No. 759,483. PATENTED MAY 10, 1904.

W. K. SPARROW.

CARD INDEX.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 18, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

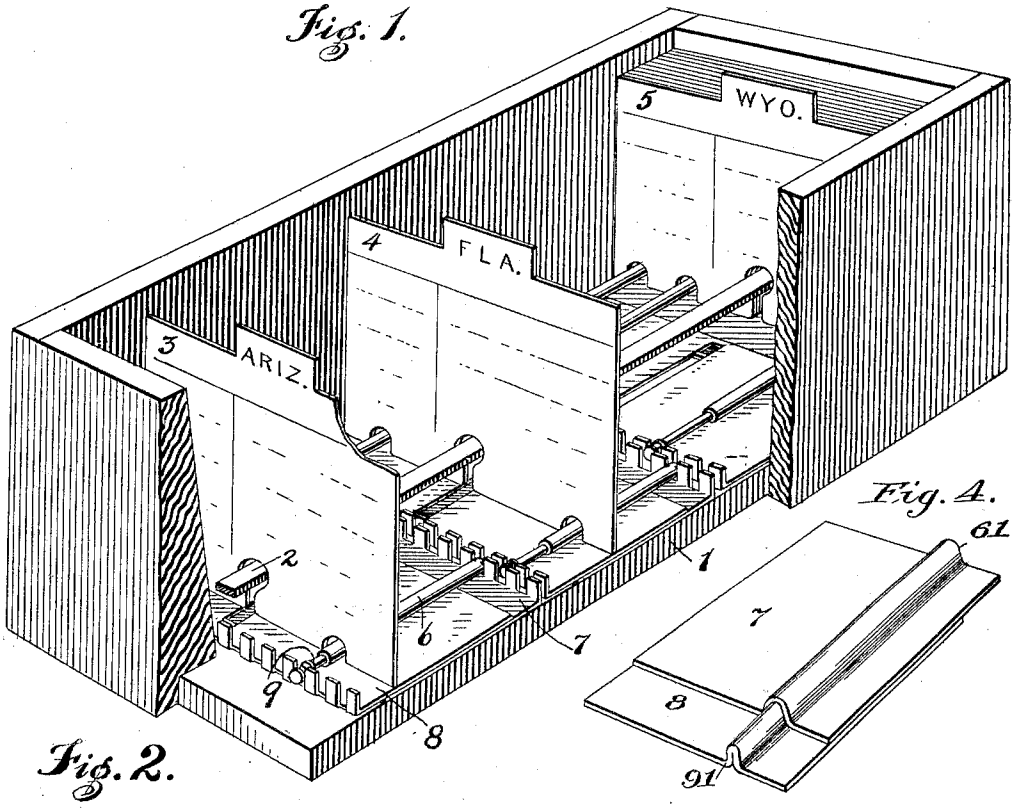


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

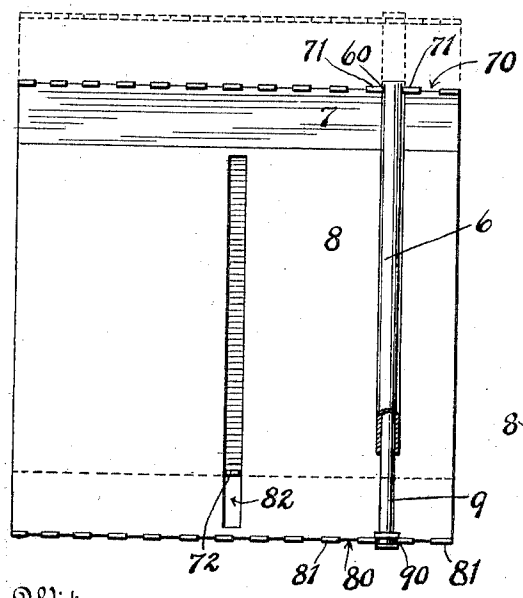
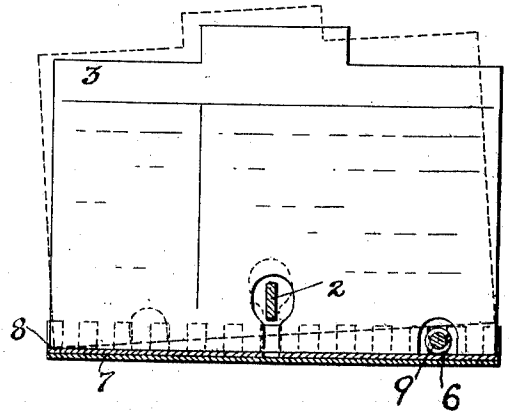


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CARD-INDEX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 759,483, dated May 10, 1904.

Application filed September 18, 1903. Serial No. 173,645. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM K. SPARROW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Card-Indexes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in card-indexes, and particularly to a device for preventing the accidental misplacement of a card in the files.

In the many uses to which card-indexes have been put it often happens that cards are withdrawn from the files temporarily for convenience and afterward replaced. In the operation it is impossible in the ordinary files to always be sure that each card has been put back into the files in the proper compartment or space.

It is the object of this invention to provide a construction the use of which will insure the proper distribution of the cards in the files.

In order that this device may be useful, it is intended to be as simple as possible and yet adapted to be applied to files already in use or to be adjusted to suit the varying conditions of practice.

