

Feb. 8, 1927.

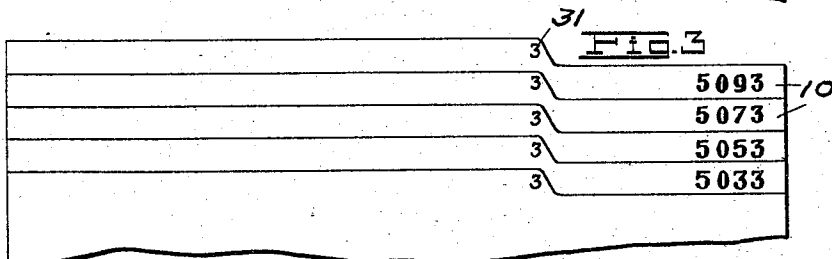
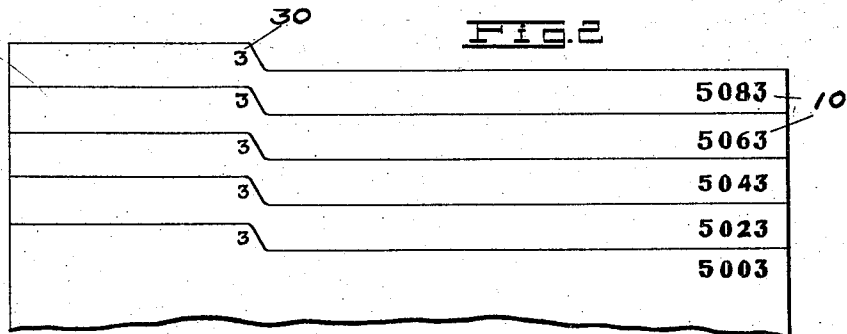
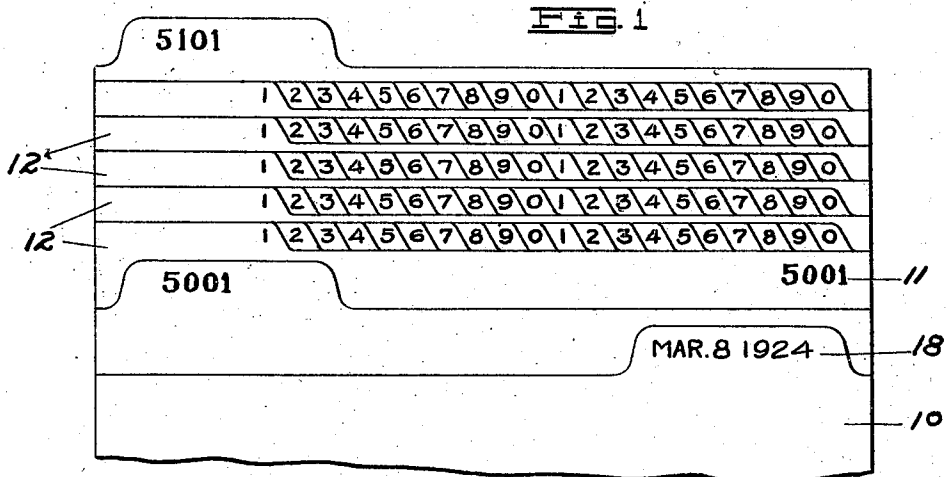
W. N. HOWARD

