Sept. 6, 1932. R. M. TUSSING 1,876,181

PACKAGE OF INDEX GUIDES

Filed Nov. 19, 1930

Fig. 1

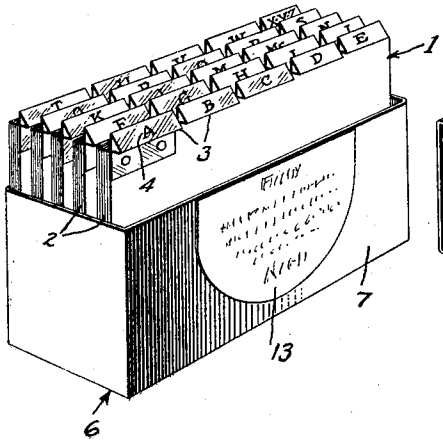
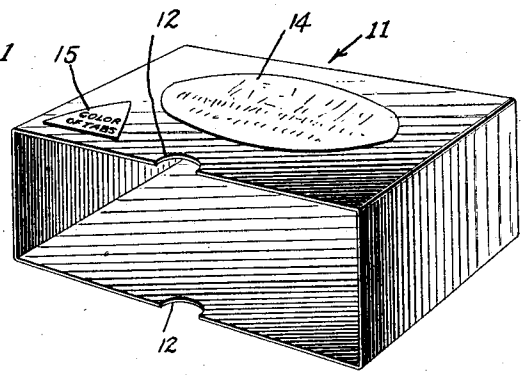


Fig. 2



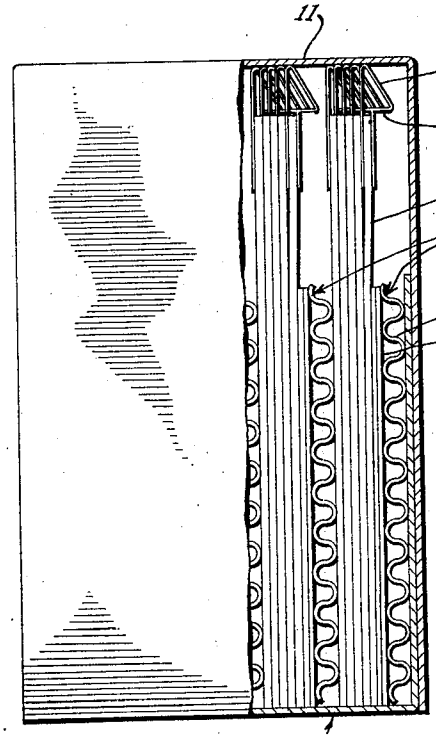


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PACKAGE OF INDEX GUIDES

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This invention relates to a package of index guides providing a new development in which the index guide and package cooperate in combination for packaging the guides for shipment as well as providing for the display of a complete set of guides in assembled relation with all of the index tabs thereon readily visible.

The invention comprehends the provision of a container for a set of index guides having tabs thereon, provided with index characters in which the guides are arranged in groups in accordance with the arrangement of the tabs, so that adjacent groups may be spaced apart to separate alined tabs on guides in successive groups apart in order that all of the index characters and the tab may be readily viewed, the container being of less height than the index guides in order that all the tabs will be readily visible and compactly contained, so that a removable cover may be applied over the container to entirely house the guides for providing a shipping or storing package.

The invention further comprehends the provision of a package of guides of the character above mentioned in which the container supports the guides in an upstanding position so that all of the tabs are readily visible for display purposes, the front wall of the container being provided with an identifying label and price tag completely enclosed by the removable cover when the guides are to be stored or shipped.

Another feature of the invention resides in placing a signal element on the outside of the cover for signalling the color or type of index tabs and captions applied on the guide within the package.

The invention includes other features which are more particularly pointed out in the following description and claims directed to the preferred form of construction, it being understood that various changes in the size, shape and relation of the parts may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

In the drawing forming part of this application:

Fig. 1 is a perspective showing a complete set of guide cards applied in a container and arranged in groups for display purposes, also showing the identifying label and price tag applied to the front of the container.

Fig. 2 is a perspective of the removable cover adapted for slidable telescoping engagement over the container shown in Fig. 1 so as to completely enclose the guides and container therein, also showing the label and signal applied to one side of the cover in which the signal is adapted to indicate the character of the guides, tabs or index captions on the guides contained therein.

Fig. 3 is an end elevation on an enlarged scale of the package of guides with the cover applied showing portions of the container and cover broken away and in section and illustrating the guides and the spacer members in end elevation to show the arrangement of the group of guides and spacers in the container in the manner in which the cover encloses both the container and guides.

A set of index guide cards 1 is indicated in Fig. 1 in which the guide cards are arranged in groups 2 spaced apart in the manner illustrated, each guide card in each group being provided with an index tab 3 of suitable character for receiving an index caption 4 of any desired type, in which the index tabs 3 are offset laterally along the upper edge of adjacent guide cards in the group as fully illustrated in Fig. 1. The illustration in Figs. 1 and 3 discloses a special type of index tab 3 in which the front edge overhangs the face of the guide card 1 as indicated at 5. However, any of the numerous types of guide tabs well known in the art may be used with guide cards packed in accordance with this invention for display as well as selling and shipping purposes and the disclosure of the tabs is for the purpose of illustration only.

