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A. NYVALL.

CARD INDEX.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 9, 1912.

1,099,663. Patented June 9, 1914.

Fig. 1

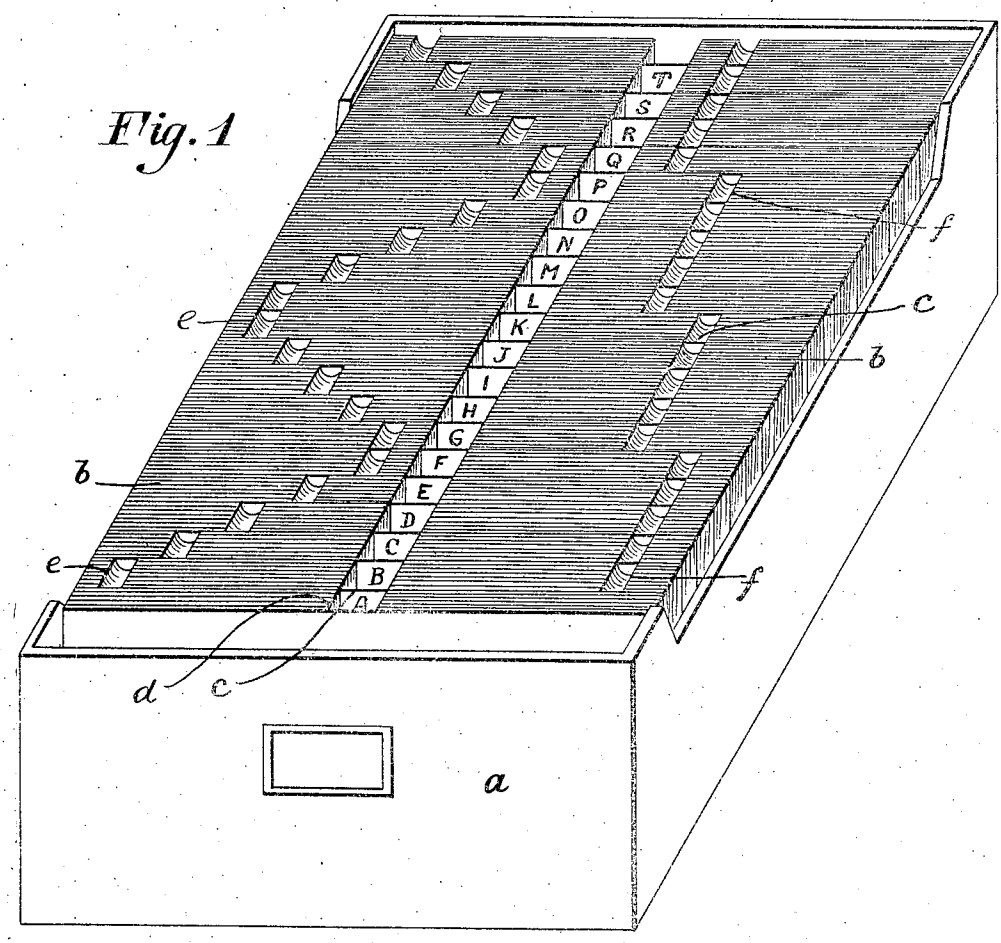
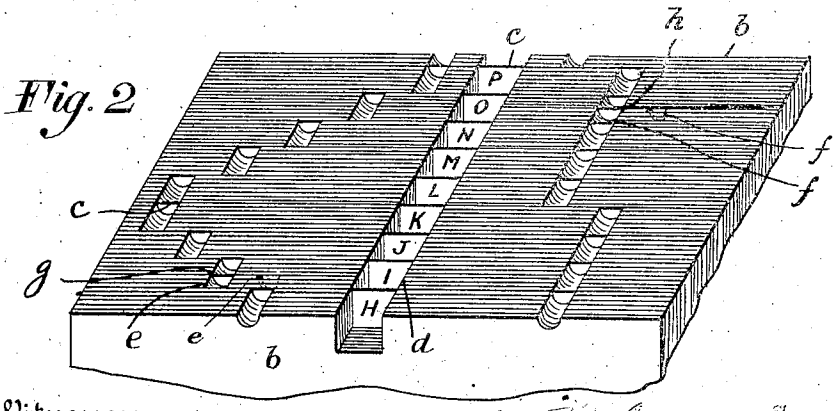



Fig. 2




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT NYVALL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## CARD-INDEX

1,099,663. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 9, 1914.

Application filed July 9, 1912. Serial No. 708,437.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT NYVALL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Card-Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in card indexes and has as its objects the provision of means obviating the use of projecting tabs as at present provided as guides to the index and substituting therefor grooved depressions with guide cards of full width traversing said grooved depressions, as will hereafter more clearly appear: the provision of means for detecting the misfiling of a card and locating the correct position thereof, and the provision of means for ascertaining the absence of a card from the index and its correct location.

