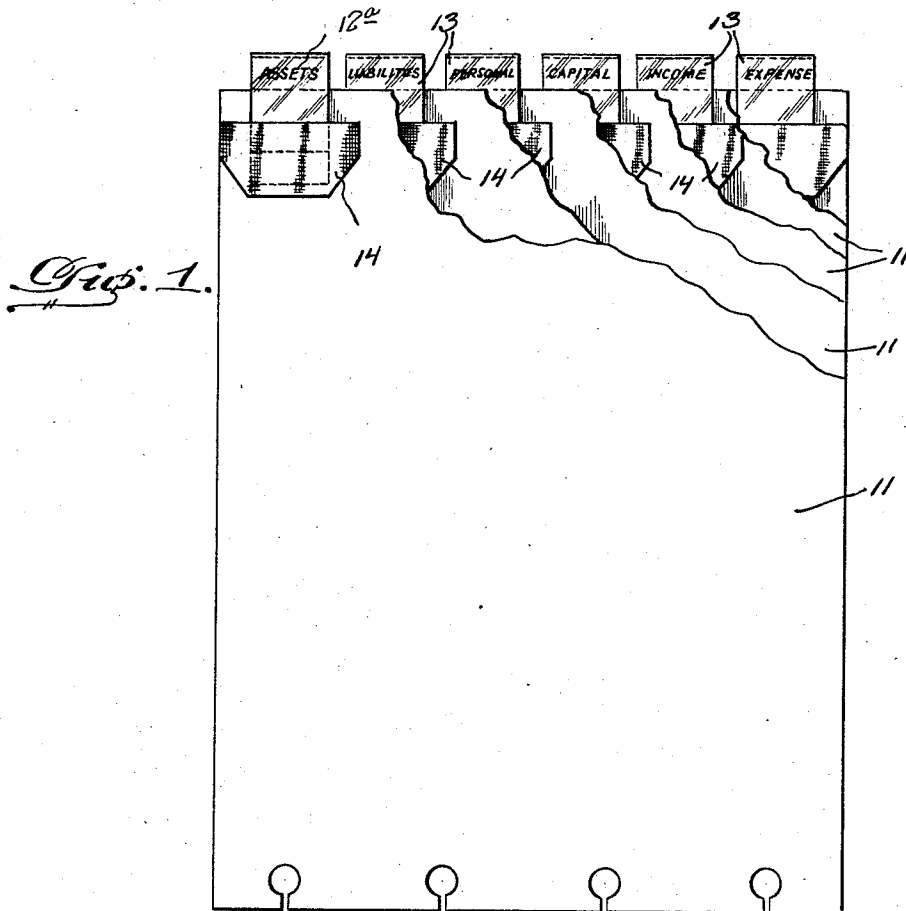


Fig. 2.

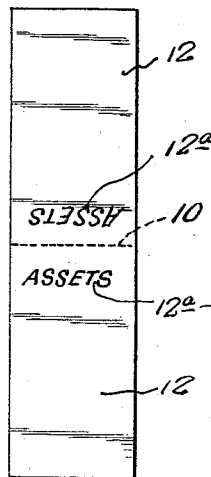
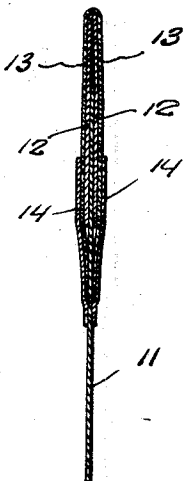


Fig. 3.

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INDEX TAB

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The present invention relates to index cards or sheets provided with independent tabs projecting from one edge thereof, and more particularly to the construction of the index tab and the manner in which the latter is associated with the card.

In carrying out the invention I comprehend the provision of an index tab including a protective element of transparent material, which together with the tab proper is effectively secured to the index sheet in a manner whereby the tab in its entirety is materially reinforced.

The nature and advantages of the invention will be better understood when the following detailed description is read in connection with the accompanying drawings, the invention residing in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts as claimed. In the drawings forming part of this application like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views and wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation showing a plurality of index sheets partly broken away, and arranged one behind the other, to illustrate how the tabs can be arranged on a plurality of sheets and readily presented to view.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through one of the sheets and its index tab.

Figure 3 is a view of a blank from which the tab proper may be formed.

Before entering in a detail description of the invention, I desire to have it understood that the term "index sheet" is employed in its generic sense, and is intended to include any type of supporting element with which the index tab, forming the subject matter of the present invention, is capable of being used.

The invention essentially includes a tab proper which may embody a strip of any suitable material, preferably paper, which is adapted to be folded upon itself along the fold line 10 indicated in Figure 3, to provide a substantially U-shaped element adapted to receive one edge of the index sheet or supporting element 11. This strip of material,

so folded upon itself, may constitute the tab proper, and each limb 12 of the tab is provided with suitable index data as illustrated at 12a. The limbs 12 are adhesively secured to the opposed faces of the sheet or supporting element 11, with the tab projecting an appreciable distance beyond this edge of the element, and upon inspection of Figure 2 it will be noted that the confronting faces of the limbs 12 may be adhesively secured together outwardly of the edge of the index sheet or supporting element.

