ADJUSTABLE SIDE BAR FOR POSTING TRAYS

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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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ADJUSTABLE SIDE BAR FOR POSTING TRAYS

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1. Claim. (Cl. 129—16)

This invention relates to improvements in posting trays or receptacles of the type employed for supporting a plurality of loose ledger leaves, sheets, cards or other articles to facilitate examination of the same and the posting or transfer of items thereon. This is a division of application No. 92,052, filed May 7, 1949, now Patent No. 2,616,432.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a posting tray with side rails or offset bars having means of improved construction for adjusting the same relatively to the posting tray to enable cards or other media which are being posted to be offset or shifted laterally with reference to the main body or mass of media supported on the tray, or to enable the tray to accommodate articles of various widths.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description of one embodiment of the invention, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out hereinafter in connection with the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary side elevation of a posting tray embodying this invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary end view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional elevation thereof, showing the side rails or offset bars in their laterally extended positions.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view, on line 4—4, Fig. 1.

The posting tray comprises a base portion on which the various parts of the device are mounted. The base portion may be of any suitable form and, in the construction illustrated, comprises end walls 8 and side walls 9, and a horizontal portion or top plate 10 for the sheets, cards or other articles, and which is provided in the longitudinal, central part thereof with a channel or U-shaped part 11. Preferably, the base is formed of a single piece of material bent to form the channel 11, the top plate 10 and the side and end walls.

The posting tray is provided with one or more of the usual follower plates or panels 15, two being shown in the construction illustrated, between which the ledger leaves, sheets, cards or other articles may be positioned, and these follower plates are hinged to support the articles in various inclined positions to facilitate access to the same. These follower plates may be adjustably mounted on the base in any suitable and desired manner and may be mounted to swing into inclined positions in any suitable manner (not shown), for example as shown in said application No. 92,052.

The base of the posting tray is provided at opposite sides thereof with side rails or offset bars 55 which engage the side edges of the cards or other articles which may be supported on the posting tray, and since it is desired to shift individual articles sidewise with relation to the main body of articles, it is desirable to have the side rails adjustable to vary the distances between them. In the construction shown for this purpose, the side bars are connected at their ends to depending arms or angle members 56 and to the middle positions of the side or offset bars 55 to be secured to other depending arms or angle members 57. The lower or horizontal legs of the angle-shaped arms or members 56 extend through slots in the side walls 9 of the base and consequently may move in or out through these slots when the sides of offset bars 55 are moved toward and from each other.

Means are also preferably provided for releasably locking the side or offset bars 55 in the positions into which they are set, and for this purpose the lower legs or horizontal portions 59 of the middle, angle-shaped members 51 are provided with a series of holes or indentations 60 therein into which a spring pressed ball or detent 61 may partly enter. This ball for each angle member 57 may be arranged in the upper portion of a cup 62 containing a spring or other resilient member for urging the ball 61 upwardly against the under surface of the arm 58.

"The lower or horizontal arms 59 of the angle members 51 are preferably provided for movement to the base of the posting tray by means of transversely extending, channel-shaped guide members 64, the ends of which may be secured to the under surface of the top plate 10 of the base. The channels of the guide members are of such width as to guide the arms 59 in their movement transversely of the base. Each of the channels 64 may be provided adjacent the side walls 9 with apertures through which the cups 62 may extend, the cups being provided at their upper portions with outwardly extending flanges 65 which limit the downward movement of the cups 62 in the holes in the channels and thus support the balls or detents 61 in operative relation to the arms 59.

In order to limit the extents to which the side or offset bars 55 may be moved from the base of the posting tray, the inner ends of the arms 59 are preferably provided with downwardly bent portions or flanges 67, and the channels 64 are provided with apertures in the sides thereof through which stop pins 68 may be inserted and...
with which the turned-over ends or flanges 67 will engage when the arms 59 have been drawn outwardly from the sides of the base to the limit of their movement, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. The engagement of the arms 59 within the channels 64 tends to hold the side or offset bars 58 in positions parallel with the sides 9 of the base. Fig. 3 shows the side or offset bars 55 in their outermost positions, and the broken lines in Fig. 3 show one of the arms in its innermost position.

The side or offset bars 55 may be readily moved into various positions relatively to the base by grasping the middle angle members 57 and pulling them toward or from the side walls of the base, whereupon they will be held in their adjusted positions by means of the balls 61 engaging in the holes or recesses 60 of the arm 55. The posting tray described is very efficient and reliable in operation and readily adjustable. The construction described lends itself readily to quantity production and is free from complicated parts.

It will be understood that various changes in the details and arrangements of parts, which have been herein-described and illustrated in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art without the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

In a posting tray including a base and side bars extending above the base at the sides thereof and adjustable toward and from the sides of the base, that improvement which includes a plurality of angle-shaped supports having upwardly extending arms secured at their upper ends to said side bars and laterally extending arms slidable transversely on said base, at least one of said supports for each side bar being arranged approximately centrally with reference to the length of its side bar, a channel-shaped member having side flanges secured to said base and forming with said base a space for guiding the laterally extending arm of said last mentioned support for lateral movement relatively to said base, recesses arranged at intervals lengthwise of said laterally extending arm of said last mentioned support, and a detent secured on said channel member and yieldingly pressed into engagement with said recesses to yieldingly oppose movement of said central support, the other supports being slidable freely transversely of said base, said laterally extending arm of said last mentioned support having the end thereof within said channel member bent over to form a flange extending transversely of said channel, said channel having holes in said side flanges, and a stop pin extending transversely of said channel through said holes in position to be engaged by said flange when said laterally extending arm has been pulled out of said channel to the desired limit.

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