The invention consists in providing a blocking member which may be placed in the file tray or drawer. Such a device is provided for each set of cards or series under the same subheading in the index and has the projecting member in a different position for each series or subheading. Each card of the set or subheading is punched or notched to correspond with the position of the projection of the device, so that a card can only be inserted into that compartment or under that subheading for which it was originally intended. If accidentally placed in any other compartment, the card will fail to fall down into its proper position. The details will be more clearly seen on an inspection of the accompanying sheet of drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a tray or drawer with devices embodying the improvements of my invention, a portion of the tray being broken away, showing cards in place. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the device, showing a card in its proper position and another card dotted which has been placed in the file in its wrong compartment. Fig. 4 shows another form of blocking device involving my invention.

1 indicates the bottom of the tray.

2 is a rod which is employed with some kinds of files for locking the cards in place.

3, 4, and 5 represent cards in their proper positions in the tray, showing that there are three subheadings in this particular tray. The cards of each subheading of course should be placed in their proper compartment, and for this purpose my device is employed.

6 is a blocking member which is situated in the bottom of the tray and in this particular form of my invention is supported at one end by the plate 7 and at the other end by the plate 8, the member 6 being telescopic and having a companion member 9. The tube portion of the locking member 6 is slotted at each side, as shown in Fig. 2 at 60, to permit it to be inserted in the opening or slot 70 between two of the fingers 71. These fingers 71 are formed by bending up from the edge the plate 7, the plates 7 and 8 being preferably formed of sheet metal. The rod member 9 is provided with the slotted portion 90 between two shoulders, so as to fit in a corresponding manner in one of the openings or slots 80 between a pair of fingers 81 81 of the plate 8.

The invention will be readily understood from the drawings. Let us consider the compartment containing the card marked "Ariz." A blocking member will be provided supported by the plates 7 and 8 in some one of the various possible positions, as suggested in the drawings. Each card intended to be filed under this subheading will then be punched or notched on the edge to correspond with the position of the blocking member. Any card which is properly notched will fit into this compartment under this subheading and in no other, since each compartment or subheading has a peculiar or individual position of its blocking member. Fig. 3 indicates in dotted lines what occurs when a card is inserted into a wrong compartment, the notch

in the bottom of the card not meshing with the blocking member. It will be seen that there are as many possible positions of the blocking member as there are openings or slots between the fingers in the supporting-plates. It is also possible to obtain many other combinations for the cards by using two blocking members, as shown under the subheading "Fla." By employing three blocking members, as under the subheading "Wyo.," many other combinations may be obtained, thus affording an almost innumerable series.

Of course the number of cards under the different subheadings varies. For this reason the supporting-plates 7 and 8 and the blocking member 6 are adjustable.

72 represents a tongue or projection from the under plate 7, projecting through the slot 82 in the upper plate 8 to prevent the parts from being entirely retracted.

These blocking devices may be employed in any number in a tray, depending only upon the size of the device, it being intended that there shall be one device for each subheading, so that no confusion can arise.

The parts of this construction are simple to manufacture and are readily adapted for use in any style or form of tray or file and are such that they may be adjusted and arranged by the ordinary user of the index.

The blocking members may be formed as projections or corrugations in plates of metal, if desired, or a pair of adjustable plates having integral corresponding ledges in positions similar to the slots or openings between the fingers in the form of device shown in the drawings may be employed, as shown in Fig. 4, where the plates 7 and 8 have the corresponding corrugations or ledges 61 and 91, respectively.

What I claim is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a pair of adjustable supporting-plates having a plurality of registering slots at each end and a telescopic blocking member adapted to be fitted into any one of the said slots.

2. A card-index comprising a tray, a series of adjustable plates situated on the bottom of said tray and a blocking member carried by each of said plates in different longitudinal positions for the purpose specified.

3. A device of the character described including a flat supporting-plate and a blocking member adapted to be secured thereto in any one of a plurality of positions from one side to the other of said plate in combination with a series of cards having notches in one edge and arranged at right angles to said blocking member for the purpose specified.

4. A card-index comprising a tray, a series of cards arranged under different headings, a blocking device for each heading and means for fixing the blocking device for each heading in different positions from one side to the other of said tray, the cards for that particular heading of said tray being notched on the edge to correspond with the position of its blocking member and freely movable.

5. A card-index comprising a tray, a series of supporting-plates resting therein, extensible blocking members corresponding to said plates and means for fixing said members in position on said plates in any one of a plurality of different positions for the purpose specified.

6. A card-index file comprising a tray, a plurality of subheading-cards, a plurality of blocking devices corresponding to the subheadings, and a plurality of cards notched on the edge to correspond with the blocking devices, the notches in the cards under each subheading being differently situated.

7. A device of the character described including a tray a series of pairs of telescopic members and means for securing said members in place in any one of a plurality of positions from one side to the other of said tray, a plurality of pairs of said members being secured in different longitudinal arrangement.

8. A card-index system comprising a series of cards arranged under different headings and having notches in the edges thereof, the cards under one head having notches arranged to correspond transversely, the series of notches in the cards under each heading being differently situated from the notches in the cards under the other headings, and means adapted to coact with the cards of each heading to permit said cards to be filed uniformly but to prevent the filing of cards from any other heading.

9. In a card-index system the combination of a tray having abrupt sides and ends, a card substantially the width of the interior of said tray and having a notch in its edge, a blocking device inside of said tray extending transversely of said card in a position to correspond with the notch in said card to allow its free introduction or withdrawal at any time independently of any locking device and without sidewise movement.

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