June 15, 1948. P. R. SMITH 2,443,522

INDEX CARD AND SIGNAL

Filed Nov. 13, 1944

Fig. 1.

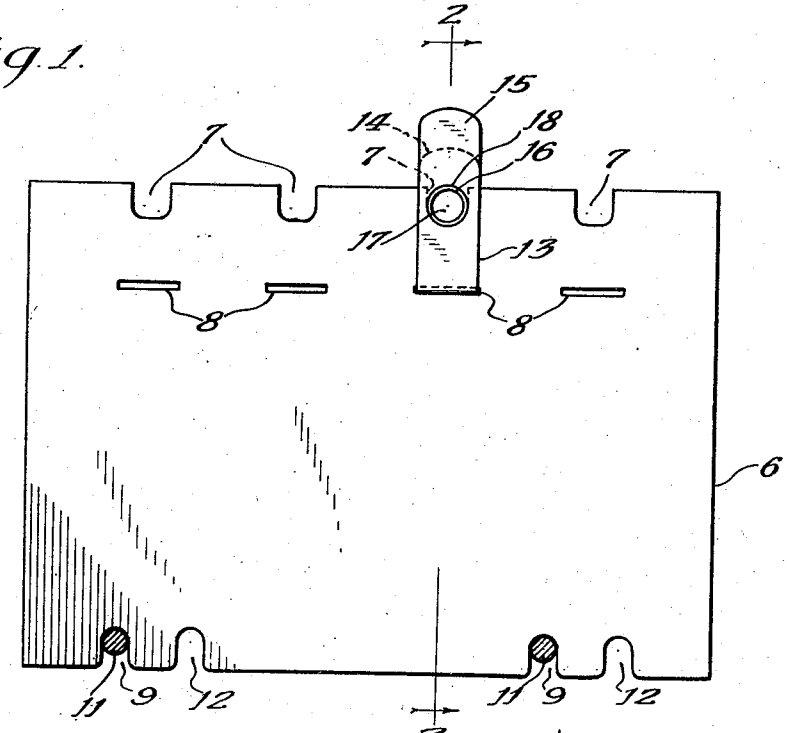


Fig. 3.

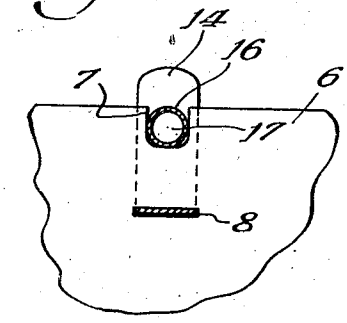


Fig. 4.

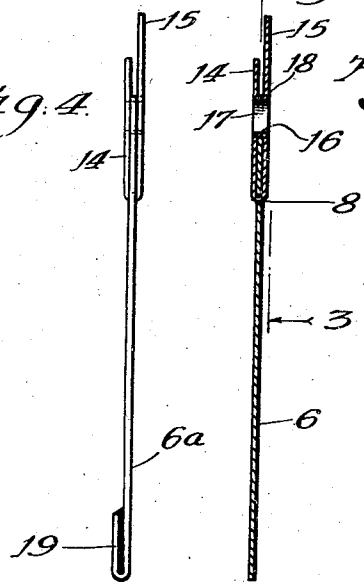


Fig. 2.

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INDEX CARD AND SIGNAL

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4 Claims. (Cl. 129—16.8)

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This invention relates to index cards and is more particularly concerned with index cards provided with signals for detachable engagement at spaced intervals to the upper edges thereof, and in which the signals are provided with apertures for engagement by a selector rod for selecting certain cards from a card index file.

In the use of a card index system in which the cards are provided with signals of the type hereinafter described, the signals are mounted in predetermined positions along the upper edges of their respective cards to permit the selection of cards bearing corresponding information by merely inserting a selector rod through the apertures of the aligning signals. This type of index system is well known and the present invention is more particularly concerned with an improved signal and card construction which facilitates the mounting of the signals on the cards.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a signal construction having a smooth outline, free of shoulders or other protuberances which might interfere with the replacement of a card in a card index file.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved means for mounting signals on cards in order to prevent relative movement between same. In some forms of signal mountings for index cards, the signals are not always tightly engaged to the cards and thereby permit misalignment of the selector rod apertures provided in the signals.

