June 16, 1925. 1,542,789

G. MACKINTOSH

INTERCHANGEABLE DIRECTORY STRIP

Filed April 7, 1925

Fig. 1.

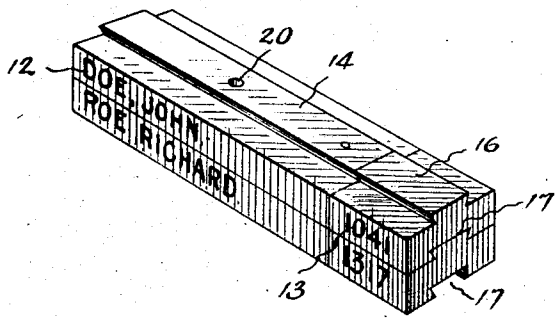


Fig. 2.

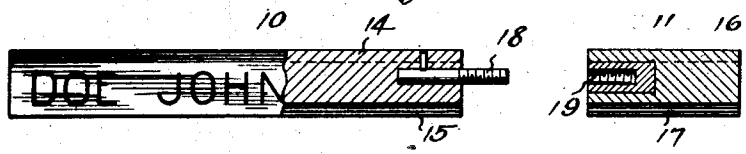


Fig. 3.

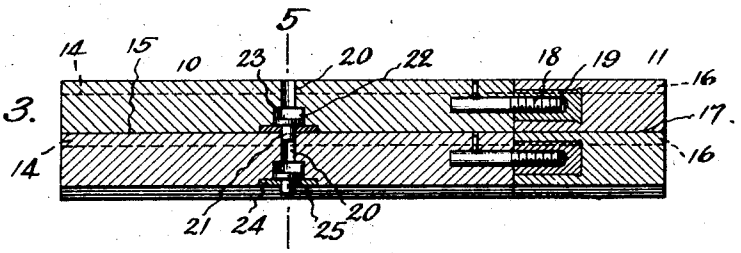


Fig. 4.

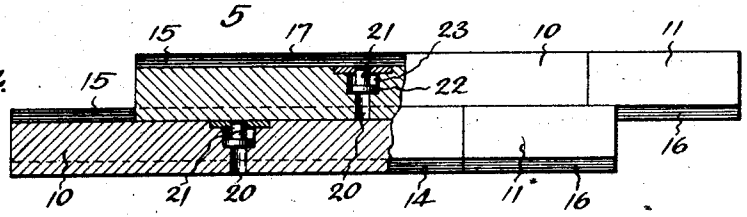
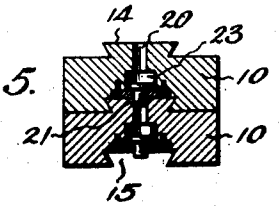


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

Bernard Kelly

Hugh H. Hoot

INVENTOR

GEORGE MACKINTOSH

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE MACKINTOSH, OF OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK.

INTERCHANGEABLE DIRECTORY STRIP.

Application filed April 7, 1925. Serial No. 21,357.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE MACKINTOSH, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Oceanside, in the county of Nassau and State of New York, have invented new and Improved Interchangeable Directory Strips, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to directories such as are used in office buildings and has particular reference to an improvement in the name bearing strips.

The invention comprehends a directory of the type set forth which includes a plurality of strips or name bearing elements adapted to be arranged in superposed stacked relation and aims for its principal object to provide improved means for detachably and interchangeably connecting the strips with each other whereby they are maintained in properly associated relation against accidental displacement.

As a further object the invention comprehends in connection with directory strips having interchangeable means of connection, gravity actuated locking devices for retaining the strips against separation and movable to a release position upon inversion of the connected strips whereby to permit of separation thereof.

The invention further contemplates directory strips which include a name bearing section and a room number bearing section which are separable when the strips are disassociated and which are locked against separation when the strips are in associated relation.

The invention furthermore aims to provide a directory strip construction which is simple, inexpensive and efficient.

With the above recited and other objects in view, reference is had to the following specification and drawings in which there is exhibited one example or embodiment of the invention which is in no way intended as a limitation upon the scope of the appended claims as it is to be clearly understood that variations and modifications which properly fall within the scope of said claims may be resorted to when found expedient.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a plurality of associated and locked directory strips constructed in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view partly in section illustrating one of the directory strips with the sections thereof separated.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view through a plurality of the strips in associated locked relation.

Fig. 4 is a similar view illustrating the inverted unlocked relation of the strips with the same partly separated.

