United States Patent [19]

Cronheim

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[54] **CARD HOLDER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **206/73,** 206/45.24, 206/425, 211/11, 248/447, 248/413

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **B65d 1/36,** B42f 17/06

[58] **Field of Search** 206/73, 425, 45.24, 45.17; 248/453, 461; 211/11; 40/28; 220/38, 41

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A card holder comprising a container having a bottom wall, end walls, side walls, and a slidably mounted top closure. A card support plate is swingably engaged to said top closure and depends from the normally rearward, marginal portion thereof; said plate having a pair of spaced-apart clip-forming members for retaining a preselected card thereon; there being an arm hingedly engaged to said support plate in its lower end portion for disposition between same and the adjacent side wall of the holder, and being swingable between collapsed condition and extended plate-bracing condition.

10 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures

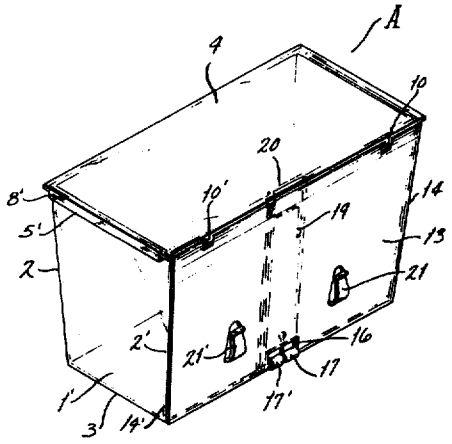


FIG. 1

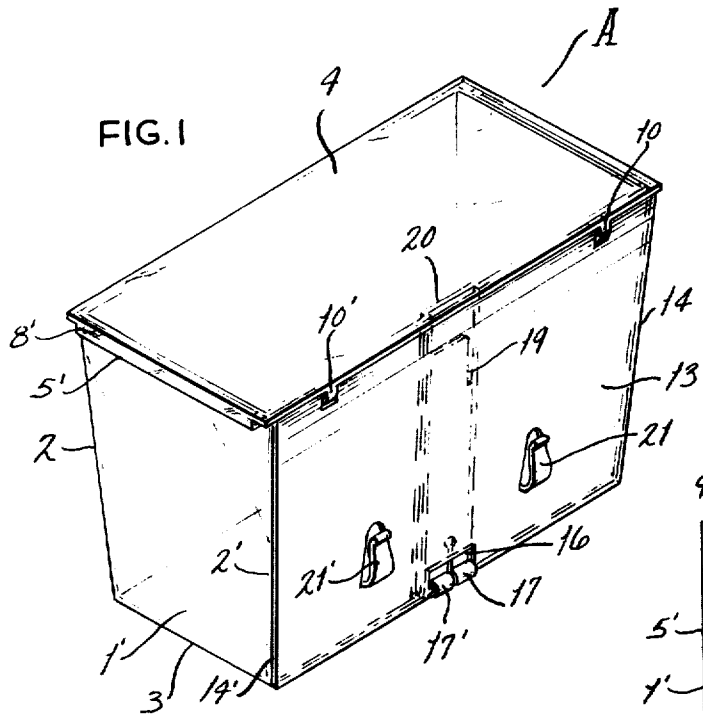


FIG. 2

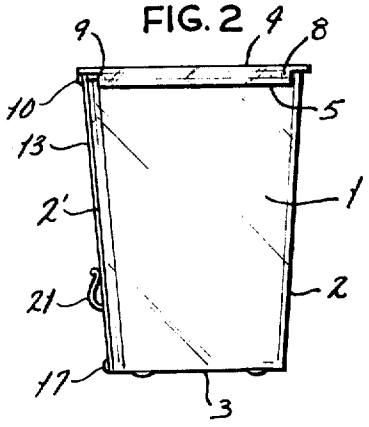


FIG. 4

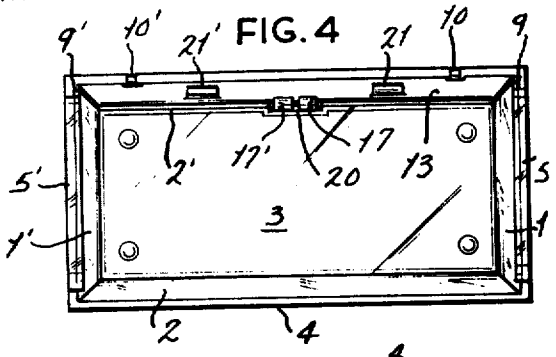
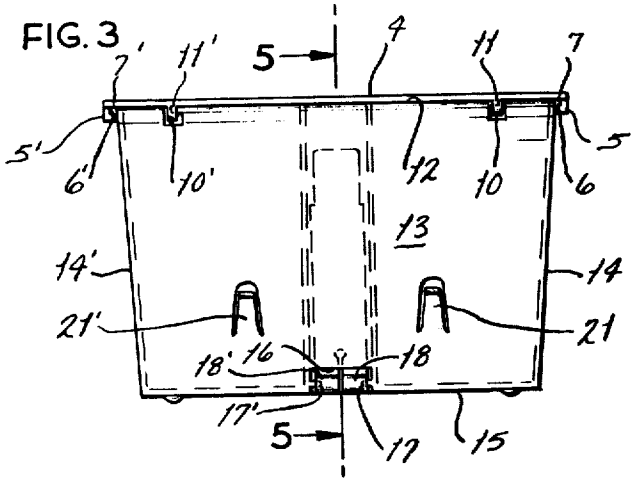


FIG. 3



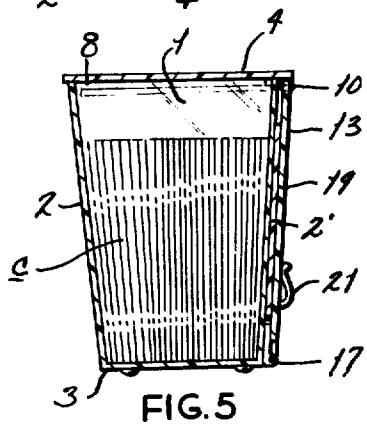


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

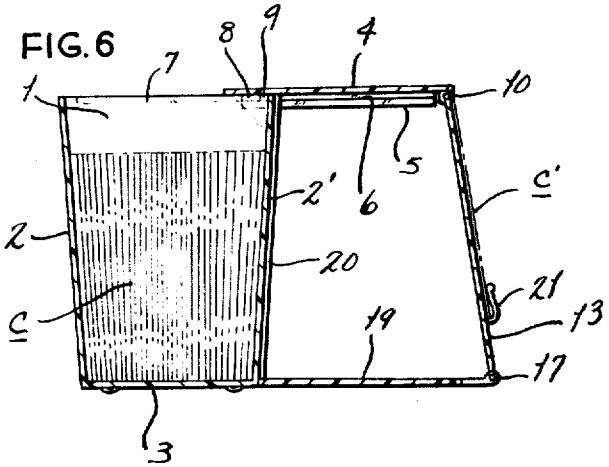
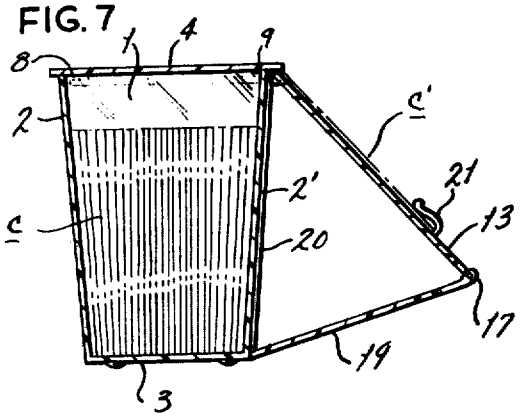


FIG. 7



CARD HOLDER

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates in general to card files and, more particularly, to new and useful improvements in card holders incorporating a card support plate.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a card holder which uniquely embodies a support for a preselected card so as to present same for ready, repeated reference as desired by the user.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a card holder of the type especially useful for reference cards which embodies an easily operated closure for maintaining the cards against inadvertent soiling as might occur during card usage.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a card holder of the type stated incorporating a card support plate with collapsible brace means for presenting said plate at a convenient angle for review by the user of the retained card.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a card holder of the type stated which embodies a card support plate adapted for disposition against the confronting portion of the holder when in disuse so as to conduce to an overall compactness.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a card holder of the type stated which may be most economically manufactured; which consists of a relatively few sturdy parts conducive to the durability of the holder in usage; and which is reliable in use by reason of the simple yet highly effective mechanical means for producing the relative movements required.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a card holder constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention illustrating the same in closed, storage condition.

FIG. **2** is an end elevational view.

FIG. **3** is a rear elevational view, as viewed from the lefthand side of FIG. **2.**

FIG. **4** is a bottom plan view.

FIG. **5** is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line **5—5** of FIG. **3**, illustrating the holder as supplied with cards.

FIG. **6** is a vertical transverse sectional view taken substantially on the line **5—5** of FIG. **3**, illustrating the holder in full open position.