This set of guide cards 1 is housed within an open topped container 6 having front, rear, side and bottom walls, the front wall being indicated by the numeral 7. The front, back and side walls of the container 6 are of less height than the guide cards 1 in order to permit the upper end of the guide cards 1 to project above the upper edge of the con-

tainer so that the guide tabs and index captions will be completely and clearly displayed in the manner illustrated in Fig. 1. These guide cards 1 are tightly packed in the container 6 and the groups 2 are held in spaced packed relation by means of spacer members 8 illustrated in Fig. 3 which are formed of any suitable material, preferably corrugated card or paper board as illustrated in Fig. 3, which includes a pair of flat paper strips 9 and a corrugated paper strip 10 suitably pasted or secured thereto. These spacer members 8 are fully contained within the container 6 in order that they do not project above the upper edge thereof, and are therefore substantially concealed in the assembled form of the groups of guide cards in the container as illustrated in Fig. 1.

A cover 11 of tubular formation, rectangular in cross section and closed at the upper end is slidably and telescopically fitted over the upper ends of the guides 1 and the upper open end of the container 6 in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3 so that the free edge thereof terminates flush with the bottom face of the container 6 and entirely encloses the guide cards and the container. Finger openings 12 are provided in the free edge of the cover 11 to permit of manual grasping of the container when it is desired to remove the cover.

An identifying label and price tag 13 preferably in the form of a printed paper sheet is pasted or otherwise applied to the front wall 7 of the container 6 so as to form a complete and handy display package for the guide 1 which may be set on a showcase or in a display window in order to fully display all information in connection with the guide cards 1 to prospective purchasers in a manner in which the purchaser can readily view all of the guide cards and tabs used in a set to form a complete index system. When the cover 11 is applied to the container 6 it will be understood that it engages over the identifying label and price tag 13 so as to conceal the same in package form.

A general identifying label 14 may be applied to the cover 11 as shown in Fig. 2 if desired, and a signal 15 is applied to the cover 11 in order to signal the type of index tab, caption, or the color of the index tab, so that without removing the cover from the package the contents may be readily identified, thus aiding the handling of the packages in storing and shipping on the part of both the manufacturer and dealer to secure the desired type of index guides for a customer without opening a package or handling the guides in any way. This avoids a substantial loss to the manufacturer and dealer due to the necessity for constantly handling the guides themselves in both packaging and shipping as well as in displaying guides to customers for sales purposes which results in soiling the guide cards as well as the tabs, breakage of tabs, and frequently results in making the edges of the guide cards "dog eared".

With this package of guide cards it will be seen that they may be readily handled without touching the guide cards both for shipping and display purposes and it is unnecessary to remove the guide cards from the container for any type of display purposes because they are arranged in special groups and separated by the spacer members 8 in such a manner that all of the index tabs and captions are fully visible.

Heretofore, in the handling and sale of index guide cards they have been packed in horizontal relation one on top of another in cartons for storing and shipping purposes and when received by a dealer, required the opening of the packages which only presented the upper guide to view and when it was necessary to display the guides to a customer, they had to be removed from the package which necessitated the handling of the guides themselves resulting in soiling as well as other damage to the guides in numerous instances making them unsalable. This previous manner of packaging the guides further precludes any use of the package for displaying the guides in their proper relation and results in the clerk handling the guides usually displaying only a few guides from a set in such a segregated manner that it is difficult to determine how a set of guides would look in assembled relation in a file. The present invention overcomes all of these difficulties by compactly and neatly retaining a complete set of guides in the container 6 properly spaced, so that all of the tabs are viewed, in which the cover is removably applied so that the guides may be readily packaged for shipping or selling purposes without necessitating the handling of the guides and when the cover is removed fully displays all of the guides in the best known manner.

The use of the price tag 13 and the signal 15 also facilitates the handling and sale of these guides in the package, the signal 15 being of particular advantage to the dealer in determining the types and colors of tabs together with the types of index captions thereon so that they may be readily sorted or picked out of the pack for the customers with the loss of the least possible time.

What is claimed is:

1. In a display package of index guides, the combination of a plurality of index guide cards arranged in groups and having index tabs on each adjacent card in a group offset laterally, an open topped container of less height than said guide cards receiving and supporting said cards in upstanding relation therein with the upper end portions of said guide cards and the index tabs thereon projecting above the upper open end of said con-

tainer, spacer members between adjacent groups of said guide cards in said container, said spacer members having a thickness sufficient to space the front card of one group of cards from the rear card of a preceding group of cards so that the tab thereon is visible for display, whereby each group of cards is separated from other groups and all of the tabs thereon are visible for display when the package is viewed from a point above and in front thereof.

2. In a display package of index guides, the combination of a plurality of index guide cards arranged in groups and having index tabs on each adjacent card in a group offset laterally, each of the tabs having a portion overhanging the face of its respective card, an open topped container of less height than the guide cards receiving and supporting said cards in upstanding relation therein, spacer members between adjacent groups of guide cards in the container, said spacer members having a thickness sufficient to space the overhanging tab portion of the front card of one group of cards from the plane of a rear card of a preceding group, whereby each group of cards is visibly separated from other groups and all of the tabs are visible for display.

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