E. R. PROBERT.

FILING DEVICE FOR LETTERS AND THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 11, 1912.

1,068,819. Patented July 29, 1913

Fig. 1

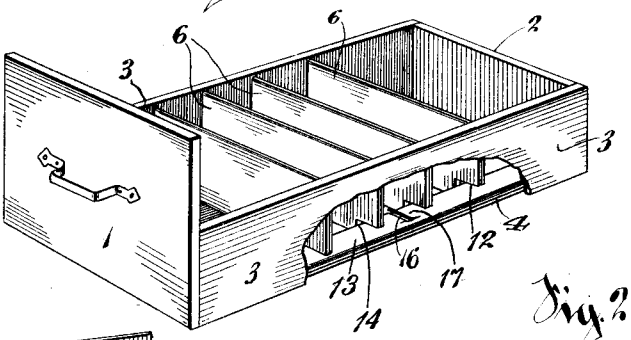


Fig. 3

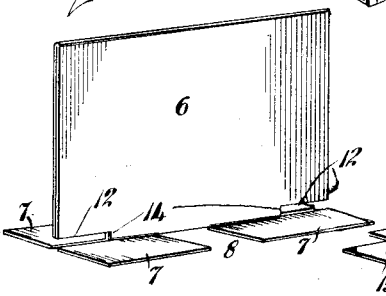
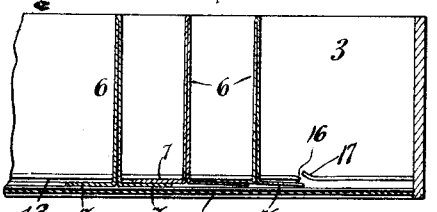


Fig. 2



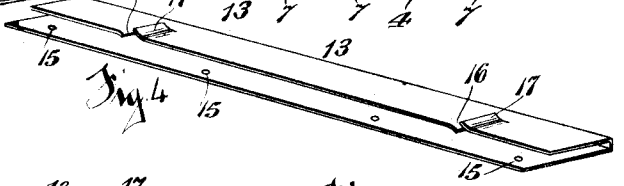


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

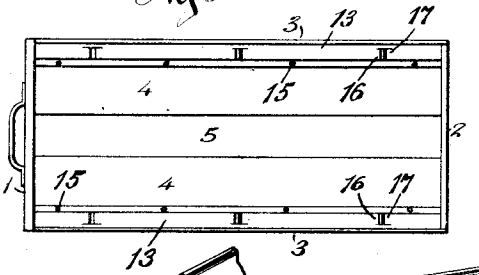


Fig. 6

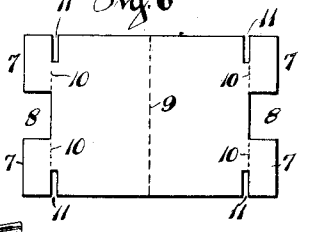
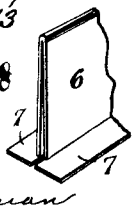


Fig. 8



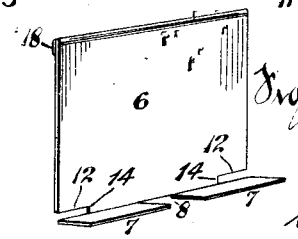


Fig. 7

Witnesses
Olivere Garman
Loretta Luck

Inventor
Edwin R. Probert,
by John Elias Jones,
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN R. PROBERT, OF COVINGTON, KENTUCKY.

FILING DEVICE FOR LETTERS AND THE LIKE.

1,068,819. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1913.

Application filed November 11, 1912. Serial No. 730,796.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN R. PROBERT, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Covington, in the county of Kenton and State of Kentucky, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Filing Devices for Letters and the Like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to correspondence files and especially to those for use in containing cards and letters in convenient position for ready insertion and reference, as well as desired withdrawal.

