

No. 717,247.

Patented Dec. 30, 1902.

P. A. McCASKEY.
CREDIT ACCOUNTING APPLIANCE.

(Application filed Sept. 19, 1902.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

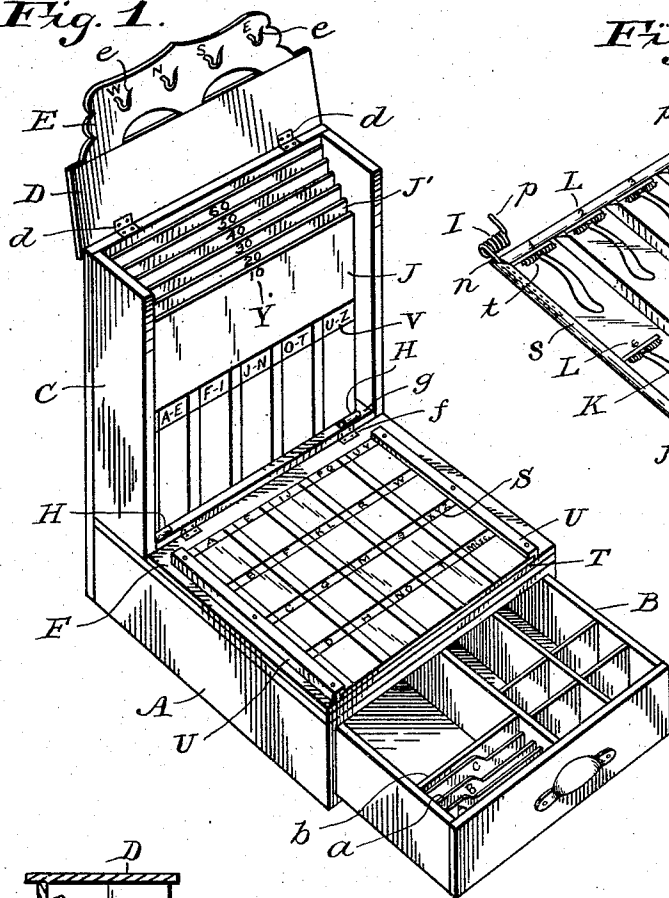


Fig. 2.

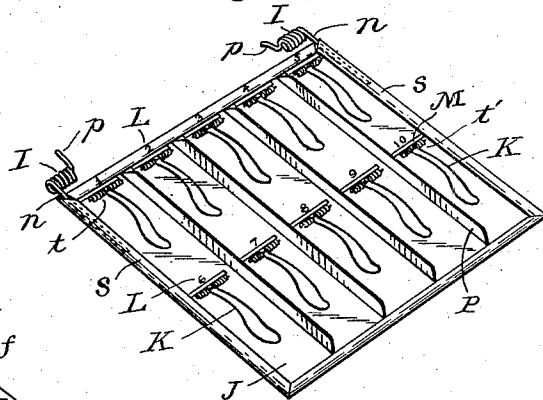


Fig. 3.

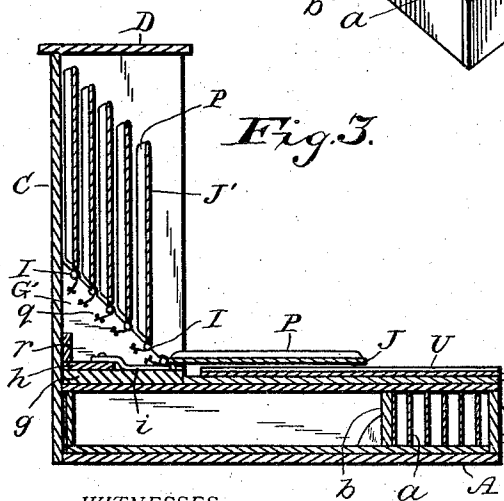
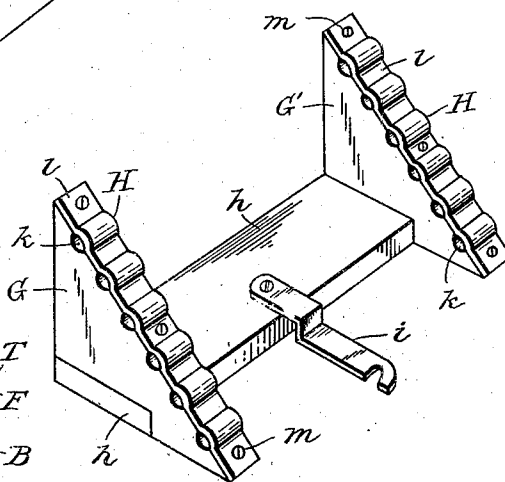


Fig. 4.



