

No. 814,816.

PATENTED MAR. 13, 1906.

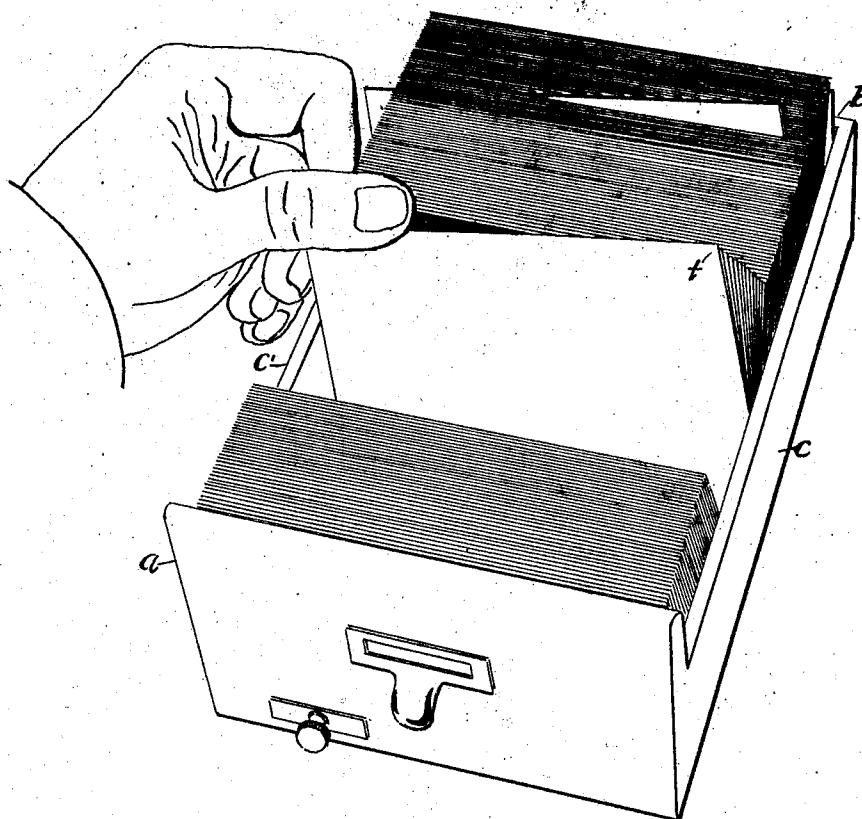
G. A. WHEELER.

CARD FILE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 23, 1902.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

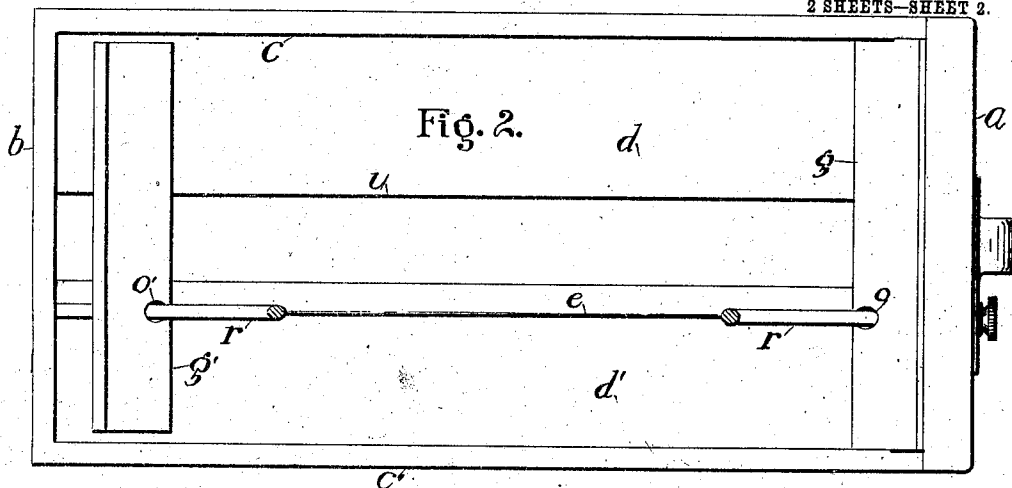


Fig. 3.

