C. E. COCHRANE.
File-Holder.

No. 216,657. Patented June 17, 1879.

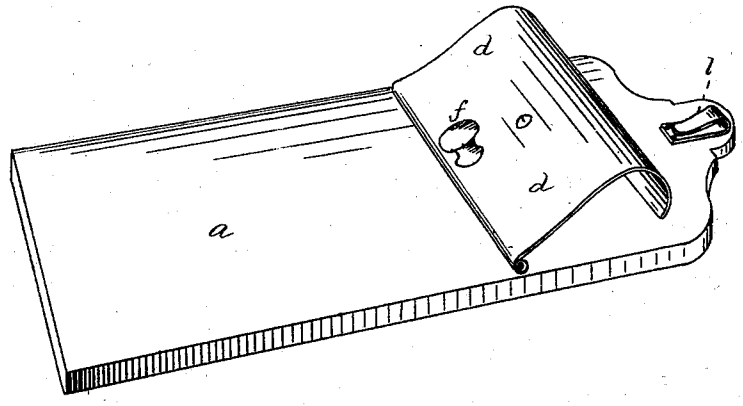


Fig. 1.

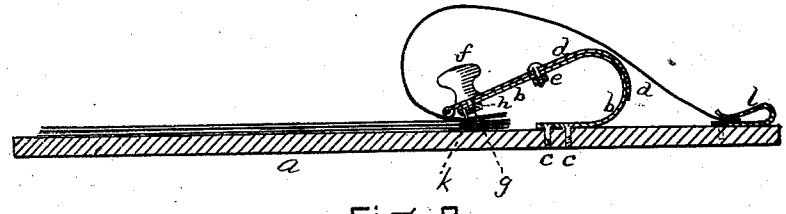


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. COCHRANE, OF RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN FILE-HOLDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **216,657**, dated June 17, 1879; application filed October 12, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. COCHRANE, of Rutherford, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Invoice-Files, of which the following is a specification.

It is considered quite necessary by merchants receiving numerous invoices that the names or headings upon such invoices should be kept out of sight, so that clerks and others may not learn too much about the private business of the firm.

The invoice file or clip below described securely holds the papers, and also hides the headings.

In the accompanying drawings, in which similar letters of reference indicate like parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal section, of an invoice-file embodying my improvement.

a is a flat piece upon which the papers rest, and *b* is a stiff curved spring, secured to the base *a* by means of screws *c c*, or similar devices.

Attached to the spring *b* by means of the nuts *e h*, and conforming to the shape of said spring, is the broad clamp *d*, nearly or quite as wide as the base *a*.

By means of the knob *f*, which is secured by the screw *g*, which passes through clamp *d*, spring *b*, and nut *h*, the wide clamp *d* may be raised so as to slip invoices beneath it. It will be seen that it is sufficiently large to conceal the headings of the invoices, but not cover the items.

In case but one paper is beneath the clamp, it is made still more secure by the points *k*, which, projecting downward from the nut *h*, enter the paper and hold it in place, even if the spring be a trifle weak.

If the paper to be examined should be beneath the top paper, the latter may be laid back and held by the small clamp *l*, as seen in Fig. 2, and the former examined at leisure.

Of course, papers of any kind may be used in connection with this file.

I am aware that invoice-files have been produced which partially hide a portion of the paper held therein. Indeed, that is the case necessarily in most clips.

I am also aware that a paper-clip has been patented in which the front plate or clamp extends the entire length of the base, the base and clamp being practically of the same length.

I do not claim anything shown in the above-named inventions, for the reason that my clamp has for its object not the concealing of the entire paper, and not the concealing of a portion of the heading, nor the revealing of the entire paper, but the hiding of the heading of the bill or invoice and the exposure of the items. The items must be exposed in order to be checked, while the dealer whose name is at the head of the invoice need be known only by the firm or proprietors of the establishment receiving it. Hence my file provides a clamp which extends from one edge of the base to the other, entirely concealing the heading, but leaves enough of the base exposed to reveal the items of an invoice lying upon it.

Having thus fully described my improvement, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The hereinbefore-described improved invoice-file, consisting of the combination, with the base *a* and spring *b*, of the broad clamp *d*, conforming to the shape of said spring, and extending from edge to edge of the base, thus covering the entire width thereof, or nearly so, and but a portion of the length arranged to conceal the headings and expose the items of the invoices held thereby, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the base *a*, spring *b*, and clamp *d*, of the small clamp or spring *l*, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified.

3. In combination with the clamp *d* and spring *b*, the nut *h*, provided with the points *k*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES E. COCHRANE.

Witnesses:

HENRY W. WILLIAMS,

B. W. WILLIAMS.