

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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INDICATING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 116—130)

This invention relates broadly to indicating devices and is more particularly directed to the type used, as for an example, by housewives for indicating commodities desired for delivery by house to house merchant.

An object of the invention is to provide an indicator of this character which shall be simple in its construction, durable, positive in its indication and easy to operate.

More specifically, the invention consists of an indicator comprising a flat body member formed with one or more rows of perforations or openings therein, opposite which openings are provided on one side of the body indicia, listing various items. Attached adjacent said openings and arranged to lie across the same are flexible tabs or indicating fingers which may be passed through the openings so as to be positioned either on the back or front of the body. The indicating fingers or tabs when positioned on the front of the body will point toward the commodity desired.

For a further understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the indicating device which in this instance has been shown shaped for insertion into the neck of an empty milk bottle;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a similar view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a slightly modified form of invention;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates the indicating device in its entirety, which in this instance has been shown shaped for positioning within the neck of a milk bottle (not shown) of standard construction commonly used in home deliveries.

The indicator comprises a flat body or backing member 2 preferably formed of cardboard and the like and upon which may be printed in designated spaces indicia 3, listing various items. In the form of indicator shown in Fig. 1, the upper end 4 of the indicator is made larger and acts as a stop against the upper end of the milk bottle when the lower reduced portion 5 thereof is inserted into the neck of the bottle. This upper portion may have printed thereon advertising or other matter and be provided with an opening in

the upper edge thereof for the reception of a hook or nail in the support of the device. The portion 5 of the indicator is provided, along one of its longitudinal edges, with a row of vertically arranged openings 6 opposite each of which the indicia 3 is printed. Carried by the edge of the portion 5 adjacent the openings 6 is a strip 7, which is preferably formed of rubber and having one edge thereof formed with spaced parallel arranged fingers or tabs 8 disposed to lie on one side of the backing and across the openings 6. The rubber strips 7 may be attached in any suitable manner to the body 2, however, for purposes of illustration, a channel shaped bar 9 is used for clamping the strip 7 to the edge of the portion 5. To hold the channel 9 firmly in place, the same may be crimped or depressed as at 10 into the rubber strip so as to unite the same with the backing. The fingers or tabs 8 formed with the strip 7 are of lengths considerably greater than the length of the openings but of a width slightly less than the latter so as to be capable of being passed readily therethrough.

In the operation of the device to indicate items desired, the tabs 8 which, as stated before, are normally lying on the back side of the indicator are flexed by the fingers of the operator as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3 and the free ends of the tabs passed through the openings which will position the tabs to the front side of the indicator. Due to the inherent resiliency of the rubber, the fingers become straightened and will hug the face of the backing so as to be directed toward the indicia 3. The tabs or indicating fingers so positioned will thus be positively held in an indicating direction and without the liability of becoming accidentally disarranged or displaced.

In Figs. 4 and 5, there has been disclosed a slightly modified form of the invention wherein the backing 11 of the indicator, instead of having the openings 12 arranged along one edge thereof as in the preferred form, is formed with two vertically spaced rows of openings arranged substantially centrally of the backing. Positioned between these rows is a rubber strip 13 having tabs 14 formed with each edge thereof which overlie the openings, as in the preferred form. The strip 13 may be held in place by metallic bars 15 positioned on each side of the backing and staples or the like 16 are used for uniting the bars in holding the rubber strip in place.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that an indicating device has been provided which is of an extremely simple and practical construction and one which may be formed to include a

list of items and one or a multiplicity of indicating fingers, one for each item, which may be selected and moved from a point hidden from view to a position indicating the item desired.

5 The indicating fingers or tabs which are of a flexible nature may be readily and easily positioned from an active to an inactive position or vice versa by simply flexing or bending the same for passage through the openings formed in the
10 backing member. This manipulation of the fingers or tabs may be accomplished by the bare fingers of the operator or a tool such as a pencil or the like may be used for forcing the tabs through the openings to either side of the backing. The indicator
15 has the advantage of involving only a few elements of which the flexible tabs are the only movable parts thereof and therefore should be capable of continuous use over a long period of time without wear or getting out of order.

20 What is claimed is:

1. An indicating device comprising a flat body member provided with a plurality of openings near one edge, a strip of flexible material positioned on the back of said body along the edge

nearest the openings, a reinforcing channel of metal clamped around the edge of said body and strip to secure them together, tongues formed with said strip and arranged in registration with said openings, each of said tongues being longer
5 than the openings and of such a width as to be readily passed therethrough for positioning of the other side of said body member, and indicia printed on the front of said body adjacent said openings.

2. An indicating device comprising a flat body member provided with a longitudinally extending row of openings, indicia printed on the front of said body adjacent said openings, a piece of resilient material positioned on the back of said
15 body adjacent the row of openings, a metallic reinforcing strip overlying the resilient material and securing it to said body, and tongues formed with said resilient piece and arranged in registration with said openings, each of said tongues
20 possessing a width less and a length greater than any one of said openings.

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