Dec. 14, 1971 H. W. BOEDEKER 3,626,619

GUIDE TAB

Filed Jan. 31, 1968

Fig. 1.

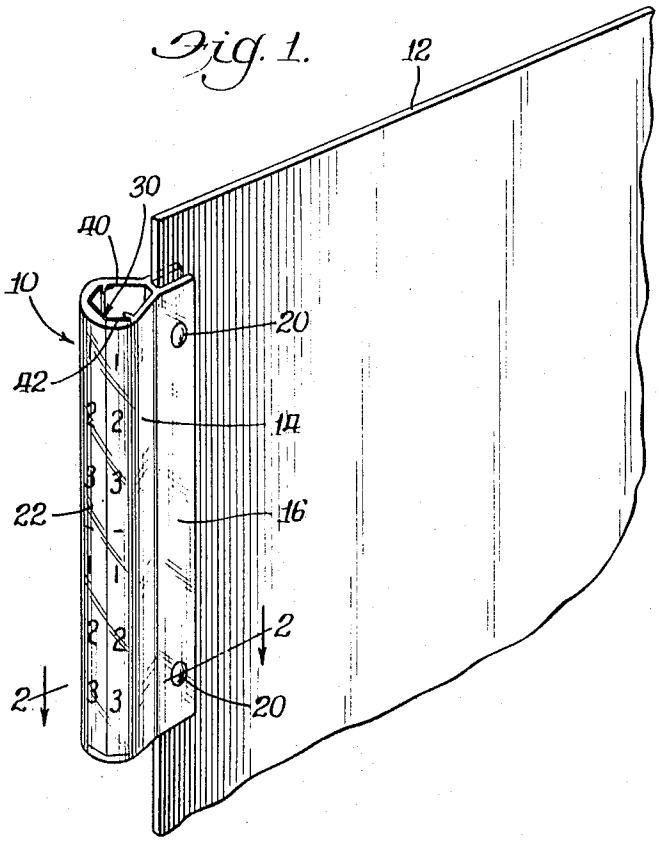


Fig. 3.

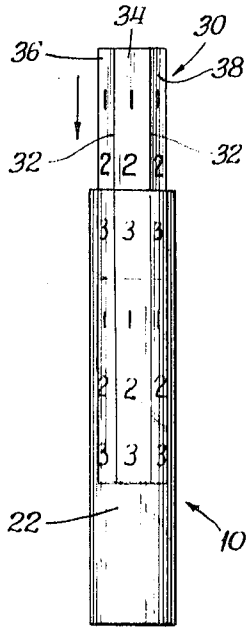


Fig. 2.

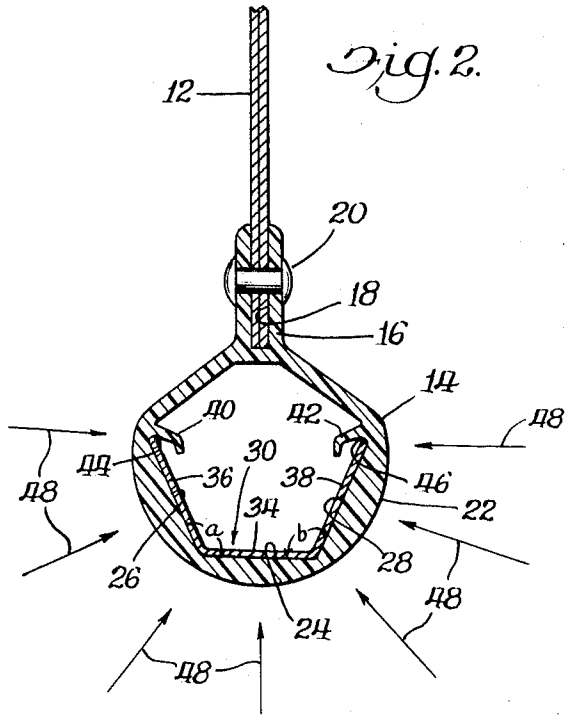
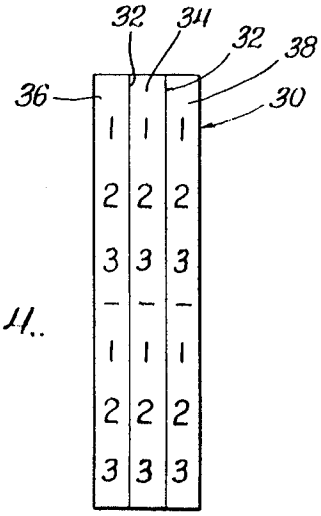


Fig. 4.



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GUIDE TAB

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Guide tabs for use on guide cards wherein indicia carrying means inserted in the transparent guide tabs are viewable from either side of the guide card or from directly in front of the guide cards, that is, from positions anywhere within a 180° arc around the edge of the guide card.

