J. W. Boughton.

Paper File.

No. 79,441. Patented Jun. 30, 1868.

Fig: 1

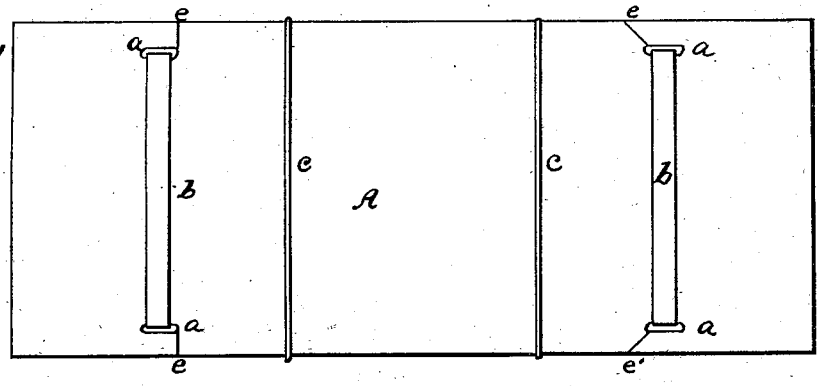


Fig: 2

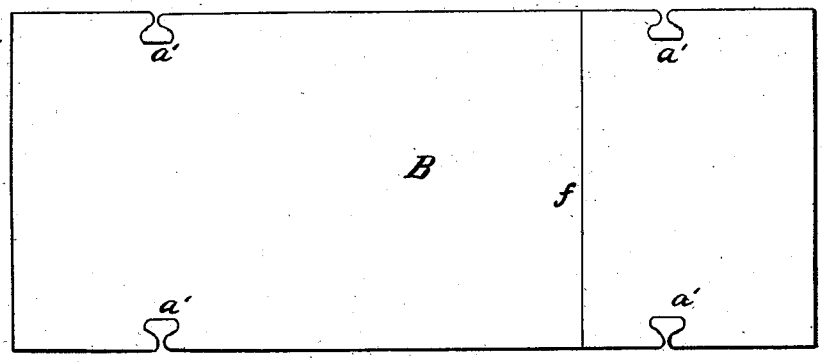


Fig: 3

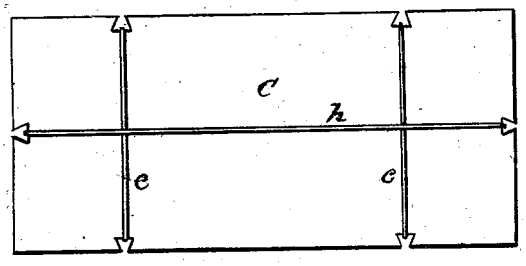
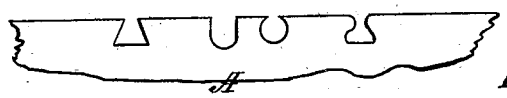


Fig: 4



Witnesses

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Letters Patent No. 79,441, *dated June* 30, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN PAPER-FILES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. BOUGHTON, of New York, in the county of New York, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Files for Filing and Preserving Papers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon—

Like letters indicating like parts wherever they occur.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

My invention consists in constructing a file, for filing and preserving business-papers, of a stiff back of pasteboard or similar material, with elastic bands applied in such a manner as to be retained in place, and at the same time be capable of being removed or replaced at pleasure.

Figure 1 is a front view of the single file complete.

Figure 2, a view of the hinged front-piece, to be used in connection therewith, when desired; and

Figure 3 is a view of the file, slightly modified, as a letter-file.

Files for holding business-papers, as heretofore made, consist of two pieces of pasteboard, united by bands of elastic webbing, so fastened to one or both of the pieces that it cannot be easily removed or renewed, and as this webbing soon becomes stretched or broken, the file thereby becomes useless.

It is to obviate this difficulty, and at the same time to produce a file that shall be simpler and cheaper, and one that is also adapted to a more extended variety of uses, that my invention is intended.

To construct it, I take a piece of any stiff material, such as pasteboard, and cut it into the form represented by A, fig. 1. I then cut four or more elongated holes near the edges, as represented by *a*, fig. 1, and from these holes I cut a slit, extending to the edge, as represented by *e* and *e'*, fig. 1.

By slightly bending the portions between the holes *a* and the edge, the slits *e* are easily opened sufficient to admit the insertion of ordinary rubber bands, as shown by *b* of fig. 1.

When thus completed, papers can be inserted under the bands *b*, on one or both sides, and securely held in place, and if the bands *b* should be at any time broken, they can be readily removed, and others substituted, the bands being securely held in place by being inserted in the holes *a*, as described.

It is obvious that, if preferred, notches may be cut in the edges of the piece A, as shown in fig. 4, to hold the bands in place, but these are not considered as good, for the reason that they do not leave the edges smooth and even, as in the other case.

If it be desired to have a cover for both sides, as may be necessary when the file is to be carried about, the piece B, having a flexible joint at *f*, may be used, it being inserted under the bands *b* on the piece A, and having the bands resting in the notches *a'*

If it be desired to separate different papers in the same file, it can be easily done, by means of the small elastic bands *c*, which are only intended to be used in special cases.

For filing letters with their envelopes, or previous to their being permanently filed away, I cut the piece A of the size of an ordinary envelope, or a little larger, and place on it the elastic bands *c* and *h*, as represented in fig. 3, the letters being first inserted under the bands *c*, and the band *h* being then placed over them in the opposite direction, although this last is not absolutely necessary.

By these means I produce an extremely cheap and simple file.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A paper-file, consisting of one or more pieces of pasteboard or other suitable material, having notches or recesses cut in its edge, for the reception of ordinary elastic bands, with the bands applied thereto, all substantially as described.

JOHN W. BOUGHTON.

Witnesses:

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J. W. HAWXHURST.