The present invention relates more particularly to a novel construction and method whereby an index tab is detachably mounted on a frame for use with visible index or visible record equipment and the like.

In visible index and record equipment now in general use, index strips or record cards are mounted in adjacent and/or overlapping relation on suitable frames. It is the practice to pivotally mount these frames in a suitable stand whereby the various frames may be readily moved to the desired position for reference. An index tab is positioned on the outer edge of each frame to facilitate reference to the data carried by the frame. Since it is often desired to expand the index or record system, the index tabs must necessarily be changed to a different position upon the frame or transferred to another frame, as the case may be. Thus, these index tabs should be readily removable from or attachable to the frame while at the same time the construction should be such that the tab when in place upon the frame should be locked against unintended displacement.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a frame and index tab therefor having certain features of novelty and utility over those known to the prior art.

In the specific embodiment of the present invention, one marginal edge of a frame is provided with one or more slightly elongated apertures or slots opening to the edge thereof. The index tab preferably comprises a metal blank bent intermediate its ends and folded upon itself to form spaced parallel walls. A hook, formed by striking out one wall, projects inwardly from the wall to provide a construction wherein the hook is disposed between the opposed walls, said hook being adapted to be inserted in said slot in the marginal edge of the frame for engaging the index tab on the frame.

The frame is preferably so constructed as to present flat surfaces for engagement with the spaced parallel walls of the tab whereby to facilitate the engagement and disengagement of the index tab relative to the frame.

The arrangement is preferably such that a portion of the hook member projects downwardly below the base of the particular slot in which the index tab is mounted whereby to prevent unintended sidewise or downward displacement.

The invention is characterized by the ease with which the index tab may be engaged with or disengaged from the frame, the hook functioning as the holding means to prevent undesirable movement while the tab is on the frame.

The invention is also characterized by economy in manufacture, ease of assembly and disassembly, and by many other features. Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following description.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of an index or card record frame, illustrating the manner of attaching an index tab thereto according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary elevational view illustrating the index tab attached to the frame.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 is an end elevational view looking into the open end of the tab.

Referring more in detail to the drawings, 1 designates as a whole a supporting frame for index strips, record cards, or the like, which may be constructed substantially as follows: A flat web 2 of suitable material, such as metal, fibre, cardboard, or the like, may have mounted and secured upon its longitudinal edges U-shaped spacing strips 3 (Fig. 2). Marginal members 4 made of metal or the like may be folded over the spacing strips, the inner edges of the former preferably projecting over the web to a point beyond the inside edges of the marginal members 4 to form channels or grooves 5 in which the index elements are insertible. These index elements may take the form of index strips, or may comprise record cards or the like.
The opposite ends of a pintle member 7 may extend beyond the upper and lower edges of the frame 1, whereby the latter may be pivotally mounted in a suitable stand (not shown). This pintle member 7 may be preferably secured to the frame 1 by folding one of the marginal members 4 over the same. The opposite marginal member 4 may be provided with one or more apertures or slots 8 along its folded edge, the slots 8 being adapted to be engaged by a hook 9 projecting inwardly from a wall of the index tab designated as a whole 10.

This index tab 10 may be constructed as follows: A body portion 11 made from a folded blank of sheet metal or the like may be provided with apertures 12 through which the index marker 12' may be viewed. This index marker may preferably be interposed between sheets of celluloid 13. A piece of the body portion 11 may be turned out to form a small tongue 11 adapted to retain the celluloid sheets 13 and index marker 12' in proper position relative to the apertures 12.

The hook 9 is formed by the striking or stamping out of one wall of the body portion 11, preferably during the same operation in which the body portion is formed, leaving an aperture 15 in that wall.

The index tab 10 may be secured to the frame 1 by means of one or more screws 16 adapted to have threaded engagement with the opposite portion of the tab 10. The screw or screws 16 serve to cause the flanges 18 of the body portion 11 to firmly clamp the marginal members 4, which flanges are preferably offset from the plane of the remainder of the body portion 11 as illustrated at 19 (Fig. 2).

In the utilization of the device: When it is necessary to change the position of the index tab 10, the screw or screws 16 may be unscrewed sufficiently to permit disengagement of the flanges 18 from the marginal member 4. The tab is then slid upwardly until the hook 9 is disengaged from slot 8 of marginal member 4. Tab 10 may be remounted on marginal member 4 at any point intermediate the length thereof by simply causing the hook 9 to slip into one of the slots 8 of marginal member 4, and thereafter sliding tab 10 downwardly until said hook 9 engages the lower edge of slot 8, after which the screw or screws 16 may be tightened.

There is an important advantage in a construction wherein a hook associated with a tab positively engages in a slot in a margin of a frame. Heretofore, in devices of this character, the grip between the tab and the frame was dependent entirely on the adjustment of screws such as illustrated at 16 in the present invention. In use, the tabs would become unintentionally disengaged, destroying entirely the value of the tabs for their intended use.

It is to be understood that I do not wish to restrict the use of the tab of the present invention to index or card record equipment, or to the particular type of frame illustrated.

I claim as my invention:
1. An index tab adapted for engagement with a frame having an aperture opening to a marginal edge, comprising a folded sheet of bendable material provided with parallel opposed walls, said walls being apertured to receive an index marker and terminating in flanges adapted to engage opposite faces of the marginal edge of said frame, an L shaped integral hook struck up from one of the walls, whereby to engage in said marginal aperture.
2. An index tab adapted for engagement with a frame having an aperture opening to a marginal edge, comprising a folded sheet of bendable material provided with parallel opposed walls, said walls being apertured to receive an index marker and terminating in flanges adapted to engage opposite faces of the marginal edge of said frame, an L shaped integral hook struck up from one of the walls and disposed between said walls whereby to engage in said marginal aperture.
3. An index tab adapted for engagement with a frame having an aperture opening to a marginal edge, comprising a folded sheet of bendable material provided with parallel opposed walls, said walls being apertured to receive an index marker and terminating in flanges adapted to engage opposite faces of the marginal edge of said frame, an L shaped integral hook struck up from one of the walls and disposed between said walls whereby one leg of said struck up L engages in said marginal aperture.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FRANK D. POWELL.