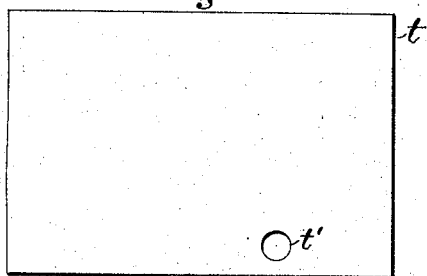


Fig. 4.

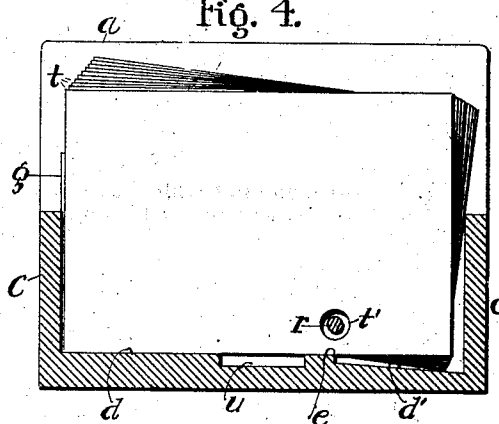


Fig. 5.

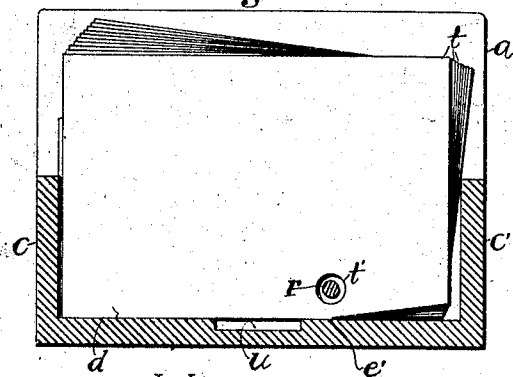
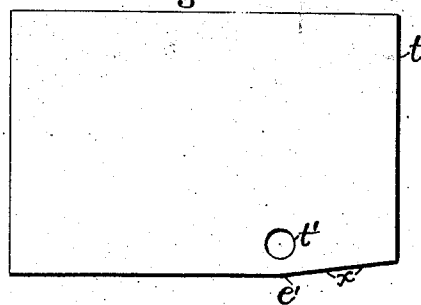


Fig. 6.



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CARD-FILE.

No. 814,816.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 13, 1906.

Application filed September 23, 1902. Serial No. 124,573.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE A. WHEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing in New York city, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Card-Files, of which the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

The object of my improvements is to provide means that will facilitate the separation of the cards for reading, as well as permit of any particular card or group of cards being so disposed with relation to the whole number as to be readily found again.

It has been customary for receptacles to permanently retain the cards with their edges even. In receptacles now in use the cards, which are straight upon their bottom edges, stand in a substantially vertical position upon a base or bottom substantially flat, and being closely engaged by the sides of the receptacle it is impossible to slide the cards upon each other so as to project the edges of adjacent cards the one beyond the other in order to facilitate their separation.

My improvements provide a suitable edge for the bottoms of the cards, upon which they may be tilted at varying angles, together with proper clearance for the cards when so tilted and a means of retaining the cards such as to allow them to assume the various positions. By tilting the cards vertically at varying angles corresponding edges of adjacent cards are projected the one beyond the other, making their separation easy.

The purposes and advantages of my invention will be more fully pointed out in the description which follows and its scope will be defined in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, in which like letters designate like parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improvement, showing the method of operating the same. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a box or drawer fitted with my improvements. Fig. 3 is a face view of an index-card therefor. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of Fig. 1, taken in a plane vertical to the bottom of the drawer and parallel with and facing the front thereof at a point immediately back of the thumb in Fig. 1, but with the thumb omitted. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but shows a modified form of my improved card-file. Fig. 6 is a face view of an index-card of the modified form.

