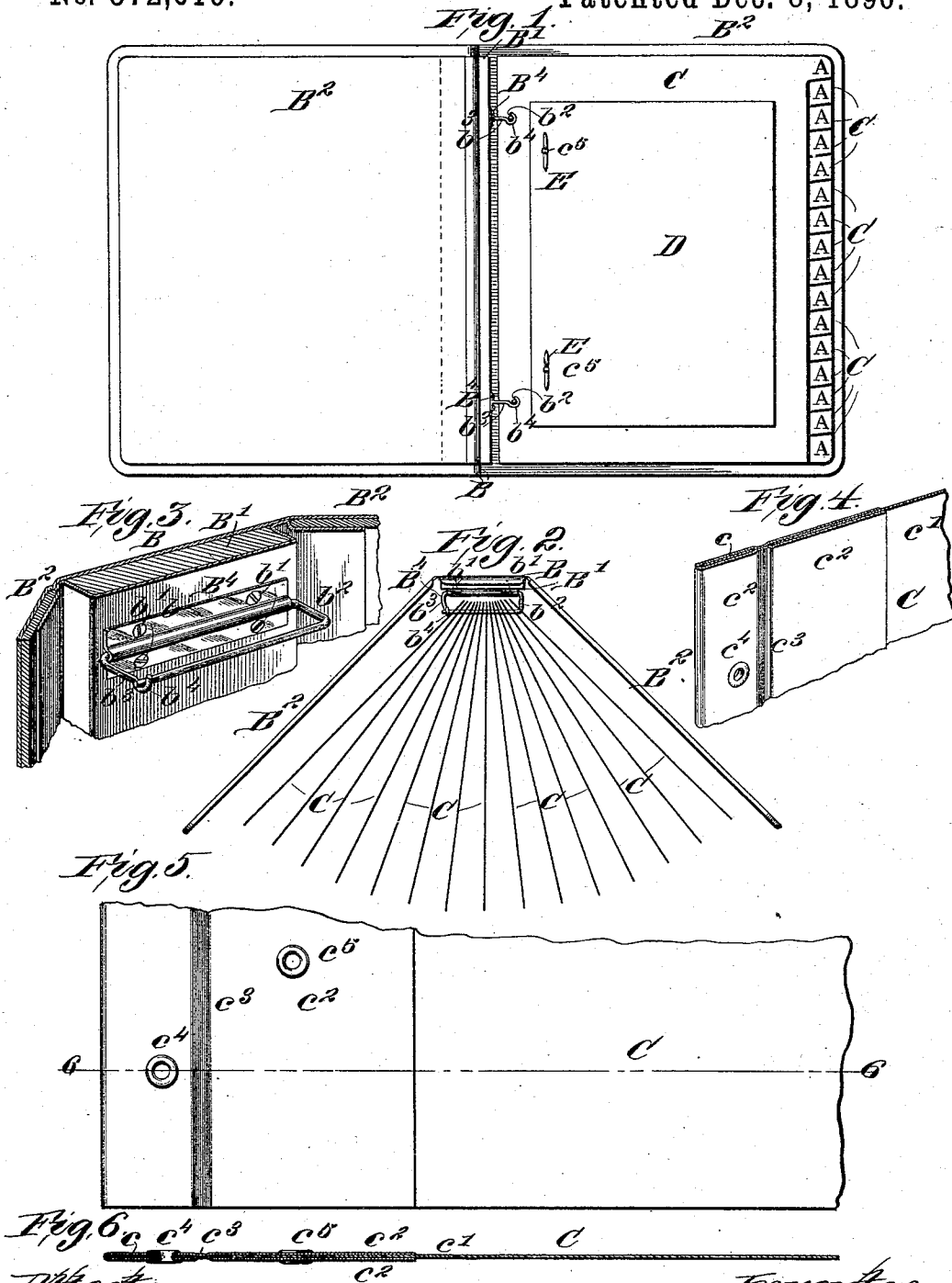


(No Model.)

A. B. SKINNER.
PAPER FILE.

No. 572,619.

Patented Dec. 8, 1896.



Attest:
Charles Pickles
W. A. Gier.

Inventor
Albert Skinner
By R. V. Moody
his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT B. SKINNER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

PAPER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 572,619, dated December 8, 1896.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT B. SKINNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Paper-Files, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in paper-files made in the form of a portfolio; and the objects of my improvement are, first, to provide means by which leaves may be detachably fastened in the portfolio, so that the number of leaves may be readily changed and leaves which have become worn out replaced by new ones; second, to provide means for stiffening the back of the portfolio, so as to afford a strong support for the fastening devices used to hold the sheets in place, and, third, to provide a sheet suitable for use in my improved portfolio when it is used as a tariff-holder or any analogous purpose. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the inside of my improved portfolio with leaves in place. Fig. 2 is an end view of the portfolio, partially opened, with leaves in place. Fig. 3 is a detailed view in perspective of a portion of the back of the portfolio with a clip attached thereto. Fig. 4 is a detailed view in perspective of an inner corner of one of my improved sheets. Fig. 5 is a plan view of an inner corner of one of the sheets, and Fig. 6 is a horizontal cross-section of one of my improved sheets along the line 6 6 of Fig. 5.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

B, Figs. 1, 2, and 3, represents the back of the portfolio, and B', Figs. 1, 2, and 3, a stiffening-piece, preferably of wood and flat on the inside, inserted in the back.

