

E. INGE.
MECHANICAL DIRECTORY.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 8, 1910.

1,007,286.

Patented Oct. 31, 1911.

Fig. 1.

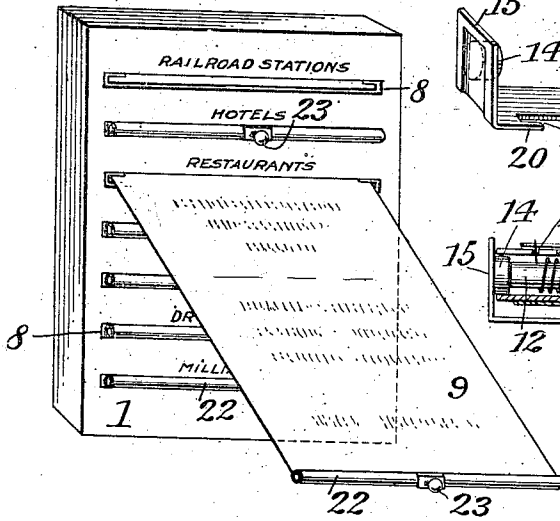


Fig. 6.

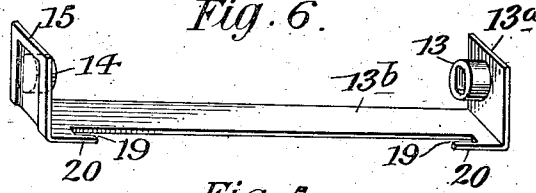


Fig. 5.

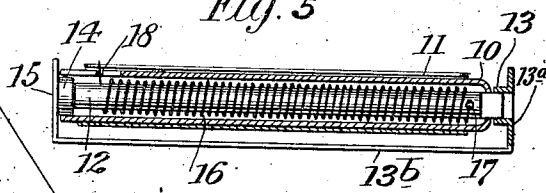


Fig. 4.

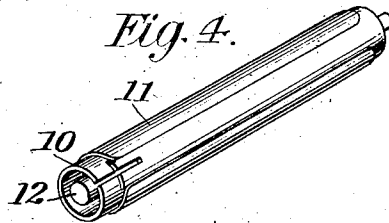


Fig. 2.

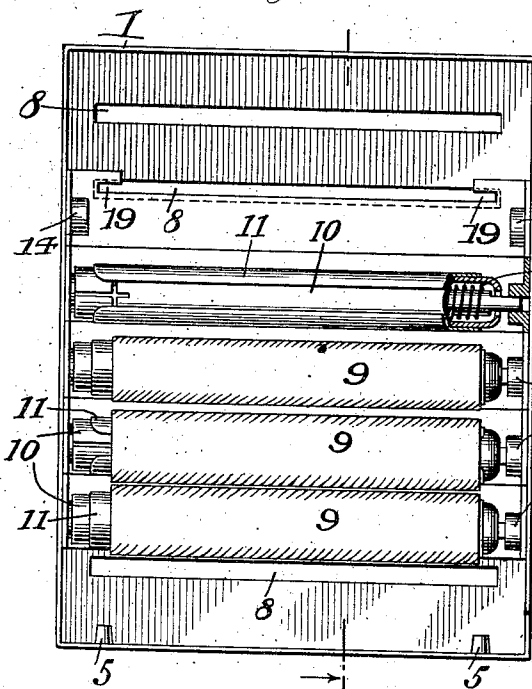
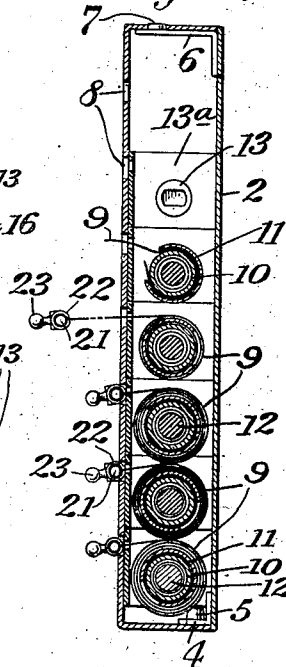


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EUGENE INGE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO STANDARD DIRECTORY COMPANY,
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MECHANICAL DIRECTORY.

1,007,286.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 31, 1911.

Application filed November 8, 1910. Serial No. 591,383.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EUGENE INGE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mechanical Directories, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention, subject of my present application, is in the nature of a "mechanical directory," for taxicabs, and public conveyances of like character, hotel lobbies, railway stations, and places of resort generally, the chief object of the invention being to provide a device which shall contain, in compact and conveniently accessible form, information of the kind usually to be found serviceable in such places, as for example, lists and addresses of theaters and other places of amusement, shops of various kinds, dressmakers, tailors, haberdashers, restaurants, etc.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the kind mentioned which shall be compact in form, so as to occupy the minimum amount of space, and simple in construction, so as to be as free as possible from liability of derangement or other injury by careless usage.