A serious inconvenience and objection to card indexes as at present in use is that the projecting tabs of the guide cards, break off or are torn off by the rubbing of the arm of the user of the index over the cards, the placing of a book or other object on top of the cards or otherwise.

Another objection is that card index boxes cannot be stacked one upon another, owing to the presence of the projecting tabs and consequently when in use are spread about on desks or tables when, if the tops of the cards were flush, such would not be necessary and much space would be economized. Furthermore if a card is misplaced much confusion results and, in a large index, it may be practically impossible to find the missing card. This necessitates the employment of high class clerks for filing in order to prevent mistakes as far as possible. Again, if a card is removed from the file its absence is difficult if not impossible of ready detection. By my invention I do away with all of these difficulties. As I provide no projecting tabs there are none to be broken off and as the tops of the cards in my system are flush with the guide cards, the boxes may readily be stacked one upon another. A casual glance over my card index by an executive will at once detect the misfiling of a card and indicate the proper place for it, thus making it possible to employ inexperienced clerks for the work and furthermore a glance will tell whether a card has been removed and from where.

In the following I have described, in connection with the accompanying drawings, an illustrative method of practising my invention, the features thereof being more particularly pointed out hereinafter in the claims.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating one form of my invention and Fig. 2 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of a bundle of cards showing one means of detecting and locating the correct position of a misfiled card.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views.

In the drawings *a* indicates the box or drawer adapted to contain the cards.

In the form in which my invention is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, *b*, *b* indicate the ordinary cards for the reception of any desired data and *c*, *c* the guide or index cards which are preferably of a contrasting color to the cards *b*, *b*. In this form I have shown the cards as alphabetically arranged. The cards *c*, *c* are of full width. The cards *b*, *b* are cut away at their upper margins to provide a main guide or index groove *d* and card locating grooves *e* and *f*. Each group of cards *b*, *b* may be of any desired number and are similarly cut away so that the respective notches of the group will register with each other, but the cards of the respective groups, with the exception of the index groove *d*, are cut away dissimilarly from the cards of the other groups so that, if a card from one group is misfiled with the cards of another group, the upper margin of the misfiled card will project upward into at least one of the card locating grooves *e* and *f* of the other group as shown, for example, at *g* and *h* in Fig. 2. As the index cards *c*, *c* are of full width their upper margins will project upward into each of the grooves of each group as shown, thus assisting in readily locating the respective groups. The upper margins of all the cards, where not cut away, are flush with each other, thus forming a plane surface without projections.

I have found it convenient to aggregate the respective groups into larger groups to provide for the more ready locating of the cards. For example in Fig. 1, I have shown twenty sub-groups arranged in four main

groups of five sub-groups each. Of course the sub-groups and main groups as a whole may be of any desired number and the main groups may each contain any desired number of sub-groups. As shown the cards are arranged so that the card locating grooves *e* and *f* in the respective groups are in staggered relationship to each other, the card locating grooves *e* being staggered first in one direction laterally on the cards and then in the other and the card locating grooves *f* being staggered in but one direction. If the number of main groups is increased of course the card locating grooves *f* must be increased and may be staggered in both directions as shown in connection with grooves *e*. Of course the particular arrangement of the grooves is unimportant, so far as the principle of the invention is concerned, provided the adjacent sub-groups and main groups are differently grooved so that they do not register with each other, a card from any one group, whether sub-group or main group, being readily detected if misfiled, by its upper thumb margin projecting into either one or both of the grooves *e* and *f* of the other group. The arranging of the sub-groups in main groups facilitates the locating of the cards as the card to be filed can readily be located in the main group by the notch which registers with the groove *f* of that main group and then noting which of the grooves *e* of the sub-group registers with the similar notch in the card. By varying the location of the grooves of the respective groups it is evident that an almost infinite number of combinations may be made.

It is clear that the filing may be done by unskilled clerks and the mistakes, if any, readily ascertained by a mere inspection.

As it is obvious that the details as illustrated may be greatly varied without departing from the principle of my invention, I do not restrict myself to such details further than the scope of the appended claims demand.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A card index comprising a series of cards arranged in groups, notches in the upper margins of the cards of each group registering with each other but displaced with reference to the notches in the upper margins of the cards of the adjacent group.

2. A card index comprising a series of cards arranged in sub-groups and main groups, notches in the upper margins of the cards of each sub-group registering with each other but displaced with reference to the notches in the upper margins of the cards of the adjacent sub-group of the same main group and other notches in the upper margins of the cards of each main group registering with each other but displaced with reference to the notches in the upper margins of the cards of the adjacent main group.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT NYVALL.

Witnesses:
K. G. Le Ard,
Ivan Konigsberg.