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No. 717,247.

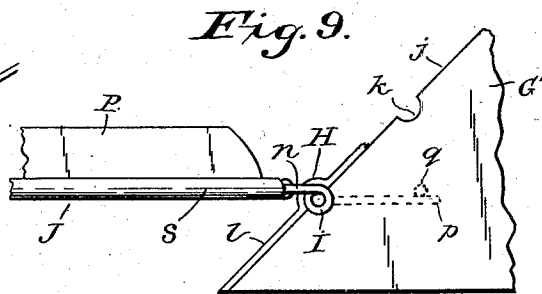
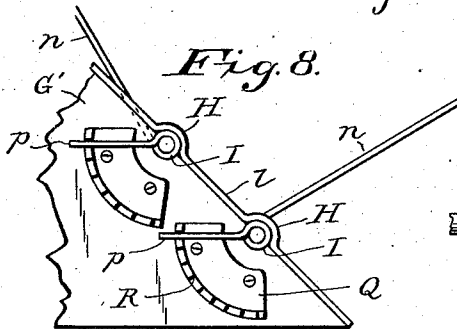
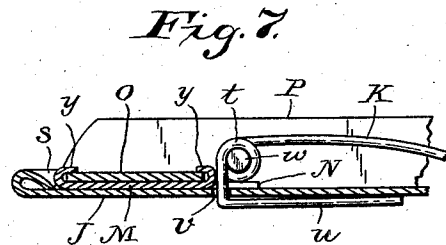
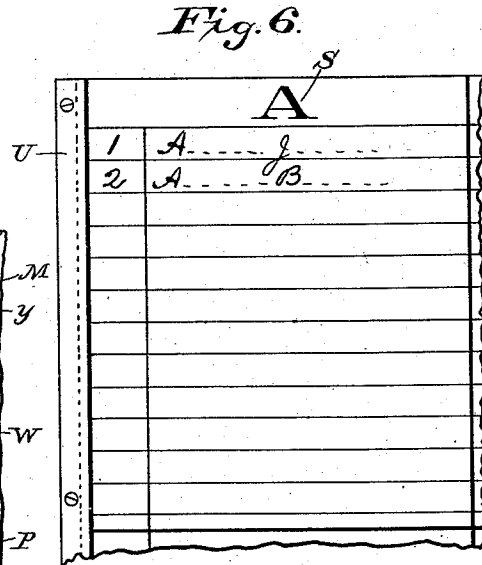
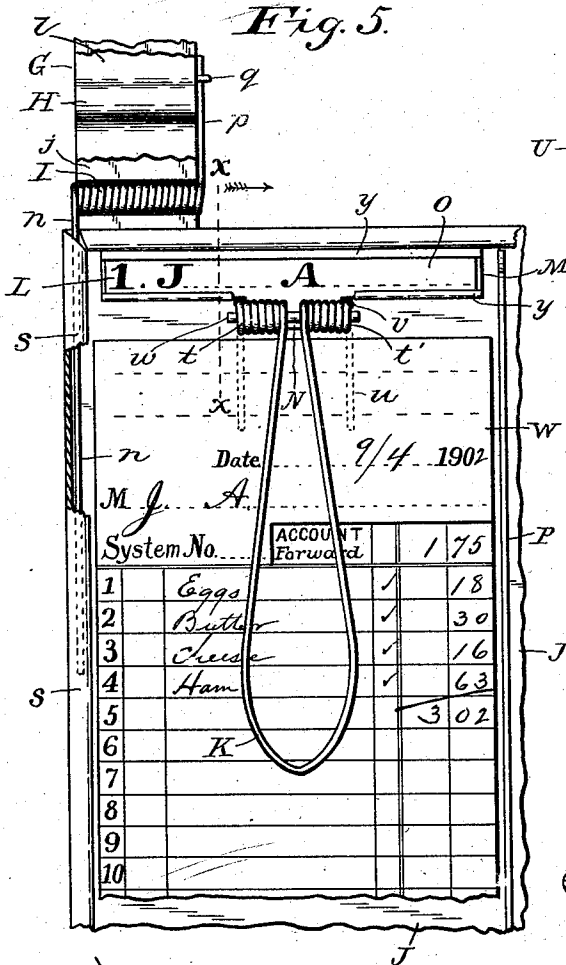
Patented Dec. 30, 1902.