FIG. **7** is a vertical transverse sectional view taken substantially on the line **5—5** of FIG. **3**, illustrating the holder in closed condition, but with the support plate in operative position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now by reference numerals to the drawings which illustrate the preferred embodiment of the present invention, A designates a card holder comprising a container having end walls **1,1'**, front and back side walls **2,2'**, a base wall **3**, and a top closure **4.** As shown herein said end walls **1,1'**, and side walls **2,2'** incline downwardly and inwardly so that the cross-sectional area of the lower end of holder A is less than that in the upper portion for purposes presently appearing. Said holder A is adapted primarily to receive an assembly of cards, such as, for example only, the usual "3 × 5"

cards which are used for a multiplicity of reference purposes, as for recipes, addresses, library volumes, etc.; said cards being indicated at *c*. By reason of the contour of container A the area of base wall **3** will determine the number of cards *c* which may be retained by holder A; with the relatively enlarged upper portion facilitating the separation of the cards for inspection.

Closure **4** is of flat, plate-like form and at its opposite ends is provided with depending runners **5,5'** having inwardly opening guideways **6,6'**, respectively, slidably for receiving guides **7,7'**, respectively, integral with the upper end portions of end walls **1,1'** and terminating at their ends spacedly from the edges of the respective walls **1,1'** Provided within each guideway **6,6'** proximate its forward end or that adjacent to front side wall **2,** is a detent **8,8'**, respectively, for abutting a stop **9,9'**, respectively, formed at the rearward end of guides **7,7'**, respectively, to limit the rearward, container opening movement of closure **4** (see FIG. **3**) as well as to prevent inadvertent displacement of the same.

Closure **4** in its rearward edge portion is provided with a pair of longitudinally spaced-apart depending bearings **10,10'** for journalling therein of pivot pin-forming projections **11,11'**, respectively, disposed in the upper marginal portion **12** of a support plate **13.** Said plate **13** is of substantially like extent and configuration as side wall **2'** which it confronts on its inner surface; and bottom edge **15** so that the same is suspended from closure **4** by said pins **11,11'**; which establish a pivot axis for swingable movement thereabout of said plate **13.** In the central bottom marginal portion **15** of plate **13** there is provided a downwardly opening recess **16** from the opposite sides of which project short hinge pins **17,17'** for extension into knuckles **18,18'**, respectively, presented at the lower end of a relatively narrow elongated arm **19** for hingedly mounting same for swinging about the axis developed by said pins **17,17'**. Arm **19** is flat, having a thickness comparable to that of plate **13** and is thus normally disposed upon the inner side of plate **13'**, and in upwardly swung position arm **19** is planarwise parallel to support plate **13** against which it abuts; there being an outwardly opening elongated recess **20** formed in the outer face of back wall **2'** for receiving said arm **19** when upwardly swung and with plate **13** disposed against said back wall **2'**. Thus recess **20** is of a form complementary to arm **19** for compactly accepting same. As support plate **13** is moved away from back wall **2'**, as will be shown hereinbelow, said arm **19** will swing downwardly and with its hinge-remote, free end traveling progressively along the base of recess **20** for ultimate disposition in the position shown in FIGS. **6** and **7** for plate-bracing purposes.

Also integrally formed with plate **13** in the lower portion thereof is a pair of spaced-apart clips **21,21'** projecting slightly outwardly from the outer face of support plate **13.**

It will thus be seen that with holder A in closed, storage condition, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, support plate **13** will be in normal downwardly depending disposition in substantially abutting relationship on its inner face with the outer face of back **2'**; and with arm **19** being upwardly swung and received within recess **20.** Further forward movement of closure **4** is prevented by the abutment of support plate **13** against wall **2'** in its upper edge portion. As indicated above, holder A is supplied

with an assembly of cards c having the preselected intelligence thereon.

When the user desires to open holder A for access to cards c, closure **4** is caused to be moved slidingly rearwardly with runners **5,5'** traveling relatively along guides **7,7'**, respectively; with such opening movement being terminated by abutment of detents **8,8'** and stops **9,9'**, respectively, as above described (see FIG. **6**). Such rearward sliding movement of closure **4** will necessarily cause rearward displacement of support plate **13** and thereby arm **19** is released to swing about hinge pins **17,17'** with its normally upper free end sliding downwardly along recess **20.** When closure **4** has reached its opening limit arm **19** will be in full downward disposition substantially co-planar with bottom wall **3** (see FIG. **6**), thus serving to maintain closure **4** in open condition so that the user may conveniently inspect cards c for locating a desired one.