The views show my improvements embodied in the preferred form of a box or drawer of a cabinet, of which *a* is the front, *b* the back, *c* and *c'* the sides, and *d* the bottom. I have shown a drawer of a single compartment; but it will be understood that a drawer may contain two or more compartments, and as the cards stand on edge transversely of the drawer a compartment is of a suitable width to receive them, allowing for the tilting of the cards, as hereinafter described. The compartment or drawer may be further provided with a lock-rod *r*, which passes through an aperture *t'* in the cards *t* and may be secured in the drawer in any of the usual ways, but is in a position different from present practices, as will be pointed out. Preferably also, as is usual, there is a stationary slanting block *g* with a rod-hole *o*; and a follower-block *g'* with a rod-hole *o'* is slidingly mounted in the drawer in any suitable or well-known way, the usual channel *u* for receiving the attachments of block *g'* being shown; but the attachments themselves are omitted, since they formed no part of my present invention.

I will now describe the special devices I employ and the manner of their operation.

At one side of the center and near the bottom of the drawer and extending longitudinally thereof I provide an edge or surface *e*, which is preferably located underneath the cards and formed on or attached to the bottom *d* of the drawer and with its highest face flush with the general surface of the bottom *d*. On the side of *e* away from the center of the drawer, as at *d'*, the bottom is lower than the general surface or may be mortised out at *d'*. This is for the purpose of providing necessary clearance for the cards while being manipulated, as hereinafter described. Preferably directly over and on a line with but somewhat above *e* I secure the lock-rod *r*, which extends longitudinally of the drawer, while the cards *t* have apertures *t'* cut near the bottom and adjacent to one end of the cards in alinement with the position of the lock-rod *r*, with which the cards *t* engage. The cards *t* are not straight upon their bottom edges, but have a portion cut away, as at *x*, forming a salient angle with apex at *e'*. This apex *e'* serves as a pivot or bearing upon which the cards may be tilted in the planes of their faces.

The purposes of the above-described devices will now be readily understood by referring to the drawings. The cards ordinarily

stand with their edges even, but upon placing the thumb upon the top edges of a group of the cards at their ends adjacent to the apertures t' and pressing down, while holding the thumb inclined forward, as indicated in Fig. 1, the bottom edges of these cards will bear upon the tilting edge e' , and the ends of the cards upon which the thumb rests will be depressed at slightly-varying angles, the card at the front being lowest, and the opposite ends of the cards will be elevated to a height as proportionately greater as the distance of these ends from the pivotal point e' is greater than the opposite ends upon which the thumb rests, and in like proportion the angles of separation between the edges of the cards will be greater, with the highest card in front. In these positions it will be readily understood that the cards can be easily separated, since the fingers of the other hand can be brought in contact with the edge of but one card at a time and when the group of cards is gone over another and another may be manipulated in like manner until the desired card or cards are found. Should it then be desired to place one or more of these particular cards so that they may be readily found again without removing them from the pack, it is only necessary to set them in a tilted position, as shown in Fig. 1, while the rest of the cards stand with their edges even. Thus both in separating the cards and in referring to previously-selected cards much time and annoyance are saved.

In Figs. 5 and 6 I have shown the tilting edge e' upon the cards themselves, in which case, of course, the drawer-bottom may be of uniform height, as the portion cut from the cards at x provides clearance for them to tilt. In other respects the operation is the same as in the forms shown in the other figures, the location of the aperture t' being the same, as will be observed.