P. A. McCASKEY.
CREDIT ACCOUNTING APPLIANCE.

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

PERRY A. McCASKEY, OF LISBON, OHIO.

CREDIT-ACCOUNTING APPLIANCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 717,247, dated December 30, 1902.

Application filed September 19, 1902. Serial No. 123,889. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PERRY A. McCASKEY, a citizen of the United States; residing at Lisbon, in the county of Columbiana and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Credit - Accounting Appliances; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to appliances for the use of merchants in carrying out a system of keeping accounts against their customers who may buy on credit, the object of the invention being to provide cheap and economical appliances whereby the credit-accounts may be kept accurately and in the least possible amount of time without requiring other entries than substantially those that are ordinarily made when making up and filling the orders for the goods.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction in bill-files and indexes therefor and in the parts and the combination and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter particularly described and claimed.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 represents a bill-file perspective view that is constructed substantially in accordance with my invention, the index being exposed to view and the combined bill and cash drawer being open; Fig. 2, a perspective view of one of the plurality of bill-holders, showing the arrangement of the clamps thereof and the novel means for hinging the holders; Fig. 3, a vertical sectional view longitudinally of the drawer, showing the arrangement of the bill-holders in the filing-case, one of the holders being open for inspection; Fig. 4, a perspective view of the bare bill-holder frame or support for the bill-holders; Fig. 5, a fragmentary plan view of a bill-holder having a bill thereon and a support for the holder and also showing a bill-clamp and an index card and holder; Fig. 6, a fragmentary plan view illustrating the index and the manner of using it; Fig. 7, a fragmentary sectional view as on the line *x x*, showing the details of construction of the index-card holder and the spring for the bill-clamp; Fig. 8, a fragmentary side

view of a portion of the bill-holder frame and spring-hinges for the bill-holders connected therewith, this being preferably the inner side of an end block thereof; and Fig. 9, a fragmentary view of the opposite side of the end block shown in Fig. 8, a bill-holder being shown in connection therewith.

In the drawings similar reference characters designate like parts in the several figures thereof.

In practically carrying out the invention a cabinet-case is provided which preferably embraces two separate principal compartments in separately-formed connected cases, the lower case A being designed to lie horizontally, upon which is mounted the upper case in an upright position. The lower case A has a sliding drawer B, which has indexed partitions *a* and a stop-board *b*, all slidingly fitted into the drawer, so that accumulations of bills may be filed between the partitions. A portion of the drawer may be suitably fitted with cash-receptacles, and the drawer also be conveniently used for holding memorandum-books, blank bills, &c.

The upper case C, as shown, is connected by its back to the lower case A; but it may be made so as to be detachable from the lower case, if preferred, and it stands upon the rear portion of the lower case and has an open front. The top has a lid D, connected to the back of the case C by means of hinges *d*, the lid extending beyond the back of the case, so that when the lid is elevated, as in Fig. 1, it will stand at an inclined angle, leaning rearwardly, and when in this position a hook-board E is detachably connected or so as to be folded to the upper edge thereof, hooks being attached to the board for receiving the bills after the orders may have been made up waiting for delivery, the direction of the destination of the goods being suitably indicated at the hooks, as "North," "South," &c. The hook-board is designed to be placed in the upper case when not in use. The upper case C is usually provided with a front door F, having hinges *f*, especially when the case C is intended to be detachable from the case A and the lid D is employed. If the upper and lower cases are permanently connected together, the lid D may be dispensed with and the board E be connected directly to the top

of the case C and the door F may be dispensed with, in which case the index for the bill-holders may be placed upon the top of the case A instead of the top or inner side of the door F, as shown. The hinges *f* may be attached either to the bottom *g* of the upper case or to other suitable supports.

For supporting and carrying the bill-holders a frame is provided, comprising end blocks G G' and a suitable connecting member *h*, having a latch *i* for holding the frame in the case. The latch may be designed to operate in any well-known manner that may be suitable. The end blocks have inclined tops *j*, in which usually are grooves *k*, extending transversely thereof. The grooves are spanned by arched caps H, which have ends *l*, adapted to be attached to the end blocks by screws *m*, and the caps for each end block are preferably all composed of a single strip of metal and connected together, as shown. Thus a groove and a cap together provide substantially a journal-bearing, or the cap alone may provide the bearing.