B²B² represent the sides of the portfolio, attached to the back in a usual manner.

B⁴B⁴, Figs. 1, 2, and 3, represent clips used to hold sheets inserted in the portfolio in place.

b represents the base of the clip. It is shown attached to the back of the portfolio by means of screws b'. Any other suitable

fastening devices may be substituted for the screws.

b² is a bent pin, and b³ an arm, having a hook b⁴ formed on the end thereof to retain the pin b² in place when sprung into position. The pin b² and the arm b³ are attached to the base b, and the attachment is preferably rigid. I prefer to make the pin b² and the arm b³ in one piece, bent so as to give it the proper shape, but that is not essential. The pin b² is formed of an elastic substance, such as spring-wire, and is bent in such a shape as to be kept in contact with the inside of the hook b⁴ when in place by its tendency to spring outward. I prefer to arrange the clips as shown, one between the middle and the top of the back and one between the middle and the bottom.

C C C, &c., Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, are sheets such as I prefer to insert in my portfolio where it is to be used as a tariff-holder, for which purpose it is especially useful. Any convenient number of sheets may be inserted, and they are preferably indexed by writing on the stub A of each the name of the railroad whose tariff-rulings are to be attached to the sheet.

The sheets are preferably formed of a strip c and a sheet c' of stiff paper connected together by means of a piece of fabric c², which is pasted, glued, or otherwise attached thereto. I prefer to leave a small space between the pieces c and c', so as to form a flexible joint along the line of division. The preferred method of arranging the piece of fabric c² is most clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 6. As will be observed, it is bent around the piece c and extends some distance outward over the sides of the piece c'. As will be obvious, it is not essential that the part c² should be formed in one piece. Two pieces of fabric, one on each side of the sheet, would answer the same purpose and be its equivalent. Two clip-holes c⁴ c⁴ are formed in the sheet C near its inner edge and pass through the piece c and the fabric c² and are preferably guarded by eyelets. These holes are so spaced apart that the pins b² of the clips B⁴ B⁴ may be passed through them, as shown in Fig. 1. When sheets C are to be either inserted or

- taken out of the portfolio, the pins $b^2 b^2$ are sprung out of engagement with their respective hooks $b^4 b^4$. Old sheets may then be lifted out of the portfolio or new ones inserted.
- 5 In the latter case the pins $b^2 b^2$ are passed through the clip-holes $c^4 c^4$ of the new sheets. When the withdrawal or insertion of sheets has been accomplished, the pins $b^2 b^2$ are pushed back into engagement with their
- 10 respective hooks $b^4 b^4$. Two fastener-holes pass through the fabric c^2 and the piece c' , and are also preferably guarded by eyelets. Their preferred positions are shown in Figs. 1 and 5. They are designed for the passage of fasteners, by means of which sheets of printed
- 15 matter may be detachably secured to the sheets C.

D, Fig. 1, represents a rate-ruling attached to a sheet C in this manner.

- 20 E E represent fasteners of the ordinary type, by which the rate-ruling D is secured in place. A number of rate-rulings may in this manner be attached to each of the sheets C and readily detached when it is desired.
- 25 The sheets made in the manner described are very strong and durable and combine the necessary stiffness in the body of the sheet with flexibility along the line where it is desirable.
- 30 Taken as a whole, my improved file com-

bines simplicity, efficiency, durability, and cheapness to a degree believed to be unequalled.

I claim—

The combination in a portfolio having its back strengthened by the stiffening-piece B' , of a pair of clips $B^4 B^4$, arranged within the portfolio, one between the middle and the top of the back, and the other between the middle and the bottom, and each being composed of a base b , having rigidly attached thereto the arm b^3 having a hook b^4 , and a spring-pin b^2 , said arm and pin being in one piece, and the said clips being attached in place by fastening their respective bases to said stiffening-piece transversely; and two or more sheets C, each formed of a strip c , and a part c' , of stiff paper, connected together by means of a piece of fabric c^2 , and each strip c having two clip-holes therein, guarded by eyelets, and each part c' having two fastener-holes through it, guarded by eyelets, and the sheets C being held in place by the spring-pins $b^2 b^2$, passing through their clip-holes, substantially as described.

ALBERT B. SKINNER.

Witnesses:

R. E. SPINKERMAN,
E. D. JORDAN.