A similar but longer strip of transparent material, preferably celluloid is arranged over the tab proper, and constitutes a cover therefor to protect the tab proper from dirt, moisture and other foreign matter. This cover is folded upon itself to provide limbs 13 which are adhesively secured to the limbs 12 of the tab proper and also to the opposed faces of the sheet or supporting element 11. In other words, the protecting cover extends an appreciable distance beyond the free ends of the tab proper, as shown in Figure 2, and is adhesively secured to the opposed faces of the sheet or supporting element. In addition to providing a cover for the tab proper, the strip of transparent material also serves to materially strengthen and reinforce the tab in its entirety.

For this purpose I also employ reinforcing strips of textile fabric or any other suitable material indicated at 14, which strips are adhesively secured to the opposed faces of the supporting element 11 and also to the adjacent limbs of the protecting covering. These reinforcing strips extend beyond the opposed longitudinal edges of the protecting covering and also beneath the lower free end thereof, and are secured to the supporting element 11 in a manner to effectively strengthen and reinforce the construction as a whole. They may also be enlarged to have their upper edges flush with the upper edge of the associated index sheet.

The index tabs can be located at any appropriate or desired point on the supporting element, but for convenience in use, they are preferably arranged on a plurality of such elements in the manner illustrated in Fig-

ure 1. In other words, where a plurality of index cards or sheets are adapted to be filed one behind the other, the index tabs on the respective sheets of a group, are arranged different distances from one of the longitudinal edges, so that when the cards are stacked or arranged in a file cabinet or the like, the index cards will be singly presented to view from the various cards in the manner as shown in Figure 1, so that they can be employed to the best advantage.

While it is believed that from the foregoing description the nature and advantages of the invention will be readily understood, I desire to have it known that I do not limit myself to what is herein illustrated or described, and that such changes may be resorted to when desired as fall within the scope of what is claimed. For instance, the tab proper may be an integral extension on the edge of the sheet 11, instead of the separate folded element shown in Figure 3.

What I claim as new is:

1. The combination with a supporting element, of an index tab therefor comprising a single strip of material folded upon itself to provide parallel limbs adapted to receive one edge of the supporting element therebetween and having index data thereon, said limbs being adhesively secured to the opposed faces of said element for a portion of their length and projecting beyond said edge of the element, the confronting faces of said limbs being adhesively secured together from the edge of the element throughout the remaining portion of their length, and a similar strip of transparent material arranged over the tab and constituting a protective reinforcing cover therefor, and adhesively secured to the opposed faces of said element beyond the free ends of said tab.

2. The combination with a supporting element, of an index tab therefor comprising a single strip of material folded upon itself to provide parallel limbs adapted to receive one edge of the supporting element therebetween, said limbs being adhesively secured to the opposed faces of said element for a portion of their length and projecting beyond the edge of said element, the confronting faces of said limbs being adhesively secured together from the edge of the element throughout the remaining portion of their length, and a similar strip of transparent material arranged over the tab and constituting a protective reinforcing cover therefor, the limbs of said cover being adhesively secured to the tab and also to the opposed faces of said element beyond the free ends of the tab.

3. The combination with a supporting element, of an index tab therefor comprising a single strip of material folded upon itself to provide parallel limbs adapted to receive one edge of the element therebetween, said limbs being adhesively-secured to the op-

posed faces of said element for a portion of their length and projecting beyond said edge, the confronting faces of said limbs being adhesively secured together from the edge throughout the remaining portion of their length, a similar strip of transparent material arranged over said tab and constituting a protective reinforcing cover therefor, the limbs of said cover being adhesively secured to the limbs of the tab and also to the opposed faces of the supporting element beyond the free ends of the tab, and reinforcing strips adhesively secured to the limbs of said cover and also to the opposed faces of the supporting element beyond the edges of said limbs.

4. In combination with a supporting element having a projecting tab on one edge, a U-shaped element of transparent material arranged over said tab to protect and reinforce the latter, the limbs of said cover being adhesively secured to the opposite faces of the supporting element, and fabric reinforcing strips extending across the limbs of said cover and adhesively secured to said limbs and to the supporting element at opposite sides of and below said limbs.

5. The combination with a supporting element, of an index tab comprising a substantially U-shaped element receiving one edge of the supporting element and having its limbs adhesively secured to the opposed faces thereof, said tab projecting beyond said edge, a similar element of transparent material arranged over said tab and constituting a protective reinforcing cover therefor, the limbs of said cover projecting beyond the free ends of the tab and adhesively secured to the opposed faces of the supporting element, and a reinforcing strip adhesively secured to each limb of the cover and also to the supporting element beyond the edges of said limb.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
ELMER J. TOMPKINS.