From Figs. 1 and 5 it will be observed that at the left-hand side edges of the cards each of the tilted cards projects a short distance beyond the succeeding card—that is, the one to the rear of it. By tilting the cards to this position by means of the right hand thus supporting them the fingers of the left hand can engage each front card separately at its side edge and draw it forward without disturbing the cards to the rear of such card. By turning the box end for end from the position shown in Fig. 1, and thereupon tilting the cards with the left hand on the side e' , that is now on the left hand of the aperture, it will be obvious that the relative position of the cards indicated at the left hand in Fig. 2 will now be at the right-hand side, and the cards can be turned forward separately by the fingers of the right hand instead of by the left, as in the previous instance; but instead of turning the box end for end the fulcrum portion e or e' can be shifted to the other side of the cen-

ter of the card. In other words, the card shown in Fig. 6 will be practically reversed or the bottom d of the box (shown in Fig. 4) will be turned end for end, bringing the depression d' to the other side of the box or receptacle.

Although I have pointed out and shown suitable methods of constructing my improvements, I do not wish to limit myself to the specific forms shown and described, since some variations therefrom might be used without departing from the intent of my invention.

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

1. In an index-card file, an index-card having a tilting surface e' upon one of its edges and an aperture t' adjacent thereto.

2. In a card-file consisting of a series of cards having apertures adapted to engage a locking-rod, a series of similar surfaces upon edges of the cards adjacent to said apertures and adapted to form pivotal bearings upon which the cards may be tilted in the planes of their faces, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a card-index device, a casing, and a card normally supported in the casing in an upright position, one of such members being provided with a fulcrum portion disposed adjacent to the bottom of the card and between its ends, on which the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position.

4. In a card-index device, a casing, and a card normally supported in the casing in an upright position, one of such members being provided with a fulcrum portion disposed coincident with the bottom of the card and between its ends, on which the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position.

5. In a card-index device, a casing, and a card normally supported in the casing in an upright position, one of such members being provided with a fulcrum portion disposed adjacent to the bottom of the card and located at one side of the middle vertical line of the card, on which the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position.

6. In a card-index device, a casing, and a card normally supported in the casing in upright position, one of such members being formed with a salient angle whereon the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position.

7. In a card-index device, a casing, and a card normally supported in the casing in upright position, one of such members being formed with a salient angle whereon the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position, the apex of such angle being disposed to one side of the middle vertical line of the card.

8. In a card-index device, a casing, and a set of cards, each card being normally sup-

- ported in the casing in an upright position, one of such members being provided with a fulcrum portion disposed adjacent to the bottom of the card between its ends, on which the cards can be tilted to relative positions in which the side edge in proximity to one upper corner of each card will project a short distance beyond the corresponding part of the succeeding card.
9. In a card-index device, a casing, and a series of cards each normally supported in the casing in an upright position, one of such members being provided with a fulcrum portion disposed adjacent to the bottom of the card between its ends, on which the card can be tilted in the plane of its face from its upright position, and registering apertures in the cards located in proximity to such fulcrum portions.
10. In a card-index device, a series of cards, and a casing arranged to support the cards, each card having a fulcrum portion formed on its bottom edge between its ends, whereby the cards can be tilted to a position in which one side in proximity to the upper corner of each card will project a short distance beyond the corresponding part of the succeeding card.
11. A card for a card-index file, provided with a fulcrum on its bottom edge between its ends.
12. A card for a card-index file, provided with a fulcrum on its bottom edge located between its ends and to one side of the middle of such edge.
13. A card for a card-index file, having its bottom edge formed of two straight parts meeting at an angle.
14. A card for a card-index file, having its bottom edge inclined upward at one side to form a fulcrum.
15. A card for a card-index file, provided with a fulcrum on its bottom edge whereon the card can be tilted in the plane of its face, and an aperture located in proximity to such apex.
16. A card for a card-index file, provided with a fulcrum on its bottom edge located to one side of the middle of such edge, and an aperture located in proximity to such apex.
17. A card for a card-index file, having its bottom edge formed of two straight parts meeting at an obtuse angle located at one side of the middle of such edge.
- GEORGE A. WHEELER.
- Witnesses:
W. G. CURLEY,
STACY R. HILLS.