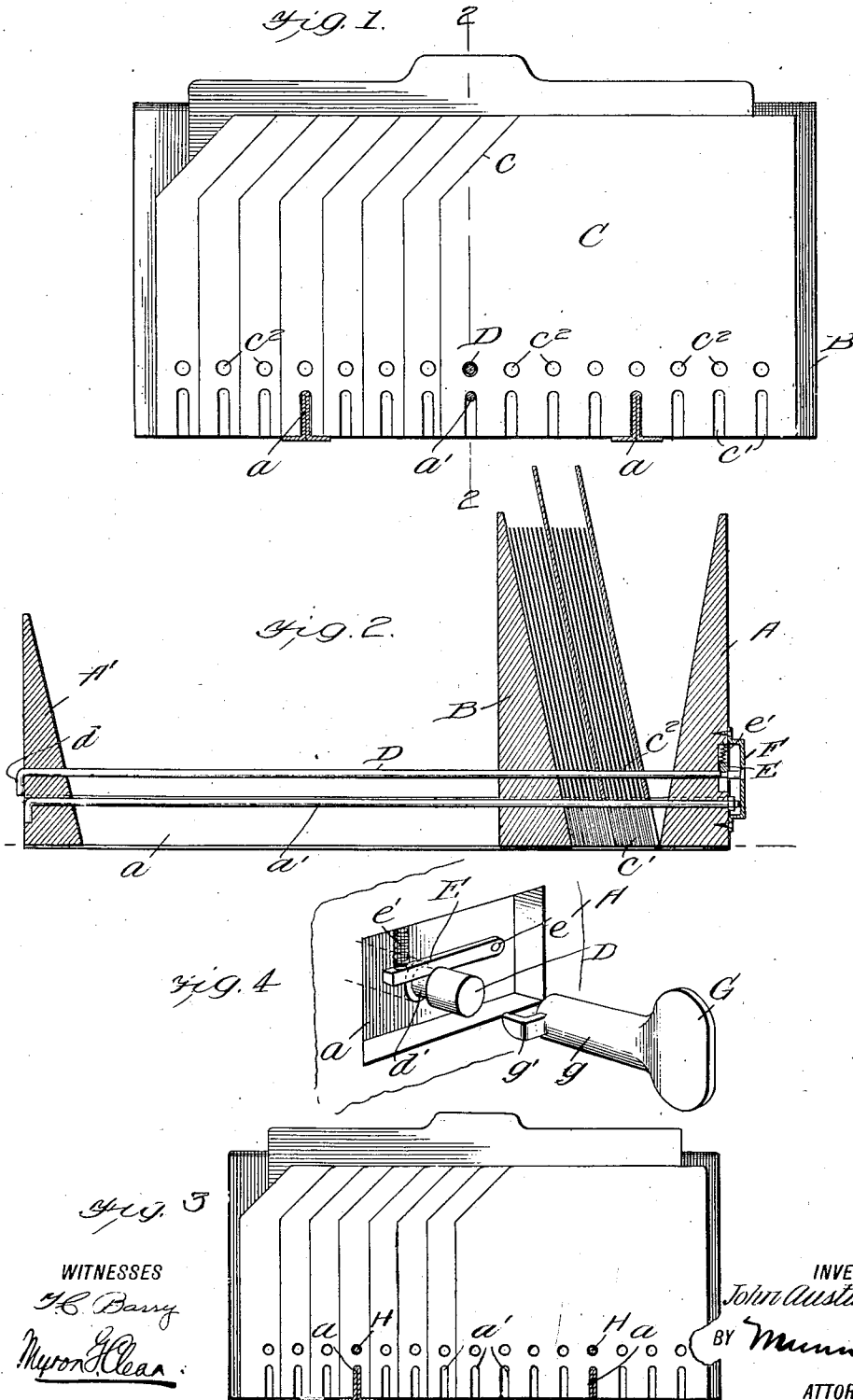


J. A. BEST.  
 LOCKING DEVICE FOR FILING APPARATUS.  
 APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1912.

1,065,105.

Patented June 17, 1913.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## LOCKING DEVICE FOR FILING APPARATUS.

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Specification of Letters Patent: Patented June 17, 1913.

Application filed July 27, 1912. Serial No. 711,913.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN AUSTIN BEST, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Augusta, in the county of Richmond and State of Georgia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Locking Devices for Filing Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates generally to means for locking the record and index cards within the holder forming part of a filing apparatus, and more particularly to a locking device which will be adaptable to filing apparatus such as shown in my patent application No. 664,058, filed December 5, 1911, and also in my application filed of even date herewith.

In my applications just referred to, I set forth an apparatus involving one or more card holding or supporting members, together with cards having means whereby to engage the said supporting member or members in a non-aligned series wherein a facial portion of each card is exposed along certain of the edges of the next succeeding card in front thereof.

