

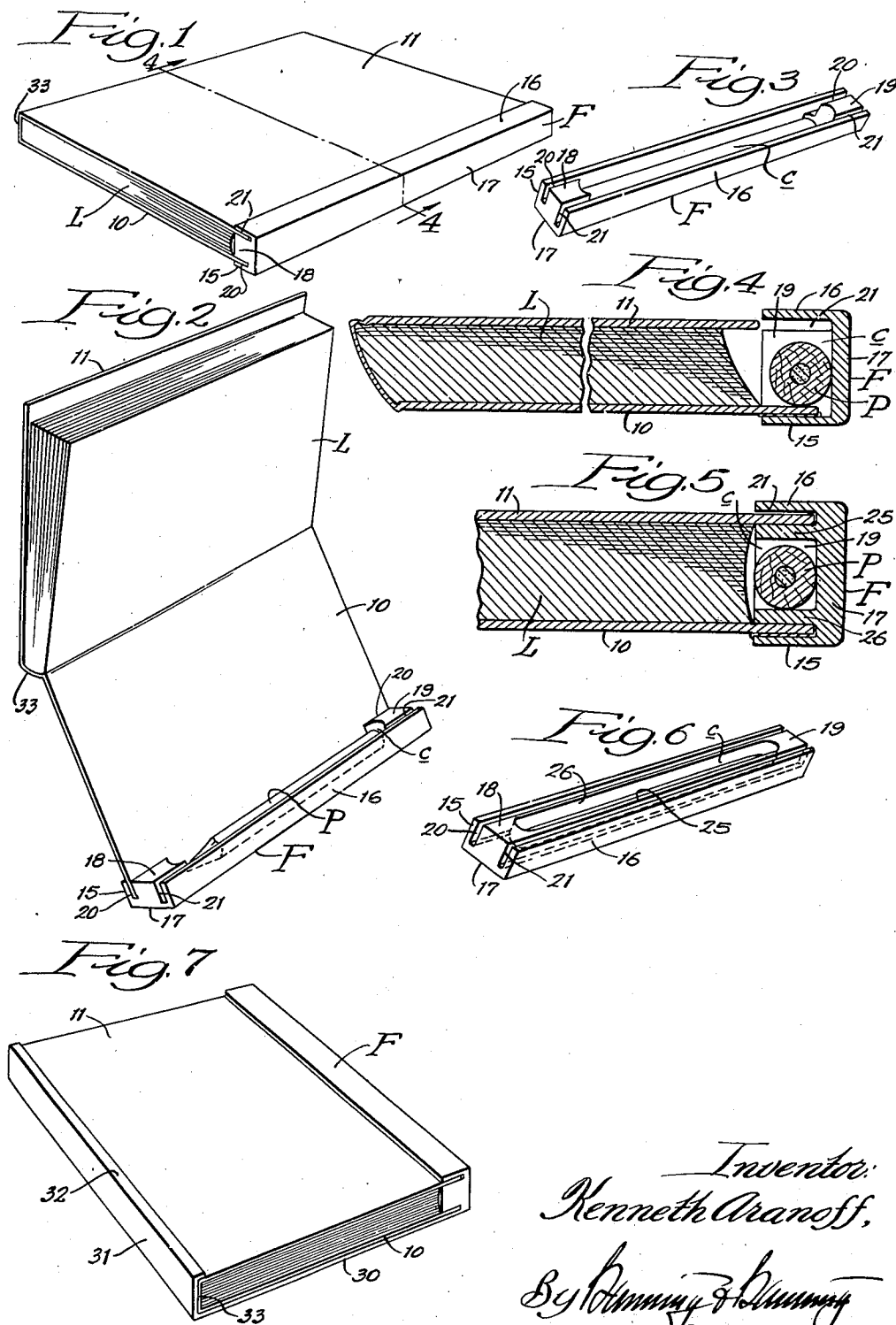
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BOOK FRONT

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BOOK FRONT

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8 Claims. (Cl. 281—30)

This invention is concerned with a front for books and the like, its features of improvement being directed to simplicity, minimum expense, facility of application and use, and provision in the front of a chamber for the accommodation of small articles, such as a pencil, pen, stamps etc., all of which are imprisoned against escape when the front is locked to the book covers.