1,616,623

INDEX DEVICE

Filed April 17, 1924

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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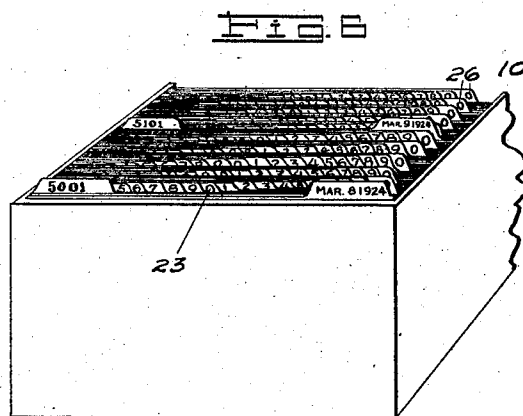
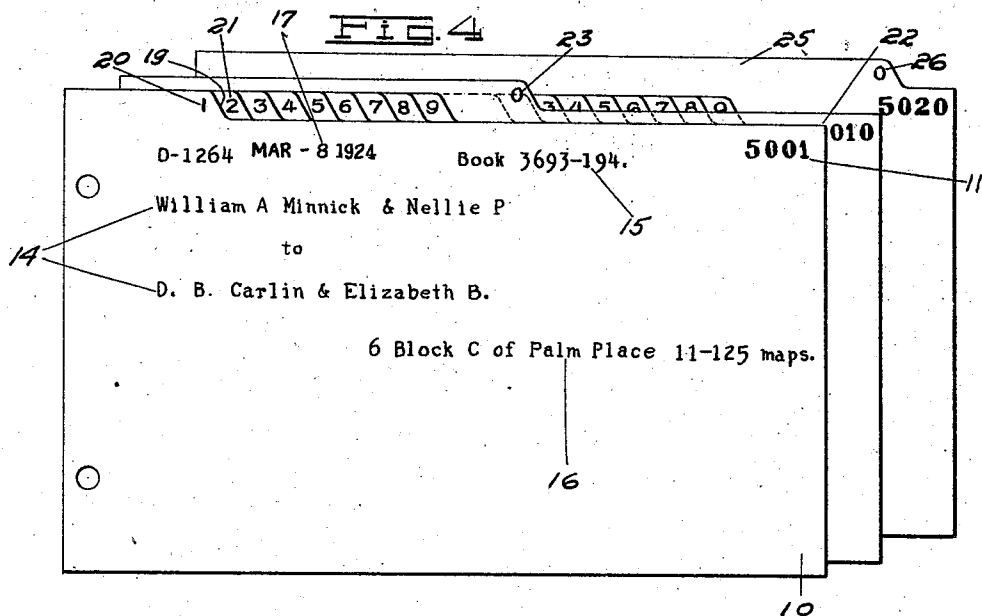
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX DEVICE.

Application filed April 17, 1924. Serial No. 707,096.

This invention relates to a means or system for maintaining numbered indicia-bearing cards in proper order and for facilitating the removal of a certain card when desired.

The general object of the invention is to provide an improved card file whereby consecutively numbered cards may be readily classified or separated.

One of the specific objects of the invention is to provide a file of consecutively numbered cards wherein the individual cards each has a signal thereon and wherein the like signals are disposed back of each other in a straight line.

Another object of the invention is to provide a file comprising sets of numbered cards wherein cards having common characters thereon are placed in a straight line back of each other and wherein other signal means are provided to indicate the individual sets.

Another object of the invention is to provide a consecutively numbered card file comprising a plurality of sets of twenty cards each wherein the upper portion of each card is notched and is provided with a signal adjacent and wherein the signal may be the numeral which appears in the units place on the card, with the cards having the even tens disposed at one side of the file while the cards having the odd tens are disposed at the other side of the file.

A further object of the invention is to provide a card file for consecutively numbered cards wherein a signal which may be the numeral appearing in the units place of the number on the card is exposed and wherein the terminal signal accompanying the end card facilitates selection of cards.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein Fig. 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of a file embodying the features of my invention; Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the cards having an even tens digit; Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the cards having an odd tens digit; Fig. 4 is an elevation showing a plurality of the cards with the tenth and twentieth cards moved upwardly and laterally to expose the edge portions; Fig. 5 is an end elevation of the cards as arranged in Fig. 1 and Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective

view of a file showing the cards arranged in a different manner.

As stated, the general object of the invention is to provide an improved numerically arranged card file. The file embodying the features of my invention, which will be presently described, provides means for readily filing numerically numbered cards. My invention also enables any desired cards to be quickly and readily removed from a file and also visually indicates when any of the cards have been removed or are improperly filed.

Referring to the drawing by reference characters, I have shown a card index at 10.

Each index comprises a plurality of cards which may be numbered consecutively by numbers preferably placed adjacent the top of each card as at 11. The cards are shown as arranged in sets of twenty cards each as shown at 12, although other arrangement may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

The cards are adapted for a number of different purposes as will be obvious, and among them I may mention the recording of information useful in the business of abstracting titles. In Fig. 4 one of the cards is shown with information thereon relating to real estate transfers. The card also has a certain designation 15 which may be the official classification of the instrument while the location of the property may be set forth at 16. The date may be supplied at 17 while a follower card 18 may have a signal thereon showing the date of all cards in a section.

