June 15, 1943. J. M. HURLEY 2,321,682

LETTER FILE

Original Filed May 27, 1940

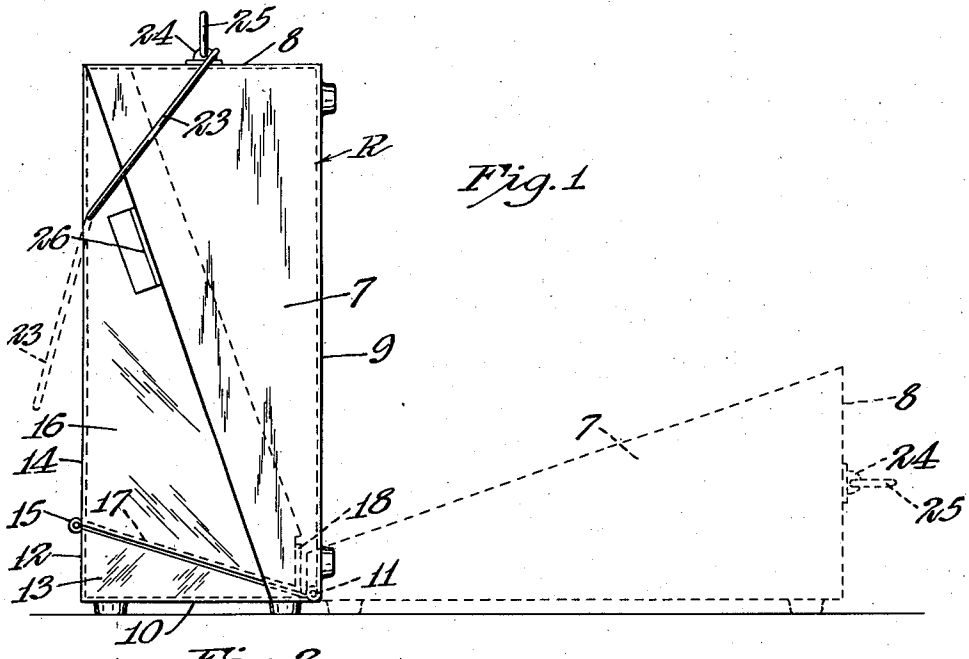


Fig. 1

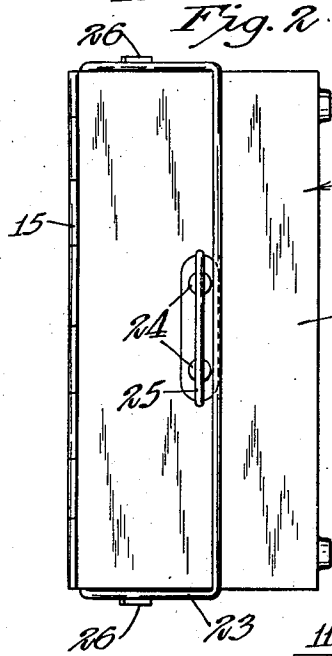


Fig. 2

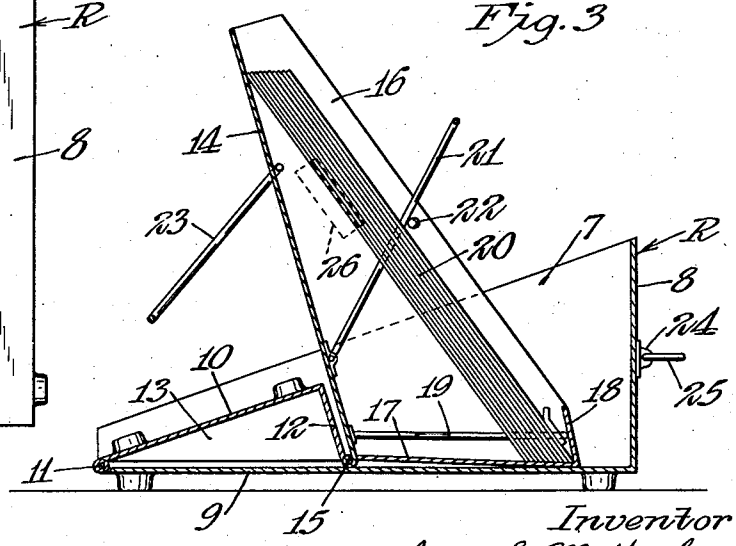


Fig. 3

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LETTER FILE

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Original application May 27, 1940, Serial No. 337,453. Divided and this application September 14, 1942, Serial No. 458,208

7 Claims. (Cl. 129—43)

This invention relates to card files and is particularly adapted for files which can be conveniently transported and also conveniently opened to provide a ready reference file wherein the file cards and papers will not become disarranged while being transported. This application is a divisional application carved out of application Serial No. 337,453, entitled "Card file," filed in my name on May 27, 1940, which latter application has since matured into Patent No. 2,298,128, issued October 6, 1942.

An object of my invention is to provide a card file of this type which can be completely closed to protect the contents of the file and which, when opened, will present the contents in such position that they can be readily referred to.

A further object of the invention is to provide a portable card file including a receptacle and a closure wherein the closure is movable relative to the receptacle but connected thereto to provide a convenient unitary structure.