The object of my present invention is therefore to provide a locking device by the use of which one or a number of non-aligned series of cards may be locked against accidental displacement or removal by unauthorized persons.

With this in mind, my invention resides in the features of construction and arrangement to be herein described with respect to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, and in which,

Figure 1 is a transverse sectional view through a filing apparatus embodying my present invention; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section therethrough; Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, illustrating the use of a pair of locking rods; and Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view illustrating the means for locking and releasing one of the locking rods.

Referring now to these figures, the holder with which my invention is to be associated may comprise a front piece A and a rear piece A', between and through which extend longitudinal card supporting members, these members being either in the form of sheet metal ribs *a* or rods *a'*, at least one of the former being preferable in case any considerable weight is to be supported, in view of the fact that rods are likely to sag, and at least one rod being preferably at a central

point in order that it may pass through the usual follower B and form a support upon which the said follower is movable between the ends A and A' of the holder.

Each of the cards C employed is substantially rectangular in form, one corner being cut obliquely as indicated at *c* and one edge being provided with a plurality of equidistantly spaced recesses *c'*, these recesses being adapted to permit of selected engagement of the cards C upon their supporting members *a* and *a'*, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, whereby the cards may be disposed in a non-aligned series, as also plainly indicated, wherein a facial portion of each card is exposed along certain of the edges of the next succeeding card in front thereof, such exposed portion being for the reception of names or other data, whereby the cards are distinguished.

In providing a simple and effective lock whereby the cards in the position just described may be securely held against accidental displacement and unwarranted removal, I provide each of the cards C with a series of openings *c''* which are spaced apart a distance equal to the spaces between the cards recesses *c'*, and are arranged in a line parallel to the recessed edge of the card, one of said openings *c''* being arranged adjacent and in line with each one of the card recesses *c'*. The front and rear portions A and A' of the holder are provided with openings through which extends a locking rod D, said rod being provided with an angularly bent rear end *d*, at the rear face of the holder portion A', and its forward end being provided with a circular slot *d'* which, in the operative position of the rod D extends within a cut-out portion *a''* in the front face of the holder portion A and which surrounds its opening through which said locking rod extends.

Pivoted at one end within the cut-out portion *a''* of the holder is a locking bar E, the pivot of said bar being at *e*, and the free end thereof being movable under tension of a spring *e'*, to the position as shown in Fig. 4 wherein it is engaged within a portion of the circular slot of the locking rod D, whereby to prevent longitudinal movement of the said rod. In practice, a guard F covers the cut-out portion *a''* of the holder portion A and the locked forward end of the rod D, the use of a key such as indicated at E in Fig. 4 being necessary for the purpose of unlocking the rod, said key having a tubular

shank *g* engaging upon the locked end of the rod D through an opening in the guard F, and having an angular projection *g'* engageable beneath the free end of the bar E whereby upon the movement of the key G in a circular direction the free end of the said locking bar E will be lifted from engagement with the rod D, thus permitting the latter to be moved longitudinally and rearwardly, when additional cards are required to be inserted in position within the holder, by means of its handle *d*.

In Figs. 1 and 2, the position of the locking rod D is indicated as in vertical alignment with the supporting rod *a'*, and while in a device such as at present shown, this locking rod is all that is required for the purpose, it is not by any means essential that there be only one. There may be two rods indicated at H and H' in Fig. 3, although this arrangement serves to double the work of unlocking.

Thus from the foregoing it will be readily apparent that I provide a simple and effective locking device which is particularly adapted to my own filing apparatus as outlined in my applications before referred to, and it may be further seen that it is not limited to use where the cards and holders are especially prepared in advance, but may be readily installed in connection with holders and filing apparatus which have been in prior use without the same.

I claim:—

1. The combination of a holder having one or more card supporting and holding members, cards having means whereby to engage said supporting members in a non-

aligned series, and a locking member engageable with each of the cards of the non-aligned series whereby to prevent their removal, the said locking member having positive engagement with each card of the series whereby to prevent lateral displacement irrespective of the supporting members.

2. The combination of a holder having one or more card supporting members, cards having means whereby to engage said supporting members in a non-aligned series, and each being provided with a plurality of openings adjacent one edge, and a locking rod adapted to pass through those openings which are aligned through the series of cards.

3. The combination of a holder having one or more card supporting members, cards having means whereby to engage said supporting members in a non-aligned series, and each being provided with a plurality of openings, equidistantly spaced from one another and arranged in a line adjacent one edge of the card, a rod movable through the holder and engageable through the card-openings which are aligned through the series, and means for normally locking the said rod against removal.

4. A file card having a plurality of equidistantly spaced recesses along one edge, and a plurality of equidistantly spaced openings, each of which openings is in alignment with one of said recesses adjacent the inner end thereof.

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Witnesses:

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