The object of the invention is to provide a filing device with transverse slidable partitions that adapt the cards or letters to be supported or held in vertical position free from tilting, sagging or falling flat to the bottom of the receptacle and, also, to provide inner longitudinal channel-irons or guides along the opposite sides of the floor or bottom of the receptacle to properly support each of the transverse partitions at any desired point between the opposite ends of the receptacle and without any limiting means between said opposite ends of the receptacle and, also, without necessity of otherwise supporting either of said partitions excepting by its own integral base that engages said inner longitudinal supporting channel-irons or guides.

The invention consists in certain novel features of structure that comprehend the said transverse partitions and their supporting channel-irons or guides, such as will be hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims that follow.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved filing device showing the near side broken out between its ends to show the lower interior structure of the partitions and guides; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section showing the broken-off rear end of the filing device; Fig. 3, a perspective view of one form of the transverse partitions with a double-thickness body portion and oppositely-extended or double supporting feet; Fig. 4, a detail perspective view showing one of the preferred forms of channel-irons or side-guides used in my device herein; Fig. 5, a plan view of the device, omitting the partitions but showing the inner channel-irons or side-guides in the bottom of the receptacle; Fig. 6, a plan view of a sheet-metal blank showing the manner in which it is cut preparatory to forming it into one of the double-footed partitions, the dotted-line transversely across the center of the sheet showing where the sheet is bent to form the double body portion of the partition and the other dotted-lines showing where the metal is bent in forming the double or oppositely-extended feet of the partition; Fig. 7, a perspective view of one of the transverse partitions showing its body portion as of a single thickness of metal and with but a single spaced pair of feet extended from the lower end of the body portion and especially adapted for narrow or light card index-files; and Fig. 8, a perspective view of another form of transverse partition, made narrower than that seen in Fig. 3 and without the overhanging opposite ends to its body portion.

In Figs. 3, 5, 6 and 7 I have shown the receptacle and partitions in the form used for card correspondence, wherein a central longitudinal slot is provided in the bottom of the box or receptacle and corresponding notches or open slots are made centrally in the feet of the partitions to accommodate the lower central extensions ordinarily used in card-files.

1 indicates the front wall, 2 the rear wall, 3 each of the two side walls and 4 the bottom of the box or receptacle for holding the card or the letter correspondence or bills.

5 indicates a longitudinal slot along the center of the bottom 4 and adapted for engagement by the central, lower extension on the cards when the device is used as a card-file.

Ordinarily the bottom of the box is solid or intact for letter correspondence.

6 indicates each one of a series of transverse partitions adapted for use in the box or receptacle in separating and supporting the cards, letters, bills or other similar correspondence in vertical position.

7, 7 indicate oppositely-extended feet along the lower edge or bottom of each partition 6, and 8 indicates an ordinary central, open slot or notch made in said feet for use, more particularly, when cards are used in the file that have ordinary central lower extensions. I do not confine myself, however, to using said notches or open slots 8

in the feet 7 of the partitions, especially for letters and bills that are larger than cards and then the bottom of the box or receptacle is made intact, without the central longitudinal slot 5 seen in Fig. 5.

The sheet-metal blank seen in Fig. 6 shows the manner in which the metal is cut and prepared for forming the double-footed partition seen in Fig. 3, the said metal being bent along the central dotted-line 9 to form a double-thickness body portion of the partition and, also, bent along the dotted-lines 10 to form the feet 7. Open slots 11 are made inwardly from the longitudinal side edges of the metal blank seen in Fig. 6, whereby horizontal openings 12 are provided at the opposite lower ends or corners of the partition 6 for the purpose hereinafter described.