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view taken approximately on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings by characters of reference the improved directory strip constituting the present invention includes a name bearing section 10 and a room number bearing section 11 the former being inscribed on one of its side faces with the name 12 and the latter on one of its side faces with the room number 13. In order to provide a longitudinally slidable means of connection between the strips to maintain the same against relative lateral or vertical separation, the section 10 of each strip is provided respectively on its upper and lower faces with a tongue 14 and groove 15 extending longitudinally thereof and the section 11 of each strip is similarly formed with a longitudinally extending tongue 16 and groove 17 respectively on its upper and lower faces, the said tongues and grooves being of dove-tail configuration or an equivalent formation which limits the separation and association of the strips with each other to the longitudinal sliding movement. In order to provide a means of connection between the sections 10 and 11 of each strip which prevents separation thereof except when the strips are disassembled, the said sections are respectively provided at their confronting ends with a threaded stem 18 and a threaded recess 19 whereby the sections are detachably associated with each other and when properly associated the tongues and grooves 14 and 16 and 15 and 17 are disposed in alinement whereby the tongues of the sections of one strip may be mated with the grooves of the sections of an adjacent strip by relative longitudinal sliding movement thereof as illustrated. In order to provide means for locking the mated strip elements together to prevent relative longitudinal sliding movement thereof, the section 10 of each strip element is provided with a keeper opening 20 extending inwardly from its upper face and said section is provided with a gravitation-

ally projectable lock pin 21 from its lower face which is designed to engage in the keeper opening 20 of the next adjacent subterposed mated strip element when the stack of strips are in a right-side-up position. In order to prevent loss of the lock pins and to provide means for permanently associating the same with the strips, the said pins are provided with enlarged heads 22 which are movable in a correspondingly enlarged bore 23 in the strip, the outer end of which bore is closed by a countersunk cover plate 24 having a central aperture 25 conforming to the size of the lock pin shank diameter.

When it is desired to disassociate the strip from each other the stack of strips is inverted as illustrated in Fig. 4 whereby the lock pins gravitate to a position to fully retract the shanks from the keeper openings 20 of the adjacent strips, thus permitting a longitudinal relative sliding movement of the strips to separate the same from each other. When thus separated, it is obvious that the sections 10 and 11 may be separated by unscrewing the threaded stem 18 from the threaded recess 19.

The plan or scheme of the invention is to equip the various office buildings with standard directories having directory strips of this type so that each tenant purchases a strip section 10 which is owned by the tenant and may be taken with him to other offices for use in their directories by merely attaching the proper room number thereto. It is thus obvious from the foregoing that the expense of maintaining office building directories will be greatly reduced by employing directory strips constructed in accordance with the invention.

I claim:

1. In a building directory consisting of a stack of indicia bearing strips, a longitudinal sliding connection between the meeting faces of the strips for holding the same against transverse and vertical separation, and gravity actuated locking means for preventing relative sliding movement of the strips in a direction to disconnect the same, said locking means being releasable upon inversion of the stack.

2. In a building directory consisting of a stack of indicia bearing strips, a longitudinal sliding connection between the meeting faces of the strips for holding the same against transverse and vertical separation, and gravity actuated locking means for preventing relative sliding movement of the strips in a direction to disconnect the same, said locking means being releasable upon inversion of the stack, the said strips comprising longitudinally separable sections adapted to respectively bear the name and room number and a means of connection between said sections permitting of separation thereof only when the strips are disassociated.

3. In a building directory consisting of a stack of superimposed indicia bearing strips, interengageable means of connection between said strips for locking the same against relative displacement, said means being releasable upon inversion of the stack.

4. In a building directory consisting of a stack of superimposed indicia bearing strips, means on the confronting upper and lower faces of the strips for connecting the same against relative vertical and lateral separation and gravity operated means for locking the strips against relative longitudinal separation, said means being gravitationally releasable upon inversion of the stack.

5. In a building directory including a plurality of superimposed strips, a dove-tail tongue and groove provided respectively on the upper and lower faces thereof for establishing a connection between the adjacent strips by a longitudinal sliding movement and gravity means for connecting and maintaining the strips in alinement against relative longitudinal sliding movement.

6. In a building directory including a plurality of superimposed strips, a dove-tail tongue and groove provided respectively on the upper and lower faces thereof for establishing a connection between the adjacent strips by a longitudinal sliding movement and gravity means for connecting and maintaining the strips in alinement against relative longitudinal sliding movement, said latter means comprising perforated portions in the upper face of each strip and weighted lock pins projectable from the lower face of each strip and into the keeper openings when the stack is in right-side-up position.

7. In a building directory including a plurality of superimposed strips, a dove-tail tongue and groove provided respectively on the upper and lower faces thereof for establishing a connection between the adjacent strips by a longitudinal sliding movement and gravity means for connecting and maintaining the strips in alinement against relative longitudinal sliding movement, said latter means comprising perforated portions in the upper face of each strip and weighted lock pins projectable from the lower face of each strip and into the keeper openings when the stack is in right-side-up position, said lock pins being retractible from the keeper openings upon inversion of the stack.

GEORGE MACKINTOSH.