This invention relates to improved tabs for guide or index cards or the like. More particularly, it is concerned with a tab wherein the indicia carrying means are viewable from a plurality of positions.

Devices of this type have been previously devised but have been unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons. In some cases the construction is such that the necessary complete range of angular viewability is not present.

A principal object of this invention is to provide a transparent guide tab which can be attached to the edge of a guide card and be read from the front or either side of the guide card.

Another object is to provide a guide tab of tubular construction into which indicia bearing means can be inserted and positioned so that when attached to a guide card, the indicia can be read continuously from all positions within an arc of substantially 180°, that is, moving from one side of the guide card to the other.

Another object is to provide a guide tab structure having a tubular lens-like body having formed on the inside surface thereof at least three flat coextensive longitudinally extending adjacent flat surfaces defining substantially a half hexagon in transverse section and against which indicia bearing means may be disposed.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will be more readily apparent when read in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a guide tab of the invention mounted on the vertical edge of a guide card;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged plan view in section of the guide tab taken along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a view in elevation of the guide tab of FIG. 1 showing indicia bearing means partially inserted into the guide tab; and

FIG. 4 shows an indicia bearing card of the type to be inserted into the guide tab as shown in FIG. 3.

Referring now to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows a guide tab **10** of the invention attached to the forward vertical edge of a guide card or index card **12**. The guide card **12** here illustrated is of the type used in a vertical file, that is where the guide cards and material to be filed are slid substantially horizontally into and out of a filing cabinet.

The guide tab **10** is a transparent plastic body and comprises a longitudinally extending tubular like head portion **14** to which is attached a depending skirt portion **16**. The tab **10** may be made by molding or formed by extrusion. A groove **18** is formed in and extends the full length of the skirt portion **16** for receiving the edge of the guide card **12** for attachment purposes. The edge of the guide card **12** may be secured in groove **18** by suitable means such as glueing or by rivets **20**.

The head portion **14** of the guide tab is of a generally

tubular structure. One portion thereof defines a substantially semi-cylindrical surface **22** extending the full length of the tab. The inside wall of this tubular structure opposite the semi-cylindrical surface **22** has formed thereon three flat axially extending surfaces **24, 26** and **28** lying adjacent each other with their edges connected. The middle surface **24** lies in a plane substantially normal to the plane of groove **18** and the guide card **12** inserted therein. The surfaces **26** and **28** are connected to the opposed edges of surface **24** and make angles *a* and *b* therewith respectively of approximately 120° as seen from FIG. 2. Thus the three surfaces **24, 26** and **28** together define substantially a half hexagon.

A flexible indicia bearing strip **30** is inserted into the end of head portion **14** as seen in FIG. 3. The strip **30** may be constructed with score lines **32** to facilitate bending the strip into three portions **34, 36,** and **38** of substantially equal width to be positioned respectively against inner surfaces **24, 26** and **28** of the head portion **14**.

Each of the portions **34, 36** and **38** may contain desired indicia. Thus as the position of the viewer with respect to the guide tab varies as indicated by the arrows **48**, the indicia is continuously viewable from one side of the guide card **12** to the other without any interruption as the viewer moves to different positions. To put it another way, at least 180° of viewability is presented.

Abutments **40** and **42** may be formed on the inner wall surface of the head portion **14** along the outer edges **44** and **46** of surfaces **26** and **28** respectively. The abutments **40** and **42** preferably extend the full length of the head portion. It will be apparent from FIG. 2 that the abutments **40** and **42** prevent the transverse or lateral displacement of the strip **30**.

It will be appreciated that the guide tab disclosed herein may also be attached to the upper edge of a guide card intended to be used in a conventional filing cabinet drawer.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been specifically disclosed, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto as other variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art and the invention is to be given its fullest possible interpretation within the terms of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A transparent guide tab comprising:

an elongated transparent tubular body structure having a longitudinally extending axis and open at least at one end said tubular structure being adapted to receive therein indicia bearing means;

means defining an outer substantially semi-cylindrical curved surface extending transversely of said elongated axis;

means defining an inner surface on the inside of said tubular structure

said inner surface means comprising at least three substantially flat axially extending surfaces disposed edge to edge to define substantially one-half of a hexagon in transverse section, each of said three flat surfaces being adapted to have indicia bearing means positioned thereagainst so that said indicia is continuously viewable when viewed through said body structure from the front and from either side of said tab to provide legibility through an arc of at least 180°; and

means associated with said tubular structure for attaching the guide tab to the edge of a guide card.

2. The guide tab of claim **1** including

means formed on the inside of said tubular body structure for positioning said indicia bearing means and

preventing circumferential movement thereof with respect to the tubular body structure.

3. The guide tab of claim 2 wherein

said positioning means includes longitudinally extending abutment means projecting inwardly from the inner surface of said tubular body structure.

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40—16, 23; D 74—3