The spring-hinges I (or the members which, with the journal-bearings, perform the functions of hinges) are composed of spring-wires closely coiled, so as to neatly fill the openings formed by the grooves and the caps or by the caps alone in which they are mounted. Each hinge has a stem *n* at one end and a stem *p* at the opposite end of the coil thereof, the latter being locked under tension to a side of the end block by a stud *q* or other suitable device, so that the stem *n* may normally be held at an angle nearly corresponding to the plane of the tops of the end blocks and extending upwardly from the coil. A suitable number of bill-holders, as J or J', are suitably attached to the stems *n*, and each holder is thus supported by two spring-hinges or their equivalents. Each holder is in the form of a rectangular plate, preferably of metal, and when properly mounted may either stand vertically in the upper case or lie horizontally upon the lower case. In order to secure the holder-frame against tilting, a suitable block or rib *r* is attached to the back of the upper case, under which the member *h* may be pushed and removably held. The holders J are preferably stiffened by means of beaded edges, and the side edges are preferably so turned over as to form sockets *s*, adapted to receive the stems *n* and frictionally bind them therein.

Each bill-holder is provided with a suitable number of clamps K or paper-clips composed of spring-wires, there being preferably ten arranged in two rows across the holder-plate. Numbers L are placed in the vicinity of the clamps for indexing purposes, and a convenient manner of numbering may include "1" to "10" on the first holder, "11" to "20" on the second holder from the front, and so on. In addition to the numbers the names of the debtors may be written adjacent to the numbers, in which case it is preferable to provide

special facilities therefor, such as removable card-holders M, having tongues N for securing them in position and lips *y*, under which the cards O may be inserted and retained thereby. Each clamp K comprises a long looped finger extending from coils *t t'*, the ends *u* of the wire extending from the coils through openings *v* in the holder J to and against the opposite side thereof, the coils being kept in alinement by bars *w*, forced therein. The tongues N are forced under the coils *t t'*, whereby the holders M are supported detachably. Ribs P are usually attached to the bill-holders as guides for the bills that may be placed under the clamps K, and as bills may accumulate it may be desirable to increase the counterbalance for the bill-holders, in which case plates Q, having teeth R, may be secured to the blocks G G' in lieu of the studs *q*, so that the stems *p* may be adjusted properly and the tensions of the coils of the hinges I graduated.

On the inner side of the front door F or upon the top of the lower case is the index-sheet having the permanent index-letters, as at S. The sheet may be card or paper and is preferably covered by a glass plate T, secured by cleats U. A supplemental index V may be placed on the front of the front holder J, if desired. The bills W may be of any suitable form. Indexing-numbers Y are placed at the forward edges of the bill-holders, at the outer sides thereof, as they stand vertically, the forward holder having the number "10," the second one "20," and so on, advancing by tens successively throughout the series of holders.

It will be understood that the bill-holders may be larger than those illustrated, so as to accommodate fifteen or twenty bills, or in addition to the spaces for bills there may be suitable spaces and clamps arranged for holding long statements of account.

In practical use the bill-holders J normally stand uprightly and may lean toward the back of the case C, the indexing-numbers Y being visible on all the holders, and the holders may be drawn forward, as one may be seen in Fig. 3, to gain access to the bills. The spring-hinges I may be so adjusted that the holders may lie horizontally when thus placed, yet when placed uprightly will so remain. During the movements of the bill-holders the coils of the hinges I will move slightly in their bearings somewhat as a rotative shaft, in effect, although the ends at the stems *p* will be stationary, while the other portions may be more or less strained and relaxed. The form of bill shown is well adapted to be used in connection with the other appliances, as it has a space for carrying forward the balance due to the top of the amounts subsequently charged to the debtor, as will be seen in Fig. 5. By means of carbon-paper the bills are made out in duplicate and the items checked off as the goods are packed for delivery. The hooks *z* are employed for hold-

ng the bills temporarily, and one bill is to be delivered to the debtor while the other is to be placed in its proper place on one of the bill-holders, according to index system. Referring to Fig. 6, it will be seen that on the index "A. J." is entered as number "1," and his bill will be found at that number, as in Fig. 6, on the bill-holder. The bills may be written at any part of the store, the only entries to be made at the cabinet being the old balances and the new footings showing the new balances due.

The advantages of the appliances and the system of accounting in the retail business especially will be obvious from the foregoing.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. Credit-accounting appliances including bill-holders each having stems secured to one edge thereof, the stems provided with elastic portions and supporting the bill-holders, bearing members upon which the elastic portions of the stems are supported, and caps extending over the elastic portions of the stems and retaining the same on the bearing members.

