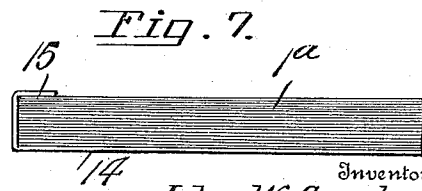
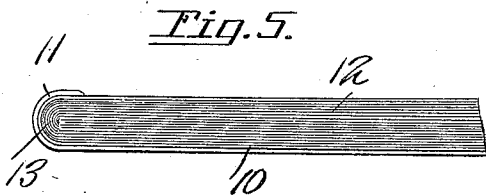
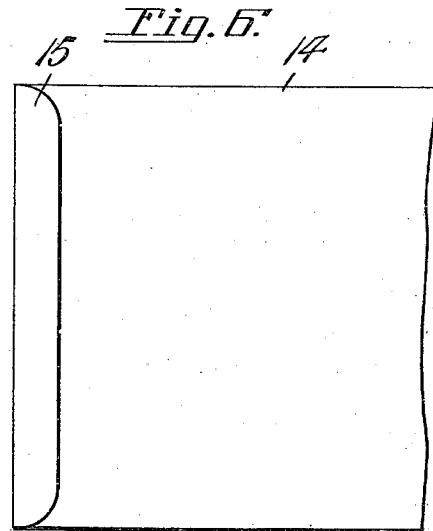
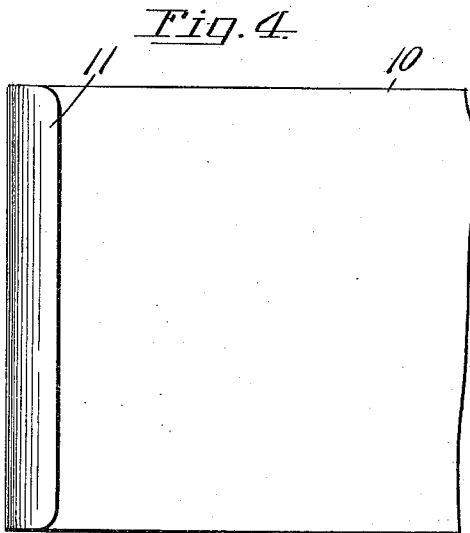
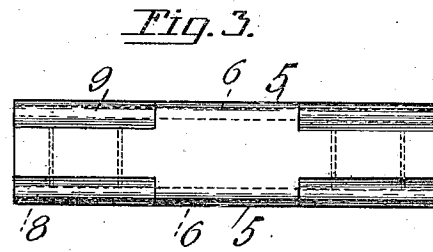
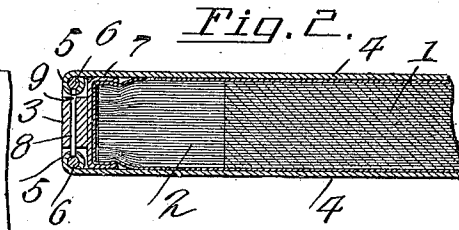
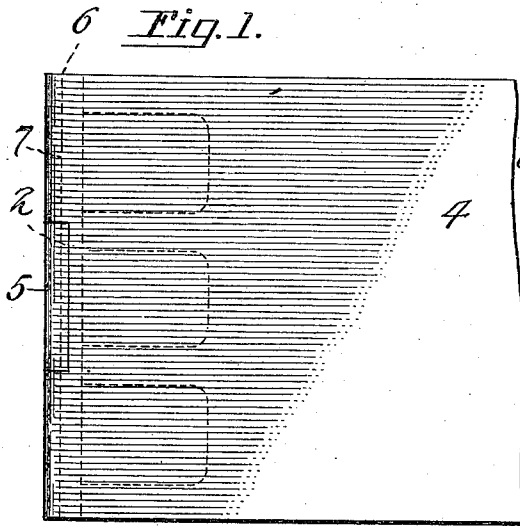


J. W. GEARHART.
 BLANK BOOK.
 APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 29, 1908.

987,619.

Patented Mar. 21, 1911.



Witnesses
W. C. Gibson.
E. C. Smyth.

Inventor
John W. Gearhart
 By *Victor J. Evans*
 Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. GEARHART, OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.

BLANK BOOK.

987,619.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 21, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. GEARHART, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Fresno, in the county of Fresno and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Blank Books, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to blank books, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide a book in which each of the leaves will lie flat when the book is open, to facilitate the making of entries thereon.

Blank books as usually constructed are so bound in covers and connected to a backing to render it almost impossible to have a flat writing surface, the leaves being curved at points adjacent to the binding. This is particularly true where a thick, highly-calendered or high grade paper is used for the leaves.

It is one of the principal objects of my invention to provide means whereby the paper will lie flat, to facilitate writing; whether a thick or a thin paper of any grade is used for the leaves.

Another object of my invention is to provide a temporary or a permanent binding for such leaves, said binding being in the form of a holder for the leaves, and said holder causing each leaf to lie flat until turned over after having been used.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a portion of a book constructed and bound in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the same. Fig. 3 is a back or edge view of the same. Fig. 4 is a plan view of a temporary binder for the detachable leaves prepared in accordance with my invention. Fig. 5 is a side elevation showing the binder illustrated in Fig. 4 with a series of leaves connected thereto. Fig. 6 is a modified form of temporary binder. Fig. 7 is a side elevation illustrating a series of leaves prepared in accordance with my invention and connected to said binder.