A front of this character may be secured to the book when manufactured, or it may be applied thereto subsequently. In either case, it serves to reinforce the free edges of the book covers and afford protection thereto as well as to the leaves bound therebetween. The front is also adapted to carry markings or inscriptions indicating the book owner, its contents, volume number, etc., and may be transferred from book to book, when desired, so as to enhance its usefulness over a prolonged period. In the respects of transferability as well as protection, the front of my invention is quite unlike the back of a book which is regularly an integral built-in part thereof.

These and various other objects and advantages will appear from the ensuing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a closed book equipped with the present front;

Fig. 2 which is a similar view shows one cover of the book swung through nearly 180° to an open position;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the front detached from the book;

Fig. 4, which is a detail in enlarged section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1, shows the book free cover retracted to the extent required preliminarily for interlocking with the front;

Fig. 5 is a similar view showing the free cover locked to a front of slightly modified form;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the front construction shown in Fig. 5; and

Fig. 7 which is a view similar to Fig. 1 shows a front modified to be readily applicable to or detachable from a conventional book of proper size for use therewith.

The front herein disclosed is applicable for use with books of many kinds, particularly notebooks, diaries, records, etc., containing leaves, detachable or otherwise, on which writing or notations are to be inscribed. In the illustrated book there are the usual leaves L tightly bound together between a pair of covers 10 and 11, resilient or otherwise, whose free edges are extended slightly and for an equal distance beyond the free edges of the enclosed leaves, and by reason of the tight

binding tend to remain so to afford adequate protection thereto.

To the free edge of one cover, as 10 (as shown in Figs. 1-6), the present front F is applied and carried thereby. As shown best in Fig. 3, this device is in the form of a channeled fitting, cast, stamped or otherwise produced from suitable material, having a length substantially the same as that of the book covers and a width very slightly in excess of the thickness of the book. A pair of flanges 15 and 16 are extended parallel from opposite edges of the channel base 17, the outer faces of the flanges determining the overall width of the front. A pair of blocks 18 and 19, one at each end of the channeled fitting, are carried upon the base to lie centrally between the flanges in slightly spaced relation thereto whereby to form therewith a pair of slots 20 and 21 in mutual alignment. The end blocks 18 and 19 and the two flanges 16 and 17 define a chamber c that is fully open on the rear or inner face of the front.

A front of this description is adapted to receive within its aligned slots 20 (or 21) the free edge of the cover 10 which may be fixedly secured thereto as by a suitable adhesive. The front will then become, in effect, part of this cover so as to swing therewith into a position opposite the free edges of the book leaves when the book is closed. When so positioned the open face of the chamber c will lie opposite to and immediately adjacent the free edges of the book leaves and be thereby closed to the point that any contained articles, such as a pen or pencil P, will be effectually imprisoned therewithin. To lock the front in this position the other cover 11, which may be somewhat resilient, first is bowed between its bound and free edges, or otherwise moved against the tension of its tight binding with the leaves and companion cover, to retract its free edge sufficiently to lie opposite the other aligned slot 21 (or 20) for entrance therewithin when return movement of this cover to its normal position takes place. In Fig. 4 I have illustrated this cover as it appears when first entering the slot 21 (or 20) in which it thereafter tends to remain of its own accord. In this way the cover 11 which is readily attachable to and detachable from the front, and hence in a sense is "free," may conveniently be locked to the other cover 10.

Referring now to Figs. 5 and 6, the front therein shown is one that may advantageously be used with a somewhat thicker book. It is, in consequence, correspondingly wider and the chamber therewithin, unless otherwise modified,

would also be of increased capacity. So that the chamber may not be unduly wide, particularly if it is designed to snugly accommodate a thin article such as a single pencil, I provide inner walls 25 and 26 interconnecting the blocks 18 and 19 as well as the two pair of slots 20 and 21 which are thereby made continuous. The thickness of the inner walls will determine the space between them, i. e., the width of the chamber c. In all other respects this fitting is the same as the one of Figs. 1-4 previously described.