To these and other ends the invention consists in the novel features of construction and combinations of elements hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention will be readily understood from a more or less detailed description of the preferred embodiment. The same is illustrated in the annexed drawing, and referring now thereto. Figure 1 shows the device in perspective, with one of the information or directory strips drawn out of the casing. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation with the back of the casing removed to show the interior parts. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line 3-3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 shows in perspective one of the spring rollers on which the directory strips are wound. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of one of the spring rollers and its carrier. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the roller carriers.

The outer casing 1, which incloses and protects the operative parts, has a removable back or closure 2, provided with brackets 4 fitting over studs 5 on the bot-

tom of the casing, and a spring latch 6 having a stud 7 engaging the top of the casing in a suitable aperture. When it is desired to remove the closure the stud 7 is pressed down, thereby releasing the stud from its socket or aperture and allowing the closure to be swung rearwardly off the studs 5.

The front wall of the casing is formed with a suitable number of horizontal slots 8, arranged one above the other in vertical series, as shown. Immediately back of these slots, and in register therewith, so to speak, is a series of winding rollers, and on each roller is wound an "information" or "directory" strip, 9, of cloth, stout paper, or other suitable material, the free or outer end of each strip being passed through the adjacent slot to the outside of the casing, where it may be conveniently grasped by the hand. On these strips the information which the device is intended to provide is printed or otherwise displayed, and if desired the nature of the information on the individual strips may be indicated by suitable labels on the front of the casing adjacent to the respective slots, as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

Each winding roller comprises a cylinder 10, to which the information strip is fastened by wrapping it partially around the cylinder and then slipping over the wrapped portion a clamping or binding member 11, of spring metal, as will be readily understood. The cylinder itself is hollow, and surrounds a shaft 12 on which the cylinder is adapted to rotate. One end of the shaft extends outside the cylinder, as shown, and is squared or flattened to fit a slot or recess in a supporting lug 13 mounted on the upturned end 13^a of a U-shaped carrier 13^b made of spring metal, while the opposite end of the cylinder fits rotatably over a supporting lug 14 on the other upturned end 15 of the carrier. Encircling the shaft is a coil spring 16, one end of which engages the shaft in an aperture 17 and the other the adjacent end of the cylinder in a slot 18.

From the foregoing it will be seen that, the spring being properly arranged, the unwinding of the information strip in drawing it out through the casing-slot will rotate the cylinder about the shaft and put the spring under tension, so that upon releasing the strip the spring will rotate the

cylinder in the reverse direction and rewind the strip on the cylinder. As will be seen, the roller construction by which this operation is effected is simple and for that reason is but little to be deranged. At the same time it is capable of ready dismemberment, for inspection, repair, etc., by springing the ends of the carrier outwardly to release the lugs 13 and 14, after which the cylinder may be slipped off its shaft. The edges of the information or directory strips 9 pass through notches or recesses 19 in the carriers 13^b, said notches being formed by overhanging lugs 20. The outer or free end of each strip is formed with a loop, through which is thrust a tightly fitting rod 21, and over the whole is passed a slotted sleeve 22, provided with a knob 23 for convenient grasping by the hand. The sleeves 22 are small enough to pass easily through the slots 8, but not through the spaces bounded by the lugs 20, so that when the carriers are arranged in the casing, the sleeves will be held on the outside of the casing, as shown in Fig. 3; the proportions of the parts being such that when the carriers are stacked one above the other as in the figure just mentioned the notches 19 will be in register with the slots 8. The closure 2 holds the carriers flat against the front wall, but when the closure is removed the carriers can be taken out by withdrawing them rearwardly, the sleeves 22 passing freely through their respective slots 8.

As previously stated, the device is a mechanical directory, and is designed especially with a view to use in taxicabs, hacks, and other public conveyances and places of resort. For such purposes it provides useful information in convenient and accessible form. At the same time its simplicity of construction makes it but little subject to derangement, and the directory or information strips are themselves effectually protected from injury when not in use.

The device herein specifically illustrated and described is the preferred embodiment of the invention, which may, however, be embodied in other forms without departure from its proper spirit and scope.

I claim:

1. In a mechanical directory of the kind described, in combination, a carrier comprising a strip of spring metal having angularly disposed ends, and provided with inwardly disposed lugs defining notches adjacent to said ends, a winding roller positioned between said ends, a directory strip wound on the roller and having its edges passing through said notches, a member mounted on the free end of the directory strip to prevent said free end from passing through the said notches, and supporting devices for the roller, carried by the angularly disposed ends of the carrier and disengageable from the roller by flexing of the carrier.

2. In a mechanical directory of the kind described, in combination, a casing, a carrier comprising a strip of spring metal having angularly disposed ends and supported in said casing, inwardly disposed lugs on said carrier defining notches adjacent to said ends, a winding roller positioned between said ends, a directory strip wound on the roller and having its edges passing through said notches, a member mounted on the free end of the directory strip to prevent the free end of said strip from passing through said notches, the lugs defining said notches allowing the directory strip to be crimped whereby the same may be removed from the slot for the purpose set forth.

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

EUGENE INGE.

Witnesses:

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