This invention further contemplates the provision of a pair of recesses in the lower edge of each index card for mounting same upon longitudinally extending rods of a card index file. If desired, additional recesses may be formed in the bottom edges of the index cards for lateral adjustment of same with respect to the longitudinal bars.

This invention further contemplates the provision of index cards provided with means along the bottom edges for increasing the thicknesses thereof to correspond with the thickness of the signal attached to the upper edge of the card. The cards are thus disposed in parallel alignment within an index card file and do not have a tendency to fan out at the upper edges thereof.

This invention embodies other novel features, details of construction and arrangement of parts which are hereinafter shown and described in the specification and claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view showing an index card and signal embodying features of this invention.

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Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an end elevational view showing a modified form of this invention in which the lower edge of the card is thickened to correspond with the thickness of the signal mounted on the upper edge thereof.

Referring now to the drawings for a better understanding of this invention, the index card is shown as preferably comprising a square or rectangular sheet 6 of flexible material, such as cardboard, formed with a plurality of U-shaped recesses 7 in its upper edge. A plurality of signal engaging apertures 8 are formed in the sheet adjacent the upper edge thereof and disposed in vertical alignment with their respective recesses 7. A pair of recesses 9 are formed in the lower edge of the card to receive a pair of record holder bars 11. Additional recesses 12 may be formed in the lower edge of the card, if desired, for adjustably positioning the cards laterally.

A signal 13 formed of strip material is provided for mounting in one of the recesses 8 and has its ends 14 and 15 upturned and disposed in spaced parallel relation for tight engagement against opposite sides of the index card 6. The leg 14 is formed with an inwardly pressed annular flange 16 to define a selector rod recess 17. The outer periphery of the annular flange 16 is formed to snugly engage within the wall of a recess 18 formed in the leg 15, and the outer end of said flange terminates flush with the outer surface of the leg 15.

By mounting the signal in one of the apertures 8 and providing an annular flange thereon for engagement with the side walls of a recess 7, the signal is firmly secured against relative movement with respect to its index card and insures that the selector rod apertures 17 will always be in proper alignment throughout the index file.

It will also be observed that the signal is formed free of objectionable shoulders which might interfere with re-insertion of the cards in the index file.

By thickening the lower edge of the index cards at 19 to correspond to the thickness of the signals, as shown in Fig. 4, the several cards within the index file are maintained in parallel alignment and do not have a tendency to fan out at the upper edges thereof.

While this invention has been shown in but

two forms, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited but is susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a device of the character described, an index card, said card having recesses formed in the upper edge thereof, said card having apertures disposed in spaced horizontal alignment adjacent the upper edge thereof, said apertures being in vertical alignment with their respective recesses, a signal mounted in a selected one of the apertures provided in the index card, said signal comprising a strip of material having its ends bent upwardly into engagement against opposite sides of the index card, one of the ends of said strip having an aperture defined by an annular flange, and the other end of said strip having an aperture receiving said flange, said annular flange being in engagement within the corresponding recess formed in the upper edge of the index card.

2. In a device of the character described, an index card, said card having recesses formed in the upper edge thereof, said card having apertures disposed in spaced horizontal alignment adjacent the upper edge thereof, said apertures being in vertical alignment with their respective recesses, a signal mounted in a selected one of the apertures provided in the index card, said signal comprising a strip of material having its ends bent upwardly into engagement against opposite sides of the index card, one of the ends of said strip having an aperture defined by an annular flange, and the other end of said strip having an aperture receiving said flange, said annular flange being in engagement within the corresponding recess formed in the upper edge of the index card, said index card having its lower edge corresponding in thickness to the thickness of said signal.

3. In a device of the character described, an index card formed with a recess in its upper edge and a cooperating aperture, a signal comprising a strip of flexible material mounted in said aperture and bent on itself to form legs arranged in spaced parallel alignment for snug clamping engagement against opposite sides of said index card, an annular flange pressed inwardly from one of said legs for engagement within the recess of said card, said flange defining a selector rod aperture, and the other of said legs having an aperture disposed in alignment with said selector rod aperture.

4. In a device of the character described, an index card formed with a recess in its upper edge and a cooperating aperture, a signal comprising a strip of flexible material mounted in said aperture and bent on itself to form legs of unequal length arranged in spaced parallel alignment for snug clamping engagement against opposite sides of said index card, an annular flange pressed inwardly from one of said legs for engagement within the recess of said card, said flange defining a selector rod aperture, and the other of said legs having an aperture receiving and snugly engaging said annular flange.

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