After withdrawing the particular desired card, indicated c', the user may then dispose same upon the outer face of support plate **13,** with the same being retained within clips **21,21'** to facilitate reference thereto, while the user is engaged in an activity requiring intermittent review of card c'.

To close holder A while card c' is disposed on support plate **13,** arm **19** may be swung upwardly to permit forward sliding movement of closure **4** which will thus carry support plate **13** forwardly. After completing the closing action the user may dispose arm **19** within the lower end of recess **20** and at an angle of less than 180° to the horizontal for bracing support plate **13** in outwardly swung disposition to allow ease of reference to card c' (see FIG. **7**).

To restore holder A to fully closed condition, plate **13** is pulled upwardly from the position shown in either FIGS. **6** or **7** to permit arm **19** to be swung upwardly as plate **13** is swung downwardly toward back wall **2'** for return to the position shown in FIG. **1.**

Thus in view of the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention uniquely and most compactly comprehends a repository for reference cards as well as a support for presenting a selected card for convenience of reference. Holder A is especially suited for kitchen usage in that it permits the cook to make repeated review of the card c' as needed during the particular operation while allowing the hands to be free for effecting the necessary manipulations.

Furthermore, such card support plate **13** is adapted for usage even with the holder A closed so that the interior of the latter is proof against the unauthorized entry of foreign matter which might soil or mar cards c.

The present invention may be fabricated from any suitable, durable material but it has been found that the same is particularly amenable to construction from plastics, such as acrylic resins, whereby the walls of holder A may be rendered transparent, if desired.

What is claimed is:

1. A card holder comprising a container having a bottom wall, a pair of front and rear side walls, and a pair of end walls, said container being normally open to the top, a closure provided for said normally open top of said container, means slidably mounting said closure on said container end walls for movement in a plane parallel to the bottom wall between container-open and container-closed condition, said closure having a portion projecting beyond said rear side wall when said closure is in container-closed condition, and a support plate hingedly engaged to said closure in its rearward projecting portion, said support plate being presented rearwardly of said rear side wall and being swingable in a vertical plane.

2. A card holder as defined in claim **1** and further characterized by said front and rear side walls being inclined inwardly toward said bottom wall, said support plate being substantially of like height as said rear side wall being in close confronting relationship thereto when said closure is in container-closed condition, said support plate having a height greater than the perpendicular distance between the plane of said closure and the plane of said bottom wall so that when said closure is in container-open condition, said support will incline rearwardly and outwardly at its lower end for closure support purposes.

3. A card holder as defined in claim **1** and further characterized by clip means provided upon said support plate upon its face remote from the rear side wall of said container.

4. A card holder as defined in claim **1** and further characterized by an arm swingably engaged to said support plate for normal disposition between same and the rear side wall of said container for maintaining said support plate in selected swung position.

5. A card holder as defined in claim **4** and further characterized by said arm being swingably mounted upon said support plate in the lower central portion thereof, said arm being free in its portion remote from its swingable mounting, there being a recess formed in the rearward, confronting face of said rear side wall of complementary configuration to said arm.

6. A card holder as defined in claim **1** and further characterized by means for limiting the container-opening movement of said closure in which position said support plate will be commensurately removed from said container rear side wall.

7. A card holder as defined in claim **6** and further characterized by said arm being flat and having a thickness comparable to that of said support plate.

8. A card holder comprising a container having a bottom wall, a pair of front and rear side walls, and a pair of end walls, said container being normally open to the top, a closure provided for said normally open top of said container, means slidably mounting said closure on said container end walls for movement in a plane parallel to the bottom wall between container-open and container-closed condition, a support plate having an upper marginal portion being hingedly engaged to said closure in the rearward portion of the latter for normal dependence of said support plate downwardly from said closure in confronting relationship to the adjacent side wall of said container and being substantially coextensive with said side wall, said support plate being swingable about the established hinge axis between downward position and upwardly swung position, there being an arm swingably engaged to said support plate for normal disposition between same and the adjacent side wall of said container for maintaining said support plate in selected swung position.

9. A card holder as defined in claim **8** and further characterized by said arm being swingably mounted upon said support plate in its portion remote from its hinged engagement to said closure, said arm being free in its portion remote from its swingable mounting, there being a recess formed in the confronting face of said adjacent side wall of said container of complemen-

tary configuration to said arm serving as a guide therefor during movement of said support plate in its swingable action.

10. A card holder as defined in claim **9** and further characterized by said arm being flat and having a thickness comparable to that of said support plate so that when the latter is in confronting relationship to the adjacent side wall of said container said arm will be accepted within said recess throughout the length of said arm.

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