In Fig. 7 the front is joined to and made part of an extension leaf 30, desirably resilient and exteriorly applicable over the book cover 10 (or 11), being provided with a flange 31 having an intumed lip 32. This flange and lip are of the proper size and shape to fit snugly and perhaps with tension around the book back 33, with the lip lying against one cover along its bound edge, and the leaf extending over the other cover whose free edge is secured within the slot 20 (or 21) of the front. In this type of construction the front is slidably fitted on to the book where it will tend to remain without further securement. Since the position of the front is definitely fixed with relation to the one cover to which it is slidably fitted, it follows that the other cover which is free may readily be locked thereto in the manner already described in connection with the showings in the remaining figures of the drawing. The chambered construction of this front may follow that of either Fig. 3 or Fig. 6 which are suggestive examples of an appropriate book front embodying the features of this invention.

Summing up, the present book front is a thin, channelled fitting extended across the cover free edges and along its faces adjacent thereto, carried by one cover to releasably engage the other cover that is free, the two covers then being locked and between them and the enclosed leaves providing a closure for the article-receiving chamber which opens on to the inside of the front. Such a device affords enhanced protection to the book covers; it may also carry useful markings or inscriptions and serve in a decorative or ornamental capacity as well, and it provides in the book, within the space between the protruding free edges of the covers a chamber wherein small articles may be safely imprisoned so as to be always available or accessible when the book is again opened.

I claim:

1. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers having free edges tending normally to lie opposite each other at linear points beyond the free edges of the leaves, of a relatively thin channelled front extended to lie across the free edges of the covers and for a short distance along adjacent faces for substantially the length thereof to enclose the elongated space beyond the free edges of the leaves and between the covers, means mounting the front to one cover to swing therewith, a releasable connection between the front and the other cover in locking engagement with the latter at the inner and outer faces thereof whereby to provide therefor a lock with the other cover, and spaced means within the channelled interior of the front defining there-within a chamber open only toward the free edges of the leaves and accessible only when the cover to which the front is mounted is swung away therefrom.

2. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers having free edges tending normally to lie opposite each other, of a front extending along the book from the top to the bottom thereof and provided at the inner side with a chamber open toward the book and closed by the same to confine an article within the chamber when the book is closed, said front being provided at opposite sides of the chamber with longitudinal cover receiving slots having side walls in frictional, locking engagement with the inner and outer faces of said covers of the book at the free edges thereof, and an extension leaf connected with and extending rearwardly from one side of the front to the back of the book and extending around the back and projecting over the adjacent cover thereof to provide a hooked engagement with the back of the book for positively retaining the front in place.

3. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front fixedly secured to one cover and formed with a longitudinal slot to receive the free edge of the other cover, and the side walls of the slot engaging only that portion of such cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves.

4. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front having an extension piece fitted over one cover and around opposite edges thereof one of which is its free edge and interlocked thereto in a fixed position, the front being formed with a longitudinal slot to receive the free edge of the other cover, and the side walls of the slot engaging only that portion of such cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves.

5. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front mounted at the free edge of one cover and having means exteriorly thereof extending from said free edge for engaging with the book back to detachably hold the front in a fixed position relative thereto, the front being formed with a longitudinal slot to receive the free edge of the other cover and the side walls of the slot engaging only that portion of such cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves.

6. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front fixedly secured to one cover and formed with a longitudinal slot to receive the free edge of the other cover, and the side walls of the slot engaging only that portion of such cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, there being upon the rear side of the front a chamber opening upon the confronting free edges of the leaves and substantially closed thereby when the covers are closed upon the book whereby the front then serves also to imprison within its own chamber any article confined therewithin.

7. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing

covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front extending from top to bottom of the book and fixedly secured to one cover and said front having a longitudinal slot to receive the free edge of the other cover, and the side walls of the slot engaging only that portion of such cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, there being upon the rear side of the front an elongated chamber extending for the major portion of the book length and opening upon the confronting free edges of the leaves and substantially closed thereby when the covers are closed upon the book whereby the front then serves also to imprison within its own chamber any article confined therewithin.

8. The combination with a book comprising a back with tightly bound leaves and enclosing covers provided with free edges extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves, of a front extending along the book from the top to the bottom thereof and provided at the inner side with a chamber open toward the book and closed by the same to confine an article within the chamber when the book is closed, said front being provided at opposite sides of the chamber with longitudinal slots to receive the free edges of the two covers, the side walls of each slot frictionally engaging only that portion of one cover free edge extending beyond the free edges of the bound leaves.

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