These and other objects and advantages will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the views, and, in which—

Fig. 1 is an end elevation of an embodiment of the invention, the full line position showing the device closed and the dotted line position showing it partially opened;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device closed; and

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the device showing it in completely opened position.

Referring to the drawing, there is shown a receptacle R which includes a pair of inclined side walls 7 rigidly connected at their high ends by a wall 8. The side walls incline downwardly nearly to the bottom 9 of the receptacle and across the left hand end of the bottom, as viewed in Fig. 7, there is a wall 10 hingedly connected by hinge 11 to the low ends of the side walls 7. Opposite from the hinged edge of the wall 10 is an up-turned portion 12 and the end wall 10 has a pair of triangular wall sections 13 which incline from the edge of the up-turned portion 12 to the hinge 11. As will readily be seen from Fig. 3, the hinged receptacle wall 10 may be swung inwardly between the main receptacle side walls 7.

A closure 14 is connected by a hinge 15 to the edge of the angularly bent wall portion 12, and, as indicated in Fig. 3, the closure 14 fits in between the receptacle walls 7. The closure 14 has a pair of inclined side walls 16 which at their high portions are connected by a cross plate 17, said plate having a flange portion 18 positioned substantially parallel to the main closure 14. Extending between the lower end of the closure 14, as viewed in Fig. 7, and the flange 18, is a file card receiving rod 19 adapted to receive a group of cards 20. Of course, suitable means is provided for releasing at least one end of the rod 18 to permit perforated file cards to be slipped on the rod. A substantially U-shaped wire element 21 is pivotally connected to the inner side of the closure 14, as shown, and the member 21 is adapted to fit around a stack of cards 20. As indicated in Fig. 3, the U-shaped wire element 21 is prevented from falling downwardly by a pair of oppositely disposed inward projections 22. The wire 21 may be forced downwardly past these projections, however, when it is desired to swing one or more of the file cards outwardly from the others so that an intermediate card can be readily viewed.

When the device is swung from the open position of Fig. 3 to the closed position as shown in full lines in Fig. 1, the closure member 14 is swung upwardly to raise the hinged receptacle wall 10 to a vertical position and thereupon the closure member 14 is swung downwardly to a substantially horizontal position. A U-shaped bar 23 which is hinged to the closure 14 thereupon can be swung over the receptacle end wall 8 and sprung over a pair of rounded knobs 24 on the outer side of the end wall 8 to lock the device in closed position. The knobs 24 also pivotally support a bail shaped handle 25 whereby the device when positioned in upright relation, as shown in full lines in Fig. 1, can be readily carried as is a suit case. The free end of the closure 14 is prevented from dropping into the receptacle by means of outwardly projecting flanges 26 attached to walls 16 and which engage the inclined edges of the receptacle walls 7. Thus the device is locked securely and provides a substantially portable file structure which can be easily opened and placed in position for use.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have provided a portable card file structure which can be completely closed so that the contents cannot be injured by dust or other means, and which, at the same time can be quickly and conveniently opened and set up for use. The several parts are so interconnected that they provide a unitary structure and there are no disconnected parts to become misplaced and consequently the structure is such that it is

of particular convenience for use by traveling men who might have to quickly refer to records in motor vehicles or at customer stops.

It should be noted that when the parts of the device are positioned as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 ready access may be had to the cars **20** for reference and that additional cards, papers or other matter may be temporarily stowed in the receptacle R for reference and use without danger of such matter being blown away by the wind.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the various parts without departing from the scope of the present invention, which generally stated, consists in the matter shown and described and set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A card file comprising a box-like receptacle having a hinged end wall adapted to swing inwardly between adjacent receptacle walls, and a closure adapted to fit between adjacent receptacle walls and hingedly connected to said hinged end wall.

2. The structure defined in claim 1, and card file holding means secured to the inner side of said receptacle closure.

3. The structure defined in claim 1, and card file holding means secured to the inner side of said receptacle closure, said holding means including an element movable against a stack of cards to hold them against disarrangement when not in use.

4. The structure defined in claim 1, and means on said closure spaced from the point of connection between said closure and said hinged end wall to prevent said closure from falling into said receptacle, and means for securing said closure and hinged end wall against swinging movement relative to the remainder of said receptacle.

5. A file comprising a main receptacle having inclined side walls, a bottom wall and an end wall set at right angles to the bottom wall and connecting the high edges of the side walls, an angular end closure pivotally connected to said receptacle at its end opposite said end wall and a top closure pivotally connected to said end closure, substantially triangular shaped side plates connected to said top closure and said end closure, said top closure being of such a width as to fit between the side walls of said main receptacle, and means preventing said top closure from dropping downwardly beyond a position substantially parallel to said bottom wall when said end closure is set at right angles to said bottom wall and said top closure is set approximately parallel to said bottom wall.

6. The structure defined in claim 5, and a cross plate set at an obtuse angle relative to said top closure and joining the same at its point of hinged connection with said end closure and forming a base for the holding of cards and the like within said top closure at certain times.

7. The structure defined in claim 5, a cross plate set at an obtuse angle relative to said top closure and joining the same at its point of hinged connection with said end closure and forming a base for the holding of cards and the like within said top closure at certain times, and a U-shaped member pivotally secured to the inner side of said top closure to assist in retaining the cards therein.

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