2. Credit-accounting appliances including a frame having inclined end blocks provided with caps, spring-hinges comprising spring-coils mounted on the blocks beneath the caps and having each a fixed stem and a radially-movable stem, and bill-holders attached to the movable stems and thereby supported by means of the spring-hinges.

3. Credit-accounting appliances including a frame having journal-bearings, spring-hinges comprising spring-coils mounted in the bearings and having each a fixed stem and a radially-movable stem at opposite ends thereof, and bill-holders attached to the movable stems and thereby supported by means of the spring-hinges.

4. Credit-accounting appliances including a frame comprising end blocks having bearings at the tops thereof, coiled springs mounted in the bearings and having each an adjustably-fixed stem and a radially-movable stem, caps attached to the frame and retaining the coiled springs in the bearings, and bill-holders attached to the movable stems and thereby supported by means of the coiled springs.

5. Credit-accounting appliances including a frame having end blocks, springs mounted upon the blocks, caps secured to the blocks and extending over portions of the springs, bill-holders secured to and supported entirely by the springs, and means whereby the tensions of the springs may be variably adjusted.

6. Credit-accounting appliances including a frame having end blocks, springs mounted on the blocks, caps extending over portions of the springs and retaining the same on the blocks, bill-holders secured to and supported by the springs and each having bill-clamps and also detail indexing-numbers at one side

and general indexing-numbers at the opposite side thereof, and an index-sheet for the bill-holders.

7. Credit-accounting appliances including a lower case having an opening in the front thereof, a drawer slidingly mounted in the opening, an upper case mounted upon the rear portions of the lower case, a frame mounted in the upper case and having caps secured thereto, springs extending through the caps and retained thereby on the frame, bill-holders secured to and supported by the springs and having index-numbers thereon, an index-sheet mounted on the lower case, and a glass plate mounted upon the index-sheet.

8. Credit-accounting appliances comprising a case, a front door hinged to the case, an indexing-sheet at the inner side of the door, a frame comprising end blocks having inclined tops provided with grooves, caps spanning the grooves and secured to the end blocks, wires coiled in the grooves beneath the caps and having movable stems projecting laterally from the ends of the grooves, bill-holders supported by the wires by means of the movable stems thereof, bill-clamps attached to the holders, and bill-hooks mounted above the case.

9. Credit-accounting appliances comprising a case, a frame mounted in the case and comprising end blocks having inclined tops provided with grooves forming bearings, coiled springs in the bearings and having each a stem extending at a side of one of said blocks and fixed thereto and also having a movable stem, bill-holders attached to and supported by means of the movable stems, caps spanning the coiled springs, clamps secured to the bill-holders, and card-holders secured by means of the clamps to the bill-holders.

10. In credit-accounting appliances, the combination of a case, a hinged front door, a frame comprising end blocks having inclined tops, caps attached to the inclined tops, wires coiled in the caps and having movable stems projecting therefrom, bill-holders supported by the wires by means of the movable stems thereof, bill-clamps attached to the holders, a lid hinged to the case and extending beyond the rear thereof, a removable hook-board attached to the lid, and the hooks attached to the hook-board.

11. In credit-accounting appliances, the combination of a case, a frame mounted in the case, spring-hinges mounted on the frame, bill-holders mounted on the spring-hinges and supported thereby, caps attached to the frame and engaging the spring-hinges, bill-clamps having spring-coils engaging the bill-holders and carried thereby, numbers arranged at the bill-clamps, and ribs attached to the bill-holders between the bill-clamps.

12. In credit-accounting appliances, the combination of a case, a frame mounted in the case and comprising end blocks, teeth projecting from the sides of the end blocks, bill-

holders having clamps thereon, and springs in connection with the bill-holders and having stems engaging the teeth whereby the tension of the springs may be adjusted.

- 5 13. In credit-accounting appliances, the combination of a case, a frame mounted in the case, spring-hinges mounted on the frame, bill-holders mounted on the spring-hinges and having apertures therein, and bill-clamps
10 having spring-coils adjacent to the apertures and also having ends extending through the apertures and against the opposite side of the holders.

14. In credit-accounting appliances, the combination of a case, a frame mounted in 15 the case, spring-hinges mounted on the frame and having projecting stems, and bill-holders having the side edges thereof turned over the stems and thereby supporting the bill-holders. 20

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PERRY A. MCCASKEY.

Witnesses:

BERTHA W. JOHNSON,
JAMES W. CLARK.