13 indicates each one of two channel-irons that are placed along and upon the opposite longitudinal edges of the bottom of the box or receptacle to form horizontal guide-ways for the engagement of that portion of the feet 7 that extends beyond the inner shoulders 14 of the openings 12 of said partitions 6. These channel-irons are preferably made of sheet-metal whose bases are broader than their upper overhanging portions, as best seen in Fig. 4, whereby tacks or the like can be conveniently driven into the holes 15 for securing said channel-irons in place in the bottom of the box. The said overhanging portions of the channel-irons are preferably provided with transverse slits 16, with the metal bent slightly downward along one edge and with the other edge 17 bent slightly upward to provide convenient entrances for the feet 7 of the partitions when it is desired to insert such partitions in place for use or, on the other hand, to conveniently remove them when desired. In the plan view, Fig. 5, it will be seen how the upwardly-turned edges or lips 17 of the slits 16 are disposed in the box or receptacle, whereby the partitions can be conveniently engaged with the channel-irons or guides from either end of the box or at one or a number of points between said ends, the same forming an important feature of the invention herein especially when there is no specific device between the opposite ends of the box for limiting the movement of the partitions in either direction.

It is obvious that the partitions 6 can be made of a single thickness and with feet extended in one direction only, as seen in Fig. 7, the single thickness being adapted to supporting correspondence of light weight, while the double thickness is adapted to support correspondence of larger size and weight. In this single-thickness body portion 6, shown in Fig. 7, the upper edge of the metal is bent over upon itself, as shown at 18, to stiffen said upper edge and, at the same time, present a rounded edge instead of a sharp single one that might injure the hands and the correspondence.

In Fig. 8, I have shown how the partitions can be made without the lower side openings 12, but with feet extended longitudinally beyond the side edges of the partitions, which structure is quite simple and effective and there is no part of the body portion of the partitions liable to contact with the upper face of either of the overhanging portions of the channel-irons, especially when said overhanging portions contain the flare-edged entrance slits 16.

It will be observed, in Fig. 2, how the feet 7 of the partitions may overlap each other by widening the space between the bottom and overhanging portion of each of the side channel-irons or guides and adapting the box or receptacle to the use of a greater number of partitions for supporting correspondence at lesser intervals.

The partitions can be readily removed from place between the opposite ends of the box or receptacle or a greater number of them may be used therein, as desired, and all to suit the character of the letters or other matter to be filed, and the manner in which they are to be filed. No other support is necessary for the partitions than the engagement of the opposite ends of their feet under the overhanging portions of the channel-irons or guides and there is no need of any definite limiting or stop device in the box or receptacle for said partitions that are adapted to be conveniently drawn or slid lengthwise of the box to suit the amount or thickness of letters or other correspondence placed between them.

In the use of the partitions herein it will be clearly seen that no follower will be necessary, each of such partitions practically constituting a follower of itself, its oppositely-extended feet engaging to sufficient frictional extent with the channel-irons to prevent accidental slipping in either direction. The slits 16 at the opposite ends of the receptacle are so spaced away from such ends that they allow the double-footed base of each partition to readily clear and be inserted from either end of said receptacle when desired.

I claim:—

1. A filing device comprising a receptacle having a suitable bottom, inwardly-open channel-irons forming horizontal guide-ways that are arranged within said receptacle along and upon the opposite longitudinal edges of said bottom, a series of transverse partitions having open slots provided at the opposite ends of their lower edges, and lower horizontal flanges or supporting-feet whose opposite ends, beneath said open slots, slidingly-engage said channel-irons.

2. A filing device comprising a box or re-

ceptacle having a suitable bottom, channel-irons secured along and upon the opposite longitudinal edges of the bottom of the box or receptacle and having their overhanging portions slitted transversely and with the edges of such slits flared in opposite directions upwardly and downwardly, a series of transverse partitions having open slots at their lower edges, and horizontal bases or feet whose opposite ends are adapted to engage said overhanging slitted portions of said channel-irons.

3. A filing device comprising a box or receptacle having a suitable bottom, channel-irons forming horizontal guide-ways along and upon the opposite longitudinal edges of said bottom and transverse partitions each of which has an upright body portion and lower flanges or feet arranged at right-angles to said body portion and having open slots provided at the opposite ends of such body portion whereby the said feet are adapted for sliding engagement with said channel-irons or guide-ways.

EDWIN R. PROBERT.

Witnesses:
JOHN ELIAS JONES,
LORETTA LUCK.