Each of the cards 10 is provided with a notched portion 19 and adjacent this notched portion I show a numeral or signal at 20.

The file shown in the drawings includes cards numbered consecutively from 5001 to 5100. The first card 5001 is provided with a signal shown at 20 as numeral 1 which corresponds with the 1 in the units place of the number 5001. The second card which is numbered 5002 is provided with a signal 2 which is shown at 21 as arranged slightly to the right of the signal 20. The third card is numbered 5003 and is provided with the signal 3, the next card with the signal 4 and so on. The card 5010 shown at 22 is provided with a signal 23 which is the character zero and which likewise corresponds with the character in the units place of the number 5010.

The arrangement described is continued until a complete set of twenty cards is provided. The twentieth card as shown at 25 and numbered 5020 is provided with a signal 0 as shown at 26. The second set of cards is identical with the first set in so far as the signals are concerned the only difference being that in the second set the cards are numbered from 5021 to 5040. This arrangement is continued until the desired number of cards is arranged in the file. From the foregoing description it will be noted that at the left side of the cards the signals shown are on the cards which have even numbers in the tens place of their numerals while at the right of the card the signals indicate cards bearing numbers which have odd units in the tens place.

The only exception to this arrangement just described is that the extreme right signal which is the character zero is arranged on the cards having even tens. This last described arrangement of the terminal zero at the extreme right is to facilitate counting. Since there are twenty cards between each terminal zero the operator need merely count the terminal zeros and mentally multiply the number of terminal zeros by twenty to locate the proper set after which the proper signal will be selected and the correct card drawn.

The arrangement of the cards having the odd and even tens digits is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 where it will be noted that the signals on the cards having numbers with even tens digits which are shown as the numeral 3 as at 30, are all in a straight line while the signals 31 which comprise the numerals 3 for the cards bearing odd tens digits are likewise arranged in a straight line, but at the opposite side of the file.

The cards are all preferably of the same size and they may be arranged with the sets stepped as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, or they may be arranged with the top of the signals all in the same plane as shown in Fig. 6.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that I have provided an improved index system for numerically numbered cards which is extremely simple, so that unskilled labor may handle the cards, and wherein a card may be readily removed or replaced in the proper position and wherein the absence of a card will be readily detected by the absence of the signal.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a filing and indexing device, a plurality of cards each having an identifying number thereon, each of said cards also having a signal thereon, said signal being the same as the units digit of the card with the signal on each card so located that all cards having the same units digit and having an

even tens digit have the signals in one line and all cards having the same units digit and having an odd tens digit have the signals in another line.

2. A set of cards numbered consecutively, said cards being arranged in multiple sets of twenty with a numeral corresponding to the units digit displayed on each card as a signal and with zeros disposed at the right for the purpose of indicating the different sets, said zeros being disposed on the cards having even tens digits thereon, the signals being arranged in straight lines with the same signal displayed in each line.

3. The method of signalling to indicate individual cards in a plurality of cards bearing consecutive numbers, comprising displaying a normally visible index signal on each card, the index signal visible on each card corresponding to the units digit of the number on the card, the cards bearing the same visible signals and having even tens digits having their signals disposed in straight lines back of each other and the cards bearing the same visible signals and having odd tens digits having their signals disposed in other straight lines back of each other.

4. A set of consecutively numbered cards, said set comprising a plurality of groups of twenty cards each, said cards being notched at one corner and having a numeral corresponding to the units digit visible as a signal, the cards whose numbers include an odd tens digit having the signal showing at the right in each group of twenty cards and the cards whose numbers include an even tens digit having the signal showing at the left in each group of twenty cards and with the cards bearing even tens digits and zero units digits having the signals arranged at the extreme right, said signals on the cards being disposed in straight columns.

5. In a filing and indexing device, a plurality of cards bearing consecutive numbers, said cards each having a normally visible signal displayed thereon, the signal visible on each card being a numeral corresponding to the units digit on the card, said device comprising a plurality of sets of twenty cards each, with the cards having the odd tens digits having their signal disposed at the right of each set and the cards having the even tens digits having the signal disposed at the left of each set, the units digits of the cards having the odd tens digits having their signals in straight columns, and the units digits of the cards having the even tens digits also having their signals disposed in straight columns.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

WILLIAM N. HOWARD.