In carrying out my invention I prepare the leaves of my book by weakening or rendering more flexible said leaves at a point adjacent to the binding of the book. In order to render the leaves more flexible at the point at which they are to be doubled over in opening the book and using one leaf after

the other, either a portion of the leaf may be removed at this point or the sheet may be punctured to render it more flexible. Instead of cutting away a portion of the sheet, slits may be formed in the sheet at the point at which it is to be doubled.

Referring to the drawing, the sheets or leaves 1 are each provided with a series of tabs 2, the space between the tabs representing a portion of paper which has been removed to render the sheet more flexible at this point so that it will lie smoothly upon one of the covers of the binder.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that it is my purpose to adopt any suitable means to render the leaves or sheets making up the book more flexible at the point near the binder, and in order to do this I may adopt any of the means referred to, or any means which will serve this purpose.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 it will be seen that the binding device for the leaves consists of a suitable back 3 to which the top and bottom covers 4 are hinged by means of the curled-over portions 5 and the pintles 6. The leaves 1 are connected together by means of a suitable clamp 7. In this construction it is desirable that one of the covers 4 shall be held rigidly in place or locked at right angles of the back in order that there shall be an absolutely flat surface to support the leaves to be written upon. I provide a series of pins 8 mounted in the solid back 3 and permitted to slide therein, said pins engaging small sockets 9 formed in the curled-over portions 5 and in the pintles 6. These pins, when the book is placed upon a table, will drop into the lowermost socket 9, thus permitting the upper cover 4 to be swung upon the pintle 6, while the lower cover is prevented from moving relatively to the back 3. When the book is turned over to use the other side of the pages, the covers will be first closed and then the book turned over so that what was previously the under cover will become the top cover and during this turning of the book the locking pins will shift, so as to automatically lock the previous top cover and unlock the previous bottom cover and in this manner the back of the binding will be held rigidly at right angles to the under cover.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, the temporary binder comprises a stiff piece 10 hav-

ing a curved clamping end 11 to hold a series of sheets 12, said sheets being doubled at the point 13.

Referring to Fig. 7, the binder 14 has an angular clamping end 15 to hold the sheets 1^a in place.

Referring to Figs. 8 and 9, the binder consists of a strip of metal 7 for holding the sheets 1, said binder or strip 7 being connected, as shown in Fig. 2, to the back 3 of the book. When the leaves of the book are opened and turned back, they turn around the front or outer edge of the top flange or member of the part 7 of the binder and in order that the leaves can curve around the said edge with the sharp turn and remain turned back, the leaves are weakened in the manner described.

By means of my invention blank books of all kinds may be provided in which the leaves will lie flat when the book is open to facilitate the operation of writing, while the cost of production is but slightly in advance of ordinary books of this character.

I claim:—

1. A blank book provided with a plurality of leaves, with a binding therefor including hinged covers, a back, and means disposed in and movable transversely to the back for simultaneously locking one cover in fixed position to the back while unlocking the other cover.

2. A blank-book made up of leaves rendered flexible at the point of folding by means of multiple lines of slits, a binder to which said leaves are secured, said binder comprising cover sections and a back, said cover sections being hinged to said back, and means for holding one of said cover sections rigidly at right angles to said back.

3. A blank-book provided with leaves having weakened, flexible portions at the points at which said leaves are folded in opening the book or in turning the leaves, in combination with a binding comprising cover members hinged to a back, and sliding pins in said back for engaging one of said cover members to hold it rigidly at right angles to said back.

4. A blank-book comprising a series of leaves rendered flexible at the point of fold, in combination with a back, cover members hinged to said back, and means for holding one of said cover members rigidly to the back when said book is open.

5. In a book of the class described, the combination of a plurality of leaves, with a binding therefor, said binding including a back, hinged covers connected with the

back, and a device carried by the back and arranged to automatically lock one cover to the back and unlock the other by turning the book over while the covers are closed.

6. In a book of the class described, the combination of a series of leaves, with a binding including a back, covers hingedly connected with the back, and a slidable element arranged in the back to engage one cover or the other for locking the same at right angles to the back.

7. A binding of the class described comprising a back, covers, hinges connecting the covers with the back, and a plurality of movable devices in the back for locking one cover in fixed relation to the back while the other cover is free to move.

8. A binding of the class described comprising a back, covers, hinges connecting the covers with the back, and a slidable device mounted in the back and arranged to engage one hinge or the other by turning the binding over to automatically lock one cover to the back and release the other cover therefrom.

9. A binding of the class described comprising a back, covers, hinges connecting the covers with the back, reversible means in the back for locking one cover in fixed relation to the back while the other cover is free to move, and a device secured to the back for attaching leaves thereto.

10. A binder comprising a back, covers, hinges connecting the covers with the back, said hinges having sockets, and a slidable element adapted to gravitate into the socket of one hinge and out of the socket of the other hinge to lock the under cover to the back and release the upper cover therefrom.

11. A binder of the class described comprising a back, stiff covers separately and hingedly connected with the back, and a reversible locking device extending transversely to the back for holding one cover immovable with respect to the back.

12. A binder of the class described comprising a back, stiff covers separately and hingedly connected with the back, and a common locking device for holding one cover at a time locked to the back, said locking device being concealed within the back and comprising an element movable to engage with the covers.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN W. GEARHART.

Witnesses:

E. E. HUGHES,
C. T. WALTON.